

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Oct. 9- Oct 16, 2017, Year 24, Issue 20
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 777-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Sailor Stories
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Hendrik Wuyts photo



Bonaire gas (pump) stations had no fuel for four days last week because the governor, who has the responsibility for public safety on Bonaire, would not allow the delivery tankers to fill up at the fuel depot in Hato until corrections were made. On October 2 fuel overflowed when a tanker was being filled. The risk of explosion and fire was minimized by quick action of the fire department. An inspection determined that immediate action was required to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future. Six problems were noted. Loading was immediately stopped. Curoil, the operator of the depot and supplier to all island gas stations, began corrections. However, they took longer than anticipated and queues built up at the stations. Car owners and renters were affected. Some small car rental companies had to suspend operations. Motorists were advised to use cars only when necessary.

Curoil has a poor record for its Bonaire operations. Recently a tanker overturned at Karpata spilling fuel that leaked into the sea. Quick action by oil containment teams minimized the environmental effect of the pollution. Last year the Bonaco station had to be closed, then rebuilt, because of fuel leaks and faulty equipment. And the 2016-2017 months-long shortage of cooking gas inconvenienced business and homeowners alike.

► **October fuel prices**—Gasoline, LPG up

Mogas 95	\$ 1.14 per liter
Kerosine	\$ 0.61 per liter
Diesel	\$ 0.65 per liter
LPG 100LBS	\$ 36.81 per cylinder
LPG 20LBS	\$ 9.21 per cylinder

► The gross domestic product (GDP) grew on all three BES islands, the CBS (Statistics Netherlands) reported. **The highest growth rate was seen on Bonaire with 3.0%, rising to a total GDP value of \$415 million.** The collective GDP of the three Dutch Caribbean islands was \$564 million in

2015, the latest year that statistics are available.

Bonaire has the lowest per capita income of the BES Islands. The highest was St Eustatius at \$26,600. Saba and Bonaire amounted to \$24,900 and \$21,700, respectively.

Since 2012 when measurement of GDP by CBS in the Caribbean Netherlands began, the value of GDP per capita on Saba rose by 16.4%; on St Eustatius by 1.1%. But on Bonaire, the value of GDP per capita fell slightly, namely by 0.9%, from \$21,900 in 2012 to **\$21,700** in 2015.

► **The Bonaire Chamber of Commerce (CoC, KvK) is now offering a new Business Desk (Bedrijvenloket service).**

At this desk you can hire a business expert for advice, ask questions and get assistance in completing business permits. The Business Desk will be a permanent part of the “Entrepreneur’s Home,” a one-stop shop where an entrepreneur can get multiple services.



► As mentioned in the last edition of *The Reporter* a policy for outdoor advertising is being prepared. In order to prevent the quality of the island from deteriorating the Island Government is preparing advertising guidelines for ads in public spaces and on private buildings.

Recently, more and more advertising signs and billboards have appeared on the streets. Some of the most obnoxious can be seen along Kaya Korona. This uncontrolled increase in advertisements leads to worsening the experience of the island. In addition, it can also cause nasty situations. The government announced the draft of the policy, saying, “These are things we do not want for Bonaire, an island known for its beauty over the years, attracting more and more residents and visitors. The draft Advertising Policy will be available from 2 to 31 October 2017 at the Directorate Space & Development, Department Policy & Projects, Kaya Amsterdam 21. between 9am and 12 noon. The draft will also be digitally available at www.bonairegov.com/reclamepolitics. Questions and comments can be emailed by email to advertising@bonairegov.com



Leo Dijkgraaf (Dierenlot) gives the keys to Lauren Schmalz (Echo)

tions and comments can be emailed by email to advertising@bonairegov.com

► On Monday September 25th at Red Palm Village, the Echo Conservation Group received the donation of a new pickup truck from Stichting Dierenlot, a Dutch organization concerned about animals in distress in the Netherlands and the Dutch Caribbean. Echo needed a good vehicle especially for certain activities which often take place in areas that are difficult to reach. Echo’s current focus is on caring for wounded parrots and maintaining the population of Yellow Shouldered Amazons (Lora) on the island. They do this by monitoring nests, researching the current population and re-planting native plants on the island so that the natural habitat is better suited to the parrots.



► Curaçao’s popular North Sea Jazz Festival will resume in 2018. That is what Prime Minister Rhuggenaath said in the radio program of Percy Pinedo, the right hand of organizer Gregory Elias. What artists will come soon is not known yet.

► Last week was the first time that the Labor Inspection Department accused a person who hired a commercial building contractor for using an illegal worker. It invokes the principle of chain liability. This means that the client is also responsible for compliance with the island’s labor laws regardless of whether the job was commissioned directly or through a contractor. The contractor had employed a foreigner who was

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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, October 23
Deadline: **Friday, October 13**





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Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg. 2)

staying on Bonaire as a tourist. The contractor did not have the required employment license. Both the construction company and their private client have received a warning. In case of repetition, a report will be drawn up against both. The foreign worker was sent back to his home country.



► **Aruba Airlines plans to begin flying to Curacao on October 23** and eventually to extend the service to Bonaire, but no date was announced. The airline currently uses modern Airbus jets to fly AUA to Miami, Maracaibo and Valencia, but will use a wet-leased 50-seat turboprop Bombardier Dash-8 for the new service. For more information call 00297-583-8300.



► **A dozen InselAir planes litter the east end of the terminal building complex at Curacao's Hato Airport.** While one of the 150-passenger MD-80 jets got the OK to enter service flying to St. Maarten, restoration of the others is

blocked by administrative and financial problems. Meanwhile other companies are stepping into the breach. InselAir's takeover by Avianca was stalled when the airline's pilots went on strike.

► **Beginning Wednesday travelers who fly to Amsterdam aboard TUI Air's 787 get a free meal and soft drinks, free snack and free access to the Inflight Entertainment System (via main screen or personal device) on all flights.**

► **Google Street View is coming to Curacao, and Bonaire will be added within six months.** The coming of Google is a personal success for DJ Joris of Dolphin FM. A special vehicle with roof-top cameras and other electronics cruises through neighborhoods photographing the buildings. The photos are then integrated into different Google Map apps. It lets viewers see the area as if they were standing street side.

► **Albert Crestian, who has a 20-year background working in the Bonaire Government, became the new manager of Washington Slagbaai National Park.** He succeeds Paulo Bertuol who will stay on as a biologist for STINAPA.



(Continued on page 14)



Bonaire would like to have more American tourists visit. But getting them here is a problem because there currently are too few direct flights from the states. But getting new airlines or the present carriers to add flights is tough because often the airlines want a guarantee that they will fly with profitable passenger loads. One way to do this is for Bonaire to pay the airlines to fly here and offer other incentives to reduce their costs. A deal can be made that considers the load factor demanded by the airlines, the amount of promotion to be done, incentives and conditions and finally the amount the destination, in our case Bonaire, will pay out. Most will agree with this approach because it's been proven to work. The hope is that, once Bonaire is discovered by more people, subsidizing the airlines will be unnecessary.

Another way for American tourists to conveniently visit Bonaire is via Aruba. There are daily flights from multiple cities to AUA. Currently, however, there are no non-stop Aruba to Bonaire flights. All must go through Curacao. The recent Aruba Airlines announcement of planned Bonaire flights and the introduction of Divi Divi Air's Twin Otters, now tied up in the paperwork process in Curacao, is encouraging.

So far, so good. But who in Bonaire will pay for the incentive? To figure that out the TCB (Tourist Corporation Bonaire) proposed an "Airlift Committee" be formed. Initially it would include the directors of the airport and TCB, representatives from BONHATA, TCB NY (Candice Kimmel) and the Island Government. The cost is estimated to be between \$600,000 and \$800,000. And who knows how to protect Bonaire's interest in that deal?

Obviously, the ones who benefit should shoulder the cost: the resorts whose rooms will be filled, the tour operators, car rental agencies, the dive shops, the restaurants, the realtors, others who benefit from tourism as well as the government who will realize more tax collection. But getting the private sector to contribute may prove difficult. Once spending money comes up individual special interests seem to take precedence. BONHATA has almost 100 members, but most are relatively small businesses. The bigger hotels like Courtyard, Habitat, Plaza are not members of BONHATA. The BBE (Bonaire Business and Employers Association) has a broader membership, but was not named to the committee. Bickering has begun. Hopefully it will be resolved and the project can go forward.

The good news is that some of Bonaire's best business minds are working on getting more airlift. Now is the time as the infrastructure of several popular Caribbean vacation destinations devastated by hurricanes will need time to recover and the airlines, like the cruise lines, are looking for replacements. ■ G.D./Press release/

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On the Island Since... April 2014 – Tanja Kokelkoren

A Bonaire Reporter regular feature since 2001



Tanja at her office

“I came here because my husband was offered a job on Bonaire. I had a great life in Holland so it hasn’t been a decision I made overnight. We decided if one of us wouldn’t like it, the move would be cancelled. So we came for a try-out in November 2013, just for one week. Gert-Jan, my husband, started working to get an idea about what the job would be like, and I started every day with a cappuccino at the Beach Hut at Sorobon, then I would roam around the island. I had planned to explore the island my way – which means being close to the people and getting in touch with them. I talked to everybody I met and the conversations were about all possible topics.

In Holland I was an elementary school teacher, but I’m also a graduate speech therapist. I studied law as well and I’ve been singing and dancing semiprofessionally in musicals. Well, during that week in November Gert-Jan wrote – on the back of a beer coaster – his opinion about the move to Bonaire. About a week later, when we were back in Holland, I wrote that I was going to give our adventure a chance because I’d embraced the island.

Together we have five children, from 35 to 23, so we were going to leave a lot behind. But when the decision was made, we felt it was going to be a beautiful adventure which would add so much to our lives.

Five months later we arrived on Bonaire. First I started making friends and fixing the house. I felt wonderful; I went to the gym, sang in the pop-choir, went out for coffee, met a lot of people. I was just happy! Then, one day, going for lunch at Rose Inn, we were driving into Rincon and I saw this gentleman sitting on his porch on a plastic chair. I didn’t think anything in particular about it, but somehow I registered the image, because the second time we went to Rose Inn, I saw the same gentleman sitting there and then the image got stuck in my mind. I told Gert-Jan, ‘What’s the alternative for people here when they get sick and have nobody to take care of them before they die?’ Then we had a long discussion on this topic and after a couple of days I started calling people who had knowledge about the care on the island.

I talked to **Giovanni Frans**, the director of Fundashon Mariadal, to **Theo Braeken**, medical manager of Fundashon Mariadal,

to **Juni Piar**, who’s the manager of home care of Fundashon Mariadal and to **Jan Frässdorf** – the permanent anesthesiologist of the hospital – and to a number of general practitioners, but I also sat in Governor **Edison Rijna**’s waiting room and talked to him. Then I went to ZVK (Dutch health insurance) and that’s how the ball started rolling.

Then it appeared that also on Bonaire people die in loneliness. In relation to other countries I believe that on Bonaire there are more people who care for each other, but I’m talking about people who are in the final stage of their lives - people who are terminal and cannot be taken care of 24 hours a day. I wanted to make sure that these people would have a place where they could say goodbye to life.

Saying goodbye to life is intense and sad to many, but wouldn’t it be nice if you could give those people, who would otherwise die in loneliness, love, care and attention? That’s what a hospice is all about.

“Saying goodbye to life is intense and sad to many, but wouldn’t it be nice if you could give those people, who would otherwise die in loneliness, love, care and attention?”

Most people prefer to die at home where they are taken care of by home care, their house doctor and maybe family and friends. But neither the GP nor home care are present 24 hours per day. So there are situations where family and friends get overloaded with the care and not everyone can handle it as people have jobs and their own family to take care of too. People who are in the last phase of their lives cannot stay at the hospital either, because the hospital is there to make people better, and these people will not recover anymore. They are dying. Kas di Kuido is a nursing home where people can stay for a long period of time, but it has its own target group.

A hospice is a home where people are referred to by the indication of their general practitioner. The indication means that one has a maximum life expectancy of three months – which is the standard norm. The resident – as we choose to call the person who comes to stay at the hospice – doesn’t have to pay for anything,



Tanja (center) and her volunteers at the house where the hospice will be created

because people of all nationalities, who are legal residents Bonaire, can be referred by their GP for a stay at the hospice which will be paid for by ZVK insurance.

The name of the hospice is going to be ‘**Kas Flamboyan**’ because to me the Flamboyant tree is the most beautiful tree on the island and I like the way the name sounds. Kas Flamboyan is a home and thus distinguishes itself from a clinical setting. The house will have four rooms for four residents and the two bathrooms will be shared. Each room will have its own TV and internet access. There are no set visiting hours. Everyone who has a connection to the resident is always welcome – that is if the resident feels like it. The resident can also bring some of their own belongings to familiarize their environment.

My three key words for the hospice are: Attention – Love and Safety.

Kas Flamboyan is going to work with volunteers. Being a volunteer is a choice you make. It means that you commit your-

involved in the hospice. I spoke to **Pastor Baak** from the Coromoto Church in Antriol, as well, who will also assist us on request. But of course every spiritual assistance provider is welcome if the residents are in need of it.

In the meantime we’ve started working on the renovation of the home at Kaya Guanare #11 in Tera Kora. Our goal is to open the second week of December. From that moment the residents will be welcome.

Sunday a week ago we had the first meeting with the volunteers at the premises. People are enthusiastic and motivated to start with the training. And although many people have signed up, still, we could use more people, especially men!

In 2015 I founded ‘*Stichting Hospice Bonaire*’ (Foundation Hospice Bonaire) after I’d talked to all people involved and found out there was support for the project. This year I stepped down from the board of the foundation because I’m going to be the director of the hospice. The board consists of **Evelina Betancourt** (the Acting Governor), **Theo Braeken** (Medical Manager of Fundashon Mariadal) and **Jodeska Cicilia** (oncology nurse at the hospital) and I am incredibly grateful for this board.

I’m working full-time now and this is a very challenging project, but at the same time it’s an honor to set it up. It gives me a lot of energy and I’m getting to know very passionate and motivated people who are willing to do something for another person. I hope Kas Flamboyan will become part of our society here on the island, an indispensable part of our community.

I’m putting everything I have into it to make it work. But I also have my life and I love it. I swim, I work out, I’ve got a dog, I Facetime with family and friends, I miss my children, but it doesn’t bite me and we’ve got loads of visitors from Holland. And every time when I show them the island I am as proud and enthusiastic as if it were the very first time!” ■

Story & photos by **Greta Kooistra**

For more info www.kas-flamboyan.com or info@kas-flamboyan.com or contact Tanja Kokelkoren +599 785 2245.





SHARING THE CREDIT



Dear Editor:

We wish to thank you and the many readers of *The Bonaire Reporter* who have commented on your article in the previous edition about our leaving the island we love so much. It humbles us to be praised so highly for nothing more than being good citizens of our community.

We would, however, like to note that several of the programs where you gave us too much credit. Most efforts were the work of many people who contributed as much or more to their success as we did. So, to set the record straight:

Tene Boneiru Limpi was started by **Edith Strauss-Marcera** and was led by **Diana Gevers, Elsmarie Beukenboom and Michael Gaynor**. We merely helped organize actions.

The Red Cross Disaster Planning was inspired by **Dr. Giovanni Frans** and the Bonaire Government. Our role was only to help organize planning meetings, write plans and provide some PR for the events.

The NGO Platform was created by the Dutch Government and was led by **Dennis Martinus**. Alan served on the bestuur and helped write the plans.

Jong Bonaire was a community effort and, though we helped initiate it along with **Rene Hakkenberg and Wim Naagtegal** (deceased), we had excellent help from the bestuur, the local and Dutch governments and especially from Inge Berben and all the staff members.

The PWA Windsurf competition was the dream and inspiration of **Elvis Martinus**. Again we merely helped to organize.

Other than leaving the island and our friends, our only regret is that our efforts to create an Oceanside public park on the grounds of the old Sunset Beach hotel was not accepted by the island government and

what could have been the jewel of our community has not come to be.

Masha danki, Alan & Jane

HERBICIDES ON BONAIRE



Dear Editor:

Greetings from Scotland.

As a regular reader of *The Reporter* online, and someone who is planning to come to live on Bonaire in the near future, I was absolutely appalled to read the article in the current edition (25 Sept - 9 Oct) by your excellent gardening correspondent (Angliet) (I am a big fan of hers and look forward to reading her article in every edition) about the use of **Gramoxone** (Paraquat) on the island. This stuff is absolutely lethal, not only to the plants they seek to destroy, but also to humans, animals, the land and the supporting ecosystems. I dread to think what effect it will have if (when) it leaches into the sea. I am absolutely amazed to find out that it is used on the island at all. Its use has been banned in the United Kingdom and throughout Europe for years, and I understand that even China, a country not exactly renowned for its environmental concerns, has now banned its use.

I am surprised that its use is permitted by the Dutch Government, as it would not be allowed in the European Netherlands, although I am obviously aware that Bonaire is not covered by E.U. Regulations. I would like to think that the Bonaire island government would consider banning its use, and I hope that this article will motivate someone to campaign for just that.

I want to congratulate your correspondent for writing this excellent article, and also you for publishing it, and highlighting this extremely important issue.

Trevor Johnson

P.S. Although the use of Paraquat is banned in the United Kingdom, with typical British hypocrisy we continue to manufacture the stuff, primarily for export to the USA, where attitudes to health and safety, and environmental issues are somewhat less advanced than in Europe, and where it is still widely used.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Dundee, Scotland



Trevor and Marie Johnson sent a photograph of themselves with *The Reporter* in Dundee, Scotland, where they live (she is Scottish, and he is English). It is taken on top of The Law, which is a hill formed from an ancient volcano which is now greatly eroded so that it is only 175 meters high these days, and which stands in the centre of the town. Behind them you

can see some of the city on the foothills below, and the River Tay, with its railway bridge crossing it, behind that.

Trevor writes, "I hope you will be able to publish it, and although we will continue to keep abreast of Bonaire news online we are looking forward to the day when we will be able to read the printed version on a routine basis in our new Caribbean home." ■

WE NEED MORE PHOTOS FOR THIS FEATURE

Send your photo holding *The Bonaire Reporter* to reporter@bonairenews.com to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture.



PUBLIC ENTITY OF
BONAIRE

ANNOUNCEMENT

ISLAND ORDINANCE NATURE MANAGEMENT BONAIRE

The Executive Board of Bonaire announces that the following permit applications will be made available for inspection for fourteen days:

- Major maintenance/renovation pier Curoil N.V. location Hato, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot, Bonaire.
- Renovation terrace seaside Hotel Bellafonte, (Suites de la Mer N.V.) EEG Boulevard 10, Bonaire.

Public Display

The permit applications based on the Island Ordinance Nature Management Bonaire are available for inspection, in accordance with article 19, lid 3 up to and including 5, from October 9 up to and including October 23, 2017. For inspection, you may report to the front desk of the Directorate of Space and Development on Kaya Amsterdam 23 in Bonaire. Opening hours: from Monday through Friday from 7.30 to 12.00 and from 13.30 to 17.00 hours.

Procedure

During the abovementioned period of display anyone can take notice of the permit applications. Only stakeholders may submit written concerns within this period at:

The Executive Board of Bonaire,
Kaya Grandi 51
Kralendijk, Bonaire.

A stakeholder is a natural or legal person whose interests can be directly affected by a permit.

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Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez z/n (Near Botica Korona)

Irma Demolished My St. Maarten Home- First Person Report

October 5th, 2017—

It's been one month since I lost my home to the most impressive and powerful experience I've ever had the privilege to witness. You might suspect that I've lost my mind. Why would I feel privileged? I say privilege because today I turn 32 and I get to celebrate this day with my family here on Bonaire.

This story begins on August 30th, 2017. My husband Stephan came home from work; I noticed that something was different. The look on his face searching through his phone. As he hands me the phone he says, "Check what's coming towards us. I don't like this one bit. It's taking the same path as Luis!" I've never seen that type of fear in his eyes for the past 11 years we've been together. We've been through so many storms together and we do always prepare for the worst but this time it was different. He was genuinely worried, worried about having to go through another storm such as Luis again.

The stories of Hurricane Luis are famous on SXM. Tales told of ripped-off roofs, twisted metal beams, sunken yachts and, worst of all, the aftermath, the looting, the stealing, the lawless wild, wild SXM. I've heard them all before. Every year this island remembers through sharing photos on Facebook, reminding them of those dreadful moments. At that time I could only imagine, and being the creative mind that I am, I honestly imagined the absolute worst scenarios.

As soon as I saw Irma I went into prep mode. The next day I started stocking up on water and canned foods, bought flashlights and batteries. You know — the usual hurricane list. As I stood in line to get the 10 2.5L cases of water it really hit me... those stories. What if? ok, Chemaine, you always overreact. Maybe it won't be that bad.

"Maybe" is hard to deal with when you have two little human beings depending on you. So I started to buy and buy and buy... My husband noticed me going a bit out of control, asked me to watch my spending. I snapped at him, yelling, "What the hell will we use the money for when everything is gone?"

September 2nd, four days before the storm, my father calls as usual just for fun. I tell him we have a storm coming on right at us. He said, "I saw something but I didn't really pay attention to it." I told him that it's OK, we



We thought the house was hurricane proof. Not.

will be safe as our house is hurricane proof and nothing can happen to us. "The house went through Luis and many other hurricanes," I added. That night my friend Bobbie asks me to join her for a Soca Party. Watching as the storm was getting stronger I decided to seize the moment. I haven't seen my friends ever since...

September 3rd, three days before Irma, listening to my dear friend Dr. Soc's Irma updates on Island 92 Radio. He urges everyone to please rush preparations as much as possible while we still had time as Irma seemed to be potentially dangerous.

September 4th, two days left, the models are showing the potential of Irma turning into a Category 5 within the next 24 hours. I start to feel extremely anxious. The constantly repeated stories of Luis being told all around the island and the fear... I felt so much fear.

As we continue to prepare my cousin Paul calls. I already had in mind to give him a call to ask the same question: "Wanna' go have some beers before this storm takes it all away?" That night we met many others out doing that exact same thing. Everyone constantly mentioning Luis, How Irma seems to be stronger and that we all expect our beautiful island to be in extremely bad shape after the storm. We talked about how we would be safe because all of us had hurricane-proof houses. As the night went by we drank away our nerves and started making jokes and talking about other topics. For a moment we all forgot until it was time to go home. We said our goodbyes, wished everyone to be safe hoping it wouldn't be as bad as we were making it out to be.

September 5th, 1 day before; Anxious me started to cry uncon-

trollably. Stephan, not even bothering to console me, just kept nailing things shut. Bang... bang... People passing by hear his hammer slamming against our wooden house, asking him if he truly believes the storm will be that bad. My husband reminds them of Luis. Same path... same date... same full moon. You can see the fear starting to settle and people realizing that this is not a dream. My father calls with fear in his voice he tells me it's coming right on us. "I know," I said. Dad says, "They say 185 miles per hour." I start to cry and paused for a while. I whisper, "I know and it seems it will only get stronger," trying my best to hold my tears not to let him feel how genuinely scared I really was. We hang up only to get a second call moments later from my mother. "Chemaine," she says. "Are you ok?" "No," I said. "Mom, I can't stop crying and Stephan can't even stop banging to tell me it's going to be ok." "It's ok to feel anxious," she replies. "He's not telling you it's going to be ok because we don't know if it's going to be ok. Make sure you take the kids to the lowlands and stay safe. Calm down and do what you have to do, you hear?" "Yes, mama," I answered. "We will be fine. I'm just so worried about after. I don't want to go through this, Mami. The storm won't do us nothing but what about after?" I hang up the phone and run to my husband for a hug. I needed that hug. It gave me the strength to snap out of it and get back on track. We have a super storm to prepare for and my kids depend on my actions during and after.

As Stephan bangs the last nails in our entrance door, I took a photo of my beautiful home. I said goodbye. I had a gut feeling we would lose our home, but staying there was not an option. As we awaited Irma's arrival we managed to fall asleep only to wake up to loud tropical force winds. Not a care in the world, sipping on coffee watching as the wind got stronger and stronger. The howling winds blowing trees to the ground as my father-in-law repeats... "If the roof goes we run to the back room." I decided to go check on our 18-month-old son, Luke, when I heard a loud BANG! My body went numb. The door blew open, I thought, as I tried to force our bedroom door open, yelling at my husband, "What happened?" The roof! For a moment there I lost my breath. As I watched my husband run inside with our daughter safely in his hands. Everyone was safe except my husband stepped on a nail. I later understood that he decided to mop the floor due to



We rode out the storm in this house. Notice the damage. We are standing out front -safe.



View from a window during the height of the storm



Our roof, our TV, couches, our things—all demolished before the eye passed and it started blowing again

water leaking when the roof fell down right next to him. He ran and stepped on a nail. Lucky that's all that happened! I closed our bedroom door and felt an eerie draft on my neck. I didn't trust that room. I wanted to go to the one next door. My father-in-law trusted my judgment and we all moved to the next one. Luckily we did as we found out after the zinc (metal roofing) had blown off the roof in our initial escape room.

We cried— our roof, our TV, couches, our things. As the eye approached and the weather calmed down, my husband and his father ran to the living room to secure our sliding doors that started to crack. Luckily we had

enough wood to patch that up to ride the other half of the storm. We kept an eye on the roof from a safe distance behind an iron gate, making sure we didn't have to run in case it continued to tear. As we stared at our roof my father-in-law started to cry. "I build this house strong!" he said. "What did I do wrong!?" The guilt he felt, imagining something happening to his grandchildren, was too much for him to bear. Poor us with our hole in our roof. This wasn't supposed to happen!

As we started clearing up after the storm we knew we couldn't go anywhere until the next day. I woke up early that next morning

(Continued on page 7)

Hurricane Irma (Continued from page 6) with anger in my heart. I walked up to our driveway. As my husband chopped down the trees I gathered strength and started lifting trees out of my way. I wanted to go see my home... I had a feeling it was a total loss, but I still had to just see it. As we started to drive and really saw the insane devastation we realized how lucky we were with our poor hole in our roof. Million-dollar mansions were gone, families walking on the street with their children and nowhere to go, no money to eat and not even a change of clothes. I started to cry not for us but for everyone else! How could we be so ungrateful! We have life! These people really lost everything they have and are grateful for the life they have been spared. How could I feel ungrateful after all the stories I heard and overheard of friends who had to hold on for their lives with their infant and toddler in a closet hoping they would be alright. Others lost their roof and had to hide under a mattress for hours until the storm was over. And so the stories continue as you could see on the news 95% of our island had been destroyed.



Chemaine Petit-Booi with her children and a friend –safe in Bonaire. Chemaine’s father in the background

These stories will haunt me forever, not in a bad way but in such a way that I will forever be grateful that Irma spared us and that today on October 5th, 2017, I can wish myself a happy 32nd Birthday surrounded by family that with open arms took me in

and gave me all the love and more than I could wish for.

Sure Irma was impressive... but no matter how much concrete is poured... the weeds always find a crack to push through. I KNOW our people will show her who's BOSS as we rise from the mess she has left behind we will come back stronger than ever. Just you wait and see. SXM will smile again! ■ *Chemaine Petit-Booi*



Wind so strong it blew sailing yachts upside down

Deepsea Challenge



This year’s 10-day long Bonaire Deepsea Challenge free diving experience was a huge success with lots of participants and notable events:

- **Carolina Schrappe** from Brazil broke her own Continental South American Record at -101 meters on the 23rd of September in freediving discipline variable weight in a 3-min dive (Her previous record, 2016: -95 m) . The record was confirmed by AIDA judges **Gaby Contreras** from Venezuela and **Christian Statler** from Austria



Tops: Israel Gil and Tomoka Fukuda

- **Numerous athletes from Japan, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Brazil, UK and Venezuela** achieved their Personal Best (PB) Performances.

- **Kids and adults participated** with original costumes in a colorful First Ocean Parade that welcomed mermaids. It is a friendly artistic event designed for people to express themselves by making their own creative art and outfit to celebrate the conservation of the ocean life and the mysterious mythology of mermaids and tritons and raise awareness of the world’s oceans.

Freediver, Cressi Sub, Budget Bonaire Rent, Budget Marine, Obersi Group, WEB Bonaire, El Mundo Restaurant, La Cantina Restaurant, Eden Beach Hotel, Courtyard Marriot, Red Palm Village, Mermaid Bonaire, Bistro de Paris, GIL TM, 360 Producers Hub, It Rains Fishes, Synergi Sailing, MCB Bonaire, GAIA, Kite City, Patagonia Restaurant, Mermaid Vzla, Sirenita Brasil, Industry of Activity. ■ *Press release*

The competition covered four freediving disciplines— Static (STA), Constant Weight (CWT), Constant No Fins (CNF) and Free Immersion (FIM) — during six official diving days.

The Deepsea Challenge Bonaire organized by Gaby Contreras and Carlos Coste, had the support of a large group of private companies. Thanks to the sponsors: Harbour Village Bonaire, Tourism Bonaire Corporation, PADI



Carlos Coste and Gaby Contreras

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Captain Johnny Craane 'discovers' the gold

Forty students from the Aquamarin School anxiously gathered at the Navegante Boatyard in Hato on September 26th. In the shadows of the cargo ship, *Stormvogel*, head of restoration Captain **Johnny Craane** told the children about the historic 45-foot/14 meter *balandra*. "Stormvogel was built on Bonaire in 1951 for Captain **Martins Felida**," explained Craane. "The skipper had a contract to haul propane tanks between Bonaire and Curacao and needed a strong boat to do that."

The students learned that *Stormvogel* was named after a tiny bird called a storm petrel, one rarely seen on land. They heard about

Etchi Craane who led the construction of the ship made partially from local mesquite wood called *kui*. And they found out about the kinds cargo hauled by the old ship—bags of charcoal, live goats, whiskey and cigarettes smuggled under the cloak of night, and the occasional passenger.

But the highlight of the tour was when Johnny Craane 'discovered' gold. Craane happened upon a tiny metal box hidden in the ship's hull, full of *Stormvogel* gold stickers. Each student received one, and at the conclusion of the tour, completed a five-question quiz about the history of the boat. A raffle was held and *Stormvogel* t-shirts



Principal Anja Heij and her Aquamarin School class

were awarded to those with the correct answers to the five questions. Leading the group was Aquamarin teacher **Hilda Mommers** and principal **Anja Heij**.

This school year, the students will learn more about Bonaire's rich maritime heritage through an innovative curriculum developed by the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation. Titled *Zeilen Op School* (Sails in the Schools), the short course combines locally-made films and historic photos available on the foundation's web site with classroom activities, quizzes and games. Educational kits have been distributed to all schools on Bonaire for students in Groups Six and Seven (ages 9-12). Additionally, the curriculum has been shipped to schools in Curacao and Aruba since the ABC Islands share this remarkable maritime heritage.

Zeilen Op School will reach 2,225 students on the three island during the 2017-2018 academic year. This educational outreach project was made possible through financial support from Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribische Gebeid, Fonds for Cultuurparticipatie and Samenwerkende Fondsen. ■

Story by Patrick Holian, Photographs-Hendrik Wuyts



If any other schools or groups are interested in visiting *Stormvogel*, please contact the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation at info@oldboatsbonaire.org

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Regatta 50



The Sislin at the start 50 years ago

The celebration of half a century of Bonaire Regattas, is the legacy of the *Velia* and the *Sislin*, thanks to the tireless efforts of its participants, organizers and sponsors over the years.

Fifty years ago the first Regatta race was run. It matched Captain Don Stewart against local Fisherman Ebo Domacasse. Here is the race as told in Captain Don's own words.

"Sunday, the beaches were clustered

with cheering spectators. It was to be a fisherman's start, anchors down, main sails up. A shout from the pier hollered, "Go!" and the free-for-all was on. No jumping from boat to boat, no setting of secret anchors, but pushing was permitted. Anchor lines tangled with jib sheets as crews fell over sacks of ballast. "Around Klein Bonaire clockwise," Ebo called. "Finish at the rowboat," which could be anywhere near the main pier.



Before the wind we flew, secret sails all pulling. Down the long side of the island, around the corner, then suddenly no sign of Ebo. Then across the backside, and still no Ebo. "He sank," I screamed. Then another corner and into the eye of the wind, hard tacking, but no matter. The race was easily mine. The *Velia* couldn't be seen anywhere. I really felt sorry for Ebo, relaxed, drank a beer, and slowly headed for the rowboat that had been tied to the pier with a long rope.

Then, out from a shadow, someplace near the water plant, the *Velia* materialized with a bone in her teeth and coming down fast. My crew screamed for more speed, and I hardened the main sail, but my *Sislin* sluggishly moved forward like a slow motion dream.

Only 50 meters, and the race would be mine... then a shadow closed over that little rowboat and I was staring at the stern of the *Velia* and that damned big smile of Ebo Domacasse.

Many of the traditional sail fishing boats still floatable have had major repair at the Kas di Regatta site. Pam at Budget Marine has advanced money to boatowners for many repairs that she hopes will be covered by donors. Make the donation to the Bonaire Sailing Association- BSSA, MCB Bonaire account number 10626809 earmarked for sailboat restoration.

Bonaire's fishermen soon became serious, and we raced almost every weekend. *Seagull, Velia, Eagle, Sislin*, and a boat that I have forgotten. Always beer for the winner and cheap rum for the loser. A carnival attitude developed, and people wanted to spend money, have fun, drink beer, dance, and snack on cheap sandwiches till dawn.

My boat partner, Larry, the Lions Club's President, turned the Regatta into an island project. I still made sandwiches and sold a lot of beer as we all danced all night. Few remember, or even knew, but the Regatta saved the Month of October for the old Flamingo Beach. Without the Regatta's coin, she could have never made the October payroll." ■ Captain Don/G.D.

Over the years the Festival part of Regatta has grown. This year it will be really big with something for everyone, like watching sailing races and kids' activities in the daytime, including a kids corner, amusement park, three stages with live entertainment every day and night, more than 25 food, art and craft stands and much more. This year's Regatta promises to be one of the biggest in the recent years!

For complete information and schedules of sail races and festival events visit the Regatta website www.regattabonaire.com or Facebook Regattabonaire.

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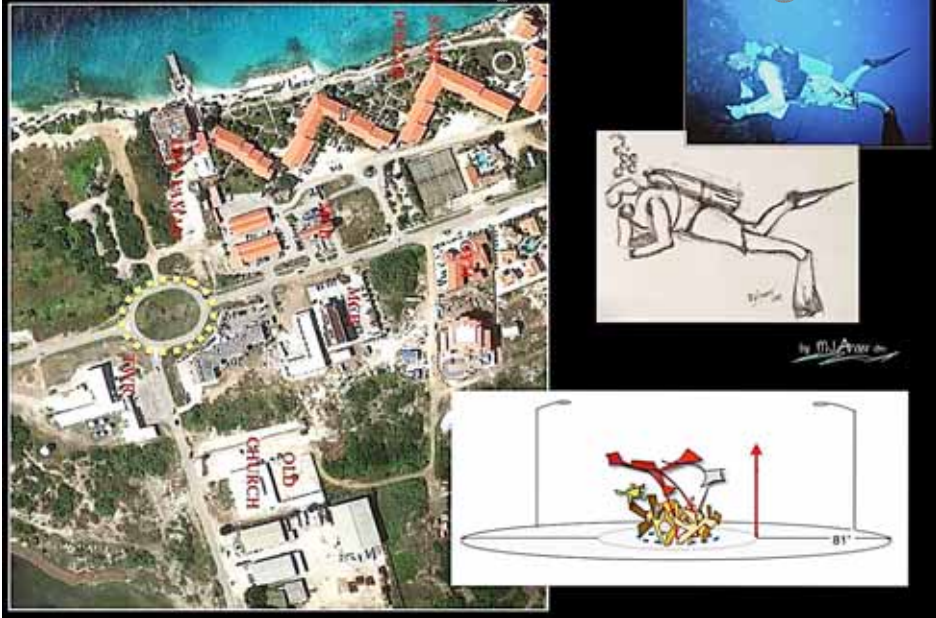
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Roundabout Sculpture Progress



Metal artist/ sculptor Mark Ansier arrived this past weekend to begin the start of the creation of the sculpture at the Hato roundabout in November. See the story on page 7 in the September 11, 2017 issue of *The Reporter*.*

Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) joined as main sponsor and initiator of the project. Lily-Ann Janga-Domacassé, Marketing & PR Officer of the Bank, said, "As a bank and in view of our corporate social responsibility, we think it is very important to support initiatives that benefit our community." Director of the bank, Leonard Domacassé, is part of the IVA-group (Initiation, Vision & Action) of young professionals focusing on action and results.

They also support this project created by the Bunita Boneiru Foundation.

In preparation a clean up of the roundabout itself will be done by staff and owners of sponsors Den Laman, Sand Dollar, Dive Friends and Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) on October 21. ■ *Debby Rauters*

*Two years ago, an innovative and exciting plan was launched after many evenings of brainstorming. **Mark Ansier**, from Austin, Texas, is a metal artist and avid diver. Their plan was simple – to clean up the island, recycle unwanted waste metal and beautify the roundabout.

STCB Fundraising Auction: Start Bidding Now!



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is very excited to be running a Fundraising Auction again this year. The organization has invited artists to decorate and donate a plywood version of the STCB turtle image or to create their own artwork; and so far, they have received some stunning artworks.

Artists are inspired by Bonaire's pristine nature and by the culture and history of our island. Several pieces take you on a journey of Bonaire's marine life, including hatching sea turtles, colorful French angel-fish and a unique seahorse. Other artworks allow you to experience and dive into the cultural heritage and historical background of Bonaire.

Artwork can be viewed on the STCB

Fundraising website (www.stcbfundraising.org), and if you find a piece that you truly love, you can even place a bid on it.

STCB would once again like to invite everyone to either decorate a plywood version of the STCB turtle image - available the STCB office at Kaya Korona #53 - or to create your own. In addition, STCB would be grateful for donations of other items that can be auctioned or raffled at their Fundraising Auction. Please contact STCB so that they can collect any items.

The Fundraising Auction will take place on 25th November 2017. For more information, please visit the STCB office, call (+599) 717 2225 or send an email to cepa@bonairerturtles.org. ■ *Press release*



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A Garden? Just Do It

RECYCLING IN THE GARDEN

All that rain today, the dark clouds and soft weather, it was the best day in weeks for my garden. Wednesday morning at 6 I heard a full shower of rain on my roof. I jumped up, put on some old clothes and started catching rainwater running from the roof. So I had my shower too.

After the past extremely hot days which felt like we were in the middle of a desert, this was a blessing. Almost every other day I had to water the plants. Normally I water them every fourth day. That is enough. And there are some plants like herbs which need water more often, but with this heat I had to go around with my bucket almost every day. And they were still looking bad.

So I put everything on hold today and worked the whole day in the yard.

There was so much to do and I was missing a helping hand. Often when friends pass by I ask for help: to dig a hole; to mix the heavy red dirt with manure, compost and black dirt; to cut some branches; to carry some bags of black dirt for me. Yes, sometimes I need manpower. Maybe now men will skip my place! Ha Ha!

It's fun, but without these guys sometimes I can't make it. Thank you, guys. Stop for the nicest herb tea, a bunch of veggies or a homemade juice when you are around. Or just some young plants, to take with you, if you like.

These days a friend helped me set up a greenhouse. I had a lot of beams and old wood so a very handy friend decided to build me a greenhouse with all kinds of old material. It was fun. Every time he had an hour free he passed by to cut, saw, nail and hammer. Meanwhile we had a cool time talking about gardening and more. And now here is my fantastic green house made of old stuff that would have ended up on the landfill. All re-used.

There is a name for this: Recycling. This word became trendy in our modern society. Science says that we humans use too much, waste too much, and eat too much. Mother Earth will not be able to handle all that dirt and waste at the end, and we need to do something about it and we need to start now with it to save nature.

So I started with this and in gardening one can recycle a lot of things. My old rags, good for gardening, all plastic bottles and containers, plastic cups, old pans and pots and tin containers-- all good for plants and to put seeds in. Old forks, spoons to garden with, building material like wood, blocks to make edges around your plants, pieces of iron mats to sup-



Help for building the greenhouse



Recycle these to use in the garden

port spinach branches, paint buckets without bottoms to put over plants to protect them against lizards and iguanas, and good buckets to contain manure, compost, rainwater and to plant in. Old broken chairs very good to put plants on in the yard. Plastic boxes like the Coca Cola ones to carry plants for example to markets and so much more.

The nice thing about this is that you keep a lot of money in your pocket and you can enjoy granny's old chairs and your old pots for a longer time.

It's important to take responsibility for our planet and love those generations after us.

Last, but not least, with this attitude, you save the environment of beautiful Bonaire and you set a good example for others. Welcome to the group of nature lovers. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover/ L.D.



DID YOU KNOW?



Image from <https://ecllecticirony.tumblr.com/>

Coral spawning is one of nature's most spectacular events and we have one more chance to see it this year – this week!

Corals cannot move around the oceans floor. So, how do they reproduce? Hard corals reproduce in several ways, one of the most common of which is spawning. This happens when male and female corals release their eggs and sperm into the ocean at the same time. Because coral reefs are separated by wide distances, this tactic is the most effective. This enables corals to mix genetics and spread their offspring over broad areas. When egg and sperm are combined they form a baby coral, called a **planula**. Planulae float in the water for days or even weeks until they find a hard surface to which they can attach. Across many reefs, coral spawning occurs as a synchronized event. By releasing eggs and sperm simultaneously there is more possibility to form different genetic combinations and a better chance at escaping hungry predators.

There is a very good chance that Bonaire's star corals will be spawning on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week (11, 12 and 13 of October). The best time to see it is between 9:30 and 10:30 pm. Star corals will be releasing their eggs and sperm into the water, which will be an amazing sight to see. But keep an eye out for beautiful **brittle stars**, because they will be performing an interesting side show during the coral spawning event. Brittle stars are closely related to **seastars (starfish)**. Using their flexible arms, they crawl across the ocean floor in search of food and mates.

During the day these critters are mostly found hiding in coral, sponges, and rocks. At night they move out into the open to feed, especially during coral spawning. If you see brittle stars, be very careful with your dive light – if you shine it directly on them, they will be scared off as they are very sensitive to light. It's better if you shine just the edge of your flashlight towards them so that they are somewhat illuminated, but aren't disturbed from what they are doing. During the coral spawn, brittle stars wait with all five arms spread out on the coral's surface in anticipation of the feast to come. They greedily feed on the eggs that corals release. Sometimes they grab so many egg packets with so many of their arms that they literally fall off the coral! But that's not the best part. If you're lucky, you may also spot a brittle star or two on all five of their tippy toes (or is it tippy fingers?). And just what it is they are doing on their tippy toes? Releasing eggs (or sperm if it's a guy)! The brittle stars are also spawning this time of year. Will nature never cease to intrigue us? ■

Story by Mavelly Velandia, STINAPA intern, and Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting people with nature.



Bobbejan's

BBQ

"Great food, great value!!!"
Neptune, New Jersey USA - Sept. 2013

"Hopi dushi mes."
Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

"Heel erg lekker"
Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

WEEKENDS ONLY...

Friday	6-10 PM
Saturday	6-10 PM
Sunday	12-2 & 6-10 PM

What's Happening

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

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

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 Koeks 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. Entry fee based on income level.
- **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 2017: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

- **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)** -Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.
- **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market) at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month.** Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon
- **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 Liberator Simon Bolivar, across from Branderis 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

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.

• **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.

• **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.

Fridays

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

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

CRUISE SHIPS

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAP
Tuesday	October 10,	Zenith	0700-1800	1828
Thursday	October 12,	Equinox	0700-	2850
Friday	October 13,	Equinox	-1600	2850
Tuesday	October 17,	Zenith	0700-1800	1828
Monday	October 23,	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114

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.

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc,) NO MEETINGS on September 13 and 20. (Vacations)**

• Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabena 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

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 ■

Exhibitions

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit**—Terramar Museum

—**Stormvogel Salute to the Sailors** maritime photo exhibit, Plaza Resort, sponsored by Bonaire Marine Heritage Foundation and the Prins Bernard Cultural Funds.

—**Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoen Hill 19**- Call for appointment: 599 785-5002

— **Winfred Dania Exhibit**—Kaya Amsterdam 23, next to KVK.now through October 31. Hours are 9 am-2 pm, 4-8 pm.

—**Rietje Smal Art Exhibit**, Bon Bida Spa and Gym, during Bon Bida open hours, Oct. 7-15, free. See story on page 12.

Close In Events

Wednesday-Saturday, October 11-14 -Bonaire Regatta #50. More on page 9

Saturday, October 21— Clean up of the Hato roundabout to prepare for the new sculpture by staff and owners of sponsors Den Laman, Sand Dollar, Dive Friends and Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire). More page 10.

Saturday, October 21-Echo Tree Planting Day Your help is needed. Check Echo's Facebook for details

November —

Some big cruise ships are heading for Bonaire next month because their normal ports of call are not available because of hurricane damage: **Carnival Vista – November 4:** Departing Miami on an 8-day cruise to Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Carnival Ecstasy – November 5: Departing Charleston on a 10-day cruise to Aruba, Bonaire, Grand Turk and Princess Cays.

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 09	04:46 0.38 ft	09:36 0.22 ft	15:58 1.04 ft			6:25	18:20
Tue 10		00:18 -0.15 ft	05:41 0.40 ft	10:34 0.21 ft	16:49 1.09 ft	6:25	18:19
Wed 11		01:06 -0.20 ft	06:31 0.43 ft	11:32 0.20 ft	17:40 1.11 ft	6:25	18:19
Thu 12		01:51 -0.21 ft	07:17 0.47 ft	12:32 0.19 ft	18:31 1.09 ft	6:25	18:18
Fri 13		02:35 -0.20 ft	08:03 0.51 ft	13:32 0.19 ft	19:23 1.03 ft	6:25	18:18
Sat 14		03:19 -0.17 ft	08:50 0.56 ft	14:35 0.19 ft	20:16 0.94 ft	6:25	18:17
Sun 15		04:01 -0.11 ft	09:38 0.62 ft	15:43 0.20 ft	21:10 0.82 ft	6:25	18:17
Mon 16		04:43 -0.03 ft	10:26 0.67 ft	16:57 0.20 ft	22:09 0.69 ft	6:25	18:16
Tue 17		05:22 0.05 ft	11:16 0.72 ft	18:18 0.19 ft	23:17 0.57 ft	6:25	18:16
Wed 18		06:01 0.13 ft	12:05 0.77 ft	19:43 0.15 ft		6:25	18:15
Thu 19	00:38 0.46 ft	06:39 0.21 ft	12:53 0.81 ft	21:03 0.09 ft	New Moon	6:25	18:15
Fri 20	02:14 0.40 ft	07:15 0.28 ft	13:40 0.84 ft	22:11 0.03 ft		6:26	18:14
Sat 21	03:52 0.38 ft	07:52 0.33 ft	14:24 0.86 ft	23:05 -0.02 ft		6:26	18:14
Sun 22	05:14 0.39 ft	08:32 0.37 ft	15:05 0.87 ft	23:50 -0.05 ft		6:26	18:13
Mon 23	06:12 0.41 ft	09:17 0.39 ft	15:44 0.88 ft			6:26	18:13



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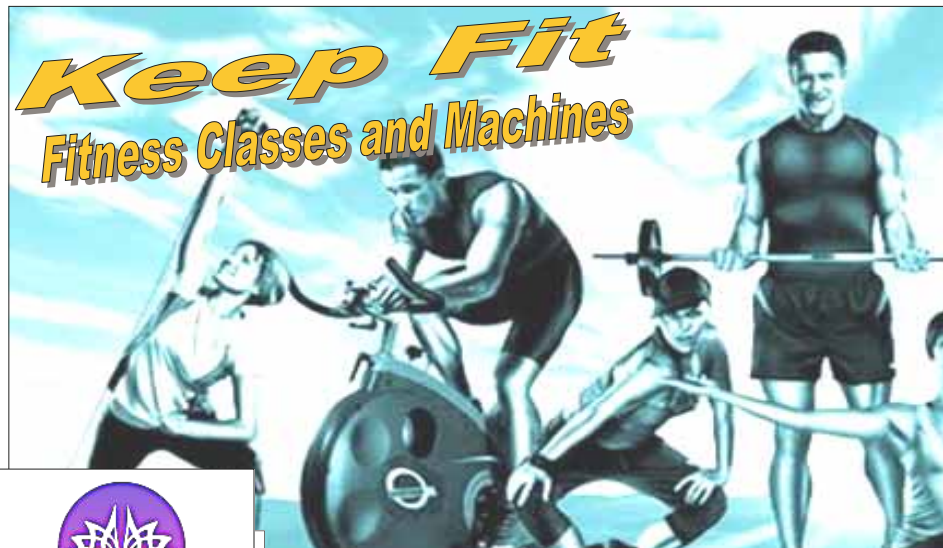
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Facebook® and at: www.bonairereporter.com

Reporters: James Albury, Angliet Nature Lover, Gordon Darrock, Caren Eck-
rich, Patrick Holian, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden-Disko, Captain Don Stewart
(e.p.d.) Chemaine Petit-Booi, Debby Rauwers, Dean Regas, Sun Signs Horo-
scope, Mavelly Velandia

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Air-
line, Ava Rose Wuyts (Assistant)

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

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ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

Pet Of The Week

Caring for the 100+ animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire is a lot of work and it requires more than just caring for the animals. There are a wide variety of needs requiring a variety of skills for which the Shelter relies on dedicated volunteers. If you have a few hours or days to spare, Animal Shelter Bonaire would love to have your support. Here are just a few of the areas in which you can help.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE Help with weed control, grass and tree trimming and general "landscaping." Once a month during Shelter opening hours.

SEWING AND SEWING REPAIRS The cat hammocks in the Cat Palace and Kitten Kresh occasionally need repair and/or need replacement. Help with making and repairing the hammocks can be done at your convenience.

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE Painting, fence repair, kennel repair, general maintenance. At your convenience during shelter opening hours.

WEBSITE MAINTENANCE The Shelter needs a creative person who can update and maintain our website on a regular basis. We will help with providing needed information and you can work at home to keep our website current.

ANIMAL CARE AND CLEANING We are always looking for people who want to be "hands on" with our cats and dogs. If you have a few hours between 8 am and 10 am to help clean the cages and kennels and care for our residents your help is always needed. You can pick the day/days of the week you are available to help.

SOCIALIZING WITH THE ANIMALS Socialization of our residents is an important step in preparing them for their future homes. We welcome volunteers Tuesday through Friday between 3 and 5 pm to spend "fun time" with the cats and dogs.

DONATIONS OF USED ITEMS The Shelter's Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market Store) is always in need



of any kind of used items: furniture, clothes, kitchen items, bedding, etc. The store offers island residents items at bargain prices and helps the Shelter generate funds for the island sterilization project. You can bring your items to the Shelter or directly to the Pakus on Saturdays from 8 am to 5 pm. For large items, you can request them to be picked up at your home.

If you are willing to volunteer in any of these areas please contact Animal Shelter Bonaire at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or pass by the shelter Tuesday through Friday 9 am to 12noon and 3 – 5 pm and let us know how you'd like to help. ■ *Story by Jane Madden- Disko.*



SWEET REESE

During her "photo shoot," Reese decided that this was her favorite photo....she went into this pose several times until she got it exactly right! Reese is a very affectionate and sweet dog. She'll follow you around everywhere and loves to cuddle. Although a bit too big to be a lap dog, she thinks she would be an excellent one! Reese is a 3 year old medium size dog who would make a very faithful and loving companion for her human family. She is calm in nature and very smart. Reese gets along well with other dogs but would have no problem adapting as an "only dog." She is healthy, sterilized and vaccinated and ready for a forever home. Please come and visit Reese and find out what a wonderful companion she would be. Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday 9 am-12noon and 3-5 pm and Saturdays 8 am - 3pm non-stop. 717-4989. ■ *Jane Madden-Disko.*

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)

► **Curaçao taxis will soon be required to meter their trips.** The Curacao Ministry of Economic Affairs reached agreement with drivers and the labor union. A date for the introduction of the taxi meters is not yet known. Bonaire currently has no plans to do the same.

► **As a result of the devastation from hurricane Irma, the RCN Unit of Social Affairs and Labor has taken several temporary measures to assist affected people from Saba and St. Eustatius, and evacuees of St. Maarten**

- People on social assistance can apply for a temporary extra allowance.
- Residents of Saba or St. Eustatius who lost their income because the company they work for is closed, can apply for temporary assistance.
- Residents who have suffered from loss of vital household goods (e.g. bed, gas stove, refrigerator etc.), and who cannot afford to replace them, can apply for special assistance.
- People in the BES Islands who provide homes for children under 18 from St. Maarten can apply for child benefits.
- Dutch citizens from St. Maarten who came temporarily to Bonaire, St. Eustatius or Saba, can apply for general assistance depending on their financial situation.
- Work permits for certain professional groups can be issued to employers, for example teachers and construction workers, faster.

► **Some people criticize the way the local government has been churning, but the government of Mother Country, Holland, has its own issues. The longer the process to form a new coalition takes place,**

the more the Netherlands is becoming a country run by two governments with a shared prime minister.

The wedding together of Rutte III cabinet has been such a slow-drip process that its predecessor is now the longest-serving government in Dutch democratic history.

While the coalition-in-waiting has been tying itself in knots over marginal issues such as embryo research and whether children should learn the national anthem in school, it has been left to the departing ministers to sort out the heavyweight issues.

Conventionally outgoing governments are hamstrung by indecision and mistrust while their successors exude purpose, energy and confidence. For the Netherlands' two governments the roles appear to have been reversed. As the coalition talks grind on Rutte is in danger of discovering that not only has he been overtaken on the inside lane by his old administration, but the strain of trying to make up the ground may send the wheels spinning off his new vehicle. *By Gordon Darroch*



► **Bonaire has a new TV channel that focuses on local events.** B-onair, which was introduced last month on the Internet, is now on Telbo channel #61.

► **We welcome the MULTISHOP to our family of advertisers.** If you want a real made on Bonaire souvenir pass by their shop on the Sand Dollar northern hotel row.

► **And returning to advertise is Namaste Spa at the Habitat Hotel.** Go there to relax and be pampered. ■ *G.L.D.*



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THE STARS HAVE IT

Early October 2017

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. Use your added discipline to get what you want. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) If you haven't already, don't be afraid to start your own small business on the side. Don't blow situations out of proportion. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades. Try spending the day catching up on any responsibilities that need to be taken care of. Expect problems with settlements that you are trying to resolve. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave them alone. Travel will be to your advantage; however, it might be expensive. Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home. You will be able to work with fine detail this week. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You may want to pull out some of those unfinished project you've got tucked away. You won't be able to keep a secret. Your business sense will be leading you in a direction that indicates more travel and communication. Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You must watch your tendency to spend whatever you make. Don't deny yourself this week. Communication will be your strong point and you should be able to persuade others to see things your way. Try to spend time with those having

similar interests. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Avoid letting children and friends borrow. Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Consider making pleasure trips or participating in entertainment that will require energy. It's time you let your true feelings out. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Follow your gut feeling regarding your business ventures. Nothing can be resolved if you don't want to talk about it. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Try to be understanding. You must not let fellow workers take advantage of your fine talents. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. Try to get others to stand behind your good judgment. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. You're in a high cycle for romance. Don't let your health suffer because of worry. Talk to someone you trust. Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Family trips or projects should be on your mind. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. You have bent over backward trying to help them and now it's time to let them stand on their own two feet. Channel your energy wisely and you can score points with the boss. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Romance is likely if you participate in unusual forms of entertainment. Too much talk might lead to hassles. You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday. ■ *SunSigns Horoscope*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Perseus And The Seven Sisters

Autumn is finally here and there's a very special constellation that's going to be making its reappearance in the early evening sky in a few weeks. **Perseus the Hero** is back, and not only is he associated with a great story in the sky, but he also has some interesting celestial company.

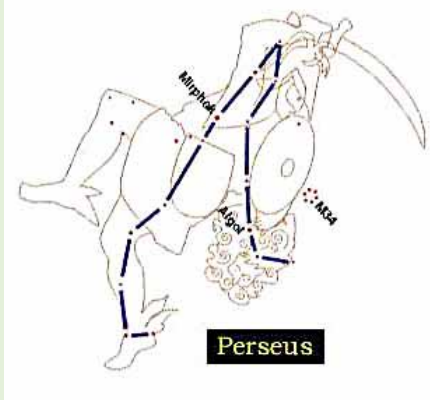
Sometime this week face east northeast. If you look near the eastern horizon, you'll see what looks like a tiny little dipper-shaped cluster of stars, the beautiful **Seven Sisters**. Now, most people can see only six stars here with the naked eye, but if you have really good eyesight you may see seven. And with a pair of binoculars you can see several dozen. In reality however, there are over 250 stars, all much larger than our own Sun, and burning much, much hotter. Cosmically speaking, they're not very distant, only 400 light years away which means that we see the Pleiades not as they exist now, but as they existed 400 years ago, at about the same time **Galileo** trained a telescope on them and discovered them to be a family of dozens of suns.

Nearby we have the double cluster, which officially belongs to the Constellation Perseus. First look up and to the right of the **North Star** where you'll see the five stars that trace out the 'm'-shaped constellation of **Cassiopeia, the Queen**. Then just to the right of Cassiopeia you'll see two faint, fuzzy, q-tip like objects, and if you are far away from lights, you'll notice that they are embedded in the river of light we call the **Milky Way**.

These two dim fuzzy blobs are called the **Double Cluster of Perseus**. Each has about 100 more stars than the **Pleiades**. The reason they don't present as dramatic an appearance as the Pleiades is because they are a whopping 7,000 light years away, much further away than the Pleiades, which means we see them not as they exist now, but as they existed 7000 years ago.

However, like the Pleiades, the Double Cluster also consists of super-hot, blue-white stars. and through a pair of binoculars you may be able to detect a few much cooler red ones.

Imagine, if you can, what the Twin Clusters of Perseus would look like if they could be magically positioned in our skies as close as the Seven Sisters are. They'd be a daz-



zling sight to see.

Speaking of dazzling stars, there are two in Perseus that we want you to check out around 11 pm. At the center

Of the constellation Perseus, you'll see a star named **Mirfak**. Mirfak is Arabic for elbow. German astronomer **Johann Bayer** named this star **Alpha Persei**. It's a super-giant star 590 light years from **Earth**. To the right of Mirfak we see Perseus holding something in his outstretched arm. To the ancient Greeks it's the star **Algol** a.k.a. the winking eye of Medusa. She's the gorgon with snakes for hair. But other cultures had some very frightening names for this star, like: the specter's head, ghost's head, Satan's head, the double eye, and piled up corpses! Why such scary names?

Well, Algol is no ordinary star. It's a special type of star called an **Eclipsing Variable**. Algol is really two stars that orbit each other. When the bigger, dimmer star blocks the light of the smaller brighter star, Algol dims like clockwork every 2.87 days.

Perseus is using Medusa's head to save Princess Andromeda from a briny behemoth - the sea monster, **Cetus**. Look farther to the southeast, and maybe you can make out the sea monster. His outline looks like a recliner chair.

Nevertheless, this was **Poseidon's** vicious pet sea monster who we see turned to stone by...Medusa's head! Algol strikes again.

So go outside and check out the Pleiades and the double cluster of Perseus, along with Mirfak, his elbow... and Algol, the winking eye of Medusa. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



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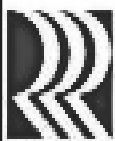
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