

**It's Still
FREE**

Bonaire Reporter- April 18- May 2, 2016- Year 23, Issue 8
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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Ride For The Roses

More On Page 10



Remembering Steve Littman



First finishers

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Wonder what will happen to Bonaire's downtown jailhouse when the new prison on Lagoen Road opens? It seems **Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten will be taking over the 33 prison-cell shipping containers from Bonaire** early next year, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations.

Dutch Minister of Security and Justice Ard van der Steur offered the prison-cell containers, which can hold up to 84 inmates, to his colleagues, the Ministers of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten.

Bonaire won't need them when its new prison becomes operational and the former penitentiary is repurposed. The new Bonaire penitentiary is the largest prison in the Caribbean Netherlands and holds inmates from St. Eustatius and Saba also.

► **WILLEMSTAD—American citizens are welcome to go and live and work in Curaçao.** It is no longer necessary to apply for an employment or a residence permit, said Minister of Justice Nelson Navarro. The measure stems from a lawsuit in St. Maarten. Americans successfully appealed to the Friendship Treaty between the US and the Netherlands of 1955. American citizens who already live in Curaçao do not need to apply for or renew their paperwork.

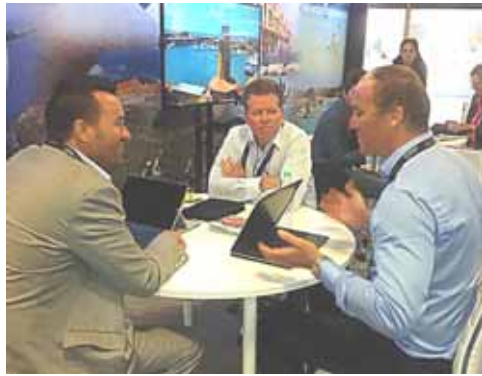
► **A research project to study into alcohol and drug use among young people on Bonaire has begun.** The study is necessary in order to gain insight into the use of these stimulants for this group. The information from the survey can be used to develop programs and campaigns to discourage young people from using alcohol or drugs. The research will take place at the SGB High School.

The study will be conducted by Foundation for Addiction and Psychiatry in collaboration with the Department of Public Health (Public Health) of the Public Body Bonaire. This survey will be conducted in class under the guidance of a professional from the team

► Last week the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) began the development of the **Tourism Master Plan** headed by the Director of TCB, Maurice Adriaens, and former BMG member Burney el Hage.

Local stakeholders and experts outside Bonaire from various disciplines will be consulted to provide input.

For more information please contact 717-8322 or via TCB info@tourismbonaire.com



► **A Bonaire delegation took part in the SeaTrade Cruise Global Conference, held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in March.** The Bonaire delegation consisted of Maurice Adriaens, Director of Tourism, (photo above); Gabriele Tixi, TCB Cruise Manager; and Rolando Marin, TCB Communications Officer. Throughout the event, Bonaire hosted an information booth in the exhibition hall to boost the island as a cruise destination.

Meetings were conducted with top executives and their teams including Carnival Corporation, Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Holland America Line, MSC Cruises, Princess Cruises, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. The consensus was they are pleased with **the high satisfaction ratings given by their passengers after port calls to Bonaire.** Many lines indicated their plans to increase calls to the island starting in 2017.

► **On April 16th a delegation consisting of 12 members of the Senate "First Chamber" will travel to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.** The delegation will pay working visits to respectively Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. The delegation will visit Bonaire on April 19th.

In addition to administrative and political responses, the delegation is also particularly interested in the experiences of various sectors of society and the people in general and has therefore planned meetings with residents, NGOs and others. **The meeting on Bonaire is on Tuesday, April 19, from 4pm to 6pm at El Mundo Restaurant on Kaya Grandi.**

► **WILLEMSTAD--Passengers arriving at Curaçao International Airport** will take only about half a minute to go through immigration and have their **passports checked if they use one of the six new electronic so-called "e-gates"** and have either a European, American or Canadian



passport with chip and should be 18 years or older.

At the departure hall, after customs there will be two e-gates ready to help one "digitally" leave the island..

► **On Thursday 14th April 2016 at 10:12 hours there was a 30-minute power outage in several areas on Bonaire.** WEB said the power outage was caused due to sudden failure of production means. Due to this WEB's protection system activated and automatically disconnected a few neighborhoods to prevent further problems. This is not uncommon when winds are lighter than normal. The wind turbines cannot produce their full power and diesel power must be brought on line. WEB apologized for any inconvenience this might have caused.

► **The problems the Bonaire island government had in paying its bills in the first quarter of this year was caused by late payments from The Hague.** Minister Ronald Plasterk (PvdA) of the Interior and Kingdom Relations said the delay was caused by "shortage due to a significant change in the euro-dollar exchange rate and the (extra) money had to come from his department's budget." He promised it wouldn't happen again.

► **Rotary Club's Grand Fair is on Wednesday, April 27, at Plaza Wilhelmina.** The *Feria Rotaria* is organized to raise funds so the Rotary Club Bonaire can continue their service to the community and help develop more projects that have a positive impact on our community. Contacts for collecting items are: Larry Gerharts (ldgerharts@gmail.com); Aniek Schouten (aniek@bonairenotaris.com); Jan Okhuijsen (jan@okhuijsen.com); Edwin Vrieswijk (edwin@toyotabonaire.com). See poster on page 20.

Last month for example, the Bonaire Rotary Club inaugurated the MEDIABUS, a new project under the care of the Reading

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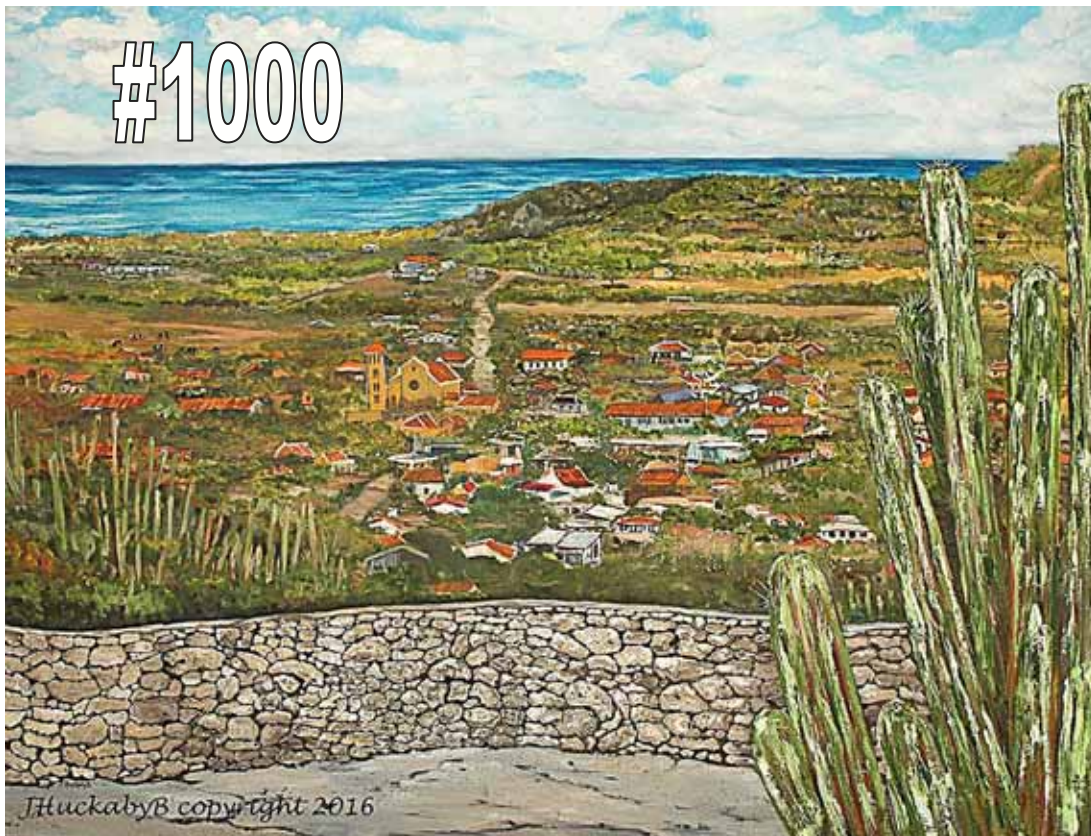
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Available on-line at:
www.bonairereporter.com
 Printed Every Fortnight,
 On-line every day, 24/7
 Next edition printing on
Monday, May 2, 2016
Story and Ad deadline:
Friday, April 29, 2016

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Janice Huckaby Baillie has been painting Bonaire since 1991. During that time she has been perfecting her art. We thought you'd like to see this exceptional work by Bonaire's talented artist.

Janice says, "I have always wanted to do a painting of Rincon from the Alta Mira view since the first time I visited the location shortly after I moved here. Many years have gone by and many paintings have been done. But this one was going to be special and I waited until it just seemed the time to do it. I finally started it in 2014 but had many special commissions that came my way and it went on the back burner again until January of this year. When I got ready to log the painting into my list of paintings I was very happy to see that it would be painting #1000 of Bonaire! The final completion was inspired by Rincon Day (Saturday, April 30) just around the corner. Felis dia di Rincon to all who love Rincon!"

The painting will be on display at the JanArt Gallery, Kaya Grandi 14. Please stop by to enjoy the view. ■ *Press Release*

Flotsam and Jetsam (Contin. from pg. 2) and Writing Foundation (Stichting Lezen en Schrijven). The media bus will be passing thru all barrios in Bonaire to help stimulate children to read more. Besides a lot of books, there is internet access in the bus and children are also able to participate in activities organized by the staff of the media bus.

At the Feria there will be new and used merchandise and items for sale at very attractive prices, like furniture, construction materials, household articles, office supplies, tents, store interiors, clothing, shoes, books and plants.

There will be great entertainment for all the family. Music bands, DJ's, dance groups' presentations and more.

And also several stands and tents offering food and drinks.

► The Bonaire Hotel And Tourism Association (BONHATA) is pleased to announce its **fully-featured new website for its ilovebonaire brand. The website, www.ilovebonaire.com**, provides visitors, residents and entrepreneurs relevant information and news about facilities and services offered by the BONHATA members as well as relevant news about the island.

Irene Dingjan, CEO of BONHATA said, "In the rebranding of the new website, we have decided to broaden our focus by also providing information for residents and entrepreneurs. After all, they

are, just like tourists, Bonaire lovers looking for information and news."

► **Three persons unjustly accused in the long drawn out in Bonaire's "Zambezi" case have been awarded a compensation** by the court for damages suffered and costs incurred as a result of unjust prosecution

Ramonsito Booi, Burney El Hage and his wife **Ginia** will receive respectively €156,834.60, €142,698.56 and €78,762.87 for expenses on attorneys and legal fees.

► **You can still pay your taxes in cash with no bank fees.** While the tax Office (*Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland*) noted that most taxpayers made the transition to direct electronic payment through the bank there are some people who still prefer to pay in cash. Girobank, adjacent to the tax office accepts free-of-charge payments.

Payments can also be made through banking orders at the local banks. It is important that you use your payment reference, in order to guarantee proper payment processing for the *Belastingdienst*. Of course this also applies to cash payments.

Use the Belastingdienst account # 21100017. The free-of-charge payment applies to all payments into the account of the Belasting-

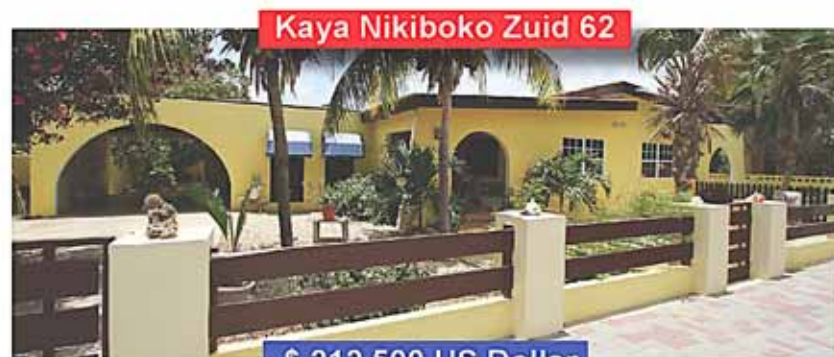
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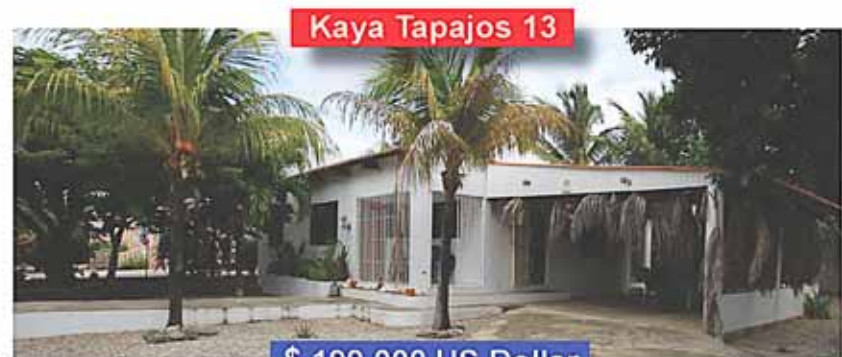
Located in Kralendijk • Lot size: 1290 m2 • Lease land
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Located in Nikiboko • Lot size: 750 m2 • Lease land
Total living area 271 m2 • House : 2 bedrooms / 1 bath
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Located in Tera Kora • Lot size: 945 m2 • Lease land
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2 separate 1 bedroom apartments • Large porch



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Born on Bonaire... March 11, 1982 – Izain Mercera

“I grew up in Nort di Saliña. My father worked at WEB. My mom was head of housekeeping at Buddy Dive. Our class at Papa Cornes School was quite special; David Cen (Wing Cheung and Top Supermarket) was one of my classmates and so was Nicole Maduro who’s now a TV reporter. Half of the kids went abroad to study and the other half immediately started working here.



Izain Mercera

Soccer was my greatest love. I started under the tamarind tree, then I played for SV Estrellas. To be honest, I would never play for or support any other club but Estrellas! I am from Nort di Saliña – that’s my core. We say things the way they are. We fight but we don’t talk behind your back. We like to drink but we also work hard. We take care of our neighbors and we welcome foreigners. We respect others.

I went to Havo (high school) and when I was 18 I left for Holland. What I learned first is that you have to adapt yourself to the place where you are. It wasn’t difficult. I would say it was mysterious; you never knew what the next challenge would be. I had to deal with cultural differences like eating a sandwich at noon and a hot meal at six in the late afternoon,

Bonaireans! In spite of the fact that he was sick, I was happy to have my parents with me, and my studies went well, that is until my dad passed away of a heart-attack on January 15th, 2002. He was only 44. I went through the darkest and hardest time of my life. I felt I’d lost everything. It was like there was an endless beginning to things. I didn’t know where to start or how to look ahead.

My education went downhill. I switched to intermediate vocational education and tried my best. Two years later I graduated and somehow I got back on track. When I was in the middle of my next studies, a Bachelor’s in Commercial Economics, Marketing and Management, my mom also got sick. Luckily she recovered and I graduated in 2009. My wish was to leave Holland and move to a tropical island. I always wanted to give something back for Bonaire and then I heard about a job



Izain Mercera on the job

local dishes like *kabritu stoba* and *sopi di yuana* and so I came back into my own culture.

It seems like you have to live away from home to appreciate what you have there, because before I left I didn’t care much for my culture, but now I do. I learned more about our history and it made me understand things better. People here lived off what they had and they were very creative, hard working people. I became really interested in the past, the culture and the nature of Bonaire. Nowadays, when I’m off, I go fishing or I take long walks in the *mondi* or I go catch iguanas. Then I feel that we are inseparable from our nature, which tells so much about us. Bonaire is beautiful— the countryside, the sea and the sky. Everything is exactly right and every single tree has its own story.

These days I work independently – my training period is long gone – and I’m keeping myself busy with operation management. In other words I order bags of ice, I serve clients and I teach youngsters and adults and everything else in between. The purpose of Mangazina di Rei is to conserve the culture for future generations with the focus on people. We are a culture park but also a placement company. We offer possibilities so people can develop their own talents, not only youngsters, but also people who’ve been without a job for a longer time.

For example, together with FORMA we did a project for single moms. We taught the women basic and professional skills. The theory part was at FORMA and the practice was done here.

What I love about my job is that I can combine my passion with something that has a meaning to my own identity and at the same time I make a social contribution by teaching others how to live together, how to get to know each other better and how to help one another - all this in order to eventually achieve a common goal for Bonaire. When everybody contributes, the community will grow as a whole and Bonaire will become a better place. It’s not easy and you can only see it in the longer term. Everything needs its time.

Since 10-10-10 life has become more complicated. What is important to the Bonairean? What makes us who we are? My personal vision is ‘Why do we appreciate

that which is so important and loved by us and how should we protect it so that it cannot be taken away from us?’ It’s difficult to tell people about values and norms, because we’re all unique and not everybody appreciates the same things and then you get a malfunction in the balance. Also, you have to appreciate culture and conserve it. You have to be conservative – but on the other hand you have to understand that the world keeps on turning and you have to move with the times.

Some people here want change and progress and others say that it’s alright; they want to keep it like it is.

Both parties are right, but the art is, just like making a mosaic, to fit different shapes and colors together and make something beautiful out of it. And then values=respect and norms=rules will take shape. If you want to respect each other there must be rules and this should be reflected in clear agreements. For instance, equality. There should be equal rights for everybody because only then will people have equal opportunities. And it can’t be that something applies to someone but not to someone else because he has a certain position or he is somebody well-known. When there is one universal code, it doesn’t matter who you are, but it matters what you stand for and if you believe in it.

What I perceive is that people here appreciate themselves highly and youngsters nowadays have a better change to evolve. The older generation is stepping aside for the younger ones and it’s not certain what we can save of our history, culture and nature.

My personal future? Well, my ultimate goal is to go fishing with my grandchildren, to show them what nature is about and to teach them how to plant. And if there’s anything that I can plan ahead I will do so and if I can avoid certain things, I’ll do it, but... with the same breath I’ll live from day to day.

I am an optimist, but also a pessimist; in fact I am a realist.”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“It seems like you have to live away from home to appreciate what you have there...”

I spoke Dutch almost all day and everything was done in a hurry. Life was up-tempo. Another funny thing were timetables. For instance, a train would be scheduled to leave at 2:17. You had to be there, right on time. One minute later and the train was gone! Something else I had to get used to was seeing Moroccans, Chinese, Turkish, Antilleans, Surinamese, Americans and Dutch all together. For the first time in my life I was confronted with the idea of a multi-cultural society. I thought it was special and lots of fun!

First I studied higher vocational education: Management, Economics and Law. Then I switched to become a mathematics teacher. My mom and siblings also came to live in Holland, and later that year my dad arrived, mainly for medical reasons. He had liver cancer. Up until then he had been a very healthy man who never smoked or drank in his life. However, he did have a sweet tooth and he loved Chinese food, just like the majority of the

available at Mangazina di Rei. I saw my chance to combine things: I could give something in return, get experience in my field and it was my own tropical island! I applied and was immediately hired.

A year earlier, in 2008, I’d been here for an extensive period to do my thesis at WEB. I saw the changes the island had gone through: new construction, more Chinese and way more Latinos. Bonaire had also become multi-cultural – and things were handled professionally while new technologies were introduced. Bonaire was going with the flow of the world.

It wasn’t so hard to step in at Mangazina di Rei. At first I was a co-worker, someone who has to work with someone else to learn to adapt to the company. I worked under guidance and I observed how things functioned. I didn’t know anything – I was totally green. However, I was learning. I was taught how to make a cactus fence, I learned how to plant and sow and I ate and learned how to prepare

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in **Aruba**



Mary-Jo Lendering, a Bonairean, is studying in St. Augustine, Florida. Last year she visited home. During her visit her whole family took a trip to sister island Aruba. They made a tour on the island and visited the Chapel of our Lady of Alto Vista. In the picture you can see Mary-Jo and her only brother, Vincent, holding a copy of the *Bonaire Reporter* and in the background the Chapel. ■ *Photo sent by Fittipaldi Pietersz*

WIN A PRIZE

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to reporter@bonairenews.com to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture. Be sure to include something about the place where it was taken and yourself.

Mangazina di Rei on Rincon Day

April 30 is Rincon Day, a Bonaire tradition and all-day party that draws visitors from near and far. Start this year's Rincon Day with breakfast at Mangazina di Rei Cultural Center at the eastern entrance to the village.

The breakfast uses sorghum which was grown on the island. In the past the cook would make a side dish of the ground sorghum. This is called *funchi* by the locals. It looks like polenta.

Nowadays *funchi* forms part Bonaireans' daily meals including breakfast.

Start the Rincon Day with the local breakfast; there is fresh bread, locally produced juice branded "Made in Rincon" and various other goodies. During the Cultural Market you can also buy plants and seeds, local souvenirs and arts.

There will be LIVE presentations of the local bands, 'Foyan Boyz' and "Crème de La Crème."

To learn more about Bonairean cuisine listen to the educational talk about the Traditional Breakfast of Rincon during the Rincon Day Cultural Market. It's on Saturday, 30th of April from 8am to 2pm. This workshop is presented by a local woman, Mrs. Shahaira Cicilia – Figaroa, who learned a lot of traditional recipes from her mother.



Rincon Baker

The Mangazina kitchen will sell soup from 10am. Guests can also enjoy a variety of local dishes like stewed goat, chicken, conch and salted fish. The dishes are served with rice or local side dishes like *funchi* and *tutu*. Alternatively, for lunch you can enjoy a nice grill.

Also at the market you can visit the new exhibition which gives an overview of the rich heritage of the most interesting sights of the Rincon area like Kao-mati, Porta Spaño and Bototé. It sheds light on the unique indigenous flora and fauna of Bonaire.

Every last Saturday of the month you can See, Feel & Taste the Culture of Bonaire at the cultural market, from 8am to 2pm. Entrance is free. For more information you can visit the Facebook Fan page of Mangazina di Rei ("Mangazina di Rei – Cultural Park"). ■ *Izain J. Mercera/Mangazina di Rei*



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Mozart and Beethoven Concert

On Friday the 8th April 2016 the Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) hosted a unique “quintet” concert at the Plaza Resort Bonaire.



The artists: Ilja Hung (piano), Wim Stadius Müller (piano), Enid Lucasius (bassoon), Andrew Solomon (oboe), Hein Marschalkerwaard (clarinet) and John Smit (horn), brought to Bonaire two pieces never played here before.



The quintets are really piano concertos where the wind instruments take on the role of the orchestra. No mean feat for four instruments to produce the volume and impact of a whole orchestra. All artists also got a chance to shine during their short respective solos and shine they did.

The internationally known pianist Wim Stadius Müller, who is 86, is still active on the concert platform. He told the audience that the first time he played on Bonaire was in 1950 when there wasn't such a grand grand piano. And as there also wasn't a piano tuner he had to attempt to tune the one and only piano that was desperately out of tune and very old itself.

The encore, the well known “Atardi,” was arranged by Hein to enable the wind instruments as well as two pianists to perform together.



In the morning the artists performed for 125 school children who were treated to Hein's specially arranged version of Camille Saint-Saëns' “Carnival of the Animals.” Two students took on the role of narrator for the pieces.

The school concerts are an important educational activity of the CMBB. The aim is to introduce children to instruments and music they might otherwise not get to hear.

The CMBB was only able to host this concert due to the generous donations of supporters, sponsors and friends as well as a subsidy from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds for the Caribbean. ■ Story by Hans Faassen, translated by Carla Hay— CMBB. Photos by Rob van Lier.



BONAIRE'S MEDICAL CARE

Dear Editor:

I am a retired Medical Doctor, my wife Shelly is also retired having been a surgical nurse for some years. We have owned property at Harbour Village since 1995, now live here during the winter, returning to a residence in the States for about three summer months.

One of the commonly asked questions from tourists on Bonaire has to do with the state of medical care here, almost everyone wants to live here but the children want to bring their teacher, the adults their doctor. Shelly and I have had office, emergency room and in house hospital care here and have found it to be absolutely perfect.

As an example: This month we hosted my grandson, his fiancée, mother and four beautiful little girls ranging 10, 9, 9 and 5 for a week at Harbour Village Beach resort.. All was going along perfectly, the girls took to the sea, sand and sun eagerly, learned to snorkel and dug huge holes in the sand.

Then misfortune struck. Maddie, a nine year old touched a Lion Fish spine and was stung. I became aware of the accident when I heard wailing and sobbing in my kitchen, checked her and found that she truly was injured. The



swelling of her palm and middle finger was extreme, a bit of discoloration warned that some circulatory problems were occurring. She was a brave little gal, she voiced an opinion that will long be repeated by the family: “It is really hard to be happy when it hurts so much”. Kids say the darnedest things.

I realized this was not a kitchen care injury, she was taken to the San Francisco Hospital emergency room.

The care was nothing short of amazing. No delays, the staff recognized the injury and immediately moved into a treatment area where a hot water bath was continuously administered for a period of about two hours. She was given a sedative and what was most important, the staff hovered over her, administering TLC (tender loving care). One of the nurses told her that this is a very unusual occurrence and that she should not fear going back into the sea as soon as she was better. The next day she was snorkeling again.

Her parents were hugely appreciative of the prompt, skillful care and, incidentally, that the hospital would accept a credit card. Again, bad start, good ending. Bonaire should be proud of its medical care.

Richard Craig M.D. and Shelly Craig

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
dienst. Free-of-charge payments are only possible at the service desk of Girobank. The other banks charge the usual transaction fee for cash payments.



►On Wednesday, April 13, there was a raid by the Police, the Public Prosecutor, with the assistance of the Criminal Investigation Team and the State Investigation Department in the presence of the magistrate. Searched were two business locations and two houses on Bonaire.

These searches are carried out as part of an investigation into forgery, extortion, embezzlement and fraud, which the administration company EA & C B.V.* and its director R.L.A. are suspected to be involved. There is also investigation of the administration, licensing offenses and whether workers, for which the business provides services, were victims. No arrests were made. In the interest of the investigation the police said they cannot make further statements at this time.

*Executive Accounting & Construction B.V. provides services which include Accounting, Auditing, Taxes, Work & Stay permits, Payrolls, Construction, Consultation, Bookkeeping, Document processing, Business plans, Copy Center and Internet Cafe.

►Between July 8 and September 4, Dutch airline KLM will operate additional direct flights between Amsterdam and the Dutch Caribbean to accommodate rising demand. Check the KLM website or a travel agent for details.

►KLM Bonaire will celebrate its 80th anniversary on May 9, 2016, said Pieter de Man, General Manager Air France KLM Caribbean & Suriname. It's been 80 years since a KLM Fokker F-XVIII, the *Oriol*, landed on Bonaire. KLM will celebrate the memorable event in the coming months with various events.

“We have planned several activities in the coming months, for young and old. A glimpse of what we offer our youth the opportunity to win the trip of their dreams, so keep an eye on the newspapers and the KLM Dutch Caribbean Facebook page.”

If you are, or know someone who will be 80 during the month of May, and who lives on Bonaire, KLM would like to hear from you via their KLM Dutch Caribbean Facebook page or you can send a letter to KLM Goddard Catering, Hato Airport, Curacao. ■ G./L.D.



KRUSADA AND THEIR DUTCH DAF 4X4

Bonaire/Lagoen/Guatemala – It was the first time in 11 years that I visited the former plantation of Guatemala for Krusada's Open Day (see pg. 12).

On that Saturday, somewhere early in the afternoon, I drove my loyal Puma powered Land-Rover Defender along the curly roads to Lagoen, heading for the Krusada Foundation location, on the former plantation of Guatemala. I had seen the sign with the two hands and the broken chain for ages and I knew Krusada had something to do with helping people getting rid of an addiction or something... So I stopped at the entrance where I was welcomed by two employees of Krusada. They gave me a small explanation of the institute and they gave me some tickets for alcohol-free drinks. Then I parked the Land-Rover and my dog and I jumped out of the vehicle.



Kees Jan de Kruijf with the truck

A very nice lady explained about the vision and the goal of Krusada: to work with and guide people who had been addicted, who had been in touch with criminality and who had slight mental restrictions. She told me about the workshop where wood constructions were made, about the greenery. She was proud of the newly opened shop. I liked her mixture of Papiamentu, Portuguese and Spanish. Then we continued our exploration of everything, heading for the mansion of Guatemala. Dog Sneetje and I stopped at a white sprayed four-wheel-drive DAF truck. I approached an employee and asked him about the Foundation and the vehicle.

Kees Jan de Kruijf is his name and he is the general leader of the Krusada project. He came to the island of Bonaire in 2005 and he has been involved with Krusada for some 10 years now. I asked him whether he did not get fed up with everything: the heat, the dust, the lack of money, the lack of parts, corruption, the salt, the noise of the leaf of the palm trees, cockroaches... "On the contrary!" he replied. He looked around and continued. "Just notice and be aware that all of what you see was not here. No shop, no workshop, no greenhouses, no garage, no apartments, no play garden- only the ruins of an old building in the middle of a completely dried out plantation with wrinkles. Look at the progress! And look at the water truck we bought from the money Krusada and Green Bonaire earned."

The water truck. Kees Jan de Kruijf continued: "The Krusada Foundation and Green Bonaire B.V. bought this truck together. We drive it to and from the LVV, where we fill the tank with cleaned water from the water plant. This water is 100% *oll korrekt* and very suitable for agriculture.

This is the 142nd of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* articles by J@n (always wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons who are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!

We do have a fine selection of volunteers who have a driver's license for a truck. The weight of this vehicle alone is some 7,600 kilograms. The capacity of its tank is 7 m³. That's an added weight of 7000 kg. (about 15,000 lbs). We store the transported water in a huge basin. Then we distribute it under pressure by pipes underground to the greeneries where we grow spinach, rucola, basil and mint. We have this water permanently checked by Dutch scientists in Dutch laboratories and the quality is excellent and very safe for growing vegetables and herbs in

our greeneries. The variety of products will be increased in the future.

Our people from Krusada love to work in the greeneries, growing vegetables and herbs. Life gets meaning and a goal again. People get on a right track again and we just try to pave that path a little."

The 4X4 water carrier is a Dutch truck made by *Van Doorne's Aanhangwagen Fabriek* in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The sturdy iron chassis stands on four huge 20-inch wheels and 12.00R20 tires. They are made by Michelin and Goodyear and they are reinforced to deal with the weight of the vehicle and the load of the filled water tank. Ten bolts keep each wheel connected to the impressive drum brakes and the live-axles of the four-wheel drive. The front bumper is solid and impressive, hoist-, drag- and lift-hooks are installed. The rear bed is mounted to the chassis by four enormous bolts and nuts. The bed is easily interchangeable. The Dutch-made engine is a 6,240 cc six-cylinder in line natural aspirated diesel, producing 180 horsepower at 2,600 revolutions per minute. The whole vehicle is very basic and Spartan. No luxury in the cabin. Just iron and very little plastic.

The DAF has been used in the army. The inside of the cabin is still drab green and there is a round lid in the roof of the truck, which also indicates this has been a military vehicle.

The V-193 licensed water carrier looks and is healthy. A quick starter and a smooth idler and runner. No nonsense techniques, a face with a grin, ready to conquer decades of toughness in the future. ■ *Story & photo by J@n Brouwer*

Bartenders Compete

The island's professional bartenders took on the challenge to compete against each other to win the **I Love Bonaire Bartender Competition 2016**. It could earn one of them a seat on the Bonaire Culinary Team which travels to Miami this June to represent Bonaire at the Taste of the Caribbean, a culinary competition for professional chefs and bartenders.



Winning bartender Leo Rojas from Blue Garden

Last Sunday Coco Beach hosted the competition where, in Caribbean style the bartenders showed their skills and creativity by preparing a rum cocktail, a vodka cocktail and a cocktail with the ingredients from a mystery basket. The judges Liz Rijna who won Caribbean Bartender of the Year in 1997, along with Vernon Martijn and Albert (Mocky) Arends had a difficult task to score the candidates. Following the rules and criteria to be used in Miami the candidates had to show use of local ingredients, technique and hygiene to prepare a well tasting, balanced and attractive looking cocktail. Cadushy Distillery gave the bartenders a good start by offering a supply of their local products and the bartenders were not shy in using bold ingredients such as red beet and even sweet potato. After a challenging contest **Leo Rojas from Blue Garden** was announced the winner of the I Love Bonaire Bartender Competition 2016 edition, **Ryan Jansen from At Sea** is runner up and **Kelvin Ventura from Rum Runners** was third. ■

Press release/L.D.

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Wonders of Nature

Every day I walk my dogs in the *mondi*. And every day nature looks different. I never get bored. Unfortunately, there is more to see than pure nature in the *mondi*. A lot of people think they should brighten up nature with their own waste materials. So, every day I see new trash and that makes me wonder. I will share my wondering about this waste and nature with you and hope that this might contribute to putting waste where it belongs: on the landfill.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS (2)

A flash of light blinds me. The light source comes from the trash heap that I innocently pass. I discover a trophy on which the sunlight is bouncing off, at the same place where I found some weeks ago three glorious cups won by singing and playing football. This trophy looks even more shiny and splashing than the previous three. And again I am mistaken by the weight: the marble and silver are made of plastic, although of better quality. Less common, but still not really valuable. A kind of fair prize you marvel about in artificial light, and with loud music in your ears, you think it looks like a fairy tale. At home, back to reality, you throw it away in the bin with a feeling of disgust. How is it possible that you have welcomed eagerly something like that into your



arms after you've left a large sum of money at the shooting range? Afterwards you are ashamed that you have walked at that fair with that dud in your hands even feeling proud of it as well. Thinking that you attracted the envy of the fair visitors while they probably viewed you with pity. Bah, do not think of this anymore, it's too humiliating.

This prize I found was won by a man ("caballero" it says on the placard) in 1995 with the *bolas crioyas* (*jeu de boule*). Could this be the same person

who previously had won three trophies playing football and singing, and took them off the shelf? Sure, that must be the case, years and crime scene match. Would Raul, as I call him for our convenience again, have lost his pride in his performance in the sport of *jeu de boule* after reading the story of his lost trophies and fame in *The Reporter*? He reads the story, is affected by all the deception and futility related by the story. He smashes his head into the glass case where the last trophy is displayed, grabs it by its ball and enters his car with his head bleeding. Once in the *mondi* he lobs the trophy with all the strength he has left into the same disreputable place he threw the other trophies.

How is it possible that my story had such a destructive effect on Raul, while I meant to do well? I hoped he would reclaim the trophies and would revive his talents. But look what I've done. A life that was destroyed has been beaten to rubble; nothing remains of it. The power of words has thus been demonstrated again. I'm glad I have liability insurance. ■

Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



Protect-A-Nest

This year Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is celebrating 25 years of ongoing work protecting endangered sea turtles on Bonaire. To celebrate their Anniversary STCB has made 25 nests available to local businesses for adoption. And all 25 nests made available for adoption have already been spoken for.

"We are thrilled! Since the end of February we have received a great deal of response to our campaign," said STCB manager Mabel Nava. "We are so pleased to learn that many local companies appreciate the work we do and that they are also willing to financially contribute to the protection of these charismatic species." Surprisingly, the majority of the companies adopting a nest are local companies that don't rely directly on tourism. Mabel adds, "One of the nests has been adopted by T & TMC's *Na Schoolse Opvang en Huiswerkbegeleiding*, an afterschool program and education center. Its Executive Director, Daisy Coffie, contacted us after she heard about the program on the radio. She found the adoption program a wonderful opportunity to involve local youth with nature conservation, so they decided to adopt a nest which will be combined with an STCB youth education afternoon at the beginning of April."

Nesting season will start around May, and at that time STCB will hand over the official nest adoption certificates. If you would like to learn more about the Adopt-A-Nest program or if you are interested to adopt a nest during the next nesting season in 2017, have a look at STCB's brand new website www.bonaireturtles.org or call STCB at +599 717 2225. ■ Press release



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Ride For The Roses



A TOMORROW FOR ALL

On Sunday, April 17, nearly 1,000 peppy participants strode, rode and/or swam to demonstrate solidarity with cancer patients on Bonaire. Friends and family of current cancer sufferers and actual survivors all united to fight against cancer. Those taking part enjoyed the added benefit of a good workout as well.

All finalists received, not a flashy award, but a red rose at the finish lines to symbolize a "tomorrow for everyone." A mixed throng of the young and not so young, Bonaireans, Curaçaoans, Latin-Americans, North Americans and Dutchies, took to the streets in the early-morning light to begin their treks, jogs or rides for the cause.

The 6.5 km walk/run and the 13 km

bike ride began at Sunset Beach, using almost deserted streets through the neighborhoods back to Sunset. Flaggers with bright red semaphores helped direct traffic, while the *Krus Kora* (Red Cross) cruised the routes to provide assistance for any in need. At several points along the route participants watered up at well-stocked volunteer stations, then continued on their way.

About 90 of the enthusiasts added swimming to become "combi participants." They started at Kas di Regatta for the 1.2 km swim to Sunset Beach at 9 am.

How this all came about?

On January 7, of this year, eight concerned Bonaireans, under the leadership of John Soliano, joined to establish a foundation, "The Ride for the Roses." The goal of this alliance is to raise funds for

the struggle against cancer in a physical and pleasurable manner. With the primary sponsorship of Orco Bank, assisted by 25 general sponsors and Ride for the Roses participants, collected earnings of the foundation will be used to assist cancer patients here on Bonaire.

Ride for the Roses Bonaire follows the example of eponymous foundations on Curaçao and in the Netherlands, which have operated successfully for several years. Collaboration with *Stichting Prinses Wilhelminafonds Bonaire*, a critical leader in the cancer crusade on the island, has proven beneficial in generating financial support for some 300 cancer-stricken patients on the island. *Stichting Prinses Wilhelminafonds* was established by the Netherlands' Queen Wilhelmina in 1949 to assist cancer patients with limited funds living in the Netherlands Antilles. It is a private initiative, depending entirely

on donations.

Cancer is the number 1 health nemesis worldwide; it affects or will affect one out of three people, directly or indirectly. John Soliano and his seven board members, namely: Charles Lont, Anne-Marie Mercera, Tom Peeters, Frank Bohm, Dirk Zuidam, Albert Arends and Jursi Marshall, took the plight of our Bonaire cancer sufferers to heart and wanted to make a difference. In compliance with the principles of Livestrong, an organization whose mission is to listen to cancer patients, survivors and their caregivers in order to serve the cancer community in the best ways possible, Ride for the Roses plans to change the lives of those afflicted by this scourge. If you would like to donate see: www.ridefortheroses.org. ■ Story by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour' photos by L.D., G.D., Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



Event chairman John Soliano and Governor Rijna start the walk



The event's organizers- Great job guys!



Two rode for the price of one



Above: The FORMA swim team gathers their strength



Lovely lady walkers show their awarded roses.



At right: Swimmers enter the water at the Kas do Regatta ramp



Volunteers offered healthy treats to the finishers

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Part 2: Traffic (or Just Paper) Control on Bonaire

The Good, a.k.a. the friendly drivers waving and sometimes lecturing us scooter folks: "Dushi, mi por splika bo e bòrchinan di tráfitko di Boneiru (Sweetie, I can tell you about the Bonaire traffic rules)."

The Bad, a.k.a. the insurance, drivers license and tax offices: "As long as you pay here, there and everywhere, and have your papers in order -- our way -- we won't hassle you too much."

The Ugly, a.k.a. most administrative offices: "Mañan" (not really "tomorrow," just not today); or alternatively, "No, not here, that's somewhere else. Then you can come back here."

Having just arrived to live on *dushi* Bonaire in January of 2014, I imagined I had come to The Garden of Eden. A few days later, a different metaphor came to mind and my earlier euphoria about being on Bonaire was smashed -- temporarily I might add. I love Bonaire!

I had purchased a used scooter and was on my way to insure it when all of a sudden a bellicose band in blue, I mean the Marechaussee and local *Politie*, surrounded me at their Airport checkpoint. **Traffic control!** Well, not really. It was actually **Paper Control**. They demanded my insurance papers, drivers license and passport -- pronto.

To the chief copper I explained that I had only just bought the scooter and was literally en route to an insurance company (via the Airport ATM for funds to pay the premium). She couldn't have cared less. Papers, now! My American -- not Dutch -- drivers license was my only certificate in defense. Really, who lugs a passport around town these days? They all studied my driver's license as if it were the Bible, making repeated phone calls to God only knows where.



"Fever" -skid marks and smoke are the objectives

I was dismissed with a stern warning -- no more riding recklessly -- without papers, that is -- and a fine of \$50 for lack of insurance. It could be worse (details of that case in a moment). This first (and hopefully last) brush with the police on

Bonaire was rather unsettling. Honestly, couldn't they be chasing the reckless road warriors and fevering fools on our 10 thousand potholes in search of a road here? Surely, that would be more effective than erecting roadblocks to pummel the paperless. Funny, though, never seen 'em do that, even when obvious craziness occurs right in front of a police car.

My sorrowful saga continues. At the first of several insurance offices I quickly learn that I need a car in order to insure my scooter. What? Three offices later, hopping around in my flip flops, I nevertheless manage to get my scooter insured. But there's a "but." I won't actually be insured, since I don't have a Bonairean drivers license. And I won't be able to obtain a license without a *sedula* (Bonaire's ID for residents). I'd only been on the island for a few weeks, so the *sedula* process was still, well, in process. I did get to pay my fine though. No problem there; however, I was cautioned to hold on to my receipt. "Sometimes we lose payment records here," the nice lady at the prosecutor's office says.

My story is hardly unique

A few months ago, "Mona" bought herself a brand-new Tomos moped. She figured, and was assured by the seller, that no special drivers license would be required. It's just a bicycle *avec* motor, after all. Within 24 hours the (moped) police, consisting of six hell-bent champions of justice, swarmed around her (at another roadblock) and slapped her with a \$115 fine for driving without a moped license, that and a wagging finger cautioning her to pay up within three months; otherwise, she'd be "doin' some time."

Mona then confronted these ambitious crime stoppers with her three Bonairean drivers licenses (B, C and D). No can do. She's allowed to drive a tour bus around with 20-something people, but riding a 49cc moped is just too dangerous for her fellow "road" users. She rightfully points out that hoards of tourists ride around scooter-license free -- and insured. Really?

One of the officers, a kindly one actually, advises her to scoot her Tomos to the driving test center ASAP to book the written driving test as the first step to eventually obtaining her license. Mona, being the responsible citizen she is, rides her moped to the center to do just that. That'll teach her good. Close by the driver's license center she's caught red-handed yet again. No insurance papers this time. Another fine -- \$250 this time. Mona becomes "Moaning Mona."

Off to *Burgerlijke Zaken* (Census Bureau) Moaning Mona goes, on foot this time, to pay for her proof of residency, as required by the driving test center. She books her theory exam and is told to go elsewhere to buy the exam booklet. Maybe handier to be able to purchase the booklet at the driving test center? *Naaah*, that makes too much sense.



Checkpoint at airport

When the day of the theory exam arrives, Mona is careful not to ride her quarantined moped to the driving test center. After two hours biding her time, a very charming and friendly desk lady tells her she's not on the list. Much aggressive photocopying, shuffling and stapling of papers later, Mona, together with other moped test-taker victims, is finally allowed to proceed with the exam. Goodie!

Since Mona is over 18 years of age, possesses drivers license B and has obtained (car) insurance, she's permitted to apply for a practice license, meaning she can take her moped for a ride before taking the actual practical exam. However, the insurance papers aren't currently in Mona's name. The driving test center claims they have to be under her name, while the insurance broker refutes this. Who's right and who's wrong? In the meantime, back and forth trudges Moaning Mona. Still striding afoot, sans moped.

Insurance acquired at last, "Merry

Mona" picks up her temporary license at noon. But just before mounting her moped, she's stopped cold. No riding between the hours of 12 n and 2 pm. Oh, and besides, no tooling around whatsoever on that Tomos. Did we tell you? Since the Tomos doesn't have turn indicators; no riding at all is allowed. No problem right? Just purchase a new one, and start the whole process anew. Merry Mona quickly transforms into "Mad Mona."

On a positive note, her fine has been reduced to half. Now she only has to await a refund from the ever (not) so efficient tax office. (See my previous piece on the *Belastingdienst, Reporter, April 4-18, 2016*.) On another positive note, she's still riding her moped, with new, spic and span turning blinkers this time. Mona especially loves all the courteous drivers on Bonaire.

■ Story & photos by
Karen Bastiaansen-
Gilmour



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Pop-Up Art



Last month Delno L.A. Tromp saw Colin and Emily Travers painting at the Esmeralda project at Punt Vierkant. He asked them to send us a little story about what they are doing. They wrote, "My family and I have been coming down to Bonaire since the 1970s from Brooklyn, NY. We always loved exploring the island, including the abandoned construction site of the Esmeralda. We started painting when a local dog we and neighbors loved and took care of passed away suddenly. We have been painting ever since when we return to visit, others have added to it as well and we try to cover it before it's gone! Colin & Emily

More info at: <https://www.instagram.com/instacee/>
<https://www.instagram.com/emilyegorski/>
<https://www.instagram.com/lucie2bk/> ■
 G.D/Delno L.A. Tromp

Krusada Demonstrates Open Day Its Many Activities

On Saturday, April 2, Krusada opened the doors to everyone on Bonaire for its annual Open Day.

Krusada is a place for recovery for addicted people, ex-convicts, or other groups of people who cannot fit easily into the community on Bonaire.

Krusada's Open Day has been an annual event on the island for years. This year it attracted more than 300 people to the Krusada campus to view their work. They were there to see several new projects as well as those familiar to past visitors. Guided tours were provided in Papiamentu, Spanish, English and Dutch. For the children there was a children's program with horse riding, face painting and a treasure hunt.

Eric de Jong, Director of Krusada, says: "It was a really nice day. The atmosphere was jovial. Because we were open from 10am to 5pm, there was throughout the day a steady stream of visitors. During the open day, the Krusada Shop (*Tienda di Krusada*) was first put into use. That's the place where the products are sold for Krusada. We are really pleased with this addition. It is not just a store, but it is intended that visitors who visit there become acquainted with the work of some of its clients. The team has demonstrated with great enthusiasm what Krusada stands for. There was a lot of advanced preparation work, and we are really grateful how that turned out." ■ *Press release*

At right from top to bottom: Horseback rides for the kids, painting posters and faces and a tour of the shade-house gardens. →→→



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Fabian Cousteau Visits Dive Friends Clean-up

Bonaire/Playa Lechi, Te Amo Beach – On Saturday, April 9th, Dive Friends Bonaire organized their second quarterly clean up dive of the year. Check in was at the Yellow Submarine location of Dive Friends Bonaire, at Playa Lechi, north of down town Kralendijk. Dive manager Asko Zuidam instructed all volunteers, divers and non-divers, about the collecting of especially new pollution like glass, bottles, plastic, cans, fishing line and other debris. As always the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire also participated, and specialized divers showed up with their elfs and zoo-keepers to hunt for lion fish which are a threat to the Bonairean underwater world.

(Lion fish showed up a couple of years ago in the waters around Bonaire. They might have escaped from a sea aquarium in Florida, US, and they do not have enemies underwater so their amount is increasing and increasing. With their ELFs (Eliminate Lion Fish- special and legal underwater spears) the well trained divers go down, chasing and collecting them in their zoo-keeper, a special canister. Lion fish taste good and can be found on the menu of some restaurants on Bonaire.)

Asko Zuidam instructed the divers very efficiently. It had to be a non-deco dive, at the most one hour. Only fresh debris had to be collected and picked up from the bottom of the sea – a difficult job as divers have to decide whether the underwater world has already made sufficient progress covering and taking over the cups, cans and bottles. New fishing line is a special threat to the turtles as the lines are hardly visible and turtles can be trapped in loops of monofilament.

Then all divers and other volunteers headed for Te Amo Beach, the popular sandy beach in the south, located close to the airport. With mesh

bags, dive knives and scissors the divers went down. Other volunteers concentrated on cleaning the beaches. Current in the water was mild, “spring temperature” was acceptable, weather conditions were excellent.

During that one hour the divers were under water (including me/jb), environmental celebrity Fabian Cousteau showed up at Te Amo Beach. He had a nice and informative conversation with some 12 junior rangers from Stinapa. Getting knowledge and experience is important for our junior rangers as a part of our and their future is in their hands. This is what Fabian knows very well. He is inspired by his grandfather, the well known Jacques Cousteau.

After the dive all volunteers went home for a private clean-up, a little nap and the preparation of the side orders for the pot luck barbecue.

At 8 pm, at the Hamlet Oasis location of Dive Friends Bonaire all the volunteers got together again. A raffle was organized and the audience was informed about what was collected: 564 items. Apart from the normal debris some special and reusable treasures were found: 52 fishing weights and two pairs of underpants!

Thank you, Dive Friends Bonaire, for the supply of free air, the food and a free drink. Thank you, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, for participating in the organization and for the supply of wooden turtles for collecting and winding up lost and found fishing line. Thank you, all volunteers.

It works if you work it and it won't if you don't. And remember: without blue there is no green! ■ *Story & photos by Jan Brouwer*

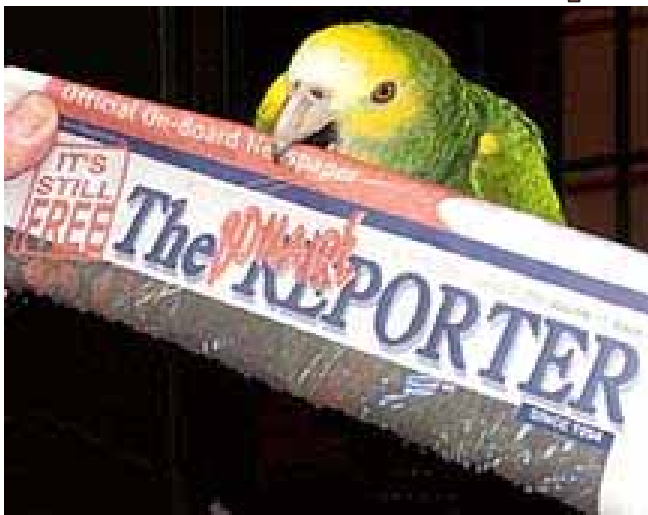


Above: The clean up divers assembled for a photo

Below: BonaireVision Films records Fabian Cousteau's visit



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REWARD- Dive gear fell off the
dive truck near Sand Dollar on Satur-
day 8:30am. Thank you for picking it

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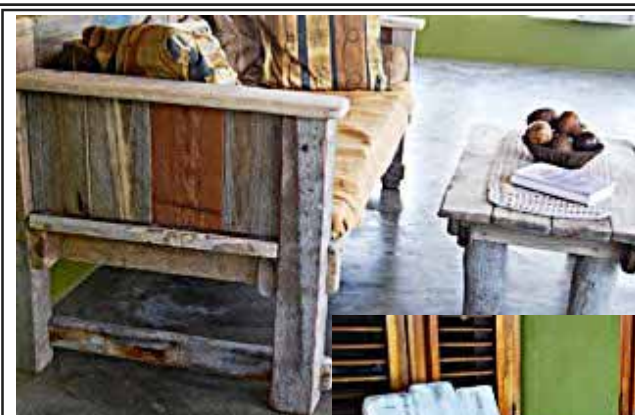
up so it was not damaged by a car.
Call Jay 717-5548 or drop off any
Dive Friends location or at Sand
Dollar. Reward.

There is a possibility for com-
mercial activities at the entrance of
the Washington Slagbaai National
Park (WSNP) . .

WSNP is open 363 days per year
and has more than 35,000 visitors per
year. We are looking for a business
partner who can organize commer-
cial activities that fit within the ob-
jectives of STINAPA. The property
offers space to sell snacks and drinks,
souvenirs or services that compli-
ment the goals of the park.

We invite you to email your busi-
ness plan to park manager Paulo Ber-
tuol, washingtonpark@stinapa.org,
before May 15th 2016. For ques-
tions, you may contact him at +599
787 0984.

MOVING SALE See below ↓ ↓



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PADI Divemaster certified. Con-
tact **Richard S. Bon Bini!**

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The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;
Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Also available on-line on
Facebook® and at: www.bonairereporter.com *Published every two weeks*

Reporters in this issue: James Albury, Angliet Baidjoe, Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour,
Jan Brouwer, Caren Eckrich, Hans Faassen, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden-Disko, Carla
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Tromp, Justine Verschoor.

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava
Rose Wuyts (mailing)

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 18		05:12	10:10	17:17	23:17		
		0.10 ft	0.43 ft	-0.03 ft	0.51 ft	6:21	18:48
Tue 19		06:28	11:12	17:45	23:58		
		0.09 ft	0.33 ft	0.04 ft	0.54 ft	6:21	18:48
Wed 20		07:48	12:31	18:07			
		0.05 ft	0.24 ft	0.11 ft		6:20	18:48
Thu 21	00:36	09:04	14:17	18:21			
	0.57 ft	0.00 ft	0.20 ft	0.16 ft		6:20	18:48
Fri 22	01:13	10:06	16:35	18:09	Full Moon		
	0.60 ft	-0.06 ft	0.19 ft	0.19 ft		6:19	18:48
Sat 23	01:49	10:54					
	0.63 ft	-0.11 ft				6:19	18:48
Sun 24	02:26	11:33					
	0.66 ft	-0.16 ft				6:18	18:48
Mon 25	03:03	12:07					
	0.70 ft	-0.20 ft				6:18	18:48
Tue 26	03:41	12:38	19:20	21:23			
	0.73 ft	-0.23 ft	0.23 ft	0.22 ft		6:17	18:49
Wed 27	04:20	13:06	19:16	22:36			
	0.75 ft	-0.24 ft	0.24 ft	0.21 ft		6:17	18:49
Thu 28	05:01	13:33	19:26	23:41			
	0.76 ft	-0.25 ft	0.27 ft	0.19 ft		6:17	18:49
Fri 29	05:42	14:00	19:46		L Quar- ter		
	0.75 ft	-0.24 ft	0.33 ft			6:16	18:49
Sat 30		00:45	06:26	14:27	20:14		
		0.16 ft	0.72 ft	-0.23 ft	0.41 ft	6:16	18:49
May							
Sun 01		01:51	07:12	14:56	20:49		
		0.14 ft	0.66 ft	-0.22 ft	0.51 ft	6:15	18:49
Mon 02		03:02	08:03	15:27	21:29		
		0.10 ft	0.57 ft	-0.20 ft	0.62 ft	6:15	18:50

A Garden? Just Do It

The Wonderful Moringa Tree.

I cannot blame anyone who complains about this extremely hot weather. Nature is suffering terribly under these conditions, and it's hard to write about gardening while almost every plant is dying or dead already.

So early this morning while I was watering the plants, my eyes caught sight of a nice green tree, and there came the idea to write about the wonderful Moringa tree. So here is all you need to know about it. Then hurry to plant at least one tree in your yard and enjoy it while hardly any other tree can stand this weather.

The full name of the one we know on Bonaire is **Moringa Oleifera**, which is the most widely cultivated species of the genus Moringa, which is also called **ben oil tree** or **benzoil tree** from the oil which is derived from the seed. It's also known as **drumstick tree** because of its seed pods. It's a fast-growing, drought-resistant tree, native to the southern foothills of the Himalayas, and cultivated in tropical and subtropical areas. India is the largest exporter of parts of this tree.

M. Olifeira is a fast-growing, deciduous tree. It can reach a height of 10-12 meters. Flowers are fragrant and begin within the first six month after planting. In our tropical climate, flowering can happen all year round. The fruit is a hanging, three-sided, brown capsule which holds dark brown seeds. In cultivation, it's often cut back (see photo) annually to one to two meters and allowed to regrow so the pods and leaves remain within arm's reach.

Moringa is a sun and heat loving plant, suitable for dry regions. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, but prefers a well drained sandy or loamy soil. So Bonaire is a perfect place to grow Moringa.

M. Olifeira can be cultivated for its leaves, pods, kernels for oil extraction and water purification. Very important is the oil. It can be used as a food supplement, as a base for cosmetics and for hair and skin. All parts of Moringa are



Moringa tree cut back to widen

edible, their uses varying widely: immature seed pods (called "drumsticks"); leaves; mature seeds; oil pressed from seeds; flowers.

The leaves are the most nutritious part of the plant, being a significant source of B vitamins (B1-B2-B3-B5-B6- B9) vitamin C, provitamin A as beta-carotene, vitamin K, carbohydrates, fat and protein. Minerals contained are calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, zinc.

Using Moringa

Leaves are cooked and used like spinach and are commonly dried and crushed into a powder used in soups, sauces and tea.

The immature seedpods are commonly consumed in South Asia. They are prepared by parboiling and cooked in a curry until soft. Seedpods, even when cooked by boiling, remain particularly high in vitamin C and are also a good source of dietary fiber and the above mentioned minerals.

Seeds, eaten like peas or roasted like nuts, contain high levels of vitamin C, B vitamins and dietary minerals. Roots are

shredded and crushed as a condiment with sharp flavor qualities derived from a significant amount of polyphenols.

Moringa trees have been used to combat malnutrition, especially among infants and nursing mothers. Since Moringa thrives in arid and semiarid environments, it may provide a versatile, nutritious food source throughout the year.

Moringa is popular in culinary uses in Asia. It may be preserved by canning but is often made into a variety of curry dishes by mixing with coconut, poppy seeds and mustard or boiled until the drumsticks are semi soft and consumed directly without any processing or cooking. Its used in curries, sambars, kormas, and dals. The fruit meat of drumsticks, including young seeds is used for soups. Young leaves can either be fried with shrimp or added as topping in fish soup.

Tender drumstick leaves, finely chopped, are used as garnish for vegetable dishes and salads. It's also used in place of or along with coriander. In some regions, the flowers are gathered and cleaned to be cooked with besan to make pakores. Leaves are also a common ingredient in an omelet. Leaves may be fried and mixed with dried-fried tuna chips, onions and dried chilies to make a sambal. Leaves may also be processed with olive oil and salt for a pesto.

Flowers are mixed with gram flour and other spices, then deep fried into fritters to be served as snacks or added to curries. Moringa juice may be mixed with lemonsito juice to make ice candies or cold drinks.

So go ahead—enough delicious try outs with Moringa.

In developing countries, Moringa has the potential to improve nutrition, boost food security, foster rural development and support sustainable land care. It may be used as forage for livestock, a micronutrient liquid.



Dried moringa leaves to make homemade green tea and powder

Moringa leaf powder is as effective as soap for hand washing when dampened in advance to release anti-septic and detergent properties from phytochemicals in the leaves.

Moringa seed cake, obtained as a by-product of pressing seeds to obtain oil, is used to filter water using flocculation to produce potable water for animal or human consumption.

Moringa seed cake removes most impurities from water. This use is of particular interest for being non-toxic and sustainable compared to other materials in Moringa growing regions where drinking water is affected by pollutants.

In certain countries like Haiti Moringa trees are used for hedges to keep dust away from houses.

Also in countries like India, where Moringa is a very important tree, each school child plants a Moringa tree every year. (An idea for our schools here?)

Well, do we complain about nature? Only with one tree, the Moringa, growing perfectly on Bonaire, in our yard, we have nearly everything in the house!

Isn't nature amazing? Just do it, plant a Moringa tree.

■ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature lover





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What's Happening



REGULAR EVENTS

Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum. Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

Soldachi Tours—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Kocks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park) Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.

Saturdays

•**Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**- Every Saturday, 8am-noon, Jong Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

•**Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) First Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.

•**Tera Kora Ranch Market—2nd & last Saturdays**- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2nd hand items

•**Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance

•**Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

•**Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis De Tuin on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

#	DAY	NAME	Time in Port	Cruise Line
Cruise Ship Schedule				
52	18-04-16	Royal Princess	1200-1900	Princess
53	22-04-16	Serenade of the Seas	0700-1400	Royal Caribbean
54	16-05-07	Hanseatic	0800-1700	Hapag Lloyd
55	16-05-08	Royal Princess	1200-1900	Princess
56	31-05-16	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	Royal Caribbean

Sundays

•**Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950** - Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

•**Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar.** The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma and the newest book, Reef Windows. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

Wednesdays

•**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information.

•**12-step meeting (AA/NA).** Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona #47. Walk in from 18:45, starts at 19:15, ends at 20:30. Feel free to mail 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com or 12stappenbonaire@gmail.com for more information.

• **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or emailing: info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

•**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday**. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

Fridays

•**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Chichi i Tan Museum. Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. **Tuesdays,**

Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays.

10am-3pm. **1st Sunday of month**, live performances of local musicians, arts & crafts. Free but donations appreciated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842**

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call **788-9015 or 796-5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Cruxita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info **(599) 701-9522** Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info **(599) 701-2892**

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.)

Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol- Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194 ■

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Tuesday, April 19—
First Chamber Senators meeting with residents on Bonaire, 4pm—6pm at El Mundo Restaurant on Kaya Grandi.

Sunday, April 24—
Sunbelt Realty Fun Race at Washikemba. Information and sign up: DeFreeweiler, tel. 717-8545; freeweiler@bonairefreeweiler.com. See poster page 7

Wednesday, April 27
—**Kings Day, legal holiday**

—**Rotary Club's Grand Fair, Plasa Wilhelmina.** Furniture, clothes, construction items, food & drink, music. More on pages 2 & 3

Saturday, April 30 —
Rincon Day Race, start 6:30 am **Registration on April 25 and 27 from 5-7pm, at Zee Zicht at Karel's Beach Bar.**

—**Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**, 8am-2pm. More on page 5

—**Rincon Day**, all day events, parades, stands, music. Bonaire's Best Party!

Sunday, May 1—Labor Day, legal holiday

Thursday, May 5—
Ascension Day, legal holiday

Saturday, May 7—
Kriabon Farmers Market, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School. Plants, local food, crafts. 8am-1pm

SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

Free listing in this directory for regular repeat Reporter advertisers

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

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Check out **Auto City Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. The office is the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.



BEAUTY

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too. Find them on Facebook.

BIKES

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DENTURE REPAIR

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ON and IN the WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems. Ad on page 11.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop, Dushi Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket. See pg. 2

LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

The Wine Barrel has one of the island's widest selection of wines and spirits at the South Pier Mall. It's a classy bar/bistro in the evening and sells a wide selection of alcoholic beverages in the day

OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value.

PHOTOGRAPHER

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Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit. Ad on back page



RESTAURANTS

Bobbejans— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

La Balandra at The Harbour Village Resort offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.



Breeze 'n Bites at the Den Laman Apartments. Provides a memorable seaside dining experience with fine food. Specializing in Fresh Seafood and Select Meats. Happy Hour 4-6 pm.

Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops – featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs – as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 18.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale fashion consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price. See page 11



SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. See page 15.

STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent. **What would we do without their superb services?** See ad on page 5



SUPERMARKETS

TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. See page 2.



WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant) See pg. 19

Animal Shelter News

The Animal Shelter Bonaire is a refuge for dogs and cats that can no longer be cared for by their owners, have been abandoned, or were born in the wild and brought in by concerned citizens and tourists. The Shelter also offers a grooming and boarding place for cats and dogs. There is a gift shop on the premises to help raise money to sustain the Shelter.

WANTED YOUR OLD STUFF!
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PLEASE DONATE YOUR STUFF AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER, KAMINDA LAGUN OR CALL 7174989

REWARD!
HAPPY DOGS AND CATS

clothing, household items, → garden items, children's furniture, clothes, toys, books and more – lots of very cheap stuff! If you have things you don't use anymore. Are you cleaning out your house, garden or are you moving and want to support a good cause? You can bring it directly to the Pakus di Pruga on Saturdays or during the week to the Animal Shelter. If you have heavy furniture items we can even arrange to pick it up!

You can find Pakus di Pruga at Kam. Lib. Simon Bolivar, across the street from Brandaris Café. Open Saturdays, 8am-5pm.

For more information call #717-4989/701-4989 or e-mail us and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/ animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com. ■ Story & photos by Nathalie Peterson



Shop every Saturday at our Garage Sale "Pakus di Pruga".

Help fund the animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire by shopping in our second hand shop, the [Pakus di Pruga](#).

As prices go up all over Bonaire, the Shelter's Pakus di Pruga has become more and more popular. There is obviously a need on the island that is being filled by this little shop run by volunteers to benefit the Animal Shelter. In fact the place is just bursting with items – furniture,



Loving the Shelter's spa facilities

Gogreen
Bonaire natural & organic shop

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LUNCH
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Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

Pet of the Week

While

many island residents have take advantage of the free sterilization program to prevent unwanted kittens, the Animal Shelter Bonaire still has

a lot of kittens looking for a "fur-ever" home. From tabbies to "torties" and gingers to greys, the Shelter currently has nine beautiful, healthy, loving kittens ranging in age from three months to seven months available for adoption. They have been having a wonderful time playing with each other in the "kitty kresh," the special kitten nursery area in the main cat compound at the Shelter. But now they are ready to venture out into a home of their own.

Welcoming a kitten into your home is an experience that always brings joy and a lot of laughter. Their affection and kitten "antics" never cease to brighten an ordinary day. If you don't have another cat and are not home most of the day, it is always recommended that you adopt either two kittens or a kitten and an adult cat. Having a playmate or a role model keeps them occupied and entertained. If you are not at home, a single kitten will become lonely or bored which leads to mischievous activity like shredded curtains or furniture. In addition, just as it often happens with humans, lonely and isolated cats tend to become shy and reclusive and don't make particularly good companions.

If a kitten is on your mind, come and visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire and surely one or two will grab your heart. All of them have been vaccinated, wormed, treated for fleas and ticks, and the adoption fee includes sterilization once they are old enough. If an adult cat is more your style, there are plenty of affectionate, healthy, sterilized adults that will do likewise. You can visit the Shelter cats and kittens during our new visiting hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9am to noon, and 3pm to 5pm; Saturday 8am to 3pm. Or have a look at them in action at www.bonairecatcam.com

Story by Jane Madden-Disko. Photo by Nathalie Peterson



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THE STARS HAVE IT

APRIL 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Plan your day carefully. You need a change of pace. Read between the lines when signing contracts. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Love relationships will flourish. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Short trips to visit others will do the whole family a world of good. Be careful not to get involved in other people's personal affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) It's time to make professional changes. Pleasure trips will promote new romantic encounters. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. Ignore colleagues who appear to be going in circles. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Focus on your domestic scene. Get together with friends or relatives. You can make personal changes that will enhance your reputation and give you greater self confidence. Beware of individuals who are not that reliable or well known to you. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Visit friends who have not been well. You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Be discreet about your feelings, and hold back until you find out a little more about the person who's coming on to you. Your courage and will-power will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't make promises you can't keep. Catch up on correspondence. Be up front if you don't want to be embarrassed. Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Avoid getting trapped in internal disputes. Opportunities to meet new lovers will evolve through your interaction with groups or fundraising functions. You will have to watch out for minor health problems related to stress. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can make new connections through friends or relatives. Be sure to double-check the house on your way out. You must look into your options. Relatives may not be telling you the whole truth about a family situation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. You will want to take off and have some recreation. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to be patient and understanding. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades. You might have a problem juggling your time. Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start. You will be overly sensitive this week. Curl up with a good book or go for a drive in the country. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Try to be reasonable. Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. You will not be able to contain your emotions this week. You may find that you're being used. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

BYE, BYE ORION; HELLO LION

It's that time of year again when the night skies almost yell out, "Spring is here!" That's because when **Orion** is low lyin' and the **Lion** is high flyin', winter is on its way out.

Now most of you know that the star pattern Orion the hunter is about the surest sky sign that winter is here. In fact, if you go outside in early evening during December, Orion will be climbing up the southeastern sky as a celestial announcement of the imminent arrival of winter. And in January and February when winter is coldest, Orion reaches his highest point in the heavens, due south in early evening almost bragging to the world that he is master of the season. But then, Orion slowly leaves center stage in early evening and by the beginning of April is tipped over on his side in the southwest almost hanging on to the sky for dear life. And it's this placement of Orion in the southwestern sky in early evening that always tells us winter is soon coming to an end.

And although we're always sad to see Orion's bright stars go, nevertheless a less bright but much bigger constellation takes his place almost over head in early evening announcing that spring is here. The **constellation Leo the Lion**.

If you go out any April night in early evening, you'll see Orion slowly sinking in the southwest while Leo is crouched at the very roof of heaven roaring that his season, spring, is here. Leo's easy to find. His head and forequarters marked by a backward question mark or sickle, with the bright star **Regulus** marking his heart. The triangle of stars to the east marks his rear.

In ancient times, lions were often associated with royalty and Leo's brightest star Regulus means "the little king." Regulus is only about 1/2 a degree away from the **ecliptic**, so you'll often see the **Moon** pass quite close to it. And, occasionally, the Moon will briefly **occlude it, hiding it from view**. And the planets occasionally move very close to Regulus. In fact, on July 7th, 1959, an extremely

South, Spring Evenings

Leo, the Lion



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rare event occurred when Regulus was actually occulted by **Venus** as Venus passed in front of it, an event which won't happen again for several centuries.

Regulus is about 85 light years away, which means that we see it not as it looks now, but how it looked 85 years ago. So if you're 85 years old when you look at Regulus you actually see the light that left it the year you were born.

And thank heavens it's that far away because it's 5 times the diameter of our **Sun** and 160 times brighter! This means that if Regulus were as close to us as our Sun, we'd all be crispy critters.

And this year, we have an extra visitor to the constellation Leo. Look for the bright "star" under his body. That is the giant **planet Jupiter** and he'll be hanging out with Leo all spring. So be sure to check him out.

Around 10pm any night this week if you look to the west, you'll just barely see Orion's belt above the treetops and fading into the sunset. If you have trouble seeing all of Orion, you might have better luck finding his dog. That really bright star to Orion's left is called **Sirius, aka the Dog Star**. Sirius is seriously bright and should twinkle all sorts of colors when low in the sky. Sirius marks the nose of the **constellation Canis Major**, the Big Dog. Canis Major, like Orion, is a winter constellation. That means he's heading out for the season too. So don't delay. Look for Sirius this week, before it's too late. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

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