

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** July 16-30, 2018, Year 25, Issue 15  
**The REPORTER**

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**Pothole Plague  
Page 7**

Alan Zale Photo

**T**he Dutch Cabinet has made €30 million available to invest in Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. Just 32% of those millions are for Bonaire who has 3x more people. Bonaire's eligible projects include:

- ◆-contribution to sustainable fuel supply on Bonaire-\$5M;
- ◆-stimulating the social housing on Bonaire-\$2.5M;
- ◆-development of plans for agricultural development, and improving the slaughterhouse on Bonaire-1.5M;
- ◆-development of plans and stimulating employment services through a job center on Bonaire;
- ◆-improving the connection between education and the labor market.

**But there is a "catch."** The investments above will be made "the moment that there is good governance and sound financial management." State Secretary Knops is in contact with the executive council of Bonaire about the improvements that are necessary and the way he can support them in this. The State Secretary would like to come to a governmental agreement with the public entity of Bonaire, in which priority themes are covered and in which further concrete detailing is given to good governance. The resources for the projects for Bonaire will be assigned as soon as this governmental agreement is ready, when there is agreement on good governance and financial management and the management plans for the projects are ready.

► **People who need special social support for illness or disabilities like home cleaning, meal supply, transportation and handyman work on houses,** can now get it via the Health Insurance Office BES (ZVK). Although the Dutch Social Support Act (*Wet*

*Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning* WMO) does not apply to the BES Islands, an agreement for Bonaire's *Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido* (FKBO) was adopted last week.

► **InselAir is again expanding.** It started new flights from Curacao to St. Maarten and Paramaribo on June 28 and July 6, respectively, with an E190 leased from Conviasa (Venezuela). Meanwhile, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Curacao) and a consortium of other InselAir lenders got some of their money back when Aero-task (UAE) successfully closed the sale of six P&W JT8D jet engines and two of their old MD80s. Next week InselAir is expected to announce its new strategic partner. Curacao Minister of Economic Development Steven Martina will choose from four candidates. The partner gets 49% of the shares. The controlling majority remains in the hands of the government of Curaçao.

Although not announced, the InselAir on-line website lists future CUR-MIA flights.



► **It's relatively simple for foreigners to get married here.** Destination weddings have been popular for over 30 years on Bonaire. To smooth the process consider the following:

The request must be submitted eight weeks before the wedding date with the necessary documents:

- Copy of your birth certificate, not older than one year.
- Certificate of civil status, not



► **Sargassum is back.** It began to wash in at the end of last week along Bonaire's eastern shore. Thick mats were along the shoreline at Lac Bay and Lagoen (above) as we went to press. A loader was already at work in Lagoen cleaning up.

Experts have predicted, based on satellite surveillance, that sargassum will become a perennial problem, most likely resulting from algae blooms off the eastern coast of South America as well as from the North Atlantic's Sargasso Sea.

older than six months.

- Certified copies of your passports.

In the event that you have been married before, you must submit a divorce certificate or death certificate from your former partner, not older than six months.

Depending on where you were born, an *apostille* or legalization of documents may be required.

In accordance with the law, the civil affairs officer may request additional documents if necessary. All this information also applies to marriages between people of the same sex.

If there are any questions, the couple can send an email to [burgerzaken@bonairegov.com](mailto:burgerzaken@bonairegov.com) or by calling 599 717 2211.

► **This summer Trans World Radio is organizing a color contest for Bonaireans of all ages.** A coloring page of the beautiful underwater painting at TWR was distributed at all primary schools of Bonaire and in the EXTRA Papiamentu newspaper. The coloring page can



See the WORKS of the *Isabel and Anish from the Pelikaan school drop off their entries.*

also be downloaded at [www.twrbonaire.com/coloring](http://www.twrbonaire.com/coloring) After coloring it in, you can drop it off in a special mailbox

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) that stands outside by the underwater painting mural at Kaya Gob.N. Debrot 64, at the Hato roundabout. The last date that coloring pages can be submitted is August 30, at 4pm. () The winners will be announced in September. Do not forget to write your name, address and age on the coloring page.

► **The final exam results for this year were much better than in previous years.** More than 81% of the community high school (SGB) exam candidates passed the end-of-year Central Examination. This is 7% higher than the three previous school years, which topped out at 74%.

Results of the different tracks

- 89% of the VMBO (Vocational) track was again the leader.
- 86% of the MAVO exam candidates passed, an increase of 18%.
- 60% of HAVO graduates are successful, 1% more than in 2017 and
- 83% of VWO graduates, by 20% more than in the last school year.

Last week the certificates and diplomas were presented to the large group of successful students.

► **The Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter to Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna about the plan to close the South Pier.** The news—that for renovation, the south pier would be completely closed for three months—came as a surprise for everyone on the island. The entrepreneurs who are dependent on the import of goods seem to be hit hard by this, and a number

of companies in the construction sector in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce drafted the letter and sent it to the Lieutenant Governor.

The Chamber of Commerce offered a proposal, by letter, to open the Pier twice a week in August and September so container and bulk carriers can deliver the necessary stock to the island. The letter also proposes to extend the working hours of the staff working on the pier so that there is no delay. As far as known, there is no work on the South Pier during the weekend or in the evening.

► **Rules for drone operations are finally established for the BES Islands.** Violation of the rules, according to the Public Prosecutor, can result in jail time, a fine or confiscation of the drone. Civil liability damages are applicable in situations of personal injury.

A recent verdict by the Court of First Instance in Bonaire resulted in a drone pilot receiving a suspended prison sentence and one-year probation, for illegally flying the drone over the Bonaire prison.

**Guidelines:**

- ◆ Drone weight under 25 kg.
- ◆ Maximum altitude 120 meters
- ◆ Prohibited to fly over prisons, crowds and active construction sites
- ◆ No night flights
- ◆ While in flight the drone must remain visible at all times.
- ◆ Prohibited to fly in the vicinity of the air traffic control tower of any airport.
- ◆ Airplanes and helicopters should always be given priority.

(Continued on page 6)

#### NOCHI COFFIE PAINTS HUGE.

Nochi Coffie, one of the best known artists on Bonaire, recently completed a mural at Divi Flamingo's on-the-water Chibi Chibi Restaurant. This time Nochi shows the beauty of nature underwater and it's pretty spectacular. Bonaire icon, Nochi, has been practicing art for more than 40 years and has instructed children and adults in the artistic medium. His work is here in Bonaire, in Holland, Curacao and Aruba. Stop by the Chibi Chibi to see the completed work.



#### DONKEYS SPOTTED NEAR THE HATO ROUNDABOUT

Seen last week was a herd of donkeys, all blond, on their way to inspect the beautiful new sculpture garden at the Hato Roundabout. We're not sure but perhaps they were going to test the theory that the installation is donkey proof. Whatever their intent they were most happy to pose for a photo.



Laura DeSalvo photos

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## PLASTIC BAG NIGHTMARE

TO ALL WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EARTH:

Everybody in the world is crying out about living responsibly, doing the right thing, hoping that our kid's kids have a

world to live in with the possibilities we still have and that there are still places which we could call real Nature.

Everywhere in the world MONEY is the motivation behind everything: Amazonas, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, and so on. Now this is where I have doubts about Bonaire. Rules of the Marine Park, Do Not Touch the Corals, Help the Turtles, Don't Fish... and so on.

I was in a Chinese supermarket some days ago. A customer born in Bonaire, bought four small items, two onions, some carrots, a can of something and cigarettes. Each of these items was put in a separate PLASTIC BAG, and then the four PLASTIC BAGS were put in one bigger plastic bag for easier handling.

So one customer with four items ended up for convenience with five plastic bags.....Just one question: Where do these bags end up? Mathematic is a hobby of mine, so let's do a simple calculation: 1,000 customers per day, average two bags a day, makes 2,000 plastic bags per day, times 30, makes 60,000 per month, times 12 month, equals 720,000 bags a year, let's say the last 10 years.....7,200,000 bags in the sea, in the *mondi*, at the Landfill. And this is Bonaire, a small island.

There is a little country in Africa, Ruanda, which banned plastic bags and Styrofoam, and became the first nation in the world to officially banned these items. They cleaned up their country and you will not find any garbage on their streets. Tourists with plastic bags in their luggage have to leave them at the airport... Third World Country and yet so far ahead.



One extremely poor country, a hell of a good idea.

So why is it that everybody is screaming about the environment and at the same time leaving a supermarket with 12 plastic bags and three takeaway containers out of Styrofoam for convenience? Just stop pretending and be honest; let's give everybody a spear gun, and fish where ever you want, same difference. The environment always comes second or third.

We have to stop pretending and start doing. Straws- you can buy them made from environmental and self-dissolving material or made from bamboo. They are more expensive. So what? Make your drink 10 cents more expensive and it is covered.

Bonaire Marine Park, big words, but not enough. You want to change the "World." You have to start with the basics... Baby Steps.

Ban the plastic bags and the straws, have classes in school, not when the kids are 15, 16. No, when they are in kindergarten. This is where it starts. Basics.

Budget Marine stopped with plastic years ago. It uses reusable bags and recycled paper bags. Why can't we all do this and really change the downhill ride we are on of destroying what's left of Bonaire, the Caribbean, and the World?

To start a 1,000 mile long journey, you have to make the first step, and that is the most difficult one.

So let's make this one, very difficult but necessary step!

-A person who loves nature,  
Peter Werdath

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Silver Falls State Park in Oregon.

Louise & Denis Marquering from Corvallis, Oregon, write, "We enjoy reading *The Bonaire Reporter* when we are back home.

I have attached a photo of us at Silver Falls State Park in Oregon. There are over 10 waterfalls and the trail goes underneath four of them!

We have made 14 trips to Bonaire!"

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands (CN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). All 2018 photos are eligible for the next contest.



Sand Dollar is accepting applications for the following job opportunities:

### HOTEL OPERATIONS MANAGER

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Hotel Operations Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Sand Dollar Condominiums Hotel Rental Program. The Hotel Manager is accountable for general operations and all hotel services, sales and marketing strategies, financial management and human resources associated with the rental program. The Manager will supervise approximately 10 staff.

We are looking for the right candidate with the following education and skills

- degree in Hotel Management or a minimum 3 years experience in a similar position
- goal oriented individual with a hands-on mentality
- strong expense control and financial management skills
- excellent organizational, multitasking and problem solving skills
- excellent customer service, public relations and communications skills
- ability to travel to market and promote the business
- strong computer literacy in Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, etc.)
- Fluent in English. Dutch, Papiamentu and Spanish are a plus

### CONDO PROPERTY MANAGER

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Condo Property Manager is responsible for the planning, supervising, organizing, security, financial management and day-to-day general property management of the 85 unit Sand Dollar Condominium Complex. The Manager will oversee the maintenance and repair of the commonly owned buildings, property and fleet; work with owners to coordinate and assist with unit renovations; ensure all IT and operational equipment are in good working order and supervise approximately 10 staff.

We are looking for the right candidate with the following education and skills:

- a degree in Facilities Management or a minimum 3 years experience in a similar position
- construction and maintenance oriented with a hands-on mentality
- strong expense control and financial management skills
- good working knowledge of ICT and Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, etc.)
- goal oriented, self driven individual with a hands-on mentality
- good, accurate communication skills, both written and verbal
- Fluent in English. Dutch, Papiamentu and Spanish are a plus

For more information, or to apply for a position, please send a covering letter with your curriculum vitae to [board@sanddollarboniare.com](mailto:board@sanddollarboniare.com) by July 31, 2018

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# On the Island Since... 2000 – Kanchan Kundnani



**Kanchan Kundnani,**  
self portrait

“I come from the center of India; Pune is my hometown. It’s a very modern metropolitan city with huge shopping malls, multiplexes and big universities. Therefore it’s called the ‘education hub.’ It’s the ninth most populous city in the country. I was born and brought up there, then I got married and came directly to Bonaire. I just followed my husband who had settled on Bonaire.

So, when I arrived here it was very, very different! In India you have friends, sisters, family, neighbors, and you are never alone. To be alone in India is the hardest thing and it hardly ever happens, because there is always someone who cares for you, even when you sneeze someone will say, ‘Bless you, are you okay?’

When I came to Bonaire, to our small rental apartment, one of four, all with bars on the windows and right next to Bon Awa, the very same day the owners of Bon Awa were murdered. I got so scared and I thought, ‘Is Bonaire like this?’ It was freaky! But soon I found out that Bonaire was very quiet; no traffic, no people. The only thing I knew was that one neighbor had a red car and the other one a blue car, but I never saw the people and I didn’t speak the language. The first word I learned was ‘Si’. I would speak to my housekeeper in English, presuming the whole world knew how to speak English, but she only spoke Spanish and would answer ‘Si, si si!’ And I would ask my husband, what does she mean?

The first six months were very difficult. I missed my family, and smart phones or Skype didn’t exist. We would go to one of the internet places and email our family. And we would take pic-



*A happy henna client at Wilhelmina Plaza*

tures and have them printed at Paradise Photo. Then we would send them to the family by post and it would take one month for the pictures to arrive in India. That’s how it was back then.

The only person I knew was my husband. I had no family and no friends. I was a vegetarian and the only vegetarian food you could get was *batata ku pin-dasous* (fried potato with peanut sauce) and I loved it. That was the first food from Bonaire I got introduced to. Then my husband wanted me to cook non-vegetarian food, which I didn’t know how to prepare because I come from a vegetarian family and I never had even touched meat or chicken. I had never even seen it. Then he got me a whole chicken and I had to cut it up. It was a nightmare. I felt like I had killed someone and I cried for two days; it was so painful for me.

When I started learning the ways of Bonaire and the language and when I started working in a shop I got to know people and my circle grew. I was working at the store from 8am till 8pm, then I would go home and do the chores there. I did not know how to swim but we would go for drives and we took pictures of the salt mountains and we told my family in the letter that it was snow, just joking.

In 2002 I had my first child, a boy. He was a premature baby. I had some complications and they sent me to Curacao. I thought I would be back in three days, but I came home after four months. The baby had some challenges and the first two years we had to work really hard with him, then he was much better. Now he’s perfectly fine; he’s 16, a big boy. The following year I took him to India so the family could see him. It was amazing to be back and be with my family and eat Indian food which is the best on this planet, but I was also happy

to return to Bonaire, and the drive from the airport to our house was the best thing to happen. It felt so good to be home. In three years I’d grown to like the peace and quiet.

In 2004 I had my second baby, again a boy. He was also born on Curacao, but it went much better. His birthday is this week, the 21<sup>st</sup> and he’s going to be 14. Both boys are going to Liseo. They love to travel and explore the bigger world, and if all goes well one wants to go study in the US and the other one in Holland.

**“Henna is about beauty; it’s to adorn yourself, to make yourself prettier. Firstly it’s a medicinal herbal plant with a lot of benefits...”**

In 2014 I went to India and brought back some henna with me. Then, in 2015, I had an accident. I was working at Forma as a teacher and we had a sports day and were playing the jumping sack race. The sack was too small and it twisted around my legs and I fell and broke my leg in two, literally. They rushed me by air ambulance to Aruba for surgery and it took me 18 months to get back to normal. It was really painful, worse than having a child. But that’s when I got into henna, to keep myself busy. They say, ‘In every setback there’s a gift,’ and I found my gift of henna in this.

In India henna is part of the culture. When a baby is six months old we put henna on them. Henna is about beauty; it’s to adorn yourself, to make yourself prettier. Firstly it’s a medicinal herbal plant with a lot of benefits, like being anti-fungal, anti-viral and it helps to cool down the body temperature. So, basically when you do henna, it



*Getting a henna tattoo is always fun... and painless*

relaxes you and makes you beautiful at the same time. When I was 12 I started taking classes in henna, however, I didn’t really pursue it until after I had the accident in 2015. Then I started practicing and went deeper into it. I dug out my old skills and polished them. That’s how my henna journey started and now I love doing it.

To me, doing henna feels like meditation. You make people smile, they feel happy and seeing them happy makes me feel happy. I do henna at the cruise

photos to get a real tattoo of the same design when she got home. There are also people with scars who find themselves ugly. They come to me and once I’ve put on the henna they see the same scar as beautiful. There was a 16 year old girl from Colombia with a scar from the waist to the ankle and I turned it into a work of art, and finally she dared to wear a bikini. It really means a lot to people. Also, before getting a real tattoo, you can do henna and see if you like it and whether you should do the real tattoo or not. And if you have a body part you’re not so proud of, adorn it with something beautiful, a tattoo, a piercing, or henna and then the perception of that part changes.

I am also doing private appointments, birthday parties and baby showers and bridal parties, anything. It’s entertainment, it’s fun. **Just go to my Facebook page, Henna Studio Bonaire, and text me or call 782-1855.**

I’ve started creating henna art as well, which I’m selling at the market, and now I’m preparing for the coming season. Next to that I teach English classes and I’m a mommy and that never finishes. I am not a party person, but I love socializing or going snorkeling with the boys and I always keep myself available for them.

I still travel and every place has the good and lesser things. But Bonaire feels like my home; I can travel everywhere and do everything and then I come back to my home as this is where I belong now.” ■

*Story by Greta Kooistra.*

*Photos by Kanchan Kundnani*



*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)*

- ◆ Taking photos and videos are OK provided privacy is respected.
- ◆ If a person is injured by a drone in flight, the victim can hold the drone operator liable.
- ◆ A permit is required when a drone is being used for business purposes and different rules apply.
- ◆ Environmental protection penalties may also be applied if drones disturb the flamingo or other nature sanctuaries.

► Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reports that in 2017, **46% of Bonaire's population aged 15 years or older paid a visit to the dentist.** This is fewer than in 2013, when 56% of the residents had a dental visit.

► This summer **Bonaire's primary school children are invited to the Terramar Museum** for 1½ hours every Wednesday afternoon for the *Buki di Pret* (Fun Books) program of reading and games.

**Xiomara Frans** will read aloud from her own book, *Opi di Boxer*, in Papiamentu. The story is about her own father who was a professional boxer in the 1950s and 1960s, who boxed in matches usually held in Europe.

**Marjan** will read *Gabriel With The Pirates in Dutch* for the older children.

A drink and a treasure hunt in the museum will follow the reading. Cost is \$2. More dates and reservations on page 12, "Close In Events."

► Last week on July 10th, STINAPA ranger **Luigi Eybrecht** filmed a **West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) swimming near Bonaire's fringing reefs.** This may be the first confirmed sighting of a manatee in Bonaire. Manatees are harmless marine mammals, also called sea cows, which feed on marine plants including sea grass, algae and even mangrove leaves. The West Indian manatee subspecies is endangered with an estimated population of 2,500 mature individuals, although very little is known about their population and distribution. *Source -STINAPA. More manatee information, see "Did You Know" column on page 7.*

► **Bonaire Basics on Kaya Korona is reopening.** Although they have been around for several years this is a fresh new start. The building, surrounding a cozy central terrace,




will house the six core pillars of Bonaire Basics: physiotherapy, bodywork, fitness, flex spaces, education and a café. Welcome back, Bonaire Basics. We have missed you!

► **Welcome de Jong, BV, to The Reporter's list of advertisers.** If you need paving for new construction or simply

want your surroundings improved consider their stone, tile or brick *klinker* pavers instead of traditional asphalt and concrete. It is more attractive, efficient, cost effective, eco-friendly and **economical.** A wide variety of clinkers and pavers are showcased beautifully at their facility on Kaya Amsterdam. **See their ad on page 2** for more information. □ *G./L.D.*

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**Yoga Terrace at Eden Beach**— Offers yoga classes M-F 8-9am, Monday 5:30pm, Saturday 9am

### ON and IN the WATER

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

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### RESTAURANTS

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

### RETAIL

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

**The Tung Fong Store** is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 2.

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



### SECURITY

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

### STORAGE

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



### SHIPPING

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# Pothole Plague **COVER STORY**



*This pothole was temporarily repaired with “diabas” over a bed of crushed stone. It washed out in the next rain but was promptly repaired the same way.*

**P**otholes continue to plague Bonaire, and no better example is the one on Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot, in the southbound lane in front of MCB Bank. It measures 43cm (17 inches) wide, 58cm (23 inches) long and up to 16cm (6 inches) deep. Earlier this year a tourist commented that it was so big they should put a yellow rock next to it and name it as a new dive site. Recently it reached a point where vehicles heading south had to swerve into the northbound lane into oncoming traffic to go around the pothole.

As it continued to get bigger vehicles had to start alternating who would go around the pothole. A northbound vehicle would stop allowing the southbound

car into the northbound lane to go around the pothole. Then the next southbound car would stop allowing a northbound vehicle to pass. This would go back and forth, one car at a time.

On Wednesday, July 4, 2018, **Vicente H. Figaro**, Head of Public Works Management for Bonaire, and his crew, were once again making a temporary patch for this pothole. Mr. Figaro explained that the government is currently in the process of getting estimates to repair all the potholes around the island. In the future, the road will be repaved, but the temporary repairs are necessary for safety. □

*Story & Photo by Alan Zale*

## CONSUMERS WANT ACTION

**U**nkobon, the Consumers Union, and Henri Verhoef, initiator of Facebook Action for better roads on Bonaire featuring potted flowers in potholes, have joined forces.

In recent years, repeated and urgent attention has been requested from the government for the very poor condition of the roads on Bonaire. That the condition of the roads is so disastrous for the (traffic) safety of residents and tourists, that this leads to a lot of damage and costly repairs to vehicles, and also causes unnecessary dust nuisance on the island.

At the beginning of this year about 5,000 residents and visitors from Bonaire signed to draw attention to the poor state of maintenance of our roads. They believe that the state of the roads on the island is a life-size problem and that the policy makers / authorities here have to make real work of it.

The signatures were presented by Mr. Verhoef in February, with a petition to representatives of State Secretary Knops representing the Dutch government and to



*Pothole flowers*

Island Commissioner James Kroon.

No response was received.

Verhoef and Eric Booi, the Chairman of Unkobon, ask government policymakers to take action and make a concrete implementation plan with associated budget and financing to have the roads renovated. We ask the political parties in the Island Council to solve the problem. Above all, we ask you ..... the inhabitants of Bonaire to take action. □ *Henri Verhoef, initiator of a signing campaign, and Eric Booi, chairman Unkobon*

## DID YOU KNOW?



Photo Credit: Luigi Eybrecht

### Manatee around Bonaire. Could the sargassum weed in the sea be its food?

... **T**here was a manatee in Bonaire?

Manatees are large (up to 3.3 m long) marine mammals that are very chubby (up to 400 kg), quite adorable and swim very slowly. They eat seagrass, algae and other marine vegetation and, because of their appearance and diet, they are also called sea cows. The one seen in Bonaire last week was a West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), of which there are two varieties or subspecies – the Antillean Manatee and the Florida Manatee.

STINAPA ranger Luigi Eybrecht was diving near Playa when he encountered a slow swimming manatee, something he never thought he would see in Bonaire. In fact, according to **Dolfi Debrot** of Wageningen University, this may very well be the first confirmed record of a West Indian Manatee in Bonaire! He should know - He was first author in an article titled, “A historical review of records of the West Indian manatee and the American crocodile in the Dutch Antilles” (Debrot et al, 2006) in the Caribbean

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Challenge Us!



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For more information visit us at Kaya Grandi # 48, or call one of our personal banking professionals at telephone: +599 7172000.



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# Island Party

Seeing, feeling and tasting the culture of Bonaire at Mangazina di Rei's monthly cultural event, "Nos Zjilea."

This month it's on Saturday, July 28.

Take part in this cultural market, music, food, local arts and crafts, 8am-2pm. You can find Mangazina at the eastern entrance to Rincon.



Photos by Alan Zale, second from left, with his wife, Joan.



Scenes from Washington Slagbaai Park's rainy open day on July 1. Photos by Alan Zale





# Jet Bike

An electric, jet-propelled bike, originally built for fun by 13-year-old **Marcel Spruit**, might be another example of how residents of Bonaire are producing innovative ideas to protect the environment.

It wasn't the runway at Flamingo International Airport, but Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot that provided enough roadway for Marcel to demonstrate his unique bike.

Using two Electric Ducted Fan (EDF) Jets, normally used by hobbyists for radio controlled airplanes, Marcel mounted the jets on the rear of his Specialized Hardrock Sport bike he purchased a year earlier. "I had a design planned in my head and finished it in two to three days," he said.

Both his parents helped Marcel on his jet bike project. His father, **Jerome**, helped cut the wood needed to mount the project to the bike. His mother, **Agnieszka**, sponsored the project, which quickly totaled almost \$500. Marcel explained that his mother said, "It's a learning process so I will get you the parts. I support good hobbies."

Education is very important in the Spruit family. Marcel said, "We don't have a Wii or an X-Box in the house," adding, "I don't like sitting inside all day."

His mother tells him, "Do your homework first, then, if you have time, you can do your projects." Marcel admits with a smile, "Sometimes I try to sneak in my projects first."

Those projects included a radio-controlled



Marcel with the engines

(RC) car with a propeller on the back and another RC car with an EDF jet engine mounted on it.

Marcel researched all the parts online. Two EDF Jets, \$94/each, two speed controllers, \$50/each, two batteries, \$120 for the set, and the receiver and remote, \$15.

When fully charged, the batteries provide 7.8 HP and provide enough power for each jet engine to produce 3.5 kilos of thrust, for a combined total of 7 kilos of thrust. The thrust produced was so strong it broke the metal mounting frame that attached the jet engine assembly to the bike. Marcel had to secure it with tie-wraps.

Since it takes three to four hours to charge each battery, and remember there are two

batteries to charge, and yield only about five to 10 minutes of operational time, Marcel explains, "It was built more for fun than transportation."

Noticing the limited operational time, his father suggested that Marcel add a generator. Of course Marcel had already figured out that adding a generator was not possible, explaining to his dad, and anybody else who asks, that the connection plug is already being used to provide power to the speed controllers and the jets.

Marcel, and his family have lived on Bonaire for almost eight years. He just finished his first year at LiseoBoneriano High School. After his second year he will have to start choosing his major. He says it will involve physics, chemistry, and technology. After high school he hopes to attend Delft University of Technology in Holland. Besides his hobbies and projects, Marcel is a competitive swimmer with the Barracuda Swimming Club on Bonaire.

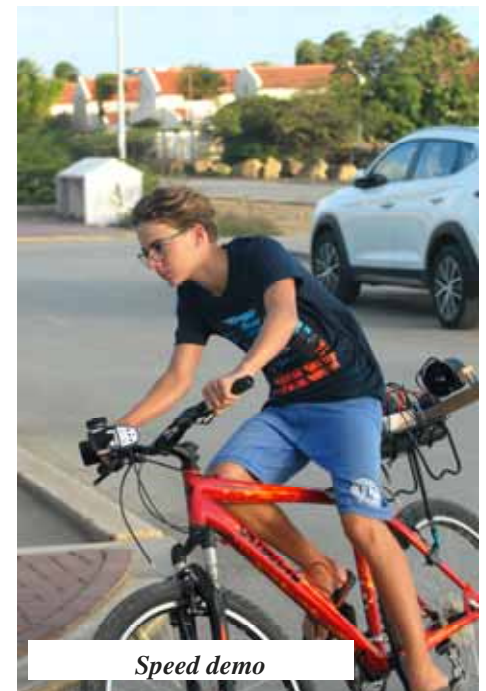
A small crowd gathered around Marcel and his bike recently in the parking lot outside Zhung Kong on Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot, as he explained and demonstrated his project to the onlookers. Everybody was impressed with the thought and detail he put into his work, along with the amount of wind power the two jet fans generated.

Marcel almost surely owns the only jet powered bike on Bonaire. As he finished explaining his project, he added with great pride and excitement, "I almost forgot the most important thing. I can get a maximum speed of 50 km (31 miles) per hour!"

That speed was quite evident as he engaged the jet engines, via the speed control-



Hand controls



Speed demo

lers on his handle bar, and rocketed home north quickly getting smaller and smaller in view to anyone watching. **Story & Photos by Alan Zale**



## Playa Lechi Residence #1



### FOR SALE Spacious Oceanfront Apartment Playa Lechi Residence #1

This cozy apartment on the ground floor is situated on a prime location in Kralendijk. From the terrace you can enjoy the fantastic views over the Caribbean Sea and enjoy the cool sea breeze. From the garden you walk straight onto the boulevard of Kralendijk

#### Highlights

- Oceanfront with spacious living room, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms
- Nice tropical garden with spacious covered terrace
- Within 5 minutes walking distance from the heart of Kralendijk
- Communal pool
- Excellent renting possibilities

#### Unique Features

- Property type: oceanfront
- Bedrooms: 2 / Bathrooms: 2
- Living area: 122 m<sup>2</sup> / Lot size: 1500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Freehold land
- Private parking lot for one car
- Kitchen: electric stove, dishwasher, oven, double sink, American refrigerator
- Separate indoor laundry room
- Outdoor storage room

Asking price:  
US\$ 519.000 + Buyers Costs



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Visit our website: [www.bonairerealty.com](http://www.bonairerealty.com)

Visit our office: Kaya Isla Riba #5 (Terramar building)

## Menopause and Weight Gain

**M**enopause (the time in a woman's life when periods stop) usually happens between the ages of 45-55 years. As well as a loss of fertility, other physical changes may happen including an increase in blood pressure, changes in cholesterol levels and weakening of the bone. These symptoms are mainly due to falling estrogen levels and can last for just a few months or for several years. The range of symptoms and how severe they are, can be different for each woman. Early symptoms can include weight gain, hot flashes, night sweats, irritability, poor concentration, more frequent headaches, joint pains and irregular or heavy periods. Over the long-term, loss of estrogen increases the risk of heart disease and bone weakness.

### WEIGHT GAIN

During menopause, muscle mass reduces, meaning that fewer calories may be needed. Over time this can lead to weight gain. Being careful about energy intake and doing more physical activity can help prevent weight gain. Thirty minutes of fast walking a day could lead to around 7kg (15lb) weight loss in a year, and also reduce the risk of heart disease. From the age of about 35, there is a slow loss of calcium from the bones in both men and women. However, this increases during menopause because of the loss of estrogen.

Many nutrients help keep bones healthy, so it's important that the diet is balanced. You can do this by choosing a variety of foods and consuming plenty of fruit, vegetables and foods from the milk and dairy group as these are a source of calcium. For most women this would mean aiming for two to three portions of calcium-rich foods every day like semi-skimmed milk, cheese, yoghurt or a milk-based pudding like custard or rice pudding. Vitamin D is also very important for bone health. It is made in the skin in response to sunlight.

Women over the age of 65, those with dark skin from African, African-Caribbean and South Asian backgrounds or who have low sunlight exposure tolerance should consider taking a vitamin D supplement of 10 mcg per day all year round.

Foods that contain vitamin D include: oily fish, cod liver oil, red meat, butter and margarine, fortified cereals, and eggs.

### HEART HEALTH

It is thought that during menopause a woman's risk of developing heart disease goes up to the same level as man's of the same age. There are some very simple lifestyle changes you can make to reduce the risk:

#### Eat fewer saturated and trans fats:

-Cut down on fatty meat products, choose lean cuts of meat, avoid processed meat products.



- Cut back on fats and oils high in saturates such as lard, ghee, and coconut oil.
- Use fats that are high in unsaturated fat (monounsaturates and polyunsaturates), such as rapeseed, olive and sunflower oils/ spreads, avocado, unsalted nuts, and oily fish
- Choose semi-skimmed, 1% or skimmed milk rather than whole dairy products
- Grill rather than fry foods whenever possible and go easy with creamy and cheesy sauces (e.g. carbonara).
- Reduce your intake of processed foods such as crisps, biscuits and pies.
- Reduce your intake of refined sugars like sweets, cakes and soft drinks.
- Moderate intake of caffeine from drinks like coffee, tea and colas or choose decaffeinated drinks if you are sensitive to its stimulatory effects. Keep to sensible alcohol limits – no more than 2-3 units per day or avoid altogether if you feel it makes symptoms worse.
- Reduce salt by avoiding processed foods like ready meals and cooking sauces
- Aim for at least two portions of fish per week, one which should be oily fish like canned sardines, mackerel, salmon, fresh tuna, trout and herrings.
- Eat a minimum of five different colored fruits and vegetables each day
- Eat some fiber containing foods every day: Oats, wholegrain cereals and breads as well as pulses like lentils, chickpeas and beans are all excellent sources.

#### What about plant estrogens?

Plant estrogens are a group of substances found in plant foods such as soy and red clover. They are similar, but much weaker than human estrogen. It is thought that if they are eaten regularly they may have positive health benefits including reducing hot flushes and improving levels of fat in the blood, but more research is needed before the helpful benefits of plant estrogen are proven. Sources of plant estrogen include calcium-enriched soya products like milk, yoghurts and soya and linseed breads or a red clover supplement.

If you think you might want to take nutritional supplements, get some advice from your dietitian, doctor or pharmacist. □

Lucinda van der Wardt

Lucinda van der Wardt has been a registered dietitian and sports instructor for more than 20 years. After working for more than 10 years in a University hospital in Amsterdam and later in her private practice she is currently owner of Food and Vitality Dietitian practice located at Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk.

More info: [www.foodandvitality.info](http://www.foodandvitality.info)



## Where's The Hotel?

**I**s the construction of a major new hotel about to begin? Three large, blue shipping containers, along with some fencing, appeared at the Hato traffic circle, near the entrance to the old ex-Bonaire/Sunset Beach at the end of last month. In 2016, the mega tour group TUI announced plans to construct a \$30 million, 197-room, "green" resort with full public access to the beach, on the site of the original Bonaire Beach, later Sunset Beach Hotel. It will be named the Chogogo Hotel under the Time to Smile brand, similar to the TUI Chogogo resort on Curacao. Construction was to begin in the second half of 2017 with completion 2½ years later.

Once a showcase resort hotel with casino attracting vacationers from the US, Sunset Beach closed approximately 20 years ago. The property sat abandoned for many years, eventually being destroyed by a fire and then finally torn down.

It has sat mostly vacant, until the now-popular Coco Beach Bar was constructed in a corner of the property. Signs came and went announcing projects that were to be built on the site but never materialized. Ironically, prices and accommodation information about the old Sunset Beach Hotel can still be found on the web, though last updated in 1998. The original Sunset Beach Hotel sign, faded over time by the elements and partially covered by flyers, still stands. □ Photo & story by Alan Zale

## Penny Lane Exchange

The Fashion Revolution



Penny Lane is one flight upstairs of La Terraza, downtown Kralendijk

Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio's Ice Cream,  
**Shopping Hours:** Tues: 10am to 5:30; Weds & Thurs: 10:30 to 5:30  
 Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.  
**Phone 599-795-9332 email- [PennyLaneBonaire@hotmail.com](mailto:PennyLaneBonaire@hotmail.com)**

# A Garden? Just Do It

## RAIN AT LAST

Sunday the first of July was a great day. All that rain; what a blessing. I woke up to a heavy sound on my roof and against my window. What a surprise, RAIN. I jumped up, put on my old garden clothes, ran into the yard, grabbed buckets, empty containers, old pans and caught water wherever the rain was coming like a river from the roof. I also have a big paint container which I bought from Krioyo Paint where I collect rainwater. But that thing was full in five minutes. And soon all buckets were full too.

So I started to water all the trees. You might wonder why. Because it's to let water penetrate deep into the soil to reach those deep down tree roots. With just a few hours of rain, the water does not reach deep into the ground. So I'm always running up and down in the rain, catching rain and watering plants. You need to like doing this activity, but I always think of my plants, then I don't mind being busy in the rain, getting wet and cold.



*My beauty from Medellin. A mind blowing beauty!*

But that day, even when all my plants got buckets of water there was still rain. So I started to use the water to clean my porches, the partly tiled yard and more. I had planned another kind of Sunday, but it became a cleaning Sunday and a great day for nature. The days after all the plants looked so fresh and healthy.

It's a wonder how fast plants become beautiful with rain. A week later, on Saturday, there was a heavy shower again—perfect timing. The soil was just getting dry again when that rain came down. With all the minerals that rain provides the plants can stand the drought for a while again.

But not only do the nice plants do great now, there are also all those weeds, grass and plants you don't want in your yard. I see plants popping up which I never had in my yard before. They came with the flow of water and settled among other

plants. So there is a lot of garden work to do: getting rid of all that stuff and trimming trees and branches which now grow like crazy.



*Orchid, Paloma, not a native but blooming well*

With this wet soil and the growing (waxing) moon the time is perfect to plant. I started already (oh yes, I'm right there making use of all these natural elements) with young tomato plants, sweet pepper, string beans, pumpkin, eggplants, hot pepper, yambo, bitter melon, tajerblad, red and green spinach, purslyn and herbs like yerbihole, basil, oregano, lemon grass, mint, bislips and cinnamon plant. I also have seeds from young papaya plants, carambola plants, cashew plants and cherry plants. Fruits that I pick in my yard are papaya, carambola, coco, soursop.

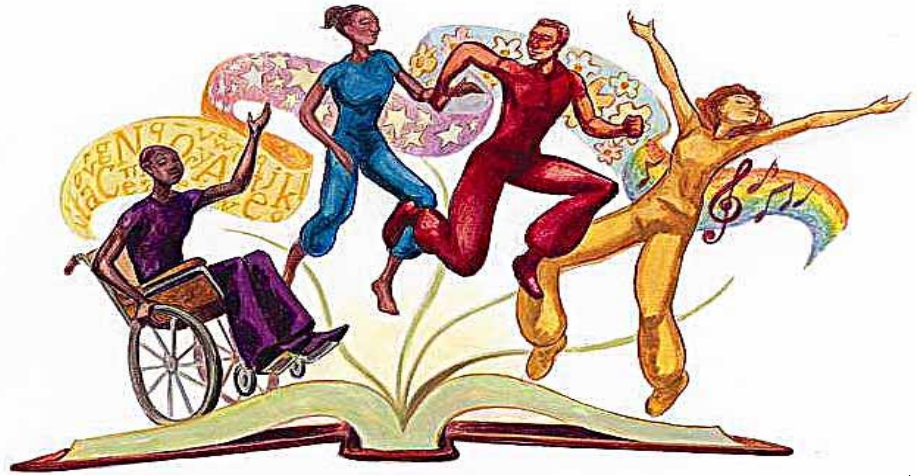
I had friends over for lunch a few days ago. I did not need to buy a lot. All the fruits and vegetables I picked from my garden. My guests were surprised with the great lunch prepared with fresh stuff from my garden, just picked an hour ago. How much more healthy could it be?

Of course I planted some flower seeds too. I tried some difficult ones like Afrikaantjes. They came up but they cannot stand this hot climate. So I put them in the shade, out of the strong wind. It's a try out; I like to experiment. White and purple magdaleentjes (periwinkle), cats tails, stanvaste and different kalanchoe pop up everywhere in the yard.

Root plants with flowers became a jungle in my backyard, just in one week because of so much rain coming from the roof on top of them.

And what to say about my orchids? They are my pride. Look at the photos. I never saw them like that. One of them had flowers for the first time. Its a miracle and it has a story. I was in Medellin walking around at a flower market when a man was just emptying his bucket with

# Making Bonaire "Accessible"



## OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, #15- THINKING AHEAD AND DREAMING

Every year on December 1 people around the world celebrate the day of persons with a handicap. This is a special day when the United Nations wants to make sure that persons with a handicap get the rights they so deserve.

This day is not far ahead, only five months to wait and organize special activities, and to make sure that this day will be one to be remembered.

What if this year Bonaire could throw away the bucket list for all those wishes our population with a handicap and their caregivers have...and that all those wishes would come true?

What if we could **travel carefree** and get into those airplanes by walking on the so-much-desired-and-needed AVIRAMP?

What if all caregivers **could take a day, a week, a month off**, because their loved one was taken care of by professionals and volunteers?

What if we **did not have to worry when it rains**, because all our streets and sidewalks were in perfect order and made of a special kind of concrete that absorbs all that rain?

What if we could **go downtown and just walk everywhere**, because the sidewalks had no cars parked on them and they were as even as they should be, no more potholes, shops easy to access, a public restroom where you can get relief and refresh?

What if you **could step down from the sidewalk just like that**, because the curb at the crossing was nice and low and easy to step off from?

What if we would have a **great support-group**, where we could talk and get feed-

back from citizens with the same problems as we have and that together we could reach high and fight together to get things done?

**What if Bonaire would have a city-inspector**, an officer who takes care and makes sure that Kralendijk is safe for everyone to walk and drive through? A person everybody can recognize and talk to immediately, who answers questions, is helpful, who spots problems ahead, who reports to the government and makes sure that everything is safe or else?

What if all of the above could become a reality? Do you think it could be possible? I know that it is possible, **because my husband and I have been in situations abroad where all of this was possible.**

**In which country you may ask?**

**In Holland? Yes, in Holland.** And since we (Bonaire) are part of the Netherlands, these things must become possible here as well. Will they help us dream on? Or help us get on the way?

And if our dreams come true, we should install a tradition, where we recognize all those people who help us to get what we need and decorate and commend them with awards, the "Medaya di Kurason" award.

And everybody who gets awarded will have to recommend another person or organization that they would want to commend.

Now, wouldn't that be awesome? A Bonaire with a very happy, healthy people and accessibility anywhere?

Will you help us get there?   
Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



dirt where some orchids had been lying in. In that dirt there was a tiny part of an orchid plant. I took it to the hotel and kept it alive with wet tissues until I got home. Here I put it in a hanging pot with charcoal, coconut skin, a little bit of dirt, dry leaves and some small stones and hung it in the almond tree and watered it with only rain water.

How fantastic it was to see that small orchid growing and getting more orchid plants. And as a miracle it started flowering soon after that heavy shower. A beautiful bouquet of purple flowers, about 10 together on one stem. At first I didn't see it under the big almond leaves, but then when my eyes caught that bunch of purple beauties, it really got me.

Gardening gives me so much pleasure and it's such a relaxing passion of which I enjoy everything about it. I experience gardening with all my senses. There is always something to admire, to be surprised about, to wonder, to worry sometimes, to work on, to enjoy, to share with others, to be close to nature, to be thankful, to feel peace in my mind and happiness in my heart, which is all good for my physical and spiritual health and for my soul. And it's also good for you.

Just do it.   
Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



# 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 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 2018: [stinapabonaire.org/events](http://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 Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoon 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

**Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 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.

### 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. Presentation upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

•**General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -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:

[l2stepbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:l2stepbonaire@gmail.com)

•**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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

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

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

## CHURCH SERVICES

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 9am 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-10am 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 10am. Wednesday- 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](mailto:ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Cruise Ship

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
24-Jul	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
31-Jul	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
7-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
14-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744

## EXHIBITIONS

— “**Salute to the Sailors**”— old maritime photos from the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation, Museo Bonaire, Kaya Kachi Craane #34, free.

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit- Terramar Museum**

—**Yana's Fine Art Exhibition at Bis-tro di Paris /Zazu Bar-** Info: 599 785-5002

## 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, 717-0423, 780-4327

•**Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. 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.

•**Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoon Hill 19-** Call for appointment: 599 785-5002. Free entry.

•**Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Thursday through Saturday and cruise ship days, 10am-4pm. Free entrance ■

## CLOSE IN EVENTS

**Wednesdays, July 18, July 25, August 1, August 8 and August 15.** —**Buki di Pret** (Fun Books) program at Terramar Museum Entrance: \$2-Papiamentu, Children 4-8 years, Dutch, children 9-12 years. See page 3 for more. Reservations email: [marjan@terrarmuseum.com](mailto:marjan@terrarmuseum.com)

**Saturday, July 21-PADI Women's Dive Day** at Te Amo Beach, 9am-1pm. Free Yoga Dive Event

**Saturday, July 28th**

—**Dive Friends Quarterly Clean Up Dive**. Briefing 10am. Information: 7802572, Kaya Playa Lechi 24. Includes BBQ at end.

—**Nos Zjilea Cultural Event** at Mangazina di Rei, 8am-2pm. Traditional music, crafts, local produce, creole kitchen, educational presentations. On the Rincon Road at eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance.

**Saturday, August 4—Taste of Bonaire at Wilhelmina Park. “Recycle Edition.”** Food, culture, local handicrafts. Opportunity to taste signature dishes from well known restaurants at special prices. 6-10pm

**Saturday, August 25—Nos Zjilea Cultural Event at Mangazina di Rei** (See entry for Saturday, July 28 above)

**September 1-7—Bonaire International Dance Festival**

**Thursday, September 6—Bonaire Flag Day**, legal holiday, at one of the barrios. Locals and visitors dance, eat, drink on the streets, bands, Motorcycle event with over 400 participants flying in from around the world. All day.

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## Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

*Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time*

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 16	03:05 0.94 ft	11:23 -0.34 ft	17:18 0.46 ft	22:39 0.20 ft		6:18	19:04
Tue 17	04:05 0.82 ft	12:02 -0.32 ft	18:05 0.60 ft			6:19	19:04
Wed 18		00:08 0.17 ft	05:05 0.69 ft	12:40 -0.28 ft	18:49 0.73 ft	6:19	19:04
Thu 19	First Quarter	01:30 0.12 ft	06:05 0.55 ft	13:16 -0.23 ft	19:32 0.83 ft	6:19	19:04
Fri 20		02:45 0.06 ft	07:06 0.43 ft	13:49 -0.17 ft	20:13 0.91 ft	6:19	19:04
Sat 21		03:55 0.00 ft	08:07 0.31 ft	14:19 -0.11 ft	20:54 0.96 ft	6:20	19:04
Sun 22		05:01 -0.05 ft	09:10 0.22 ft	14:46 -0.04 ft	21:34 0.97 ft	6:20	19:04
Mon 23		06:05 -0.08 ft	10:17 0.15 ft	15:07 0.01 ft	22:13 0.97 ft	6:20	19:03
Tue 24		07:07 -0.10 ft	11:35 0.10 ft	15:17 0.06 ft	22:52 0.95 ft	6:20	19:03
Wed 25		08:06 -0.12 ft	23:30 0.91 ft			6:21	19:03
Thu 26		09:02 -0.13 ft				6:21	19:03
Fri 27	00:08 0.88 ft	09:50 -0.13 ft			<b>Full Moon</b>	6:21	19:02
Sat 28	00:47 0.83 ft	10:29 -0.13 ft				6:21	19:02
Sun 29	01:26 0.78 ft	11:00 -0.12 ft				6:21	19:02
Mon 30	02:07 0.73 ft	11:22 -0.10 ft				6:22	19:02

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# ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

*Did You Know (Continued from page 7)*

Journal of Science. Yes – American Crocodiles are sometimes spotted in the Dutch islands as well (Klein Curacao in the early 1930's)! They also mentioned that manatee fossils were found in Bonaire near Fontein dating back to the Pleistocene (12,000 – 2.5 million years ago).

Although Antillean manatees are often seen in Belize, Mexico and the Dominican Republic and their range extends throughout the coastal areas of the Caribbean, Central America and South America, Bonaire is thought to be too small and isolated with too little food to attract manatees. Which makes you wonder what this lonely manatee was up to. Perhaps he/she was lost and just passing through?

The Antillean subspecies is endangered (the Florida one as well) and the population is estimated to be less than 2500 mature individuals and declining. Recent DNA results suggest that there might actually be three subspecies – not two: one from Florida and the Greater Antilles, one from Mexico, Central America and northern South America west of the Lesser Antilles and one from northeastern South America. The one Luigi saw was most likely the second one. There's so much we still don't know!

Why are they endangered? Like the now extinct Steller's Sea Cow and the Caribbean Monk Seal, manatees were (and still are in some places in Central and South America) hunted for their meat and other usable parts. Even though many countries have created laws to protect them from being hunted, manatees swim very slowly and often feed on seagrass in shallow water, and, as a result, many are struck and killed every year by boats and boat propellers. Yet another reason for staying alert and boating at low speeds in shallow waters.

**Fun Fact:** manatees have whiskers all over their bodies called vibrissae. These whiskers are ultra-sensitive. Facial whiskers aid in finding/sensing food and other items and even move food towards the mouth. Body whiskers are believed to be able to detect water movements/currents.

I've had the pleasure of encountering manatees twice in my life: once while diving on a shallow coral reef several miles offshore in Puerto Rico; once when kayaking with my family in Bradenton Beach, Florida. The ones in Florida were so gentle and curious that they would come right up to the kayak and nudge it – possibly using their vibrissae – to investigate. Our oceans are incredible and diverse and I am of the strong opinion that patience, persistence and curiosity is always rewarded with fabulous finds. Go find yours! **□ Caren Eckrich**



STINAPA Biologist  
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## Pet Of The Week

Say hi to Maui! This happy young girl is almost five months old and has been with us for two of them.

Her mom had given birth to her and her sisters in someone's backyard. They found homes for almost all of them and even kept two! But Maui could not stay. They



## SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVIN' IS.....HOT!!!

### PET SAFETY TIPS

It's definitely summer time on Bonaire! For the next three months we can expect very hot days. While we humans can complain about it, our pets are not gifted with the linguistic ability to tell us how hot they are. As temperatures increase, it is imperative that we keep our pets cool and safe so here are some hot weather safety tips to help you do that.

- **Do not take your dog on errands in the car.**

Dogs cool themselves by panting which exchanges warm body temperature for cooler air outside. If the outside air isn't significantly cooler than their body temp, their cooling system doesn't work and they can get heatstroke. Studies show that on a 89 degree day (32 C.), temps inside a car (even with windows slightly open) can raise to 109 degrees (43 C.) in 10 minutes and 123 degrees (51 C.) in 30 minutes! Temps in dark colored cars can rise even more, reaching temps of 200 degrees (93 C.)! Is taking your dog with you on an errand worth risking its life?

- **Provide constant access to clean cool water** at home; ice in their water buckets; a few water bowls in different places. Deep bowls of cool water will stay cool longer than shallow bowls

- **Always provide more than one drinking bowl** on hot days in case one gets tipped over and keep the bowls in shade so the water can stay as cool as possible.

- **Provide shade and shelter from the sun**, even if you have provided a kennel/dog house, it must be in a shaded place.

- **Provide a small paddle pool** for your dogs, and for cats a **couple of wet towels** on the floor for it to cool down on if required.

- **Freeze large containers of water** (in ice cream containers) to make big ice blocks for dogs to play with and chew on or put in the dog or cat's water bowl. This helps to keep them cool and hydrated. "Pupsicles" will also keep dogs happy and entertained, frozen chicken or beef broth popsicles.

- **Don't take your animal out for a walk unless early morning or late in the day.** If the asphalt/pavement is too hot for your bare feet, well guess what – it's too hot for your dog's paws and can burn them. Always check the asphalt/pavement with your bare feet before walking your dog. If the outside temperature is 86 F. (30 C.), the asphalt is 135 F. (57 C.). Do not over exercise active dogs, limit play to short periods.

- **Put wet towels down for your pets** or fill a small drink bottle with cold water and leave it in the freezer overnight. In the morning, wrap the bottle in a towel and put it in your pet's favorite lounging spot.



Truc knows how to beat the heat.

- Most animals just relax and sleep in the heat - they may be grumpy so **give them lots of time out.** Instruct children to also allow them to rest

- Cats are a lot more tolerant to heat than dogs but will pant to take on cooler air if they are particularly hot. **Heavy panting can be cause for concern** so you must act fast, wrap them in a cool, wet towel and seek veterinary advice.

- **Pay attention to your pet's feet.** Cats and dogs have their sweat glands on their paws. If your pet is leaving wet paw prints, it is sweating and will need to replenish its fluids. You can try cooling it down by dipping its paws in water, but with some cats this may not be appreciated!

- **Apply pet sunscreen** if your dog or cat has a light-colored nose or ears. Mammals burn just like humans, and can even develop skin cancer. Be sure the sunscreen is safe for animals.

- **Elevate your pet's bed.** Cloth-covered plastic frames with short legs will allow your pet to sleep in comfort during hot weather, and the air passing under the bed will help keep your pet cool.

**Do you suspect heatstroke?** If you think your pet has overheated, place cool (not ice cold, as this can do more harm!), wet washcloths on his head and neck, and cool compresses on his belly and under his back legs. Call your vet's office immediately and seek their advice about next steps. Heatstroke can quickly lead to coma, cardiac arrest, and death, so don't hesitate to seek veterinary attention as soon as possible. **□**

Jane Disko-Madden



still come to visit her often. It would be wonderful if Maui found her own forever home. Though we have some other dogs who look like Maui she is special because of her bouncy and curly tail. Maui is always ready to play with the other puppies and also really likes humans, especially the little ones. Once she gets used to you she will be your super excited best friend who will enjoy following you around.

Are you interested in meeting Maui or one of her other friends? Please stop by at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3p.m. Nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. **□ Story & photo by Luvi Rodriguez**



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## THE FOURTH PLANET FROM THE SUN

Last month on June 27th, Saturn and the Moon had a cozy conjunction on the same day that Saturn was at its closest approach to the Earth. Well this month, also on the 27th, we have another pairing of the Moon and a planet. This time, it's the fourth planet from the Sun, the ever popular and angry red planet, Mars.

On the same day that the red planet is at its closest to us, the Moon will also be turning red. A total lunar eclipse, but not in the Bonaire Sky Park, but in European Dutch skies. But because of the timing of the eclipse, if you're on vacation in Europe you'll be able to see it!

Well, let's check out the sky on July 27th from the Sky Park. Mars has fascinated astronomers for centuries, especially when it came to its peculiar movement, brightness and color changes.

Every 26 months or so, Mars goes from a pale orangish-yellow to a bright orangish-red. Mars got its name because its red color reminded the ancient Romans of blood, war and violence. So, they named it after their god of war. So, every 26 months, the brightening of Mars reminded people of this celestial connection with the god of war, and they came to expect the unleashing of war, revolutions, disasters and death.

But why does Mars change color, size and brightness every 26 months? If we view our solar system from high above the Sun, we can see the orbits of both Earth and Mars. Earth takes a little more than 365 days to orbit the sun, while Mars takes almost 687 days.

When Mars and Earth are at their closest to each other, Mars is said to be at opposition. When a planet is at opposition, it's exactly on the opposite side of the sky from the Sun. The tricky part about Martian oppositions is that they are not all created equal. For example, the Martian opposition of August 2003 was one of the closest oppositions in recorded history, where Earth and Mars were only 34.6



million miles apart.

Compare that to the opposition of March 2012 when Mars was a whopping 62.6 million miles from Earth. The reason that Mars' distance varies so much is because of the shape of Mars' orbit.

Johannes Kepler demonstrated that planetary orbits are not perfect circles, but a shape called an ellipse.

Mars' orbit is more elliptical than Earth's, so there are times when Mars is much closer to the Sun than others.

When a planet is at its closest to the Sun, we call that perihelion. The perihelion point for Mars lies in the constellation Aquarius. The point when a planet is farthest from the Sun is called aphelion, and for Mars, that point is in Leo the lion.

Perihelion and aphelion are on opposite sides of a planet's orbit and as a result are on opposite sides of the sky. So, if you look at the zodiac, what constellation is on the opposite of the sky from Leo the Lion? Ta-da! Its Aquarius! So if the Sun is in Leo and Mars is in or near Aquarius, as it is this year, you get a close and bright opposition, but switch it around, and if the Sun is in Aquarius and Mars is in Leo, you get a distant and faint opposition.

So get outside on Friday night, July 27th, and get the best view of Mars we've had since 2003. And if you happen to be in the Netherlands that day, check out the total lunar eclipse as well.

□ Dean Regas & James Albury



# THE STARS HAVE IT

July 2018

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make major gains if you talk to your boss about your findings. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. You will impress new friends and acquaintances with your intellectual wit. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21-May 21) Travel will be favorable and bring you the greatest rewards. You must not let fellow workers take advantage of your fine talents. Get busy making those changes to your home. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this month. Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with this month. You may be experiencing emotional turmoil in regard to your mate. Education may be the answer. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Don't be too shy to promote your own interests. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Children could cost you more than you can afford. Competitive games will be your forte. Elders may get you going this month. Difficulties with females you live with could cause emotional stress. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) A series of misunderstandings may be at fault. You will have the discipline to make changes you feel are necessary. This day was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. You will be in the mood to socialize. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your interest in helping others may take you back to school. Help children complete projects they're having difficulty with.

You can make adjustments in your domestic scene this month. Try to be reasonable. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. Opportunities for partnerships are present; but get every detail in writing. Your diplomacy will be of utmost importance this month. Opportunities for travel must be carefully considered. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Sudden good fortune will help you cover your debts. Get ready to do some fancy footwork when it comes to taking care of your financial situation. Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. You can win points if you present your ideas. Your lucky day will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't let relatives stand in the way of your personal plans. Business or pleasure trips will be knowledgeable as well as highly successful. Don't allow personal problems to conflict with professional duties. Overindulgence may be a problem. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Be honest with yourself before getting involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. You should socialize with clients or upper echelons of your industry if possible. You may be thinking of starting your own business. Property purchases should be on your mind. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may be torn between two possibilities. This has left you in a confused and uncertain state. Financial limitations will not be as adverse as they appear. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. Your involvement in groups will be favorable for meeting new and exciting individuals. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday. □

Michael Thiessen

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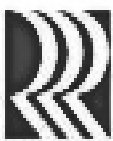
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