

**It's Still
FREE**

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The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6125, email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Since 1994



**E Paraiso di
nos Kreador
CD Baptism** Page 18

Hostess Mary Ann Sint Jago pours the coconut milk with Madrin Bebe Sint Jago and Padrino DJ Juan Danger. Ceril Janga holds the cup.

The Netherlands Antilles has partnered with Interpol to enhance border security in a move to prevent entry of trans-national criminals and other threats.

David Dick, Netherlands Antilles Minister of Justice, announced that border security authorities in the Netherlands Antilles will have access to Interpol's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents international database beginning in early 2009.

With access to the database, which contains security information from 137 countries, border security and other law enforcement officials will be able to better prevent the movement of trans-national criminal networks and other illicit organizations that officials say will enhance regional security.

► Parliament handled 103 bills (law proposals) dating back to the 1960s in the 2007-2008 parliamentary year that came to an end recently. Of this number, 52 are still relevant to today's situation. The rest have been withdrawn by government or have been deemed antiquated.

Twenty-two interim/final reports comprising questions from parliamentarians on law proposals have been submitted to government for answers to further complete the procedures to ratify them as laws. "This means that at the present time Parliament has no law proposals of government pending and is waiting on government to answer questions on proposals. This is a big accomplishment for Parliament," said Parliament President Pedro Atacho.

► Bonaire's Marine Environment Committee has issued its 2007 annual report. It covers the environmental aspects of Bonaire's territorial waters. A section mentioned that it appears that more wastewater is finding its way to the sea, and among other things the number of requests for piers, especially for private homes, in Bonaire has doubled. Pressure on the island's

famous coral reefs is increasing, says the report, but the establishment of no fishing zones and the Island Council's adopting of the Nature Management Ordinance are steps in the right direction.



A. Bianculli photo

Bonaire's diving is unbeatable

► Grenada's new government said it will be paying more attention to the dive, sport and eco-tourism markets of the tourism industry because the economic prospects for the island in the foreseeable future will be heavily influenced by the development in the tourism sector. "Our focus in the medium term would be to establish Grenada as the dive capital of the Eastern Caribbean, and to position Grenada as a preferred cruise destination," said Governor General Sir Daniel.

► Beginning next month, if the licensing process goes well, Insel Air will begin non-stop service from Curaçao to Miami. American Airlines recently cancelled its second daily flight on the route. Curaçao-based Insel Air wants to fly four times per week to Miami using its MD-82 and MD-83 jets. Service can begin as early as October 3 with the new line service. Insel Air negotiated with South American carriers concerning a cooperation after a partnership with Surinam Airways failed. Last month it

celebrated its second anniversary. Insel Air began operation between Curaçao and Aruba. Its network has grown to 10 destinations in the Caribbean and South America. Its fleet exists of two Embraer 110s, an MD-82 and MD-83.

► Four divers went missing off Klein Curaçao when an unusual current caused by the weather systems in the Caribbean pulled them away from the uninhabited island. After a massive air and sea search all through the evening and night, the Coast Guard patrol plane found the four about two miles east of Klein Curaçao. "We knew it. They are definitely going to find us at day-break," said Coert Smits, one of the divers, as he walked ashore the next morning.

► Animals can also display humanlike social intelligence. Dolphins have been known to care for another injured pod member (displaying empathy), and a whale or porpoise may recognize itself in the mirror.

But even some reef fish exhibit subtle kinds of social skills. Behavioral ecologist Redouan Bshary of the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, and his colleagues described one such case. Bony fish such as the so-called cleaner wrasse (*Labroides dimidiatus*) cooperate and remove parasites from the skin of other fish or feed on their mucus. Bshary's team found that bystander fish spent more time next to cleaners, the bystanders had observed, being cooperative than to other fish. Humans, the authors note, tend to notice altruistic behavior and are more willing to help do-gooders whom they have observed doing favors for others. Similarly, cleaner wrasses observe and evaluate the behavior of other finned ocean denizens and are more willing to help fish that they have seen assisting third parties. (from SciAm.com)

► African dust has been implicated in various negative effects on coral reefs; it is bringing in iron, which may be driving

an increase in algae growth. It may also be bringing pesticide dust and other airborne pollution or even new diseases. It has always been around, forming an important source of fertile soil in the Caribbean. But with increasing desertification in Africa, as well as increasing use of pesticides and herbicides in agriculture, it certainly bears attention. (Paul Hoetjes)

► Next week Monday, September 22 at 11:44 am, Sky Park Time, the Autumnal Equinox will occur. The word equinox comes from the Latin equi which means equal and nox which means night, equal night. And there are only two days of the year when the hours of night and day are equal, the Autumnal Equinox, the first day of Autumn, and the Vernal Equinox, the first day of Spring. These are the two days when the Sun on its yearly journey against the background of stars crosses an imaginary line we call the Celestial Equator. Thus only on these two days of the year will the Sun rise exactly due east and set exactly due west. Every other day of the year it will rise and set at a different point along the horizon.

► It's time for kunukeros (farmers) to attend to their kunukus. Because of the recent rains the L.V.V. (Agricultural and Fisheries Department) recommends that the Bonairean farmers dedicate their attention to their farms (kunukus). They should focus on pastures and fields, cleaning, plowing and repairing fencing. L.V.V. says that even though there was a lot of rainfall in years past there were not enough crops planted and also a scarcity of animal food. This year can be good, they say, when the farmer works more productively. Farmers should prepare for seasons of drought. They should select those animals that are healthy and robust and slaughter unproductive animals. Also they should administer worm pills

(Continued on page 3)

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Ayo, Mangrove Village!	3
Swim to Klein Bonaire	3
Get ready for Regatta	5
The Orange Ball	6
Windsurfing—Fuerteventura	8
The Death Wish of Bonaire's Male Parrotfish	10
Capturing Dreams	11
Letters: (Pollution Solution?)	13
Where to Find The Bonaire Reporter	14
Coral Glimpses	15

Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Profiles, Riet Sealy	4
Bonairean Voices (Young Mothers)	8
Sudoku	13
Sudoku answer	14
Bubbles/Did You Know (Lobsters)	9
Pet of the Week (Fo)	11
Bonaire On Wheels (Toyota FJ-73)	12
Picture Yourself (NYINY)	12
Reporter Masthead	13
Tide Table	13
Classifieds	14
Dining, Shopping Guides	16
What's Happening	17
Sky Park (Vega)	19
Star Power (Astrology)	19

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8th Swim to Klein Bonaire

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Bonfysiotherapie, Freewieler

A Jong Bonaire fundraiser
for anyone who can swim!

The Jong Bonaire Youth Center is organizing its 8th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire fundraising event. This year it will take place on Sunday, October 5, at the beginning of the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta. This sport and social event brings together families and individuals of all ages to support Jong Bonaire.

Jong Bonaire has one of the largest programs in the Antilles dealing with teenagers and serves hundreds of high school students on island. The programs include homework support, computers, music and art lessons, sports and many other activities, all supervised by a professional staff and local volunteers.

The swim is held as every year at Eden Beach Resort (starting point).

The participating fee is NAF 25 for adults and NAF 15 for children. For it you get the safety-patrolled swim, a free meal, a drink, fruit and a T-shirt.

Last year, almost 400 people swam to Klein Bonaire and most of them swam back as well. This time, again a record-breaking number of participants are expected. The distance to Klein Bonaire is about 600 meters and can easily be managed by almost anyone who can swim.

For those who do not wish to swim back, there will be many boats available to pick up people and return them to Eden Beach Resort. Participants can use fins, masks or even flotation devices. Everyone, young and old, is invited to participate in order to turn the 8th Swim to Klein Bonaire into a huge success! ■ *Press release*

Flotsam... (Continued from page 2)

which are available at the veterinarian's on Kaminda Lagun.

This is also a good time to prepare the land to plant buffalo grass and maishi (sorghum). Buffalo grass doesn't have to be planted every year because the moment it rains the buffalo grass sprouts automatically, giving the animals extra food.

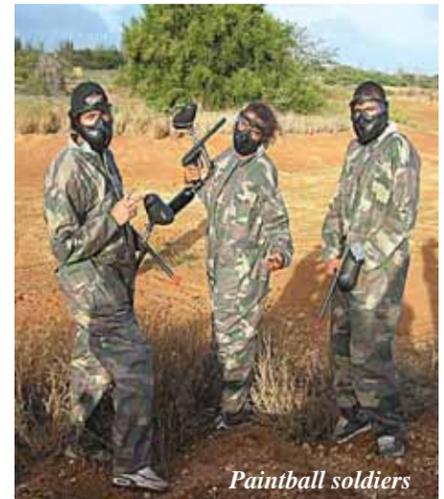
L.V.V. offers agricultural and fishery service to the community and in particular to the farmer. They sell several kinds of maishi (sorghum) and buffalo grass seeds.

Information about prices of plowing and equipment is available during office hours. There's a possibility that the government will subsidize 50% of the work. L.V.V. is open 7 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm weekdays. Telephone 717-8836.

► "Well above-average" Atlantic hurricane activity is expected in September with four hurricanes, including two that will become major storms, Colorado State University research team noted recently. "We predict that September will be quite active based on climate signals through August," said hurricane season forecasting pioneer Dr. Bill Gray.

► There's a new free rum punch party with live music by the Flamingo Rockers every Friday from 5:30-6:30 pm at the **Sunset Bar and Grill** on the waterfront at the Den Laman resort. It's followed by a BBQ. Check it out

► Beginning in August, "Extreme Adventures Bonaire" opened a paintball park at its Rancho Don Paranda location. Paintball is a sport in which players



Paintball soldiers

eliminate opponents from play by hitting them with paint filled, breakable, gelatin paintballs usually shot from a carbon dioxide or compressed air powered "paintball marker" gun. Players 15 years old and older are welcome.

The paint used is environmentally safe and is sometimes used by farmers to mark their livestock and trees. To arrange to play call Shandro Susana at 717-2858 or 700-8308.

► During the unsettled weather earlier this month a small tornado touched down at the edge of the Bolivia Plantation. An eyewitness said a kunuku there lost its roof and live stock was blown around. The week before two tornados were reported in Curaçao.

► Look for the next edition of *The Reporter* on October 9. It will include coverage of the 2008 Regatta. *The Reporter* is on vacation until October 1. ■

G./L.D

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Profiles: Riet Sealy, A Woman Of Talents, Dedication, Passion... With An Ongoing Mission.

Riet Sealy came to Bonaire in 1982 with her husband Arthur and their two young children. Arthur, originally from Bonaire, was offered a job on the island. In Holland, Riet was a kindergarten teacher and held a degree in the Dutch language.

Riet knew that she wanted to use her talent on the island to benefit children and families. She started her career teaching at the MAVO high school level for adults and young people during the evenings. It was meant as a second chance for women and for youngsters who hadn't been able to finish their secondary education. She remembers them as a very motivated group of students.

She started to give courses for public servants, developing her own method. Dutch was one of the most popular courses. About the same time she was offered a chance to participate in an educational course being given on Bonaire by teachers from Curaçao. Riet loves to study and learn new things, so she jumped at the opportunity to participate. In 1986 she received her degree in social education.

Her children were going to a pre-school crèche during those years, but there were few means to operate the crèche professionally. Riet was asked to give her

input and suggestions on how to improve the situation and how to get more finances to purchase the necessary teaching equipment. The crèche, Bon Kwido, was the largest on Bonaire with over 100 children, ranging from babies to after school students. When she became a board member she began to upgrade the training of the staff and make further improvements, thanks to her professional background.

Her former mentor from the social education course was already working with various crèches on Curaçao that had financial support from the Van Leer Foundation. That Foundation believes that in order to contribute to the community one has to start at the very foundation, with the youngest and most malleable group - the children.

First an organization had to be founded on Bonaire: the Stichting Sebiki. Its aim was and is to raise the awareness in the local community of the importance of responsible childcare and a solid upbringing for the youngest members of our society. A new idea began to take shape, developing the program, *Opstap Opnieuw* (to start again, to take a new step). Internationally this approach has proven to be very successful. Sebiki recruited so-

called barrio mothers (*buurtmoeders*). These are mothers who live in the barrio and thus can quickly gain a family's confidence because they are neighbors. The mothers receive training and go to workshops. They have a monitoring function and are backed up by professional and educational help from other Sebiki staff if needed. A situation is never approached as "being wrong." They may make suggestions to improve a domestic situation if they're asked to do so.

In 1999 a special program was introduced involving the barrio mothers: one in Rincon and one in cooperation with the Reina Beatrix School. It's a very intensive program aimed at children from four to six years and their parents. The barrio mothers visit the parents at home and offer them a package with instruction material. They work with the children, teach the parents necessary skills to become aware of the role they can play themselves in the education and development of their child. The barrio mothers work for Sebiki and receive financial compensation.

The cooperation with the school works very much the same way. Teachers and parents are more involved in the development of



the child, and there are regular meetings to evaluate the practical results. Riet emphasizes that there have been and still are many ups and downs and not everything runs smoothly all the time, but the overall results are very encouraging.

The beauty of Sebiki's function is that they can offer practical solutions. If the barrio mothers, teachers, or the staff of the crèche believe a particular domestic

situation is serious they will contact the appropriate authority with whom Sebiki works closely. The first step is a consultation between the parents and a Sebiki coordinator. Sometimes the child welfare board (*voogdijraad*) or a social worker needs to be contacted, but this is the last step. Sebiki considers itself the medium through which an alarming situation can be transformed with

(Continued on page 5)

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Profiles (Continued from page 4)

the help of the linked professional organizations.

The support for parents will continue through the years, as children grow up and become teenagers. If parents are confronted with their daughter's unwanted pregnancy Sebiki can help them further with information on adoption or name registration and other legal and practical options. Information about contraceptives and AIDS prevention is provided as well.

Riet Sealy is a contented woman, fulfilled by what has been achieved so far. "You just have to keep your focus on what is needed, on what we aim for and what has to be done to reach this," she says, "and one way or the other, results will come. Practice and experience taught me to believe in this principle because it works. If something doesn't really go smoothly at a certain point in time, you just have to let go for the moment. But you always keep it stored somewhere in your mind. One day the opportunity will present itself. The more I live this, the more it proves itself."

The Sebiki Stichting became a showpiece for the government because of its success and professionalism. Minister Ank Bijleveld was one of the most recent visitors to be shown around. Every official visitor is informed by Riet about Sebiki's function, its efficient and practical approach, and the results which are numerous and visible.

Riet notices a very positive change in parents. For example fathers are much more involved in the upbringing of their children now than in past years. She also mentions that the fathers often come to the pregnancy workshops, which was unthinkable 20 years ago. Even if parents divorce some fathers continue to stay involved and interested in

what Sebiki offers.

There is another noticeable shift in mentality, according to Riet. She notices that parents, more often now than before, are living under job related pressure and responsibilities. Drugs and relationship problems are on the rise and thus more families are being referred to Sebiki.

Sebiki volunteers organize activities and special celebrations like those for Easter, Sinterklaas, Jump up, Book Week, Read Aloud Sessions in different languages and more. Many of these activities take place in Wilhelmina Park and in Rincon and are sponsored by local businesses.

Riet admits that she always possessed a rebellious nature, although at the beginning of her career she had to be careful when to open her mouth and whom she confronted. Today, after more than 25 years, she has gained considerable influence and she is listened to without resistance.

Riet realizes that Sebiki should be able to continue one day without her. Gradually she is delegating assignments to other members of her team. Her strategy is aimed at the future but also at her personal future. In another four years she will retire and there are more passions to be explored like her creative and artistic talents. She knows that she still has to work on letting go. "Sebiki is like my baby," she says "I want to leave it in good hands, when the time comes to let go."

It is well known by now that Riet works for a better Bonaire, starting with the children, guiding them and their parents all the way to adulthood. ■

Louise Rood



GETTING READY for REGATTA

Get ready for the 41st edition of the International Sailing Regatta of Bonaire. Preparations are in full swing.

The Bonaire Regatta is an annual sailing event with many races along the coast of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. All kinds of boats, hailing from all over the world, participate in this sailing competition. Added to this are windsurfing and freestyle competitions. Daily races in various categories are scheduled during the day; the evenings are filled with a variety of cultural and folkloric shows and band performances. The races are held close to the shore so spectators can easily follow them.

The Bonaire Regatta Festival takes place on the waterfront promenade and on the streets of Kralendijk. Stands with local *criollo* food, souvenirs and handicrafts attract locals as well as visitors; they throng the normally so quiet streets during this time. International and local bands perform on stage every day.

Numerous events run concurrently during the week: swim to Klein Bonaire, bike and foot races, softball games, volleyball, parades, and much more. Schools are closed.

Be part of a super week of fun. If you have a sailing boat or windsurfer be sure to sign up on Sunday, October 5, at Regatta House (Kas di Regatta). A full schedule will be in our next edition. ■ G.D.



Class start - 2007 Regatta

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The Orange Ball



The Jewel Anemone blows a kiss

During this coral spawning season we thought you'd enjoy re-reading this story by a local diver. It even contains a useful photographing technique.

Every female, child or adult, has dreams of having beautiful jewels with sparkling facets and brilliant colors to complement and highlight her natural beauty. The flamboyant display of color and design by human animals is merely a mimic of the same ploy used by animals in nature to attract attention, secure a mate, or warn a potential predator of danger. In the sea we encounter this strategy with great frequency.

Tonight, here on Bonaire, the heavens are a deep midnight blue punctuated by billions of lights from the stars and planets of our

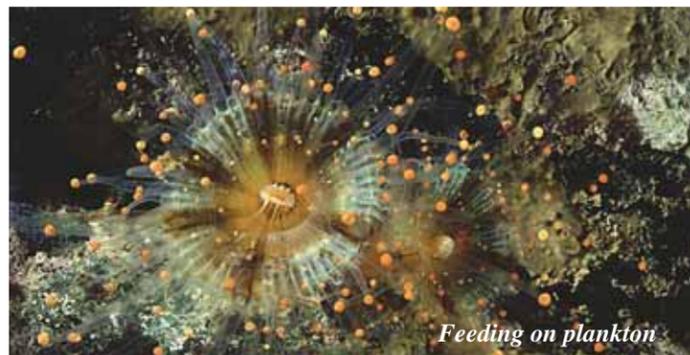
universe. My partner is busy with our diving gear as I check the cameras, strobes and underwater lamps that will lead us on our path to discovery. It is nearing midnight, and part of my preparation for this excursion was an extra long afternoon siesta. I have also packed several bottles of very warm rinse water for use after our exit. We plan to explore the sides of the sand channel at the entrance to the harbor at a mid-level depth of 20 to 60 feet (6-18 meters).

We are prepared for the unexpected encounters that always seem to happen when you are focused on searching for a specific creature. This particular dive site is often overlooked, even in the daylight, due to the lack of any significant coral and sponge growth on an island noted for clear, warm water and colorful reefs. Many of my

diving partners have even referred to these excursions over the sand, junk and rubble as "muck diving!" Their lack of enthusiasm is instantly overcome at the first sight of mating octopus, free swimming green moray eels or a long lobster train.

After our usual buddy check, we silently enter the black ink of the night sea. Our powerful lamps penetrate the darkness with a tunnel of light. As a diver you focus your vision within this bright shaft and try to forget about what may be lurking in the nearby shadows. We slowly descend and, as I follow my partner, I momentarily shut off my light. Instantly, I find myself surrounded by minute glowing particles swirling in the wake of my buddy's flippers. These tiny planktonic creatures are displaying their bioluminescent energy in response to the turbulent force in the water created with each rhythmic kick. I am an astronaut, free of gravity, rotating in space, time traveling through the endless universe of stars and galaxies. A sharp metallic sound, the signal from my companion, rescues me from the rapture of the sea and the euphoria of the nitrogen narcosis that has gripped my senses.

I snap on my lamp, reorient myself to the customary horizontal swimming profile, and point my light toward a bump on the flat sand 15 feet (5 m) to my right. There, in a blaze of color, under an overhanging rock formation is the "Jewel Anemone!" It is the target of all our preparations, and tonight we have the good fortune to find two of these amazing creatures side



Feeding on plankton

by side. We carefully approach from each side and take care not to create any disturbing water current or point our light directly on these magnificent animals. We have learned from past experience that these rare and shy critters are very sensitive to movement and light and will retract into an ugly brown jelly-like blob.

You will know that you have found this rare specimen by the round, bright orange balls at the tip of each of its tentacles. Most divers refer to this creature as the "Orange Ball Anemone." It is stationary and looks like a fleshy anemone with a round central disk about 2-3 inches across (5-8 mm). It can have as many as 50-100 transparent tentacles, radiating outward in concentric circles around the mouth in the center. They are arranged in a crown-like shape with the longest ones, 3 inches (8 mm), at the outer edge.

For those of us who are interested, the Orange Ball is actually a False coral referred to in the text as a *Corallimorph*. It is a rare sight for the late night diver, and when spotted you may find a pair, as in

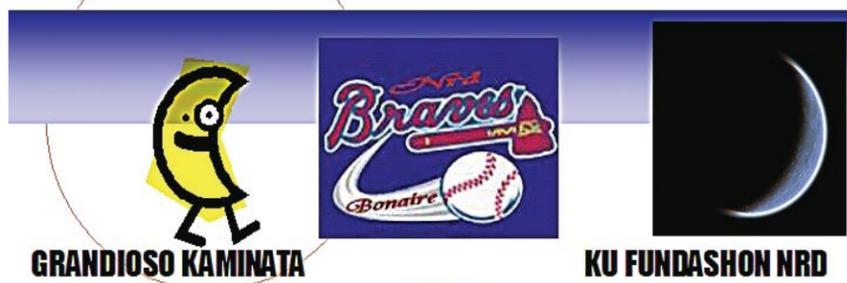
this case tonight, since reproduction is accomplished by budding or a release of cells that are not gametes (eggs or sperm), known to the biologists as asexual reproduction.

For the photo enthusiast I suggest side lighting, almost 90 degrees to the subject, with a slightly downward angle. Use a low power target light to aim your strobes and attract the floating food supply. You may only get one or two shots at the dinner table before your guest withdraws. You can always return since I have found that once situated in a comfortable location, the elusive Orange Ball *Corallimorph* will remain in place until some unusual environmental event causes it to move. ■ Story & photos by ©Albert Bianculli

Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. His most recent activities include leading the LMSP project on Bonaire.



Diasabra 20 september 2008



GRANDIOSO KAMINATA

BRAVES

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Diasabra 20 september 2008

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Diasabra 20 september 2008



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BONAIREAN VOICES

YOUNG MOTHERS

If you go and look around you can see a lot of young mothers. What is going on in Bonaire? Don't these girls get enough information about protection or safe sex? Do they understand how life will be having a child, having to finish school, get a job and raise that child? Married couples complain that raising children is hard. Imagine if you have to do it as a young single mother.

I asked a young mother how she gets along. She (18), a mother of two, said, "It's hard when things I have to buy are so expensive. I miss not having information about where to go and what to do. I do get support from most of the people around me, my family and friends. I miss having a care center where young mothers can get information or, if it does exist, I don't know where to find it. To get a job is hard without having enough schooling. Nothing is as easy as it's pictured before you get pregnant. The hard experience comes afterwards."

But there are others who got pregnant during their teenage years and had to survive with the guidance of trusted organizations. People have helped them to make the right steps. They made a mistake by getting pregnant when they were very young, but if they get the right information they can succeed in life.

Like a young mother (23) said, "It was like yesterday. Four years ago I got pregnant. I love babies, but when you have the experience of having one of your own it's not easy at all. I didn't know where to turn. Thanks to my parents who helped me to be very patient with myself. They urged me to finish school and get a job. I learned to be independent and self-supporting. In the long run I got to know a lot of people from different organizations and foundations.

I finished my education through a foundation they call FORMA (*Fundashon Formashon pa Mayan*). It's a foundation that gives everyone the opportunity if they want to finish their schooling, especially for young people who can't afford to pay too



much money for their schooling. Now I'm working with my father in his own business and have time to take care of things.

Remember, being pregnant is not an easy task, but different organizations can provide guidance for you and the baby. A consultancy for pregnant woman at the hospital gives you parental guidance. SEBIKI (*Sentro Boneiriano di Informashon-educativo pa Kuido Infantil*) is an educational center for every mother, to prepare them how they must treat their child from the womb until the day the baby born.

If you have a social problem at home and don't have any money, SASO (*Sentro pa Ayudo Sosial*), an office for social attention for the young and old, can help for what ever is needed: doctor's card, work, housing and food. So you are never alone."

As you can see if you get the right information you will succeed. Don't get depressed about your situation. Seek an easy way to get through your pregnancy. As you can see from my story, the information tells you about an educational course for pregnant women and how to prevent getting pregnant again, especially if you're a young mother.

So get up and start today. Be someone



Class for expectant mothers at SEBIKI



Reunion of no-longer-expectant mothers and dads at SEBIKI

who wants to succeed in life.

A famous parliamentary woman once said, "All young women must develop themselves, primarily through their studies." Is this what you as a young mother are doing? If you need help go to the different organizations that can help.

A single mother of two summed it up. "If you have a job, you are at the right beginning to make yourself a better person and

mother." Remember getting pregnant is not the end but the beginning. ■

Siomara E. Albertus

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.



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PWA Fuerteventura Freestyle Frenzie.

Lac Bay Locals in Top 5

In July the windsurfing tour continued at the beaches of Sotavento in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands. Fuerteventura is known for its sandy strand and strong summer breezes. Also is it one of the oldest tour stops today for windsurfing the slalom, freestyle end speed disciplines and for kite boarding speed, freestyle and superx.

The morning after the slalom awards ceremony the freestylers were ready to style it up. The conditions looked super with winds over 35 knots and some ground swell on the inside section of the competition area.

Riders representing the island of Bonaire were Tonky and Taty Frans and their cousin Kiri Thode who flew in just a few days before the event came off.

In the first single elimination final we saw Marcilio Browne versus Jose Estredo. Marcillo took the win after some solid landing of very stylish tricks. He'd have to wait for his challenger to arrive in the double elimination.

In the losers' final, Norman Günzlein challenged Tonky Frans (F2, Gaastra, Fiberspar, JibeCity, Choko Fins). Tonky put down a spectacular show with some clean moves close to the

crowds.

In the double elimination it was Ricardo Campello who came all the way up to meet with Marcilio Browne. He advanced through six heats, beating Kiri Thode (Starboard, Gaastra), Tonky Frans, Estredo and Günzlein before he finally got his chance at Browne.

Back on form, Browne launched a full-scale attack, which included a crazy air funnel, a huge ponch, and a monumental 10-foot-high air flaka. Campello rose to the challenge with a routine that included a misty flip and a push-loop. It was always going to be a close call, but Browne's technical and consistent run ultimately earned him the double elimination.

Elimination 2: The single elimination was quickly narrowed down to a semi final of Estredo versus Browne and Tonky Frans versus Campello.

Advancing into the final, Browne defeated Estredo to take the victory, leaving Estredo in second. And in the losers' final, Campello beat Tonky Frans to take third, leaving Tonky in fourth.

In the Men's 2nd Double, Otaegui made the most impressive comeback, rising through

four heats before he finally fell at the hands of Kiri Thode who's run was short lived, as he then departed courtesy of Tonky Frans. Frans went on to battle with Campello, and despite landing a super clean air chachoo, couldn't match Campello's crazy shuvit spock and pushloop. With the stakes getting higher, Campello advanced to duel with Estredo. The awesome heat saw air flakas from both sailors, a backloop from Campello, and a one handed air funnel from Estredo. It was a tough call to make, but Campello was ultimately rewarded with victory, meaning he'd go on to battle with Browne in a repeat of the first double elimination.

Dropping off the boil, Browne made the mistake of giving Campello a bit of breathing space. Campello seized the opportunity, landing a shuvit spock, and an air funnel to defeat Browne.

To take the elimination, Campello then had to overthrow Browne one more time. Both sailors hit the water again, but this time it was Campello who had slacked off.

This was Browne's second successive elimination victory and claimed him the overall event winner.



Ruben

Men's Final Elimination: High caliber moves provided an action packed backdrop to the final elimination of the competition. Advancing through to the semi finals, Estredo challenged Campello, and Frans squared up

against Browne in a clash that would decide who would advance into the final.

After a tense few minutes in the judging tower, the winners were announced. Browne and

(Continued on page 9)

							
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(Continued from page 8)

Estredo plowed on through to the final, leaving Campello and Frans to duel in the losers' final.

Fighting for third position, Campello threw everything he had at Frans, including a back-loop, and a pushloop. Calm and collected, Frans bided his time and was eventually rewarded with a steep ramp to throw a towering air chachoo. This, combined with some polished sliding moves on the inside, was eventually enough to defeat Campello, who'd lost his rhythm from previous days.

In the winners' final, Browne sailed a solid heat, but had nothing on rival Estredo. More determined than ever, the Venezuelan threw down the biggest, and without a doubt, the best air chachoo seen in all competition. Also landing a spock 900, a sky-high air flaka and a pushloop, Browne was eventually condemned to second position.

In the double elimination, Kiri Thode looked threatening after advancing through four tough heats but was stopped by a devastating performance from Tonky Frans, leaving Frans to challenge Browne, just one step away from the final.

The heat was off the scale, as the fiercely competitive duo threw all they had at each other. Frans' downfall would come when his concentration lapsed, and he left his score sheet one move short. The error was punished by Browne, who progressed to line up against Estredo in the decisive last heat of the day.

Final time, and Estredo drew the first blood with a towering air flaka, accompanied by a colossal air chachoo. Browne didn't let Estredo's aerial antics distract him, throwing down an assertive mix of an air chachoo, a misty flip, and a burner. Defiant Estredo shunned Brown's attack, nailing a perfectly rotated air funnel 540, alongside a mix of freestyles most explosive moves.

A spate of falls from Browne towards the end of the heat proved to be critical. All too aware of the implications,

Browne left the water with his head down. Estredo knew he'd done enough to win the heat and claim second place overall for the event. Despite Browne's loss, he still topped the event standings, and sits second overall for the 2008 season.

The 2008 Fuerteventura PWA Grand Slam Men's Freestyle Results:

- 1st Marcilio Browne
- 2nd Jose Estredo
- 3rd Ricardo Campello
- 4th Tonky Frans
- 5th Kiri Thode
- 8th Taty Frans

The 2008 Fuerteventura PWA Grand Slam Women's Freestyle Results:

- 1st Sarah-Quita Offringa
- 2nd Daida Moreno
- 3rd Laure Treboux
- 4th Yolanda De Brendt
- 5th Junko Nagoshi

Overall Women's Freestyle Results for 2008

**1st Sarah-Quita Offringa
2008 Womans Freestyle
Champion**

- 2nd Daida Moreno
- 3rd Laure Treboux
- 4th Junko Nagoshi
- 5th Iballa Moreno

The tour continues to the Mediterranean for a slalom extravaganza in Alaçati, Turkey. Stay tuned for the next issue where we introduce the first female competitor from Bonaire for the first time in the PWA slalom discipline. ■

Ruben Petrisie NB50



Taty



Kiri



Tonky

Pictures by JC/
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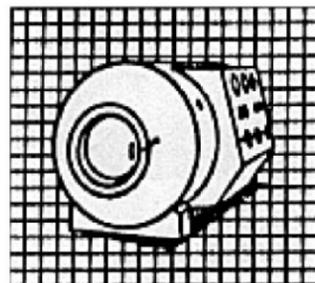
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The Death Wish of Bonaire's Male Parrotfish

One of many interesting things about parrotfish is their behavior that leads to the death of the males. Anytime a behavior leads to the death of one of the breeding adults, time after time, it is a behavior that is so striking that it totally occupies biologists' minds to try to find out why. Do the males have a "Death Wish?"

If my observations and deductions were contained solely within the mind of a marine biologist, then I would know that all parrotfish are born female but have the ability to change their sex into males. Biologists call this hermaphroditism. But the question goes begging: Why would this behavior have evolved?

If, on the other hand, my observations and deductions were of a dedicated bird watcher, then I would know that Ospreys are especially adapted to securing fish and male parrotfish are especially snatched out of the shallow water by the birds where they come in to feed. In the excellent book "Birds of the Netherlands Antilles," printed in 1983 by Prof. Dr. K. H. Voous, there is a documentation of a blue parrotfish being captured in Curaçao, and on its back were the talons of an Osprey. The fish was so large that it had dragged the Osprey into the ocean where it drowned. However, the Osprey couldn't release its talons because they are adapted with grooves along the bottom of each claw, and the Osprey has trouble letting go when a fish has been captured. But the question goes begging: Why do male parrotfish risk death by feeding in such shallow water?



Male Stoplight Parrotfish in shallow water along Bonaire's waterfront.

But put the two different views together, and with some time spent analyzing the factors, some patterns begin to develop. Something drives the males to have a much higher mortality rate than the females. This factor would cause an adaptation within parrotfish to develop in which females could transition into males when the male was killed, thus assuring that reproduction could continue, despite this death wish by the males.

Competition among the numerous algae feeders on the reef is keen, leading to many special survival adaptations among the species. Competition is what drives evolution. Without competition there would be no need for a species to change.

Parrotfish have a peculiar arrangement in the jaws allowing them to secure as much energy as possible from the algae that they eat. There is a second pair of jaws called the pharyngeal mill which can

be thought of as a special parrotfish pestle-and-mortar arrangement. The larger chunks of substrate (containing bits of algae material that help hold the algae on the bits of coral rubble) are bitten off by the fused teeth of the primary jaw, and the mill grinds up these fairly large chunks into smaller pieces, allowing a larger surface area for digestion within the stomach. Divers see the release of these plumes of fine sand from parrotfish but do not realize the size differences of the fine sand being pooped as being much different than the size of the substrate when it was ingested.

This is a great adaptation that has allowed parrotfish to survive in a highly competitive world. So where is the problem that accounts for the death wish of the male parrotfish? Male and females require different volumes of algae in order to secure enough energy during a day of grazing. Females are able to secure enough energy by grazing in the deeper reef rubble zones and do so by grazing almost constantly all day long. This algae is eaten by a large number of other algae feeders and is being constantly nipped off, but because of the intensity of sunlight it re-grows, and is almost immediately again nipped off. This food source never gets to develop into larger volumes, thereby acquiring more nutritious energy-laden elements. Thus the need for specialized jaw adaptations in order to secure as much energy from the algae as possible.

Now, let's look at the life of the male parrotfish. It almost goes without too much thought that males require larger volumes of the not-so-nutritious algae out on the reef where every algae grazer feeds. And in the amount of time that they have to feed, they must look for more nutritious algae somewhere where the other grazers are not feeding. Besides the normal energy requirements, males' larger body size requires more energy than the females, and males must defend their harems from always opportunistic free males trying to acquire their own harems.

You see the males chasing other males on almost every dive on Bonaire, but only if you are aware of what is going on. Also, males must acquire more energy because they must reproduce with the females in their harem whenever they are gravid with mature eggs. This behavior you also see on almost every dive on Bonaire but, again, you must be aware of what is going on or otherwise you totally

miss the male up high in the water column, with an arched tail, swimming over the backs of his harem, perhaps 10 to 15 feet below. Then one of the females begins to rise up to the male, and in a coordinated, side-by-side rush toward the surface, they both slap their tails together and separate. That is the precise moment when sperm and egg are released into a cloud of gametes. I am alerted to the spawning of the parrotfish on my dives whenever I see a tight cluster of Sergeant Majors who are feeding on these nutritious bundles of energy, even before fertilization has had an opportunity to take place. On a dive one August I saw one male Stoplight Parrot, up high in the water column, and knew to watch and was amazed to see him mate with that spawning rush toward the surface with seven different females, all within 40 seconds.

So the male is forced to acquire his algae in shallow water where his body length determines how close he can feed to shore depending on the effects of the tides. The changing tide depths assures that the males do not overeat at just one depth but acquire more nutritious algae that has had periods of changing tides that allow for the algae to recover from the grazing.

As you observe male Stoplights, male Queen and often Yellowtail and Redtail Parrotfish up in the shallow waters along the waterfront here on Bonaire, you now have an idea what they are doing, that they are at a high risk of being a meal for an observant Osprey. This behavior is occurring all along Bonaire's coastline and along the coasts of all the islands in the Caribbean. Unless you put all the aforementioned details together and look through the eyes of both marine biologist and bird-watcher, never will you arrive at the reason behind the death wish of the male parrotfish. ■ **Jerry Ligon**

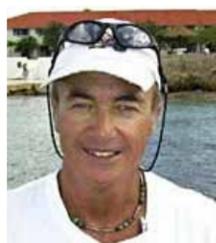
Ligon is the Naturalist at Bonaire Dive and Adventure where he conducts above and below the water tours. Phone 791-6079.

Author's Note: The preceding is my original observations and deductions, and perhaps a new discovery on this unique adaptation and the reasons behind it. I hope to put together a video that can be seen on YouTube later.

Photo by Wim and Inga Elstrodt



Lagoon area showing Osprey after capturing a small fish, (not a Parrotfish, this time). Ospreys will catch by opportunity, putting more mortality on male parrotfish.



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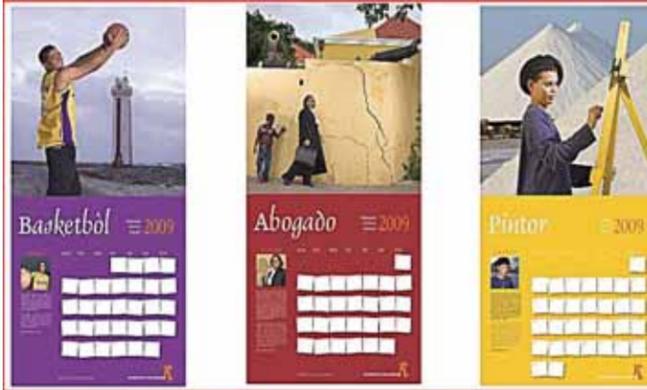
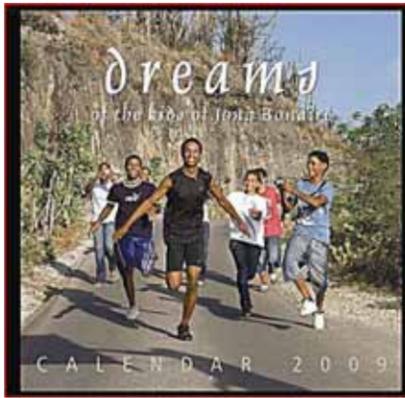
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Capturing Capturing Dreams



Jong Bonaire had the assistance of acclaimed photographer Bart Landheer in coming up with a fund raising project for the end of the year. The members of the after-school center were asked to describe their dream jobs. The winners had their dreams captured on film and made into a 2009 calendar. Take my word for it, this is not an ordinary calendar. We've seen a sample; the images are inspiring. You can get a preview by going to the Bart Landheer Photography website <http://www.bartlandheer.nl/index.html>.

The calendars will be offered for sale in about a month and make a perfect gift or yourself or others. We'll let you know when you can get them. Quantities are limited. To reserve contact Jong Bonaire. ■ G.D

Pet of The Week

Furry little "Flo" is the star of a happy ending to a very hard luck story. She was found on the street and was totally infested with ticks and fleas. Flo might have just withered away and died a long, slow, agonizing death had not someone caught her and brought her into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. It was quite a tedious, lengthy and tiring job for the staff to rid her of all the vermin. But look at her now. She's gorgeous, and she's healthy and lots of fun to have around. The experts believe she was born around the beginning of April but certainly not an April Fool! Because she is such a fine dog with good character is why the Shelter staff decided to work with her and bring her into good health.

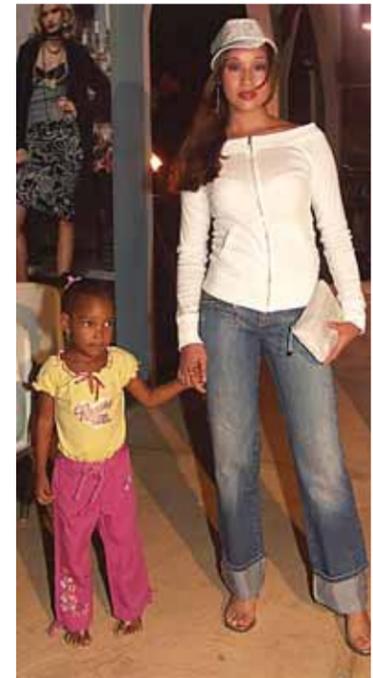


Flo

You may meet Flo at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm. 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Are you starved for pet company but can't have a pet of your own? Why not become a volunteer at the Shelter where you will be very much appreciated by not only the staff but the pets themselves. You may choose your own hours and times. They're pretty flexible there. One of the reasons the adoptable pets are so social and love people is because there are people like you who spend time just "socializing" with them. There are numerous other volunteer jobs too. Give them a call and find out more. ■ L.D.

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

A Finlandian Lady Enjoying the Tropical Sunshine of Bonaire

The 36th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Antrio Pabao – Since May 2007 the humble collection of special cars on Bonaire has been enriched by an iguana-droppings-color sprayed flat bed Toyota Land Cruiser BJ 45, built in 1979, imported to the island by Jan Okhuijsen. Jan freely admits that he does not really like the color of one of his vehicles. One of his vehicles, because this aficionado is also the owner of a red Toyota Land Cruiser FJ 73 straight six in line powered gasoline vehicle built in 1992. Some guys have all the luck!



Jan already knew our beloved island. He spent some five years of his life on Bonaire from 1993 until 1998. Paradise revisited. So, the vegetative dropping-colored BJ 45 is the subject of this small article.

In 1941 Japan obtained a US Jeep and the military authorities commanded Toyota to make a similar vehicle. The result was the AK10, a half ton prototype jeep, powered by a 2259 four-cylinder four stroke in line engine.

In 1954 the name "Land Cruiser" was created by the technical director, Hanji Umehara. "In England we had another competitor - Land Rover. I had to come up with a name for our car that would not sound less dignified than those of our competitors. That is why I decided to call it 'Land Cruiser,'" Umehara recalls.

The four wheel drive short wheel base vehicle was built in 1979 in Japan by the Toyota Motor Corporation and then shipped to Finland where she spent most of her life earning her fuel as a working horse. Then she was exported to the Netherlands where she was partly restored.

The original colors of the Land Cruiser were red and/or blue. An unknown person decided to spray the jeep in a kind of green color, maybe inspired by some kind of army vehicle. The little red accents also point in that direction. (Army employees for some reason love to paint the oil inlets and oil caps of their vehicles red. Of course the outlets become black finally/jb).

The former owner of this vehicle wanted to use it as a towing station for glider planes. A huge winch had to be mounted on the flat bed of the Land Cruiser. Plans changed and Jan fell in

love with the spurring four cylinder diesel.

"I was searching the Internet for a vehicle that would suit Bonaire," Jan says. "I found this lovely eccentric BJ 45, bought it and shipped it to the Antilles. My Land Cruiser is equipped with a solid 3.4 liter four cylinder diesel engine. No turbo charger, no intercooler, just a naturally aspirated four lungner with a huge air filter. The car is fitted with a 24 volt alternator that supplies the energy to two batteries to crank up the engine in the barbarian cold of Finland. This system works perfectly, but the problem is that 24 Volt bulbs are hard to find on Bonaire."

Jan's Land Cruiser is fitted with a heavy custom-built flat bed (to carry the winch for the glider planes/jb). Jan has all kinds of ideas about pimping up his love. He intends to convert the rear end: new lights, built-in license plate, custom made rear bumper. He already enriched the car with an impressive winch in front of the car, able to tow an average of 9,500 pounds. "I never had to use this winch to recover my own vehicle," Jan continues. "I drove it all over the island but I never got stuck thanks to the reliable diesel engine and the brutal 15 inch Goodrich mud and terrain tires. And the booster cables also are a service to the other participants of the Bonairean traffic!"

Jan is really proud of his 150 Watt beam light mounted on top of the cabin of the jeep. "Of course it is 24 Volts," Jan explains. "It can turn almost 360 degrees and is controlled by a small independent device. Nice, cute and handy!"

We open the door to inspect the vehicle. Some brownish material drops in the sand. (A Land Rover needs oil, a Land Cruiser

needs paint. In 1979 the Irish Army took delivery of the first FJ45 Land Cruisers. Although fast, reliable and with good off-road performance the type tended to rust excessively in the wet Irish climate. (/jb.) Four-speed gearbox, high speed, low speed, two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, no power steering (turning the steering wheel is only possible when the vehicle is rolling backwards or forward), old fashioned radio, built before the cassette deck was invented. No nonsense interior. Poor man's airco by roll down windows and fancy side vents to prevent feet from sweating. The instruction manual informs the owner about these vents as follows: "They allow fresh outside air to flow directly into the vehicle. The amount of air entering the vehicle through these vents depends on vehicle speed." (Weird guys, those Japanese..) Free wheel hubs in the front, leaf springs all around, heavy duty shock absorbers, side steps.

Then Jan starts the Toyota's engine to hit the road for a photo session. The car rattles, shakes and bounces, no matter whether the roads are paved or unpaved. Some rocks in the back might improve the road holding. Steering appears to be a real work-out exercise. Cornering is fun. The car smells like it looks: brutal and unshaven, muddy and wet. A real man handler. This car has a lot of potential. When we stop the vehicle for the photo session a nice pattern is left in the sand behind the tires... ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Picture Yourself With The Reporter New York, USA



"My name is Timmy Vaseur. I live on Bonaire. Here I'm sending you a photo from my recent trip to New York.

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Letters to the Editor

Pollution Solution?

Dear Editor:

In the last three issues of *The Reporter* there was a lot of controversy about conservation and development on Bonaire. It seems that each viewpoint has a portion of the truth but neither has the whole truth. I think we must put a bit of perspective on both ideas before starting to look for solutions.

Conservation: It seems that many people think we protect nature because nature needs it, because nature begs us to do it. This is more an anthropocentric point of view than the truth. Nature was here before human beings appeared on earth and will be here after we leave earth; maybe

not as we witness it today but it still will be nature.

Nature is bigger than Earth and goes beyond Earth. In Earth's specific case nature has gone through several mass extinctions - around seven - that in many cases destroyed 95% of the species in existence at that time, and as a whole survived them. Last but not least, human beings are part of nature and are not over nature. We protect nature and in the specific case of Bonaire, the coral reef, because both are important to our survival, we need its water, its air, its resources and its beauty for our survival; so any effort to protect nature is serious business and must be considered very carefully and thoughtfully.

Development: Many people think that development and growth are the same and it is not true. A country can grow and never develop or progress. You can see many examples in the

third world. You can even see it in China. 25 years ago they kept growing but its progress was too low. Now, after China has joined the World Trade Organization, it's progress is amazing. The same is happening to India. What Bonaire needs is progress, a sustainable progress. It means a steady growth, not only in our economy; it must be in many other sectors including health, education, communication, power supply, etc.

We need a diversified economy to avoid dependence on only one product and to be more independent. Bonaire has an economy that relies on only one product and that is tourism, which depends directly on our coral reef, so any progress in Bonaire must take in consideration the health of the Coral Reef.

So I read carefully Ramon De Leon's letter and I think that it is a very good warning for all of us on Bonaire. See what happened at

Negril in Jamaica. After 40 years they are still trying to deal with their dying coral reef. The reef dying was related to a large amount of nutrients, above the ecologically acceptable water quality standards for coral reefs, coming into the reef from: overpopulation, out of control Tourism, uncontrolled coastal development, and a badly designed tertiary water treatment system, reef over fishing was part of the problem too. Human health water quality standards are deadly to coral reefs; healthy coral reef standards are one hundred times higher.

It looks like our water treatment system is well designed. I hope it has a biological tertiary sewage treatment with standards way above human health water quality standards, but the main problem is the time that will elapse until its implementation. Maybe we can find alternative solutions that

(Continued on page 18)

DO YOU SUDOKU?

		3		7				9
			6		4	7		
2	7	1	9					
	1			9		6	2	
			1		2			
	9	2		8			4	
					7	4	1	6
		8	3		9			
7				5		8		

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. **Answer on page 8.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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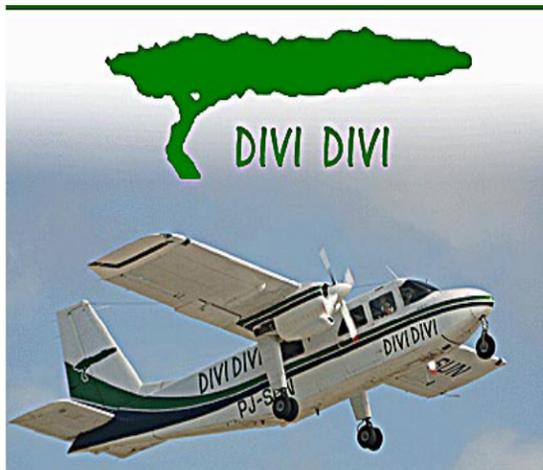
KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
9-19	1:38	0.9FT.	16:00	1.8FT.					90
9-20	2:32	0.8FT.	17:06	1.9FT.					82
9-21	3:20	0.7FT.	18:06	1.9FT.					72
9-22	4:01	0.7FT.	19:09	2.0FT.					63
9-23	4:35	0.8FT.	20:03	2.0FT.					57
9-24	5:12	0.8FT.	20:57	1.9FT.					57
9-25	5:41	0.9FT.	11:14	1.3FT.	14:16	1.2FT.	21:52	1.8FT.	62
9-26	5:58	1.0FT.	11:21	1.4FT.	15:49	1.1FT.	22:39	1.7FT.	71
9-27	6:07	1.1FT.	11:41	1.4FT.	17:14	1.1FT.	23:30	1.6FT.	79
9-28	0:15	1.5FT.	5:58	1.2FT.	12:04	1.5FT.	18:38	1.1FT.	85
9-29	1:24	1.3FT.	5:17	1.2FT.	12:36	1.6FT.	20:14	1.1FT.	89
9-30	13:21	1.7FT.	22:08	1.0FT.					89
10-1	14:02	1.8FT.	23:35	1.0FT.					86
10-2	0:53	0.9FT.	14:50	1.8FT.					80
10-3	1:49	0.8FT.	15:43	1.8FT.					72

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463 275 189
985 614 732
271 938 564
814 593 627
637 142 958
592 786 341
359 827 416
148 369 275
726 451 893

Puzzle on page 7



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coral glimpses

(a bit of information about corals presented by naturalist Dee Scarr)

Even with the polyps contracted, the mouths of these corals are visible *photo by Dee Scarr*



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...
Lobsters march in formation?



The Caribbean Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*, migrates to deeper waters late in the year. Groups of up to 65 individuals have been observed marching along in formation, antennae to tail, towards deeper waters. They've been observed to march over seven miles per day! Scientists believe that these lobsters are migrating to deeper, calmer (and often warmer) waters to wait out the storm season. The migrations are usually associated with a drop in water temperature that is often associated with the onset of storms. Diminishing daylight hours could also be another factor that influences the timing of the migrations. Has anyone seen a lobster parade in Bonaire? If so, I would like to know!

Story by Carin Eckrich; photo courtesy of Manuel Mola

Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs Sea and Discover, Bonaire's marine education center specializing in guided dives and snorkels for adults and adventure programs for kids. You may call her at 717-5322.



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DINING GUIDE

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Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar Sea Side at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed.-"Live Cooking by the Chefs;" Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30-6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$19.50 (7-10 pm)
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28,50 or \$16.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Bonaire's first Argentine grill Great value anytime.
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
It Rains Fishes A Bonaire "Must" -On the oceanfront on the Boulevard at the Club Nautico Marina pier—717-8780	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Bonaire's in-town hot spot Best waterfront/harbor view combined with an inspired Menu, skillful staff and superb chef
Sunset Bar & Grill At the Traffic Circle, Seaside, at Den Laman Apartments 788-2698	Moderate, Dinner, Bar Menu Closed Monday	Magnificent Seaside Views Seafood, steaks, vegetarian and more. Hot and cold snack menu at the bar
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111
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Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration. Full service dive shop and photo shop too.

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HAPPENING SOON

September 1-30: Join Ned & Anna DeLoach all month long at Buddy Dive giving presentations on marine life, leading boat dives and giving snorkeling tours in the mangroves.

Friday, September 19 - A Taste of Bonaire – Experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things Bonairean, Wilhelmina Park, 6-9 pm.

September 20-27: Love Our Planet Week

Saturday, September 20: Underwater Clean-Up

Saturday, September 20: Moonlight walk— see pg. 6

Monday, September 22 - "Healing the Wild" Educational Seminar: in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat, 8 pm. FREE

Tuesday, September 23 – Bò Antoin Lecture— Sport hall. A **Surprise 7:30 pm FREE.**

Tuesday, September 23— "Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Program" Educational Seminar: in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat, 8 pm. FREE

Wednesday, September 24 – "Coral Ecology & Economy" Interactive Seminar: Presented by CORAL's Program Director Rick MacPherson in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat, 8pm. FREE

Thursday, September 25 – "Bonaire's Endangered Lora" : Learn about the monitoring program currently for the endangered Lora Parrot. Presented by Fernando Simal, Manager of Washington Slagbaai National Park, and Sam Williams of the University of Sheffield in the Conference Room at Captain Don's Habitat, 6 pm. FREE

October 5-10 Bonaire Regatta: Klein Bonaire Swim See pg. 3, Regatta see pg. 5

REGULAR EVENTS

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, Divi Flamingo Balashi Bar
- HH—50% off- Buddy Dive

Resort, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 7 pm– 3 am.

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

- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

Steak Night On the Beach (a la carte) with live mariachi- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10pm

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

- **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.

- **Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email info@bonairewellness.com

Sundays

- **Enjoy a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm.

Mondays

- **"Dive & Dine" Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Margarita & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **"Live Cooking by the Chefs"** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

Thursdays

- **Flamingo Rockers** at **"Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7 pm

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30-6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm,

Buddy Dive Resort

- Flamingo Rockers playing at **Sunset Bar and Grill**, from 6 - 8pm. **FREE Rum Punch** goes from 5:30 - 6:30pm. BBQ starting at 6:30pm. **Den Laman Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday- Creature Feature— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

Tuesday—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 7 pm—717-3802.

Tuesday—Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 786-5073

Wednesday- Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9-12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

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

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm; every Sunday at 5pm. Phone: 786-7699 .

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm) All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 for venue.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month - Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is wel-

come. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. **Rotary** lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

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

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

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm.

Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125



CD Baptism

COVER STORY



"E Paraiso di Nos Kreador"

It's a unique Bonaire tradition: The baptism or christening of something new and special. We know of no other place where CDs in particular get baptized with champagne, or in this case, coconut milk!

The San Luis Bertran choir has a new CD, "E Paraiso di Nos Kreador," (Our Creator's Paradise) and it was in an environment of excitement and happiness that it made its debut recently at the Mangazina di Rei living museum in Rincon.

And there are always godparents. *Padrino* (godfather) is DJ Juan Danger and *Madrina* (godmother) is Bebe Sint Jago.

The title song, composed by Goswin Bernabela, describes the beauty and enchantment of the island of Bonaire and gives thanks to God for this marvelous gift. The pure voices of the choir describe it beautifully.

The choir was originally set up in 1981 in Rincon as the *Kor Hubenil* (youth choir) in Rincon.



Ceril Janga, one of the musical arrangers, doesn't let the baptismal coconut milk go to waste.

Later, in 1999, the name was changed to the San Luis Bertran Choir.

Some of the original voices are still with them: Tico Balentine

and Dwight Leonetta. Dwight was the winner of the Curaçao Tumba Festival.

It was a particular emotional time for composer Goswin Bernabela. He too was one of the original members in 1981. After living in Holland for a number of years, he's back on the island, thanks to the program, *Bin Boneiru Bek* (come back to Bonaire), which seeks to find jobs so that Bonaireans may return to their island.

This is the choir's second CD; the first was *Kumpli Ku E Mishon* (Complete the Mission), which came out in April 2006.

The choir performs at gospel shows in Curaçao and Aruba as well as in church.

This CD would make a fine addition to someone's collection of unique Bonairean music. It's sold for only NAf 15 at the Flamingo Book store on Kaya Grandi or from choir members.

The CD was recorded at Jom Recording Studio in Rincon. ■

L.D.



Eichhornia crassipes or Water Hyacinth.

Letters (Continued from page 13) work parallel and faster and at the same time allow Bonaire to progress and to diversify our economy and reduce our dependence on external sources.

There is an aquatic plant named *Eichhornia crassipes* or Water Hyacinth. 25 years ago it was a pest in Florida because it grew so fast that it almost closed the water channels of Florida. Today, however, after many years of research we discover that it can be used as a fast and cheap way to treat water. It can take out of the wastewater a lot of nutrients that can damage the coral reef and toxic elements such as lead, mercury, chromium, etc... and we can use the treated water for irrigation.

A water treatment system based on *Eichhornia* can be built in 1 year, can help to reduce the amount of the organic compounds to a safe level for the reef, keep them out of the sea water, and can be used to diversify

or improve our economy: we can use the sludge, gas, and biomass to produce a variety of byproducts such as fuel, food and fertilizer. For example: a septic tank water collection system plus a two stage polyculture waste water treatment system, using water hyacinth in the first stage and *Azolla* (another aquatic plant), plus freshwater prawns or fish in the second stage can deal with the wastewater and at the same time produce food for our internal consumption. By harvesting *Eichhornia* and its byproducts we can have organic fertilizers for agriculture, food for cattle and goats, and if we couple the system with a digestion facility we can produce biogas. Last but not least it will create work places.

So for Bonaire we must start thinking out of the box and implement new technologies that will allow us to wisely use our natural resources to progress.

Luis Gorriin

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

The Super Bright Star Which Shines Overhead Every Year on the Autumnal Equinox

Next Monday, September 22nd is the autumnal equinox. But did you know that if you go outside any night during the first week of autumn of any year and look straight up you will see one of the brightest stars in the heavens almost overhead? And that our Sun and Earth are actually flying toward it and getting closer every day?

On any clear night during the first week of autumn between the hours of 8 and 9 pm Sky Park time look straight up almost overhead and you will see an extremely bright star right next to four dimmer stars which if connected by lines would make a lopsided rectangle which is more properly called a parallelogram. These stars plus a handful of others make up the ancient constellation **Lyra the Harp**.

But Lyra's brightest star, **Vega**, is the real attention grabber. It is the fifth brightest star and compared to our Sun it's a doozy. For starters while our Sun is 865 thousand miles wide, Vega is over twice as wide, two million miles. And Vega's blue-white color tells us that it is a super hot star, much hotter than our own yellow-orange Sun. In fact our Sun's surface temperature is a mere 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit whereas Vega's is a blistering 17,000 degrees. So because Vega is much bigger and hotter it is 60 times brighter! But one of the really nifty things about Vega is that it once was and will again be our **North Star**, a much brighter one than our current North Star, which is the end star of the handle of the **Little Dipper**. You see the North Star is simply the star directly above our Earth's north pole, the one towards which our Earth's axis points. But because of a regular, very slow wobbling motion of our Earth, like a top slowing down, our Earth's axis doesn't always point to the same spot in the heavens. In fact our Earth's axis traces out a great circle in the sky. Right now our Earth's axis is pointed to a spot on that circle very close to our current North Star.

But the Earth's axis slowly drifts, constantly changing where it points in that circle. A hundred years from now it will point even closer to our current North Star but a thousand years from now it will be well past it. And once every 26,000 years it points to Vega. So 14 1/2 thousand years ago Vega was the North Star of our cave man ancestors and Vega will be our North Star once again eleven and a half thousand years from now.

But what I really love about Vega is that it marks the direction our Sun and Earth are headed. In fact our Sun and Earth are racing towards Vega at the incredible speed of 12 miles per second. But Vega is so far away it would take our Sun almost 500 million years to reach it. And unfortunately by the time we get there Vega will have already moved. So don't pack your bags for Vega yet.

Just go out any night next week the first week of autumn between 8 and 9 pm, look overhead and contemplate the incredible beauty of this brilliant blue-white star. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

September (end)

Aries-Relationships are a strong focus for you in September, dear Aries. Tending to a partner's needs is important now, and it would be wise to put some of your own personal projects on the back burner in order to focus on a significant partnership. Past efforts on the job pay off this month. Some of you may find that your career is moving towards a more service-oriented direction. Increased public recognition and professional success can be had now.

Taurus-In September, there is a flurry of activity surrounding work and health matters, dear Taurus. Nevertheless, romantic matters are strong, and might be found on the job. Income from foreign sources could also figure this month. While your work demands a lot of attention in September, you are also more able to get away from the daily routine--more transportation options open, for example, or you have (or create) more free time to do so.

Gemini-Romantic and creative energy runs very high this month, dear Gemini. Financial gains may come through a partnership or there may be an increase in a partner's income in September. A partnership benefits from more expansive, warm, and intimate energy. A friend comes to you in the first week of the month, whether this is a new friend or one from your past. Important decision making and presentations should be scheduled before the 24th.

Cancer-A busy home life figures strongly this month, dear Cancer. Entertaining in your home is especially successful now. Relationships and partnerships benefit from expansive, warm energy, or successful new ones are entered in September. The lines of communication open up between you and a special someone. Sharing daily events and goings-on with one another gives you much pleasure. Income from work activities is strong and could increase.

Leo-Practical matters and communications are a big focus for you in September, dear Leo. More security in your job is likely to boost your confidence. Your natural talents are more likely to be appreciated by others, particularly on the job. You have a stronger desire than usual to communicate your ideas, and siblings, relatives, and neighbors tend to play a stronger role in your life this month. Be tricky when it comes to relating with a significant other.

Virgo-Finances are in focus and strong in September, dear Virgo. You might find that expressing yourself creatively really helps to define yourself and to understand yourself better, and it could lead to some profits as well! You have a stronger ability to hold the attention of an audience in September. Children and romance thrive this month. Love, love affairs, and other social activities help to enhance a healthy self image. You are feeling less private and more open about your opinions and experiences now.

Libra-A very busy month is in store for you, dear Libra. Opportunities seem to fall into your lap this month, particularly involving education, travel, and relationships. Material profits come from communications projects. Home improvements, such as real estate or renovation purchases, are favored, as is moving to a new dwelling if applicable. The 22-23 is strong for personal finances, gifts, and acquiring new possessions.

Scorpio-Although you may find yourself in demand socially from time to time in September, dear Scorpio, most of your activities are behind the scenes. Relationships with a partner and with friends are low-key and private. A flurry of activity surrounding romance or children occurs around the 25th. Chances are excellent that you will find a lovely confidante this month--someone to share your daily activities and thoughts with. Gifts or opportunities may come through visits, short trips, messages, emails, or they could come through contacts with siblings, classmates, and neighbors.

Sagittarius-Stimulating friendships and group activities, as well as increased energy, figure strongly for you in September, dear Sagittarius. Personal projects bear fruit, and practical matters are especially favorable. It's an excellent period in which to ask for a raise, before the 24th. You may have more resources to invest into your career or business. Being in a position of responsibility or authority is something you place a high value on this month. Partnerships are friendly, and singles are more likely to find romance in group settings or through friends.

Capricorn-Others are likely to turn to you for advice this month, dear Capricorn, as all eyes turn to you. If you feel that others are judging you for what you have and haven't done this month, you're probably correct! Trips could be especially rewarding for you right now--they can provide a pleasant breather from pressures in your life. You are feeling especially proud and even buoyant in September, and this confidence enhances all areas of life. Romance may be found through your career and business activities. A private project can pay off now.

Aquarius-A spirit of adventure and intrigue takes hold in September, dear Aquarius, when the humdrum simply doesn't satisfy! Friendships move forward, and you may be repaid if you're waiting on a friend. A partner is craving more intimacy this month. Singles will find romance when they are out and about, away from home and typical activities. Help seems to be magically there when you need it, and your own awesome strength always there to draw upon.

Pisces-Career matters moves forward this month, and the focus is on increasing business income. Success is indicated. Money from other sources than personal income, such as through a partner or bank loan, is also strong. A partnership is especially intimate in September. Stellar days on the 19-22 offer opportunities in the areas of relationships, negotiations, personal income, and family. Partnering with a friend in some tangible way can be part of the picture this month. ■

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