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The REPORTER

BES Island News Too

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Cruise Ship Season Kicks Off
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Gerjanne Voortman photo

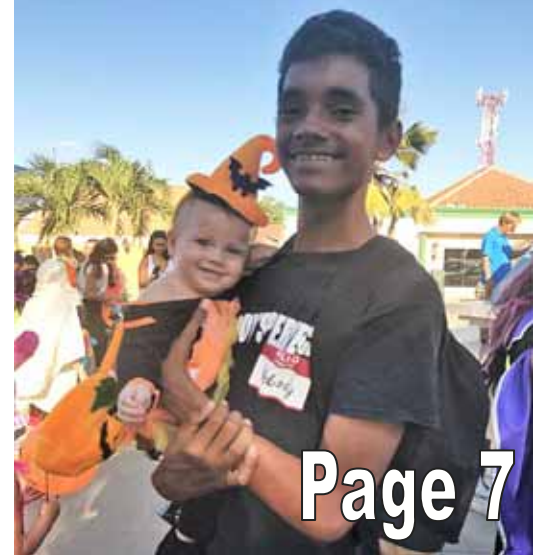


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Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour photo



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The Bonaire local government “fell” when Jeamoushka Raphaela withdrew her support from the ruling coalition last Thursday. Among other things she was displeased with her coalition’s lack of progress in improving Bonaire’s social and economic condition. The fall of a local government does not require new elections, but a new coalition should be formed.

► **THE HAGUE**—Another step towards more complete integration of the BES Islands into the (European) Netherlands took place when the First Chamber of the Dutch Parliament approved the proposal to amend the Dutch Constitution. It is intended to enable Dutch nationals living in the BES Islands to vote for the First Chamber parliamentarians even though the islands are not a Dutch province. Now that the first reading to amend the Dutch Constitution has been completed, the proposal will go back to the Second Chamber after the March 2017 elections for the second reading. The approval of two subsequent Parliaments is required to change the Constitution. If it passes, BES Dutch islanders can vote for First Chamber members in the elections for a new Senate in 2019. In the Netherlands, members of the Provincial Council vote for the members of the First Chamber. A newly formed Electoral Council (“Kiescollege”) will provide the legal structure for the voting.

► The Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament recently adopted **two motions to alleviate poverty in Bonaire**, St. Eustatius and Saba by establishing a so-called child-connected budget and setting a social welfare minimum that is based on the cost of living. The minimum wages were increased fractionally: in Bonaire (0.9%) in 2016.

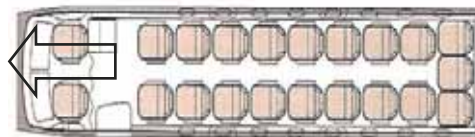


► According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), in 2011, **Bonaire had the lowest income inequality of the three BES islands**. Bonaire’s Gini coefficient is 0.39. The Gini coefficients on Saba and St Eustatius were marginally higher.

The Gini coefficient is a measure intended to represent the income distribution of a nation’s residents and is the most commonly used measure of inequality. The higher the Gini the greater the inequality, so if you feel there should be less of a difference between lowest and highest earners, then a low Gini is good.

By way of comparison: the Gini coefficient for the Netherlands was 0.29 in 2014, but ranged from 0.22 to 0.44. Amsterdam, for example, had a Gini coefficient of 0.36, while the plush municipality of Wassenaar had the highest income inequality at 0.44.

► **On 10 October. Bonaire’s FXDC Postal stamps were released** using “laser cutting” technologies for their printing. The stamps are perforated in the shape of each island. Depicted on the stamps are stylized detailed maps of the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. These stamps are available at post offices on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.



► **There is now a direct air connection between Bonaire and Santo Domingo.** The small Dominican airline, Sky High Aviation Services, flew its inaugural flight to Flamingo Airport on Friday, October 28. They will fly twice a week, according to the company. The fare is \$400 for a round trip. According to the company, there are also plans to add Curacao and Aruba to the route schedule.



Sky High Aviation Services mainly conducts charter flights for individuals. The flights to Bonaire will be performed with a relatively modern turboprop Beechcraft 1900D, which has 19 seats. Its cruising

speed is around 320 miles per hour. Sky High Aviation Services was founded in 2012 and only flies small aircraft.

► With InselAir unable to provide adequate service between the ABC islands **other airlines may be stepping up to the task.** There is Sky High, already mentioned, and PAWA, the Dominican airline already serving Aruba and Curacao which has flights between those two islands on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.



► **The Dutch foundation Dierenlot recently donated three refurbished pickup trucks to three of Bonaire’s animal care foundations-** the Animal Protection Society, FKK Animal Rescue (see story in the last *Bonaire Reporter*) and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire.

► **In this coming season Bonaire will receive visits by cruise ship lines** like Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Hapag Lloys, CEL and P & O and more. In 2018, Disney cruises will call at Bonaire. The cruise ship season is well underway, so keep that in mind when driving to downtown Kralandijk. Refer to the Happenings Page 12 for the latest ship schedules. There are other cruise-related stories in this edition.



► **On Saturday, November 12, The Beauty Of Bonaire Calendar will be released at a party at Karel’s Beach Bar** from 7pm -10pm-- Free appetizers sponsored.

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
sored by Karel's Beach Bar will be offered and DJ Annemiek will host. Want free admission? Just wear white.

► **It's a high year for sea turtle nesting on Bonaire and Klein Bonaire.** This was the 100th nest laid and we still have seven turtles nesting! That's good news for the (critically) endangered sea turtles as an average of just 1 in 1,000 eggs laid will make it to maturity (20 - 30 years of age). That means that of the perhaps 15,000 turtle eggs hatched, just 15 turtles will survive to revisit Bonaire.



► "Spinning" on stationary bikes is the latest fitness craze in the US and Europe. **Did you know Bonaire has a dedicated spinning studio?** It's in the Bon Bida building across from Sand Dollar. Other fitness classes and exercise machines available too. Pass by and check it out. The first class is free.



► There's still an opportunity to get **Ellen Muller 2017 calendar for the coming year.** It has over a dozen spectacular marine life photos. Calendars are available at VIP Diving and at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn. They will also be available by mail. Orders are being taken now and shipping will start in mid-to-late November. Please send an e-mail to Mark Director at EllensBonaireCalendars@yahoo.com for information and pricing.

► Like to dine out? Several new restaurants are opened and a food truck's been reincarnated:



Tasty Bar and Steak House, featuring reasonably priced and expertly prepared

Peruvian and Caribbean food has recently opened at Kaya Grandi 6 (the location of Plazita Limena), next to the TCB. The respected JRA owner, Jaidy Rojas, and her professional staff welcome you to try their "tasty dish delights." Don't be fooled by the Plazita Limena sign (which soon will be replaced), the restaurant's kitchen has been completely renewed and several delectable Caribbean dishes added to the menu.

Bon Aroma is a new restaurant featuring French, Italian and Caribbean cuisine. The fine dining experience is run by Raoul Massé, a former F&B manager at Harbour Village, and Karen van Dijk. Bon Aroma is located at the back of Yacht Club Apartments, Kaya Gob.N. Debrot 54. The impressive menu ranges from traditional coquille St. Jacques to Canadian Atlantic fresh salmon to confite duck leg gratinee. Bon Aroma is open for dinner Tuesdays through Saturdays. Reservations are recommended (795-9009).

The Cactus Blue Food Truck has a new reincarnation...or maybe an old reincarnation. Harry (a.k.a. TAFKAH) and Tamara are now operating the truck formerly run by Chef Hagen. Since Harry was taught by Chef Hagen himself on the original truck you can expect Hagen's Island-Famous Burgers and the Lionfish Burgers as you've known them from before. Plus you can also get some of "Tham's Tasty Treats." The truck is located at Donkey Beach and open from 11am to 3pm. (closed on Mondays). Check out their Facebook page at Cactus Blue on the Beach for more info.

Several other restaurants with Asian cuisine, others with local food are in the process of opening. -*Bula Bonchi*

► **The number of international tourists around the world grew by 4% in the first half of 2016,** according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). According to the UNWTO, destinations around the world received 561 million international tourists, that is, overnight visitors, and that is 21 million more than the same period from January to June in 2015.

China, the world's top source market, continued to report double-digit growth in expenditure on international travel (+20% in the first quarter of 2016), benefiting destinations in the region and beyond. The US, the world's second largest market, increased expenditure on outbound travel by 8% through July, thanks to a strong currency. Third largest market, Germany, reported a 4% increase in expenditure through July.

Read more at: <http://www.caribbeannewsdigital.com/en/noticia/unwto-over-560-million-tourists-worldwide-first-half-2016>

► **Last week's early morning severe thunderstorm caused some damage around the island and flooding in numerous places.** The Telbo Mobile Store was closed due to flooding, construction area fences collapsed, and a fence along the seaside near the Customs office also was damaged. Homeowners raced to close windows and put up "rain" guards as the storm occurred during a wind reversal causing the rain to pour in from an atypical direction. Another sailboat went aground and had to be rescued as well. As happened during another recent weather "incident," the Cura-

(Continued on page 8)

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On the Island Since... September 15th, 2013 - Rianne and Ruud Stelten-Van Rijswijk



Rudd and Rianne at the Terramar Museum entrance



Rudd and Rianne in front of a museum exhibit

“I was single, living in Holland in a one-room apartment without any unnecessary stuff, had a job as a physiotherapist and had nothing to lose when I saw this ad, looking for a physiotherapist on Statia. So I went there to see what it was like and it turned out to be very simple – back to basics – but totally awesome! So, by the end of January 2012 I started working there. I was the only physiotherapist on the island and had the privilege of helping everyone- at the hospital, the elderly center, the pregnant girls, people who had to rehabilitate – there was always work. I came to help the people and they were really very nice, and they didn’t know the word ‘Makamba.’ I went everywhere on my bicycle which wasn’t very hard to do and I had a tiny apartment with hardly any stuff and the sun was shining every day.

Then, in February, a day trip to Saba was organized and we went by boat. We climbed Mount Scenery and had a good time. Eventually I joined Ruud and his companions who were in for a good, brisk walk. I’d never met Ruud before but it turned out he also lived on Statia. By the end of the day when we had returned to Statia and were back at the harbor, he told me Statia also had a volcano which we could climb someday. And I said, ‘Okay, great! Let’s do it next week!’ More people were going to join us but they cancelled at the last minute. Then it was only Ruud and me so we got to know each other better.

He told me he was an archaeologist working for the Statia government. He asked me if I would be interested in accompanying him to excavate some human remains – a skull and some bones – which were hanging from a cliff. I thought it was interesting so we went and carefully took out the remains and cleaned and washed them with care. Well,” Rianne laughs, “as there is no cinema or real restaurant on Statia, it was a very special first date! Soon after we moved in together in a nice house with a pool and we lived a great, simple life. The only things I would worry about were my patients, whether the boat came and we could buy some groceries at the (only) shop, whether it would rain as we only had a rain cistern and... if there would be time to go to the beach! It was a wonderful life!”

“Before I became an archaeologist,” Ruud says, “I’d done two internships on Statia. After I graduated I moved to Statia in 2011. The then archaeologist asked me

if I would be willing to take over his job and I immediately said, ‘Yes!’

The job was paid for by the government. Although Statia is a tiny island (21 square kilometers/8.1 square miles), it is littered with relics from the past, going back in time for 3,500 years, almost like Bonaire where evidence of the first settlement goes back 3,600 years. I was the archaeologist there for two years. I trained a great amount of students from all over the world and we’ve done a lot of interesting excavations which were also relevant and fascinating for people living on the island. We unearthed a complete slave village – the only one in the Caribbean - and we did many excavations in the historic harbor area. When I started there with my PhD I was able to combine my two big interests in life- archaeology and diving- and I

“...it’s not only about the history of Bonaire because what Bonaire is now, is the result of what happened on the surrounding islands...”

started looking for ship wrecks around the island. This study I completed last year. Since living here in Bonaire I’ve returned regularly to Statia.

In February 2013 we came for a week’s vacation to Bonaire. We thought Bonaire was a very cool, fun island, with possibilities to grow work wise. It also had a tourist industry and way more facilities, quite fancy really, compared to Statia. I was ready to move on. I had been on Statia for two years and felt Bonaire was a challenge. So, we decided to move to Bonaire, but first we went to Mexico for two months where I became a dive instructor thinking it would come in handy in ‘Diver’s Paradise’!

On Bonaire both of us found part-time jobs: Rianne at Bon Bida and I went to work as a dive instructor at Flow, an outdoor tourist company. We found an apartment, so we knew everything was ok.”

“I started working at Bon Bida,” Rianne explains, “but then ZVK wasn’t going to pay for physical therapy any longer and the job became a bit uncertain, so I decided to resign. Presently I’m working at Bonaire Basics, at HFC gym (for Ronnie)

and here at the museum. That’s the way I like it! It’s the variety that makes it so enjoyable!”

“Being a dive instructor is a wonderful job, but what I missed was a goal,” Ruud says. “As an archaeologist you’re working in many different locations, you find a lot of interesting things and you write quite a number of stories, which mostly end up in scientific magazines. The general public hardly ever sees them. I always found it a little disappointing. And so I thought, ‘maybe we can do something about it!’

Well, the best thing to reach a big audience is a museum, and with the help of the project developers of this complex – Terramar – we established this museum. Two and a half years of blood, sweat and tears! This is a 160-year-old historical building and it had to be totally renovated – a tre-

mendous job. Terramar paid for everything. The exhibition itself was thought up by me and a friend/ex-colleague of mine, Joost Morsink. Together we wrote the story and gathered all the images. And with NorthernLight, a Dutch company of professional museum designers, we came up with this design. Then there’s the builder of the exhibition, a Dutch company named Bruns and subsequently many local companies donating time, means and/or money. Also, I want to mention the contractor, CTS, and the architect Jan Okhuijsen.

While I was in the throes of the project, Terramar did all the financing and arranged for lots of things in the background like permits. They have been of huge importance. We couldn’t have done it without them. And in spite of the fact that it was my idea, it has been a real group effort and each and everyone involved has contributed to realize the final project.

On August 5th we opened our doors to the public and up to now we’ve received 1,200 guests, including many Bonairean schoolchildren. Everyone has been very enthusiastic. Next challenge for the future

is to have enough people coming to the museum so we can stay up and running, but I think with the new cruise ship season starting, it should be fine.

The museum is 100% financed from the entrance fees and the (small) gift shop. We are a foundation- ‘Foundation Terramar Museum’- and we pay rent to Terramar. But of course we also have to pay WEB and our personnel, the insurance for the artifacts, marketing, etc.- all without government funding. We also do combo tours with Bon Tuk : a museum tour – one hour at the museum and from there with Bon Tuk’s electrical vehicles to the salt pans and the slave huts, so people can see what they learned at the museum.

The present exhibition will certainly be here for a longer period of time. The content of the exposition covers 7,000 years of history of the Caribbean including Bonaire. From the first inhabitants of Bonaire - Indians from the mainland - to the colonization by the European countries, the slave trade, the salt trade and sugar cane production (not on Bonaire) up to Captain Don and the fact that we’re now a special municipality of Holland, plus artifacts from all over the Caribbean. So, it’s not only about the history of Bonaire. What Bonaire is now is the result of what happened on the surrounding islands, the Great and Lesser Caribbean islands which played a very important role, and with it, the whole history of this island is connected.”

“We’re having a wonderful life here,” Rianne says, “but I think in a couple of years we will start looking for something more back-to-basics in another tropical setting. We’re young and fit and we’re not materialistic at all and we get along fine together, so I think we shouldn’t stay in one place too long.

But on Bonaire we’ve accomplished something which makes us – and especially Ruud - very, very proud and so Bonaire will always be special to us and we will always return here.” ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

Terramar Museum at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free



Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being talked about "on the street"

Name that virus! A lot of people on island (including at least 10 of Bula Bonchi's circle) have recently experienced a malady over the last few weeks involving itching body rash, joint pain, pain and swelling of hands, general malaise and other symptoms. The increase in cases was noted last week by the island department of public health, based on confirmed cases. However, not all house doctors are blood testing everyone and are advising that it is probably Zika or Chikungunya virus. The symptoms are common to both. However, Curacao news media reports that a **new-to-the-area-mosquito-borne virus, called Mayaro (or MAYV), has been recently confirmed in Curacao and Haiti.**

The virus, identified in 1954, is most common in the Amazon region. A clinical study noted that Mayaro and dengue are difficult to tell apart clinically, and the symptoms of both infections are also similar to chikungunya: fever, joint pain, muscle pain and rashes. So the recent outbreak could be any of the four viruses. The department of public health noted that it is possible Mayaro could also exist on the island.

"Dr." Bula Bonchi would think the health care powers that be would encourage blood testing to determine the rates of infection of each of the viruses for statistical purposes.



★Some ideas to increase Bonaire's government coffers and reduce financial dependence on Holland? Media reports that the Curacao tax office, in cooperation with the Curacao Tourist Board, is reportedly threatening to arrest 300 landlords who are not paying the 7% tax on the rent they charge guests, long term and short term. In January 2016, Curacao abolished the "tourist/guest" sales tax and implemented a straight sales tax on rentals. It's rumored that many apartment landlords in Bonaire do not charge or pay the daily "tourist tax."

★Word on the street is that the **Bonaire Gift Shop** located in the new South Pier Cruise Mall will soon be closing. Reportedly the space will be taken over by **Elements**, the unique shop featuring a variety of artistry and items that is currently located in the Royal Palm Galleries behind Digicel. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter on Ohio River, USA



"This is Howard Harrison from Sand Dollar writing. We had best friends, Vann and Laura Evans, also owners at Sand Dollar, visit us here in Kentucky recently as they started a three-month trip across the United States. This picture was taken on our boat. Yes, it is named *Something Special* after one of our favorite dive sites there in Bonaire, on the Ohio River that separates the states of Ohio and Kentucky. I do know they have a copy of *The Reporter* with them and am sure they will send other pictures as they make their trip across the US." ■

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Cruise Season Kicks Off



“On our way to the beach people offered us a ride”

CRUISE SHIP PASSENGERS’ DAY ON BONAIRE

A remarkable amount of people with fanny packs and sun visors are in my supermarket. A golf cart with a smiling lady at the wheel and a slightly anxious looking man next to her on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid. Then I sight the two floating apartment houses rising over Playa. No doubt: The Cruise season has started!

On Thursday, October 3rd, two ships tied up in Bonaire. The *Regal Princess* visited Sint Maarten and Antigua before



“We toured around the island by e-bike”

arriving here, and the *Norwegian Dawn*, had Puerto Rico as its only former destination. Together they brought 5,938 one-day visitors to Bonaire. It was two of the 22 cruise ship arrivals that are visiting our island this month. Over the last couple of years cruise tourism has expanded on the island, and this season promises to be busier than any of the foregoing years.

Queuing at the supermarket checkout I encounter a couple that has all the characteristics of a cruise passenger. They are looking for a pharmacy. The man mumbles something to his wife about having been told never to get into the car of an unfamiliar person, as he steps into my car. I drop them at the pharmacy. They are very thankful and will probably tell their co-cruisers this evening at dinner something about friendly local people.

One day only on Bonaire. What impression do people take back to the ship after one single day on the island? I decide to go to the pier at the end of the afternoon to ask.

A young couple from Canada tells me they picked up some electric bikes and cycled all around the island. They liked Bonaire because of the beautiful small beaches and the size of the island. It shouldn't have been much bigger, consid-

ering they look both pretty sunburned after this adventurous trip.

An elderly lady sits under one of the sparse trees on the boulevard and tells me she went snorkeling at Klein Bonaire. “It was absolutely amazing.” She had always wanted to visit Bonaire, but not many cruises come “all the way down to this island,” she explains. Now that she has gotten a taste of the island, she will come back in January.

A couple who explains they are from New York is looking at a little pile of stones they picked up today. They are de-

termining which one will be selected to join them back home. “We always take a stone from the places we visit.” They had a relaxed day at Eden Beach. “We went there on foot and several cars stopped to ask whether we were lost or needed a ride!” This couple takes (besides a stone or two) the impression of a very friendly island.

A young lady wanders over the boulevard taking pictures of herself from various angles. “It’s my birthday today!” Tonight she will celebrate it with her co-workers on the *Regal Princess*. “My Philippine colleagues are like my family at the moment.” Today she mostly walked up and down the boulevard and enjoyed the clear water.

A German guy sits at waterfront Wilhelmina Park waiting for his girlfriend who is shopping. They did a tour along the Northern coast today. “The guide was great, very friendly.” They loved Bonaire more than any other stop so far. “But that makes sense, since it is the first day of our trip that it is not raining,” the man adds.

At last I approach two sisters who are bathing their feet in the water before getting back on board. “It’s our first time on the island so we need to take a little dip.” They are from British Guyana and go on cruise trips “all the time.” “We wanted to see flamingos, so when we came off the ship we grabbed a taxi and told the driver

Wonders of Nature Fiction

Any News?

The dogs bark excitedly when I stop the car at the place where our stroll begins. I get out and do not understand the excitement: there is nothing interesting to be seen. Until now, I always found something I could write a smooth story about. But wherever I look, nothing draws my attention. Enough waste, but no interesting waste that makes your imagination run wild, trash that you want to capture for posterity, waste that exposes a history, that shows that nothing is too strange for us people. What to do now? What can I write about for *The Reporter*? I feel empty, used and discarded.

As a died in the wool reporter, I want to investigate the cause. For almost a year I have had encounters with strange and interesting objects along the roadside. How come this hitherto incessant source suddenly has dried up? Maybe the message I’ve been giving has finally reached people’s mind: dump your waste where it belongs, at the landfill. It took a year before the message came through, but now at last the people behave like they are asked to do in every *Reporter*. That would mean that all those stories have led to this moment, this night in which I stand empty-handed. I have written myself to my own downfall, I have made myself obsolete. That always sounds great, people who sacrifice themselves for a higher purpose. Great, especially if others do so, not if it is ME to end up in that situation. I do not want to stop writing, I want to be famous first.

Anyway, let me look at it from the positive side. Starting today, I can concentrate on the walk, not have to watch the roadsides and byways, can give full attention to the dogs without looking through the camera lens and taking pictures. I do not have to run my intuition, imagination and empathy at full speed to expose the story behind the objects I observe. This gives me an enormous peace and quiet.

This peace is however short-lived, because my thoughts get lost again in turmoil. Am I still a reporter? Will my career as a journalist end here and now? Won’t I be read anymore? And the key question: Will I be able to write about non-waste? One thing I do feel: I like writing and I do not want to quit. That means that I have to start looking for other topics. While walking I think and observe the world around me. Nothing spectacular is happening here or in my daily life. My weekly phone calls with the family and friends in the Netherlands

to bring us to where flamingos are. It was a nice day.”

All very different activities and ways to enjoy the one day on Bonaire. I realize I would be very unhappy as a cruise tourist. I suffer from huge indecisiveness. At dinner I would eavesdrop on my co-passengers about their experiences. On the way to the next destination I would Google images of all the things I had missed out on at the former destination,



“The challenge”

say enough: “Have you any news?” Then my standard answer follows: “Well no, everything goes smoothly here.” Yes, you can fill pages with that kind of stuff. Every week the same story, you go to work and have been to the gym and spent an afternoon at the beach. It will be hard to get something on paper that people do not discard after two sentences with the words “Boring story, nothing new” or “I can’t get through this.” Well, I can see it as a challenge, the buzzword today. Than it sounds as something fun and exciting. Maybe my next story will be called “The Challenge” and although it’s a boring story, it is a story with an exciting title.

Maybe I can start writing about my dreams, which are much more impressive than my daily existence. Or some stories that are not about myself, but about others. That’s a good idea, I should start looking for people with interesting stories. Well, how do I find them, how do I get into contact? It sounds like a lot of work and hassle. And how many interesting people are left on the island now that nobody throws away any cozy waste anymore? This says something about the level of normality of a population. It’s all too ordinary and commonplace here on Bonaire, you can’t fill a newspaper with that. Once in seven years you can write about a storm which does not come. Or I could write about my tropical disease history of chikungunya and zika, but you only get these once in your life. Furthermore, in the *Reporter* there are already a lot of stories about gardens, the stars, people and parties (for which I am never invited). I have two weeks, then I face the deadline for my credibility as a contributor to the island news. Those weeks won’t be easy! ■

Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



thinking things like “I should have...I wish I had...”

Luckily all these people seem to go back to the ship satisfied with very positive impressions of Bonaire. And luckily I have plenty of time to bike, hike, snorkel or shop all around the island.

■ Gerjanne Voortman



Dive Friends Underwater Cleanup at Coco Beach



A few volunteers showed up

Bonaire/Kralendijk-Hato –

On Saturday, October 22nd over 100 volunteers got together at Coco Beach near the Hato roundabout, to receive instructions from Carolyn Caporusso from Dive Friends Bonaire about the clean-up dive. This was the first time a clean-up dive was organized in front of the beach of the former Sunset Hotel. A lot of debris was expected to be found as just recently the Bonaire Regatta Party had been held on this beach and the always blowing trade wind grabs a lot of plastic cups, plates and cutlery.

It takes experienced divers to participate in the clean-up dives as they always have to manage the increasing weight of their mesh bags getting more and more filled with trash.

This time weather conditions

were excellent. The sea was pre-heated by the tropical summer sun and there was almost no current. After a successful one-hour, non-deco dive the divers and volunteers collected 1,855 items. Of course there were the usual bottles, cans and cups and the pieces of fishing line. (Especially new fishing line is a threat for turtles who find it hard to see the line. Turtles can get tangled in the curling lines and die. /jb) Apart from the regular debris the volunteers collected two pieces of snorkel gear, three usable toothbrushes, one towel, two pallets, a large piece of stainless steel from an industrial kitchen and a long board.

After the dive all volunteers went home for a private clean-up and a nap. They also had to prepare a side dish for the evening barbecue. The barbecue

was organized by Dive Friends Bonaire at their Hamlet location. Main course and a drink were offered for free. Side orders were made by the volunteers. Sunset was excellent, organization was perfect, food was outstanding, atmosphere could not be better.

Thank you Dive Friends Bonaire for organizing everything, for the food, the drinks and the supply of free air. Thank you volunteers. Together we can. Remember and be aware: Without blue there can't be green. Live in the present, take care of the future and feel responsible for the next generations.

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



Bonaire Halloween



Trick or Treaters downtown A. van der Ven photo

Although originally an American tradition, Halloween has become a big event on Bonaire. Thanks to "Witch" Corine Gerharts-Tapiero who organizes the event every year it was a "topped out" crowd of 100 kids! The costumes were original and amazing although there seemed to be a large number of witches this year.

The kids, their parents, grandparents and teen helpers go up and down Kaya Grandi, singing the Trick or Treat song, and asking for candies from the shop keepers. Everyone has a marvelous time, including the owners of the shops. Smiles were everywhere as was candy. ■ L.D.

"Head Witch" Corine Gerharts-Tapiero sets the scene →→→



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THE HUNT IS ON!

Sunday, November 13
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Form your group and come have fun with us.
Tickets: \$35 per car.
Registration days: Friday November 11 and Saturday, November 12 from 4 till 7pm @ LISEO BONERIANO

Money goes to HAVO 4 students excursion trip to the Netherlands!!



It's called Timeship. The goal of this semi-scientific project is simple: defeat death. The idea: instead of burying people, we freeze the bodies and defrost them in a future where illnesses like cancer can be cured. Currently around 300 people on earth have been put into a cryogenic tube, but Timeship wants to expand this experiment with another thousand, using a slightly different technique: instead of just freezing the bodies, they replace all bodily fluids with a kind of antifreeze. This would cause less damage to the tissue. It's an interesting experiment with a lot of philosophical repercussions - just think about it, waking up in the future. What will it be like?

This all sounds a lot like science fiction, something you see in movies with spaceships and hostile aliens, but little did I know that Timeship has a branch on Bonaire. If you want to know how it feels, spending an eternity in the freezing cold waiting until

your number is up, you should visit the WEB office.

After we rented a house in Belnem, our landlord asked us if we wanted to put the water and electricity in our name. No problem, I thought, I'll just pop by WEB and get things sorted. In the Low Countries you don't do that. You just go online, pick out one of the dozen energy-providers that suits you best, and after a few clicks, you have gas and electricity. You pay a monthly advance, and a year later you get a final bill. No hassle.

WEB operates slightly differently. I passed their building a few times, and the first time I thought they were having an office drink: people were gathered under party tents. A lot of people. The next day I came back, and they were still there. Those are the best kind of parties, I thought, the everlasting ones.

But slowly it dawned on me: these people are customers, standing in line. So I packed a book, took a number and joined them. Inside the airco is going full blast and a TV is blurting soaps. Next to the television screen, numbers are displayed.

From time to time they go up. Well, they ought to go up, because the first time I sat there for an hour and the digits never changed. I gave up and went snorkeling.

The next day I came back. There is no way around it, if you want electricity and running water, you have to visit WEB. That's the great thing about monopolies, you never have to stress about the multitudes of choices that a free market imposes on you.

This time I got lucky: the digitty-thing worked and after half an hour the number on the screen matched the one on my ticket - o, the joy I felt! The honour, being allowed into this sanctuary!

The office is not really an office. It looks a lot like a visiting room in a prison: you enter a small cubicle, and the clerk sits behind a thick plate of glass, wearing a uniform and looking very unhappy.

I explained my situation. She kindly explained that she needed some paperwork. A lot of paperwork. A copy of the lease, a mandate from the landlord, a copy of his passport and a copy of mine, a printout of the land register, a previous bill stating the meter numbers. She handed me a list, and the next day I came back bearing gifts. I waited. I watched an entire episode of a soap and a

documentary about rabies. I learnt a lot about rabies. Stay away from stray dogs. Stay away from hyenas. Stay away from vampire bats. Get your tetanus shot renewed. If you catch rabies you will go raving mad. Bottom line: don't catch rabies. Despite the fact that rabies is rare, I could somehow relate to the raving mad-part. This was taking forever.

Finally the fine lady and I meet again, face to face. The paperwork seems to be in order. She disappears for a while. I watch shadows move. My bum becomes numb. On my iPad I take an online course in nuclear technology. Then I get a law degree. I develop an app that can translate bird sounds into plain English - apparently flamingos mainly chat about the economic development in South Korea. As I FaceTime with my nephew who just embarked on a mission to Mars, the lady reappears. She slams a lot of stamps on papers and makes me sign everything in blood. The only thing I need to do now, is to pay a deposit. I am glad to. Please take my money. Only problem is: that specific counter closes at 3 pm. I look at my watch: it's five past three, in a different century. ■

Roderik Six



Flotsam & jetsam (Contin. from page 3)
cao weather service issued a warning regarding the storm, but nothing from KNMI, the Dutch meteorological service that is now responsible for Bonaire's weather forecasting...from Holland!
(Source: Bula Bonchi)

► **Woodstock Bonaire presents DJ Juan Danger Salsa Happy Hour** starting at 5:30 on Fridays, November 11 and 18. Affable owners are Eric and Marloes. Woodstock is at Kaya Isla Riba 1, across from Ter-ramar and next to Wattaburger. See their ad on page 16.



Cha-won Hong and Julian Gargiulo

► The inspired concert by pianist **Julian Gargiulo** and cellist **Cha-won Hong** "Direct From Carnegie Hall" provided a new dimension in classical music for Bonaire. The close interaction between the performers and the audience was a unique experience. The duo's talented performances, added audience participation, humor was lots of fun. Thanks CMBB. ■G./L.D.

Fundashon Nos Kier Boneiru Bek Conference - The political future of the Dutch-administered Caribbean

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the conference "The political future of the Dutch-administered Caribbean" with United Nations Expert Dr. Carlyle Corbin and major international specialists, leaders and speakers.

AGENDA

- The political evolution of the "Dutch-administered Caribbean" since 10-10-10
- The implications of 10-10-10: The evolution of the "public entity status" (Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius) and the evolution of the autonomous country status (Curacao, Sint Maarten, Aruba).
- Other dependency arrangements
- Other autonomous arrangements
- From public entity to full self-government
- Relevancy of international self-determination process: applicability to public entities and applicability to autonomous countries
- Various other topics

The Conference will be followed by a fundraising Gala Dinner with keynote speaker Dr. Corbin.

Conference

Date: Dec 1st, 2016
Time: 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Place: Plaza Resort Bonaire
Price: \$50,-

Gala Dinner

Date: Dec 1st, 2016
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Eddy's Restaurant
Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 79,
Price: \$100,-

For more information please contact
Davika Bissessar, WDTC Foundation
davikabissessarshaw@gmail.com
(+599) 786-4576 or (+599) 782-5664

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire



Contrasting watercolors at the salt works

CRUISIN' and TOURIN' – SOUTH Part 1 of 2

“Welcome to Bonaire, or as we say in Papiamentu, ‘Bon biní na Boneiru.’ My name is Joe and the driver's name is Karen. Duuuuhhhh, I'm confused already and the tour hasn't even started. No, this is Bonaire and not Curaçao, ma'am. Glad to know I'm not the only one who's befuddled on this bus.

“You have selected to tour the south of Bonaire, which, I'm happy to say, is a very beautiful part of our *dushi* island. (*Dushi* means lovely.) The south tour will take us to our splendid coral-stone beaches. Along the way we'll see white and red slave huts, as well as our famous salt pans. . . . Whether we have snakes? Sure, humongous ones, right on this bus. I spot one now, right under your seat! No, not really.”

Bonaire has become an extremely popular cruise destination these last few years. In fact, Disney Cruise Lines has just officially confirmed that one of their ships will visit Bonaire in 2018. That means that the major cruise lines, such as Carnival, Royal Caribbean, TUI, Princess, Holland America, NCL and Oceania, all appreciate our paradisiacal island and have even awarded Bonaire top honors as the Southern Caribbean's best cruise destination. This all seems consistent with the growth and development of our island lately.

“On your left side, take a

look at our Flamingo International Airport. The runway is now long enough to accommodate all of the larger passenger airplanes. We receive several international KLM and TUI flights a week from Amsterdam. Flights from the US are via Delta and United, which arrive on weekends. Our local airline, an island hopper, is called Insult Air, I mean Cancel Air, darn, I mean Insel Air. Don't know what's gotten into me today. When it actually flies, which is mostly unknown to its victims, aka Insel-rupted travelers, it flies to many South American and Caribbean destinations, including Miami. If your flight is canceled for eight hours or less, you receive a whopping \$8 voucher. More than an eight-hour unscheduled layover entitles you to a half-priced new ticket for another Canceled Air flight. Our small but quite efficient airport building has been expanded to meet the latest security standards.”

However, our *isla bonita* still has a long road to travel in order to accommodate the huge and ever increasing numbers of tourists. Specifically, our roads and accommodations are in dire need of improvement, if we wish to remain the tropical tourist destination of choice. Bonairean residents and visitors who travel here by air, as well, would most certainly appreciate a critically enhanced infrastructure, especially since massive car-import carriers appear to have appointed Bonaire as their near bi-weekly port of call. And not only *nos kayas* (our streets) cry out for upgrades. The *banjos* (our restrooms) at certain sites, such as Goto Lake and Slave Huts, could well stand a serious

cleanup and refurbishment as well.

“This subdivision is called Belnem, bought in the 1960s by Harry Belafonte and an Aruban friend, Maurice Neme, for a nickel and a dime. At the time it was considered far from the center of town and useless. Now this area is increasingly in demand. . . . How much a beachside house costs? I'm not sure, but I'll hand you a real estate magazine, and you can look it up yourself. . . . Whether persons of a certain religion (read Muslims) can buy here? Oh wonderful, we have Donald Trump on our bus. Of course they can! Bonaireans are very tolerant regarding Muslims, Jews, Christians and so on. We welcome diversity around here.”

To accommodate the larger ships, such as those of the Princess Cruise lines -- able to hold approximately 3600 passengers -- the South Pier is scheduled for an upgrade in the very near future. From now through 2017, Bonaire expects



Let's get you, the donkey, the flamingo and the ship all in the photo

to welcome more than 380,000 cruise tourists. (This compares with our resident population of only about 20,000.) The number of cruise passengers who actually disembarked on Bonaire last year grew by some 47%. And the number of tourists and business travelers arriving by plane increased by 6% in 2015. Consequently, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) proposes to increase the 'head tax' to \$3.50 by the beginning of 2018. In 2015 approximately 230,000 cruise passengers called on Bonaire, which amounts to 74 thousand more visitors than the previous year.

“We've now arrived at one of our famous dive sites, 'Hilma Hooker.' The *Hilma Hooker*

was a ship carrying a load of marijuana sometime in the 1980s. The police were alerted; however, they found the ship abandoned but for the weed. Of course no one claimed ownership; jail wasn't a cozy prospect. Local dive operators advised the Bonaire government to sink the ship and, voilà, a new tourist attraction was born. . . . What happened to the marijuana? Nobody really knows, but the story goes that the police carried it to Washington Slagbaai and burned the whole bunch. Afterwards, a long-lingering smoke hovered over Bonaire. The population was said to have been much subdued. . . .”

Meetings have been conducted with smaller, more

Continued on next page

Penny Lane Exchange

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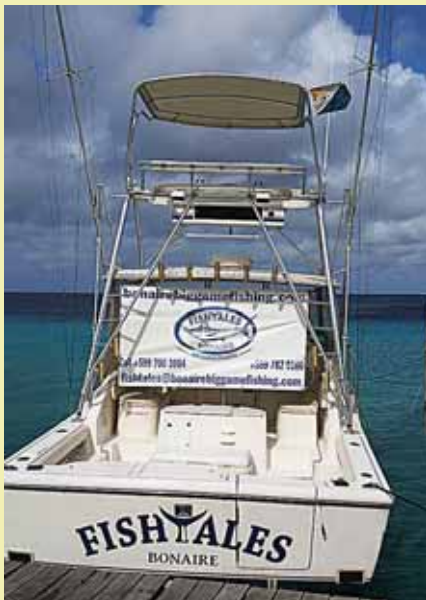




Penny Lane is on the **second floor** of La Terraza, downtown Kralendijk
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Mega-Auction Coming

BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER: WHY HAVE AN AUCTION, PART 2?



Are you looking for some really cool things to buy but don't want to go all over town to find them? Well listen up for some one-stop shopping info because you can get everything on Sunday afternoon, November 27th at the Animal Shelter Cocktail Party & Auction at an oceanfront villa, #26 Sabadeco Shores. Cocktails at 5pm. with the auction at 7:15pm. Here are just a few of the available goodies.

If you've thought about learning to dive but aren't really sure it's for you, check this out.

With a Scuba Resort Course from Carib Inn you will get a feel for diving, master all the gear, and take your first dive accompanied by an instructor. You won't be certified but you will be able to make other dives also with an instructor.

If you've already decided to live your diving dream and plan to get certified you can bid on a complete Diver Certification Course at Dive Friends.

However, if you're more of an 'on top of the water' person, someone who likes to be on the boat rather than under it, we've got just the bid for you. How does a deep sea fishing trip for two on the beautiful boat Fish Tales sound?

Or, if you want to be under the water

to enjoy the reef life but not way, way under, a snorkel sail on *The Woodwind* with you and three friends is just the thing - another fun way to enjoy being at one with the water if you win this bid.

After a hard day on the sea - either under it or on it - wouldn't it be wonderful to come home to a catered four-course meal for two by Philip, the well-known gourmet chef? It's yours for the highest bid! All this will keep you busy for a day or three but what next to fill your schedule? Well let's see.

You can begin a new day with a breakfast cruise for you and seven of your friends aboard the *AquaSpace* and then get your metabolism going in the afternoon with three of your friends kayaking at the Mangrove Kayak Center. Afterwards take a nap, refresh yourself, and

Invite 3 of your nearest and dearest for an Indonesian Rice Table dinner delivered just for you and your group by Bous and his team if you're the highest bidder!

Next edition you'll hear about even more VERY special items so stay tuned for some great surprises! Also, a note on what's happening on the raffle front. All the raffle items will be on display. Buy some raffle tickets and choose which items you want, put your half of the ticket in the box in front of your choice, and then a lucky number for that item will be drawn. No wondering what you're drawing for because you will have made your choice.

Cocktails with open bar and fabulous tapas, music, and the sunset beginning at 5 pm with the auction starting at 7:15 pm.

Tickets \$50 available at the Animal Shelter or call 717-3949 or email dabney38@yahoo.com. We deliver! ■

Dabney Lassiter



Cruisin' n' Tourin (Continued from page 9)

Exclusive cruise companies, including Seacloud, Silversea, Vikings Ocean Cruises and Thompson Cruises, and with such European cruise lines as MSC and Costa Cruises, in order to secure contracts for their visits as well. (Bonaire.Nu, Oct. 17, 2016.)

These mini, high-end cruise boats, carrying mostly a different class of more select customers, should be more beneficial to our little island financially than the typical cruise guests those behemoth boats disgorge ashore. These tend to waddle out of their floating hotels in search of tour buses and clamber in; then awhile later, stumble out and waddle back. Not so many dollars are left behind for local businesses.

"We are now approaching our most

famous industry of Bonaire, the Cargill Salt Company. Salt is being made here by the workings of sun and wind evaporating the salt water as it passes through four inlets into the salt ponds, which you can see on the left side. This happens by natural wave action of the ocean pushing the water onto the low land. By the way, did you know that Bonaire used to be called 'Bonaj,' meaning low land? On the left side you can also see the crystallizers, which all have a permanent layer of salt. Brine water is sent into these ponds where it all eventually evaporates. Salt crystals are formed, and the salt-making process begins in earnest. . . . What happens with excess water? It's drained off and sent back to sea. Yes indeed, our ocean is becoming less salty. What a fine remark! Joe, let's stop for a moment, this gentleman would like to take a photo of our pink-colored lakes. He wants to exit the bus. . . .

BUDGET MARINE SAIL AND TRIATHLON 11 DECEMBER 2016

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Kaya Neerlandia #21, Kralendijk, Bonaire
Telephone: +599-717-3710

www.budgetmarine.com

In the last issue, we announced the Budget Marine Triathlon and Sailing Event. Due to certain issues with the holidays, we have changed the date. The many events will take place at the water-side by Kant'i Awa Snack and Kas di Regatta on Sunday December 11th. Mark your calendar and start training!

There will be a long and a short triathlon and there will be a sailing regatta. For those who want to watch, there will be a boat party as well!

There will be great music and each of the clubs involved in the event will have fundraising booths with BBQ, other foods and lots of drinks and fun. They will also have info on how you can join or help the clubs in their efforts!

The long Triathlon is 750m swim, 22k Bike and 5 K run. As many are not prepared for this and want a fun distance to begin with, we will also have a short course that is 1/2 of those distances. A team member may do as many legs as they please, so for example one person may swim and bike and have someone take over for the run, you can have a team of three and do one each, or you can compete as an individual and do it all yourself.

Following last year's successful triathlon, the Hart voor Bonaire will be join-

ing us in this event and passing on their perpetual cup (Wissel baker) at this event. They will also be adding new ones for Women and for Teams in the long event.

The Regatta will include micro boats, optimist, sunfish, windsurfers and yachts. Any sail boat can inquire and we will see if we can set some sort of rating to get everyone out on the water for a fun day! The micro boats will feature a new perpetual cup to Honor Roy Winklaar.

Once you are done with your event, there is no need to go home. The Ship to Shore boat party will feature great music, plenty of food and drinks and lots of fun from shore or from your boat.

The proceeds from the event will be shared by the clubs for sailing, swimming, and athletics along with Jong Bonaire and Hart voor Bonaire.

Get out there and start training! We look forward to your participation in one or many of these events. Remember, the clubs are not just for kids. Join us for the event and while you are at it, pick a club and join!

For more information and to sign up visit www.bonairewaterfrontevents.com or stop by Budget Marine. ■ Press release/PamTietel

Sorry ma'am, we can't just leave him behind. . . ."

Our South Tour will continue next, with or without the husband. ■ Story & photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour

(Many thanks to Sue Felix. Any factual mistakes made in this piece are entirely mine. The reported incidents, though, really happened!) On purpose I omitted or changed

parts of the South Tour, since I didn't want to expose all my company's secrets. ■

Story and photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



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Small studio for rent as of end of November. With roof terrace, 2 minutes walking from Bachelors Beach. Completely furnished including water, electricity, wifi, TV price \$325 per month. 2 months deposit. Year contract. No cats, no dogs, one person only. Address Kaya Uranus 4b Belnem. Theresebonaire@gmail.com mobile phone **00599785-9900** home Phone **00599717-2698**

For RENT in Belnem: Large fully furnished 2-bedroom apartment.

Good location in quiet and safe area. Walking distance to the sea.

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset	
	First Quarter	01:44	07:45	12:27	18:00			
Mon 07		-0.09 ft	0.50 ft	0.37 ft	0.84 ft	6:30	18:08	
		02:08	08:06	13:34	18:44			
Tue 08		-0.07 ft	0.57 ft	0.34 ft	0.78 ft	6:30	18:08	
		02:33	08:35	14:45	19:32			
Wed 09		-0.06 ft	0.67 ft	0.31 ft	0.69 ft	6:31	18:07	
		03:00	09:10	15:59	20:27			
Thu 10		-0.04 ft	0.78 ft	0.26 ft	0.58 ft	6:31	18:07	
		03:29	09:50	17:17	21:30			
Fri 11		-0.02 ft	0.89 ft	0.19 ft	0.47 ft	6:31	18:07	
		04:03	10:36	18:35	22:46			
Sat 12		0.01 ft	1.00 ft	0.10 ft	0.36 ft	6:32	18:07	
		04:40	11:26	19:50				
Sun 13		0.05 ft	1.09 ft	-0.00 ft		6:32	18:07	
		00:16	05:25	12:19	20:57			
Mon 14		0.29 ft	0.10 ft	1.15 ft	-0.11 ft	Full Moon	6:33	18:07
		01:52	06:18	13:14	21:56			
Tue 15		0.27 ft	0.15 ft	1.19 ft	-0.20 ft	6:33	18:07	
		03:19	07:24	14:10	22:49			
Wed 16		0.30 ft	0.21 ft	1.20 ft	-0.26 ft	6:33	18:07	
		04:30	08:39	15:07	23:38			
Thu 17		0.37 ft	0.26 ft	1.18 ft	-0.30 ft	6:34	18:07	
		05:28	09:57	16:02				
Fri 18		0.44 ft	0.29 ft	1.13 ft		6:34	18:07	
		00:24	06:18	11:13	16:56			
Sat 19		-0.30 ft	0.52 ft	0.31 ft	1.05 ft	6:35	18:07	
		01:06	07:05	12:27	17:48			
Sun 20		-0.28 ft	0.60 ft	0.31 ft	0.95 ft	6:35	18:07	
	Last Quarter	01:46	07:48	13:39	18:39			
Mon 21		-0.24 ft	0.68 ft	0.30 ft	0.82 ft	6:36	18:07	

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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What's Happening



REGULAR EVENTS

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 Koeke 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.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events— bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2016: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

• **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)- Every Saturday**, 8am-1pm, across from Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products. .

• **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

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.

Cruise Ships

#	Day	Date	Ship Name	Port Time	# Pax	Shipping Line
63	Wednesday	9-11-16	Caribbean Princess	0700-1700	3200	Princess
64	Thursday	10-11-16	Royal Princess	0700-1400	3600	Princess
65	Friday	11-11-16	Star Flyer	1400-2000	70	Star Clippers
66	Monday	14-11-16	Europa 2	0645-2100	706	Hapag Lloyd
67	Wednesday	16-11-16	Crystal Serenity	0700-1700	1080	Crystal
68	Wednesday	16-11-16	Aida Diva	0800-1800	2194	AIDA
69	Thursday	17-11-16	Eclipse	0800-1700	2850	Celebrity
70	Friday	18-11-16	Koningdam	0800-1800	2650	HAL
71	Monday	21-11-16	Carnival Vista	0900-1800	4000	Carnival

• **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 email 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.

• **Chess Club** meets to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.

Fridays

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

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

• **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Monday-Friday. Cultural Market last Saturday of the month. Call 786-2101

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Call for reservations 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

• **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

• **Bonaire Museum**-on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free

• **Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free

• **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.

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 Crusita 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 Dai-sycoffie@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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at

ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 11 –DJ Juan Danger Salsa Happy Hour at Woodstock, Bonaire, 5:30pm. Kaya Isla Riba 1, behind TerraMar and next to Watta-burger

Saturday, Nov. 12, The Beauty Of Bonaire Calendar Release Party at Karel's Beach Bar from 7pm -10pm-- Free appetizers sponsored by Karel's Beach Bar= Featuring DJ Annemiek & live percussion Dress code: wear white .Contact—Sasha Van Duyn, +599 780 9195. Email sashanita@hotmail.com See pg. 2

Sunday, Nov. 13—Full Moon Walk, Lagadishi Trail, Washington-ark, 6-9pm. See- Stinapabonaire.org

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Nov. 14th –18— Global Entrepreneurship Week Bonaire - See pg. 7

Friday, Nov. 18—DJ Juan Danger Salsa Happy Hour at Woodstock, Bonaire, 5:30pm. Kaya Isla Riba 1, behind TerraMar and next to Watta-burger

Saturday, Nov. 19—Birdwatching sponsored by Stinapa. 5-7pm, Kaminda Lagun. See Stinapabonaire.org

Thursday, Dec. 1— Symposium: "The Political Future of the Dutch – Administered Caribbean" sponsored by James Finies' NKBB. Contact: davikabissessarshaw@gmail.com phone: +599 786-4576 and/or james-finies@gmail.com - phone: 782-5664 See page 8



THE STARS HAVE IT

November 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Take the time to sort out your personal papers and double-check your financial investments. Try to get others to stand behind your good judgment. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. Travel will be favorable and bring you the greatest rewards. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. Don't overdo it. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21). You will be overly sensitive when dealing with your personal life. Don't expect anyone else to pay your bills for you. You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave her alone. You will find that money could slip through your fingers. Look into making changes to your personal papers and don't neglect those bills that have been piling up. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Kick your shoes off and relax. Be aware that joint financial ventures could fall apart. Don't put limitations on yourself. You may be out of sorts if you have been extravagant or have let children or friends take advantage of you financially. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Don't beat around the bush; state your case in plain and simple terms. Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. Use your head and do things to your liking. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Don't forget that you've only heard one side of the story. In-laws or relatives may oppose your personal intentions. Do something special for them. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Don't be too eager to start any debates. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't waste this exciting day by sitting at home. You will be able to pick up on future trends if you keep your eyes peeled for unique ideas. Don't get so wrapped up in being rich that you overlook the fact that your plan may not be as solid as you thought. You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Someone may try to damage your reputation. For best results get out of the office and do your job en route. You may have problems with those you live with. Don't take your frustrations out on the ones you love. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Family outings that aren't expensive will be enjoyable and help strengthen ties. Offers of joint ventures are likely. Take your time; do not make any decisions in haste. You can make successful moves. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your creative imagination will help you in coming up with unique ideas. Be aware that you might be at fault as well. Concentrate on work. Changes in your home are apparent, and you must be willing to bend if you don't want to find yourself alone. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

The Seven Sisters

This is a stacked image of 1 hour, 22 minutes of data. Fishing wire over the lens hood created diffraction spikes.



Tonight, look for the tiny, misty dipper of stars known as the **Pleiades** or **Seven Sisters**.

November is the month of the Pleiades star cluster. On these November nights, the Pleiades cluster shines from nightfall until dawn. It's low in the east at nightfall, high overhead around midnight and low in the west before dawn. Locate it by the bright star **Aldebaran** this evening, or any evening soon.

You can view the Pleiades with either the unaided eye or an optical aid, on these November nights.

Historically, the Pleiades have served as a calendar for many civilizations. The Greek name "Pleiades" probably means "to sail." In the ancient Mediterranean world, the day that the Pleiades cluster first appeared in the morning sky before sunrise announced the opening of the navigation season.

HOW TO SPOT THE PLEIADES.

If you're familiar with the famous constellation **Orion**, it can help you be sure you've found the Pleiades. Draw a line through the three stars of Orion's Belt to the right – and you come to a V-shaped pattern of stars with a bright star in its midst. The V-shaped pattern is the **Face of Taurus the Bull**. The bright star in the

V – called **Aldebaran** – depicts the Bull's Eye. A bit past Aldebaran, you'll see the Pleiades cluster, which marks the Bull's Shoulder.

Aldebaran, Arabic for follower, is thought to be in reference to this star forever chasing the Pleiades across the heavens. As a general rule, the Pleiades cluster rises into the eastern sky before Aldebaran rises, and sets in the west before Aldebaran sets. The only exception to this rule happens at far southern latitudes – like at South America's Tierra del Fuego – where the Pleiades rise a short while after Aldebaran rises.

The Pleiades cluster is one of the most recognizable star patterns in the night sky. Its six brightest stars do look like a little dipper. But it's a bit hard to see from the Sky Park, so look carefully. In fact, people in the Northern Hemisphere often mistake the Pleiades for the real **Little Dipper asterism**, which is located farther north on the sky's dome. The misty-looking dipper of the Pleiades hovers over the northeastern horizon as darkness falls. It moves across the night sky from east to west, much like the **Sun** does during the day. ■

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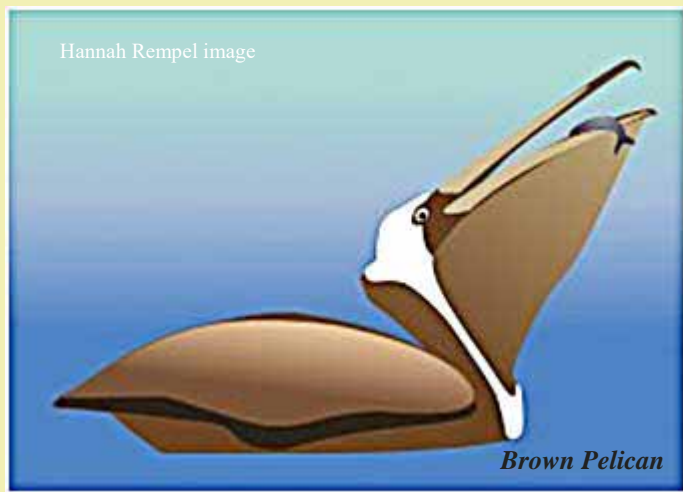
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DID YOU KNOW?



Hannah Rempel image

Brown Pelican

That brown pelicans dive from as high as 18m (60') before plunging bill-first into the water to catch fish? That distance is greater than the width of an NBA basketball court! When the brown pelican dives, it tucks its head in and tilts its body to the left, which helps cushion the right side of its throat - where its windpipe and esophagus are - from the impact. The pelican's diet consists almost exclusively of fish like as silversides, anchovies and menhaden, although they occasionally eat crustaceans. Brown pelicans typically eat up to 1.8 kg (4lbs) of fish per day, but only weigh 3.5-4.5 kg (8-10 lbs). Imagine eating about half your body weight worth of fish every day! Pelicans scoop up their prey in an expandable throat pouch then tilt their bill to drain the seawater out before knocking their head back to swallow their meal. Occasionally, gulls will steal the fish right

from the pelican's pouch as they are draining out the water! Brown pelicans are strong swimmers. Even young ones can swim up to 5 km per hour (3 mph)! While they are graceful in the water, they're gawky and awkward on land. Keep an eye out for them waddling along the piers by the waterfront or plunging into the water to scoop up a tasty fish snack. To learn more about amazing birds like the brown pelican, join one of STINAPA's monthly bird outings. **The next bird outing is Saturday, November 19th from 5-7pm at Kaminda Lagoon - LVV. Call STINAPA to reserve a space - 717-8444.** ■ Hannah Rempel

Hannah Rempel is the STINAPA Assistant Research Biologist.



"Achoo"...it's Swine Flu!

Actually, wild pigs were not at fault for the 2009-2010 pandemic of swine influenza, which is only occasionally transmitted from pig to person. But, feral swine have been known to carry it as well as over 30 diseases (APHIS, 2011) and up to 45 parasites (Hirsch, 2013; MSU, 2013) that can be transmitted to livestock, people, pets, and wildlife, some of which will present flu-like symptoms.



Wild Pig bathing

Feral hogs have the greatest potential to contract and transmit all of the diseases of domestic pigs. Therefore, feral pigs can serve as "disease reservoirs" that can impact nearby domestic swine. But, diseases carried by feral hogs can also affect other wildlife and domestic animals as well as people (TAMU, 2012). If a feral pig were to contract a foreign animal disease (FAD) - something that does not yet occur on Bonaire or has been eradicated during the last 100 years - such as the classical swine fever or foot-and-mouth disease, it could easily spread the disease and make it difficult to eradicate (TAMU, 2012).

Though it does not happen often, feral pigs can directly infect people with these diseases and parasites that they are carrying. "Diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans are called **zoonotic diseases**. Many of these diseases are transmitted through contact with bodily fluids and handling or ingestion of infected tissues. Diseases can also be transmitted indirectly through contaminated water sources and possibly, through ticks (MSU, 2013).

"Remember the batch of California spinach that killed three people and sickened hundreds more? The federal government named wild pig droppings as a possible culprit. Salmonella, hoof-and-mouth, and other nightly-news panic inducers

find easy transport in pigs." -Jesse Hirsch, 2013 (Modern Farmer)

In the US, the impacts of diseases are cited as the most significant and potentially expensive types of damage that feral pigs can cause to the agricultural industry (Roth, 2014). **Why would Bonaire be any exception where goat farmers regularly let their herds roam free into areas where they are undoubtedly coming into contact with feral pigs?**

Though this information may seem scary, it is important to keep in mind that many of these diseases are only transmitted if someone comes in contact with contaminated meat via an open wound when processing the pig or by eating meat that is contaminated. Therefore, unless you are planning to go out and hunt wild pigs with us, you are unlikely to be at risk!

Remember: We Live from our Nature! (*Nos ta Biba di Naturalesa*)

This story is a part of an ongoing series contributed by Echo, an organization who has been mandated by the Public Entity of Bonaire to conduct a pig control program on Bonaire. For information about this project, please email Julianka@echobonaire.org or call our Pig Hotline at 786-7447 (786-PIGS).

Information for this article was borrowed from: <http://www.seriouscats.com/2014/04/why-you-should-be-eating-more-wild-pigs-right-now.html>

<http://www.gon.com/news/kill-feral-hogs-but-handle-them-carefully-for-your-health-and-your-dogs>
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/content/printable_version/feral_swine.pdf

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-wild-pigs-ravaging-the-us-be-stopped/>

<http://modernfarmer.com/2013/04/who-can-stop-these-adorable-pigs/>

<http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/frequently-asked-questions-wild-pigs/>

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/63662/feral-hog-diseases-and-health-risks>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/05/110502-wild-pigs-parasites-animals-pork-science-health-nation/>

■ Story by Lauren Schmaltz



DIGICEL BUSINESS SHORT-LISTED FOR 'BEST CARIBBEAN WHOLESALER' IN THE GLOBAL CARRIER AWARDS 2016

Thursday, 13th October, 2016 -

Kingston, Jamaica: Digicel Business, leading full service solutions provider in the region, announced today that it is one of three finalists in the Global Carrier Awards 2016 for the "Best Caribbean Wholesaler" category for its Best Regional and Global Wholesale Carrier application.

The Global Carrier Awards celebrate innovation, excellence and vision, and set the benchmark for performance through-



out the global wholesale telecoms marketplace. Digicel Business was selected based on its innovation in network services and commitment to doing things differently - always challenging the status quo in the Caribbean and providing world-class service to the carrier community.

In the past year, Digicel has invested heavily in new services and technologies across the Caribbean, with one of its major achievements being the completion of Digicel Global Connect - a fully managed private network that offers Managed Ethernet, VPLS and MPLS technology across twenty three of its twenty six Caribbean markets.

Combined with a strong in-market network, Digicel Global Connect delivers the best network experience in the Carib-

bean today by giving its partners access to state-of-the-art Cisco-powered network with an extensive reach of over 150 countries globally.

"We are delighted to have been short-listed for the distinguished Global Carrier Awards in our first year of entering. We are committed to changing how the market buys connectivity, so to be shortlisted for this award is a testament to the great work that the team is doing," said Garrett Quinn, Head of Digicel Business for the Caribbean and Central America.

Quinn continued; "Business is global, and Digicel is delighted to offer the solutions that make it easier for our partners to do business in the Caribbean."

Now in its 11th year, the Global Carrier Awards will be held on Tuesday 8th November in Paris.

ABOUT DIGICEL BUSINESS

Digicel Group Limited is a leading global communications provider with operations in 33 markets in the Caribbean, Central America and Asia Pacific.

After 15 years of operation, total investment to date stands at over US\$5 billion worldwide. The company is renowned for delivering best value, best service and best network.

A division of Digicel Group, Digicel Business is the region's leading full service business solutions partner that delivers value and innovation while enabling people to work better together and to connect with their customers, suppliers and communities. Digicel Business partners with businesses to maximize the potential of technology to solve intricate business and technical challenges. Digicel Business delivers the best and most advanced business solution systems to SMEs, corporate and public sector customers whilst helping them to manage cost and improve their efficiency in delivering their products and services to their customers.

Visit www.digicelbusiness.com for more information. ■ paid advertisement

Pets Of The Week



First arrived → → → Recovering → → → Recovered ↑↑↑

Bronte, Ferry and Winnie

These three beautiful happy campers are young and playful dogs, aged seven months to one year. Bronte on the left is a smart girl. She was brought to the Shelter together with her sister, who has already found a new home. She likes to play with her two new buddies and is ready for a new loving family to cuddle with. The handsome blond guy in the middle is Ferry, a fairly new resident at the Shelter. Ferry is around 7 months old and he was well taken care of and very healthy when he was brought to the Shelter. He likes to learn and enjoys the company of his girl friends. He will make a perfect family companion! Winnie (right) is a special young lady... two months ago she was found in front of the Shelter in very bad physical shape (see photos above). She was dehydrated, very skinny and covered with open, bleeding wounds. Winnie could barely move her body and due to her pain she also had a lot of behavioral problems. With a lot of medical care, TLC, patience and training Winnie is now ready for adoption!

If you are looking for a life-long friend who is easy going and always happy, come over and meet these three amazing animals

at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or call for information 717-4989. E-mail to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are healthy, treated against ticks and fleas, are dewormed, vaccinated, micro chipped and socialized. ■ Story & photos by Nathalie Peterson



WE ARE ALL FIGHTING FOR ONE CAUSE "TO HELP ANIMALS"

None of us is perfect, but falling out among ourselves, when we are all fighting for the same cause - to help animals - is damaging and counter-productive.

Why insinuate stories, falsely accuse and hurt people who do nothing wrong? We all support the same cause. Ways of dealing with the issue may slightly differ from others. We all do what we can and anyone who does one small act of kindness for an animal is helping the common good. Teach, help and support each other will be more positive and helpful for a better future! ■

What Can You Expect From The Animal Shelter Bonaire?

Bonaire can be proud of its Animal Shelter.

For the last 33 years there's been a Shelter for unwanted dogs and cats on the island. Through the years it's motto hasn't changed: give these animals a chance at life, make sure they're healthy, make sure they are social and try to find them good homes. Their accommodations, even at the very beginning, were ample so that the dogs could be in groups, not individually caged as in other countries. There's shade and dirt to play in.

One of the most important aspects is the attitude of the staff and the volunteers. Make this a happy place with the animals the first priority. But it's a dirty job: cleaning poop, feeding the animals, administering medicines when needed, bathing and the saddest of all, making the decision as to which animals have to be euthanized. Right now the Shelter can accommodate about 40 to 50 dogs. More than that, as in other overcrowded conditions, fights break out and some animals get killed by others. A no-kill procedure was tried for awhile but it resulted in fights, deaths, not enough people to give proper care.

With the help of donations the Shelter has expanded to offer free sterilization and a chip program whereby the animal has a chip under his skin with a number that relates to his owner. Lost dogs can be found quickly with this system.

There's been an education program in place whereby classes come to visit the Shelter and get an educational tour. Staff goes to the schools for a show and tell program.

Funds are always in short supply, but thanks to volunteers, the *Pakus di Pruga* flea market is open every Saturday and sells donated goods to the community. They have a pet shop at the Shelter with donated toys, leashes, etc. and sales go to the Shelter. There is the annual auction coming up this month. And it's still not enough to deal with all the unwanted animals on Bonaire. The answer seems to lie in education and sterilization to cut down on the population.

In the meantime, a devoted staff of four paid part-time employees and some incredible volunteers are keeping the Shelter up and running. I have been visiting the Shelter on a regular basis for more than 20 years, and I can say, "Bonaire, you should be proud of your Shelter!" ■ *Laura DeSalvo*



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