

Bonaire's util-ity company, WEB, has jumped the rates for electricity by as much as 24% for the next three months. After

that new prices will be announced. The new prices are a consequence of the BES Electricity and Drinking Water Act of 2016 which say the rates have to be based on the costs of production and delivery. In the past rates were arbitrarily set and did not necessarily reflect these costs.

According to this law not only WEB and the Executive Council, but also the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management all have a say in determining the tariffs. On April 1st, 2018 look for new, probably higher, rates. Low income/low use utility users are hoping for a social subsidy as is being done elsewhere. The Bonaire Consumers Union, Unkobon, is monitoring developments closely



A heavy seaquake, more powerful than the 2010 earthquake that destroyed Haiti, took place on Tuesday, January 9th between Honduras and the Cayman Islands. The quake was strong, 7.6 on the Richter scale, but over 10 km. under the seabed, and was felt as far as South Florida. There are often earthquakes in this region, but this was the strongest in 20 years .

Maurice's Adriaens' contract as head of Bonaire's tourism promotion has been renewed according a commu-

niqué from the Board of Commissioners (RvC) of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). He was named General Manager of the organization for a period of three years. The action of the Supervisory Board follows a lack of clarity about the Board's intention to rename Adriaens as the statutory director of the TCB. His past year has seen accomplishments such as staff building, contracts with Canadian Sunwing and American Airlines, expansion of visitors from tour operators, increased cruise ship visits and a Strategic Marketing Plan.



The Island Government announced that motor vehicle owners are obligated to pay their 2018 road tax by February 15 or risk a fine. Owners of gasoline powered vehicles pay \$190 for the whole year, diesel owners pay \$838, heavy equipment operators much more. The tax may be paid in one or two installments. You can pay on -line, at the Giro Bank next to the tax office, or with a transfer from your account to the RCN's. **Perhaps this year the road** tax money can be devoted to repairing Bonaire's roads.

The next Classical Music Board con**cert** is a mix of European and Antillean music, beautiful well-known classical music from the time of Baroque and Romanticism, but also modern music such as easy listening and folk music plus classical Antillean music from the illustrious period of the Palm family from the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Did you miss the Maskarada troupe? Featured will also be their lively traditional folk music played on traditional instruments as well as vocals, saxophone, piano and organ in various combinations.

The very varied program with pleasant melodic music will be performed at the big Catholic church in Playa. The church will be beautifully lit and the music is beautifully enhanced. So come, and enjoy for only \$10. See poster on page 14.

Adriana Morales de Florencio (23 jaar)



p haar rechterschouder h na een oovallende tatoeao

peboren in

lets haar vorei



Original missing person posting

▶ In the evening of Thursday, April 20, 2017, the police received notification from the cruise ship Navigator of the Seas that a crew member, Adriana Morales de Florencio (23), who had disembarked from her ship around noon, was missing. Morales studied tourism at Puebla University in Mexico and was on an internship aboard the Royal Caribbean cruise line ship. The search began for the missing woman immediately.

During the weekend following her disappearance, CCTV video images from around the waterfront were collected from private surveillance cameras in the area were viewed individually.

As a result a suspect, 44-year old Raysley Sambo (initials R.E.G.S), was quickly identified as a suspect and questioned. Morales' body was later found in a shallow grave in the north of Bonaire. The murder deeply shocked the Bonaire community.

Sambo finally appeared in Kralendijk court last Thursday, January 11, charged with the crime. The Public Prosecutor accused him of the gruesome knifing murder of Morales after she refused his sexual advances and demanded 22 years in prison.

The Prosecutor said the murder involved especially horrifying circumstances: computer data of the defendant showed that in the days before and after the killing of Adriana, he looked at extremely violent porn films and photos about young women being raped. He lured her into his car, as-

(Continued on page 3)

Flotsam & Jetsam (Morales murder case sentencing date set) Letters to the Editor-Logic and Rules On the Island Since-Eliana Pekeri-Manuela 5 Born on Bonaire-Cherry Pekeri Did You Know-Mating Frogfish Picture Yourself – The Alamo, Texas

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Maskarada Returns

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) saulted her and after the stabbing dumped her like dirt in a wheelbarrow and left. He then waited until dark and buried her body to cover his tracks.

For this reason, even though the defendant had no criminal record, a sentence of 22 years was demanded. There is no death penalty in The Netherlands. Sentencing is set for January 31.



sports stadium doesn't need to be mowed. It's artificial turf. But it does ing 737 later this year. need cleaning. The head of the Indebon, Peter Silberie (driving the small tractor), said that this will be done once a month, so that the artificial grass remains in good condition. Last Tuesday the work started in the stadium of Playa and on Wednesday the Elio Flores Field and then the Chio Semeleer Field in North Saliña.

► InselAir is up to its old tricks of cancellation and delays. On January 7 the CUR- SXM jet flight was changed to small turboprop plane and connection and luggage problems followed. Be aware.

According to Curacao news accounts the employees of the airline are dissatisfied with the leadership and want the head of the airline fired. However, the Board of Commissioners of InselAir denies that the staff wants CEO Gilles Filiatreault to leave, as the trade union previously informed the media. The council also says that "it has not received any signals that Filiatreault has to leave. We are currently discussing an extension of Filiatreault's contract, to reorganize InselAir and remove it from the danger zone."

►CN Express, the direct flight between Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, has been cancelled by St. Maarten-based Winair who was to organize the flights. The Dutch ministry is said to now be looking at alternatives.

Winair also cancelled its SXM-CUR The playing field at the Kralendijk jet service. It said it would begin SXM -PAP (Haiti) flights with a leased Boe-

> ► Capriccio Restaurant received another Best of Award of Excellence from Wine Spectator magazine for its 450 wine selections, strong in Piedmont and Tuscany vintages. Pair your pick with Chef Andrea Magni's menu, which features plenty of pizza, pasta, roasted meats and grilled fish.

> ▶ On Monday morning, January 8, State Secretary Raymond Knops of the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, paid a visit to Island Gover-

> > (Continued on page 11)

CIEE Bonaire Closes

IEE Bonaire discontinued its opera- tions on Bonaire at the end of last year. In the opinion of numerous observers it represents a huge loss to the community, especially those who have an interest in preserving Bonaire's ecosystem.

The CIEE Research Station Bonaire opened in August 2006. Bonaire provided an exceptional natural environment for more than a decade of exploration, education and research by participants in the Bonaire programs

Rita Peachey, the headmistress of the school, released the following message to the community, "It has been a privilege to be part of, and to support, the local community in Bonaire.

Thank you to all the students, staff and volunteers who have made CIEE Bonaire an inspiring place to work. It has been my privilege. They are countless: Giby Winklaar, and his immediate and extended family, who has been CIEE Bonaire's caterer since 2007 has provided many great meals and BBQs!

Xiomara Frans has been teaching Papiamentu and sharing her love for teaching the language with our students, and staff, for over a decade.

Paul Scott Hausmann, Daniel Gouge, and Astrid Verstappen for years of service on the AAUS Dive Safety Board; providing CIEE students and staff with an impeccable safety record.

Jeff McPhate who has provided Tech Support for the past 5 years. I cannot imagine where CIEE Bonaire would have been without Jeff's expertise: - actually, I can.

VIP Diving for years of excellent quality dive support.



The many volunteer interns from around the world who have contributed to the success of the programs over the years.

The STINAPA staff that have worked with CIEE over the years. Specifically, I want to acknowledge Desiree Croes for her organization of the Jr. Rangers program. Other notable staff CIEEs worked with include Anouschka van de Ven, Caren Eckrich, Ramon de Leon, Fernando Simal, Sabine Engle, and Paulo Bertuol.

All the Volunteer Lionfish Hunters who brought specimens to the lab for research.

My former neighbor, and extraordinary Bonairean, Daniella Gustowski: Thank you for all your love and support!" Rita Peachey



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Venezuela Closes Borders

he border closure that president Nicolas Maduro imposed on January 5, and which was supposed to last for just 72 hours, will remain in effect "indefinitely until ABC/Dutch island authorities hold a high-level meeting with Venezuela to combat the mafias stealing and smuggling our strategic resources with impunity," Venezuelan executive vice president Tareck El Aissami tweeted last week.

The Venezuelan government "will not allow further aggression from these criminal organizations," he added, without elaborating.

The vice president's office and foreign ministry declined to provide details.

Venezuela says it will not reopen its air and sea borders with Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao until the local authorities implement measures to halt smuggling of coltan, diamonds and gold mined illegally in the South American country. The move ratchets up tensions between Caracas and the Dutch islands.

The islands have oil refineries and storage facilities historically tied to Venezuelan state-owned oil company PDVSA. Although the oil-related links, which bring vital revenue to the islands, are not officially part of the air and sea closure, tensions over PDVSA's lack of maintenance and investment has long been a source of friction.

The latest sign of rising tensions coincided with a visit by the Dutch Undersecretary for Kingdom Relations with the islands, Raymond Knops.

PDVSA UNDER PRESSURE

Why has this border closure happened now? Some analysts believe it has to do with Caracas' failing oil business interests in the ABC Islands:

PDVSA operates Curacao's 325,000 b/d Isla refinery under a lease that expires at the end of next year. Under pressure to clean up environmental damage and improve the ageing refinery, PDVSA has signaled it does not plan to extend the arrangement that would imply further investment.

Curacao's plan to sign a new lease and set in motion an upgrade of the refinery with the troubled Chinese state-owned

Guangdong Zhenrong Energy (GZE) recently collapsed, raising the possibility that the revenue and jobs-creating refinery could be shut down next year.



Another possible shutdown could happen on Bonaire, where PDVSA owns the 10mn barrel BOPEC oil storage and export facility. Environmental authorities have threatened to force a closure of the facility in mid-January unless PDVSA makes critical repairs.

In Aruba, a plan by PDVSA's US subsidiary, Citgo, to restart and revamp the 280,000 b/d San Nicolas refinery to process Orinoco extra-heavy crude from Venezuela into intermediate grades that would be shipped to Citgo's US-based refineries has stalled.

Authorities in the three islands have asked The Hague to determine the economic impact of a Venezuelan threat to sever commercial relations. The Dutch ambassador to Venezuela is mediating talks to end the embargo as we go to press.

CLOSURE RATIONALE BOGUS?

In Venezuela, mining activities are controlled by the defense ministry and the military-owned Camimpeg mining, oil and gas company that President Maduro created by presidential decree in February 2016.

Andres Velasquez, a former presidential candidate and senior leader of the Venezuelan indigenous Pemon tribe that lives largely in southeastern Bolivar state, dismissed Vice president El Aissami's claim that residents of Aruba and Curacao are responsible for illegal mining and ore smuggling in Venezuela.

"The illegal extraction in Bolivar state and subsequent smuggling of valuable mineral resources like coltan (a dull black metallic ore from which the elements niobium and tantalum are extracted and used in smart phones and consumer electronics. Ed.) to Aruba, Curacao and other



BOPEC tanks are huge. They dwarf the heavy truck at right



The view of the BOPEC jetties most Bonaireans see. Jetty 1 is one of the largest in the world. It can handle ships up to a Max. DWT of 500,000 tons with a draft of 97' (29.5 m)

nearby islands is carried out almost exclusively by Venezuelan military gangs com- and jobs related to the petroleum industry. manded by corrupt Venezuelan generals appointed to their posts by President Maduro," Velasquez said.

ABCs WILL SUFFER ECONOMICALLY The ABCs are partially dependent on Venezuela for fresh produce, fish, tourists



LOGIC?

Dear Editor:

It is difficult to understand the logic or complete lack of logic from those who enforce laws or make laws to regulate the music being played yet allow the most obnoxiously loud and dangerous fireworks to be shot off for days and then go on for an unnecessarily long of time at midnight. Like most civilized places, fireworks are regulated. Perhaps those who don't like music could also stop the fireworks and have the government spon- in the middle of night sor a show and not this free-for-all.

Additionally the influx of economic refugees from Venezuela entering the islands illegally is causing law enforcement difficulties. Five refugees recently drowned attempting to come ashore in Curacao. \Box Story by Jack Sweeney/ G.D.

The below letter refers to a government press release that announced police enforcement of music volume and hours. **RULE CONFUSION**

Dear Editor: Can someone get their priorities straight or if not at least put equal weight on laws?

Not allowed : Music

Allowed: Loud fireworks all day all night

Not allowed: Music

Allowed: extremely loud motorcycles and motor scooters all day all night

Not allowed: Music

Allowed: Screeching squealing car tires

-Confused About Rules

-A. Music Lover



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On the Island Since... 1994 – Eliana Pekeri-Manuela Born on Bonaire... December 13, 1974 – Cherry Pekeri



Cherry and Eliana in front of their wedding photo

66 grew up with my mom and my grandma; we were four children. After elementary school I went to Technical School and when I was free I worked at Cultimara Supermarket, filling up grocery bags for the shoppers. I never smoked, I never drank alcohol . I worked and I saved my money. After I finished school I worked in construction and then at Lisa Carwash, which had just been opened. I stayed with them for five years. Then I started working at JC Herrera liquor distributors. I did everything: filling up and emptying containers, loading the trucks, helping customers, I was warehouse master, but also sales person and I made deliveries. I was and still am eager to learn anything.

Then I created a side job by going to people's houses to wash their car. At JC Herrera's we had a regular customer, Solange Maartense, and after I'd given her my business card, she called me a week later to come to wash the car. That's how I met her husband, Mr. Maarten Maartense, who was the notary on the island. Every weekend I would wash their cars and then Mr. Maartense asked me if I wanted to become their private chauffeur. They had a daughter and a son, so I would take the whole family wherever they had to go, but at the same time I was still working at JC Herrera and I kept on washing cars. After two years Mr. Maartense offered me a fulltime job. I told him it was no problem for me but that I had to talk to my boss at JC Herrera's first. Mr. Maartense told me he himself would talk to him and that's what they did. Then my boss, Mr. Fangman, told Mr. Maartense that if I was okay with it - he would approve.

And so, April 15th, 2004, I started working for Mr. Maartense. Every day at seven we would take the children to school and then we would go to the office. First I was a messenger, responsible for all the paperwork, letters and deeds which I had to deliver to other offices personally. Over time I learned – with the help of the team - more about files and archives and about writing deeds in the repertory book and I was also delivering them at the tax office.

I gained a lot of knowledge and all to-

in the Rotary Club together. During that same period of time I also worked at Mala's Surinamese Food, together with Mala and her family. I helped her with her catering and would build the stand at events. They treated me like family; they are beautiful people!

Presently I am still at Akkermans where I work as a messenger. I also take customers home and run errands and I collect all the shipments that come in through Don Andres, the Airport and Rocargo. Also, when clients have a problem starting their car or a flat tire, I help them. It's a great job and we have a good team.

At 21 I started body building; I'm still doing it and I've participated in a number of competitions. Then, one day, I met Eliana at the Voyage of Success Fitness Corner - it

was April (my lucky month) 14th, 2014.

ioker but neither one of us could find the

courage to start a conversation. One day

and we sat down for a minute. There we

talked for the first time. From then on, we

talked more often. One day I told myself

'She's a good girl, she's quiet, and I must

do my best not to lose her, because maybe

day I walked straight up to her and asked

and I got a smile for an answer. We got

Eliana: "I was born on Curacao, August

31st, 1990. Four years later I moved with

my parents to Bonaire where my dad had

married in 2016."

"Bonaire is okay. It's quiet and that's what we like. It's expensive, but you have to be economical and not spend a lot of money on clothing, shoes, telephones and partying."

I'd seen Cherry driving by in Mr. Maart-When I saw her, I blushed and I didn't dare ense's car when I'd walk to school, many say a word. She was very serious and I am a years ago. The first time I saw him at the fitness center I thought he was a nice boy and I liked that he was doing body building. when I arrived at the gym, she just came out When he was joking around I always had to laugh but I didn't dare to show it or say anything. Then, after we finally got to know each other better. Cherry asked me if he could speak to my dad to ask him if he could be my boyfriend. So, he talked to my there's another fish on the line!' Later that parents and they approved. They've always been very good parents and it's because of her out on a date. She looked very surprised them that I am who I am today.

2016 and in March I started working for

Rocargo where I work at the reception. It's

a nice job and my colleagues are fun and

my bosses, Robbie and Marisela Croes,

On April 17th, 2016, Cherry asked me to marry him and I said 'Yes'. I didn't see it coming, but it was a nice surprise! We got married on August 30th, 2016, at the house of Moreno Binelli, and it was a beautiful wedding. Afterwards we stayed at Bellafonte, and the day after the wedding, when it was my birthday, Cherry had decorated to move forthe room beautifully and... that's the kind of man he is, always ready to please me, to surprise me and make me happy. He is a good man and for sure he is going to be a great dad because by the end of April we're going to have a baby! We are happy together and I always say that when God is in the life of a man and a woman who are married, everything will go well. Of course we



Cherry and Eliana pump iron

have our ups and downs, but if you can talk quietly about your differences, you will find a solution "

"We are very good together," Cherry says. "We also love to travel and last year we went to the Dominican Republic where I met her extended family. For us Bonaire is okay. It's quiet and that's what we like. It's expensive, but you have to be economical and not spend a lot of money on clothing, shoes, telephones and partying. Sometimes you just have to stand still and ask yourself what you need and what you don't need. You see, we have a plan and we live according to it and we both work hard to get there.

This baby is going to be my first child. I've always said that I wanted my child to grow up in a family and that's why I've been very patient in finding a good woman and Eliana is everything I love; she is special. I never had a father, he never acknowledged me as his son. However, the love of my mother and grandmother was the greatest and the best thing that could have happened to me. I will give my own child all the love and attention I have and every minute of my free time and all our norms and values - that's how we are going to raise our child.

Next to that we will still continue to socialize with our friends, separately and together and have fun because I have a lot of friends and so does Eliana and we trust each other. Our new goal is our own house and we've got plenty ideas how to go about it. If you don't plan anything, nothing will happen. You have

ward."

istra

Greta Koo-

are wonderful people!

gether I worked for Mr. Maartense for 11 years, until he passed away in March 2011. one sister. I graduated high school as an It was the most beautiful time of my life, because I was like a son to him, and his children saw me like their brother. For me he was the best; everything he did for me was the right thing and I was part of the family.

After he passed away I went to work at Akkermans Auto Supplies on April 15th, 2011, for Edwin Vrieswijk. He knew me through Mr. Maartense because they were

found a job at WEB. I have one brother and administrative assistant, then I went to secondary vocational education for four years and I graduated in 2012 as an accounting assistant. I worked on a project with MCB Bank for six months, and in 2013 I got an administrative job with Chirino Memorial Dental Clinic through Tempo employment agency. After six months Dr. Chirino himself asked me if I wanted to work directly for him and that's what I did. I was his right hand but I quit working there in February



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askarada is one of the most cultural, authentic, original and fascinating traditions on Bonaire. Every New Year the group of silent, mysterious, masked people starts at either at the Bestuurcollege (government house) or the governor's home to dance, to tease the onlookers and perform little skits-the same every year.

This year they were first performed the Governor's home. Later the group moves on organization, Maskarada is back. All has to other sites like the hospital, the old folks home and then to the homes of people in the barrios. It is said that good luck will come to those who invite them into their homes. They make another appearance after Three Kings Day (Epiphany, January 6, 2016). They arrive silently, following a group of musicians – an accordion, a *tambu* (drum), a *raspa* (file) and a *quarto* (large ukulele), and the skits and dancing begin. Maskarada has been group for keeping this beloved tradition going on in living memory of even the oldest alive.

Story by Laura DeSalvo

person on Bonaire, it is said, except for when it might have been rained out, and in 2012 when the group, the costumes and props all became worn out and could not appear.

Maskarada is important because on Bonaire is the only island of the Dutch Caribbean where this unique custom exists in this form. But over the past couple of years thanks to the energy of the North Salina volunteers been rejuvenated—the actors, the glistening costumes and the sparkling props, the enthusiastic musicians. This year the costumes were even more fantastic, unique, beautiful. Everyone smiled as the cast performed their skits - hooking the shark which goes into death throes, the matador facing the bull, and of course the dancing with the audience. Congratulations to the Nawati/North Salinja

Hospice Ribbon Cutting



Arnoud Boesten, and Tanja Kokelkoren open the doors of Bonaire's first hospice

n Saturday January 13th, Arnoud **Boesten**, former director of ZVK and Tanja Kokelkoren, initiator and director of hospice Kas Flamboyan, cut the ribbon at the opening of the hospice. It's the first hospice for palliative terminal care on Bonaire. This specialized care is intended for all people insured on Bonaire under the ZVK regulation. Care will be provided by GPs and Home Care, supported by volunteers.

All heads of the relevant authorities were present at the opening, as well as the governor, the board of Kas Flamboyan, all people involved in the realization of the

hospice and last but not least a very large group of volunteers.

Beginning January 15th Kas Flamboyan will offer care to people who are terminally ill and in the last phase of their lives. \Box Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

The hospice is located at Kaya Guanare #11 in Tera Kora. For more info go to www.kasflamboyan.com or email info@kasflamboyan.com

A profile story about Tanja Kokelkoren appeared in the October 9, 2017 edition of The Bonaire Reporter



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Help Count The Loras

E cho is asking for help from the community in counting the Loras (parrots) on the day of the Annual Roost Count. This event will take place in the early morning (pre-dawn) hours of Saturday, January 27. A training session will be provided for all new or interested volunteers prior to the day of the count.

Each year, the Department of Environment and Nature of the public entity Bonaire, Echo and STINAPA work together to organize a one-day count of the Yellowshouldered Amazon Parrots (Loras) across Bonaire. This is a challenging operation which involves pre-dawn treks into the woods and up hills to get to high advantage points from which the parrots can be counted as they awake and fly away from their roosts. Performing the count in this way comes up with a minimum estimate of the population size living on the island.

The goal of the annual roost count, which has been held continuously since 2005, is twofold: 1) to make the most accurate and reliable estimate of the number of wild Loras on Bonaire; and 2) to help develop, promote or continue the involvement of the community in the conservation of the Loras. By knowing approximately how many parrots are on the island, we can determine how the population is doing. Information that has been gathered over the years suggests that the number of parrots on Bonaire is increasing. This is a good thing considering in most other places where they live, their numbers are declining!

The annual roost count is held at the end of January because during this time of year the parrots are gathering in larger numbers, sometimes more than 100. Early in the morning, just after sunrise, the parrots will fly out from the roosts where they were sleeping, and - screaming loudly - will disappear towards different feeding areas. Because the Loras do not always stay in the same site to roost, it is best to count them all at the same time, hence the reason why the annual count is performed on one morning in the year. Counters need to be present at

their roost site prior to sunrise to not disturb the animals to be counted there.

Echo and STINAPA are looking for volunteers for the annual roost count. The more people we have volunteering on that day, the more roost sites we can watch roost count of 2018 will be on Saturday, January 27th and there will be a pre-roost count training and meeting held on the Wednesday beforehand (January 24th). We are also looking for local businesses who would be willing to donate a small prize or gift certificate for a raffle which will be held following the roost count for all participants.

If you know places where Loras sleep, if you would like to join the annual roost count, or if you would like to donate



Accurately counting flying Loras in the morning can be a challenge

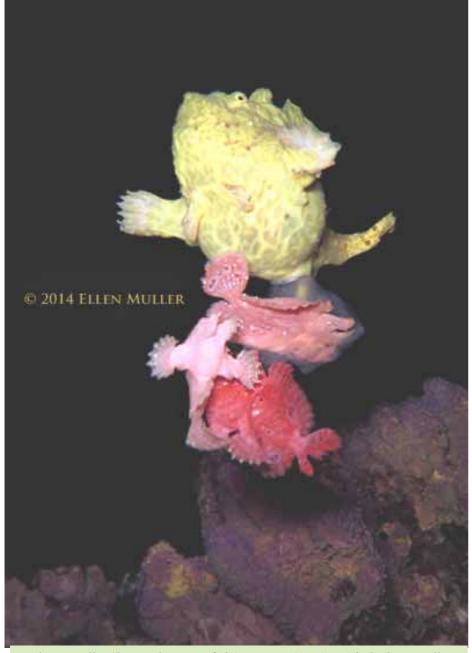


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Making Bonaire "Accessi DID YOU KNOMP



Three small male Longlure Frogfish in a spawning rise with the large, yellow, female Frogfish as she is just beginning to release her egg raft.

THE FASCINATING FROGFISH

rogfish release an egg raft that, once it unfurls, is several times longer than the fish itself? In Bonaire, we have the most marvelous fish called the Longlure Frogfish that has fascinating characteristics and behaviors. This fish is incredibly camouflaged and would rather sit than swim.

Once it finds a suitable place to hang out, its skin is able to change color and pattern to mimic the surroundings until it is almost impossible to spot. In fact, that's what the frogfish is counting on. Our frogfish has a special lure on its face (evolved from a scale) that looks like a tiny shrimp or worm.

The frogfish sits still and waves the lure back and forth in front of its mouth. Curious fish only see the lure and approach, and the frogfish opens it enormous mouth and sucks in the fish in one giant gulp. It has one of the fastest strikes in the animal kingdom - 6 milliseconds from start to finish! Although male and female frogfish look alike, if you find a very small one next to a very large one, you can bet that the big one is the female.

an incredibly talented and dedicated underwater naturalist and expert photographer, Ellen Muller, who has captured videos and photographs of frogfish (and other critters) spawning. The event is spectacular. A small male (or two or three) will poke and prod the bulging female until she lifts off the bottom a short distance and pushes out an absolutely enormous egg raft (gelatinous ribbon with up to 180,000 eggs).

As soon as the egg raft is released, the male swims furtively around it and fertilizes it. When returning to the reef, the male has to be careful, because the hungry female may very well eat him if he gets too close! The egg raft drifts for several days until the larvae hatch. The young frogfish already have small lures and they stay in the plankton for a month or two until they are ready to settle onto a coral reef. It takes time and dedication to find a frogfish out on the reef, but when you do, it is well worth

OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE.

or one and a half years now we have been living again on Bonaire and every day is as wonderful as we remembered it used to be.

That is not what I can brag about, when it comes to our walks and shopping-trips and what not. Because we need to buy groceries etc. we used to go by foot. My husband depends on his wheelchair, since he suffers from a hemi-palsy. He has a right to make use of the wheelchair-bus, but that is only when it comes to "medical" stuff, like going to doctors and such. For all other things we are on our own.

To get to somewhere in Kralendijk is not a roll in the hay. To get from our house to, let's say, the supermarket, we need to get out of our compound. At the entrance/exit we are confronted with a huge goat grid. After this hurdle we walk for our own safety on the left side of the street in the direction of NAPA. There is no sidewalk, the edges of the road are dilapidated. Holes in the tarmac were once repaired in a ragged way and traffic behaves like it is in a race.

I taught myself not to walk on the sand side of the road, because that is also full of dangers: there is glass buried under the sand that could cut the wheels of our carriage, thorns that will do the same, loose sand that you can get stuck in... so we keep on walking on the edge of that road.

This may seem puzzling for the upcoming traffic. The drivers do not know how to behave in this situation. They will hit their brakes when they see us, of even come to a complete standstill for us to walk by. Opposing traffic also causes panic. Chauffeurs do not know how to behave when there is a car coming from behind us. But worst of all is when drivers do not seem to care at all, and pass right by us. We can feel the air move when they zoom by.

There are times we have to fear for our lives!

And at this part of our trip we have barely started and only three minutes on the road.

A trip to the bank is always important, so to get some cash or buy a lottery-ticket, we need to stop by the MCB-branch at Playa. To get there from Top Supermarket, we need to take Kaya L.D. Gerharts. And I mean literarily! Because the sidewalk is missing tiles, has potholes oftentimes filled with rain. Also there are motorcycles, furniture and other obstacles put in the way. To be on the safe side, I push the wheelchair into the road and signal to the oncoming traffic that we cannot use the sidewalk.



Problems finding parking downtown usually handicapped blocks access to sidewalks



However, the sidewalks are often so broken that rolling a wheelchair is a big problem



Shop deliveries blocking access make it necessary for wheelchairs to roll on the busy street



If she's extremely round, then she most likely is creating eggs. Bonaire has



ologist. -

To go home again we pass by the Hospital, where we have to walk on the road again, since along the graveyard the sidewalk is filled with parked cars. \Box To be continued.... By Ria Evers-Dokter

For 2018 The Bonaire Reporter plans to work with MiVaBo, Bonaire's Foundation for the Handicapped, to make the island's streets and airport more accessible for handicapped persons.

Some sidewalks have been so long without repair that verdant gardens are growing.

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter at The Alamo, Texas



Bonaire Reporter regulars, **Joan and Alan Zale**, have decided they have a new goal in life, to bring the paper to all 50 Unites States! Recently they crossed another state off their quest when they brought The Bonaire Reporter to The Alamo in San Antonio, TX in May, 2017.

The Alamo is the Shrine of Texas Liberty, and played a critical role in the Texas Revolution. In December 1835, Texas volunteers battled Mexican troops forcing them to surrender. A few months later, reinforced Mexican troops, out numbering the defenders of the Alamo 10 to one, staged another attack. Lt. Colonel William B. Travis, commander of the Alamo, believed defending it was key to the defense of Texas and they would defend the post to and are regular visitors to Bonaire with the very last man. Included in the Alamo's garrison was David Crockett, famed fron-

tiersman and former Tennessee congressman. On the 13th day of the siege Mexican soldiers scaled the walls of the Alamo and rushed the compound. By sunrise the battle was over and the garrison was slain to the last man.

The famed quote, "Remember the Alamo," came to symbolize a heroic struggle by a group of men, against overwhelming odds, who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. The Zales, past winners of the Picture Yourself with The Bonaire Reporter contest, admit that they have quite a number of states to visit, about 39, before reaching their goal of all 50 states. Since they always travel with a copy of the paper we know they are going to give it their all. Joan and Alan own a condo at Sand Dollar more than 40 visits to the island. \Box

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. Winners of the 2017 competition are being chosen and eill be announced in the next edition. All 2018 photos are eligible for the next contest.



First 2018 Baby



n the late morning of Wednesday, January 5, at 11:42 am, Priscilla Rowenda Kensmil, helped by midwife Nori Jorna and nurses Virginie Delmoite and Loes Bergkamp delivered the first baby of this year, a girl that she named Eve Kapel.

Dianne Hoeve, adviser to Commissioner Edsel Cecilia congratulated the couple and their other children on behalf of the island government and presented them with a gift basket.

Not to be outdone, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) mascot, Lito and bank representative Lily-Ann Janga also pre-

sented Priscilla and the baby's father, Dion Kapel, with a savings account and other gifts. **D** *Press releases*





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STCB 2017 Highlights Life Coaching For Families

S ea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) would like to thank everyone that has supported the organization's conservation efforts in 2017. This year, companies and individuals from adopted 38 sea turtle nests, and protected a total of 3,987 hatchlings.

More good news for Bonaire's sea turtles: this has been the best nesting season recorded so far with 48 nests on Bonaire and 83 nests on Klein Bonaire. And... the nesting season has not even ended yet! STCB is waiting for four more nests to hatch.

This was the sixth consecutive year of the Beachkeepers program running successfully, with 40 volunteers this year. STCB's Beachkeepers patrol the beaches most used by turtles, reporting signs of nesting and hatching, as well as monitoring the safety status of nests.

STCB organized a very successful Fundraising Auction this year: the organization raised \$13,569.

This year, STCB captured and released 246 sea turtles during in-water surveys. This is the second highest number of sea turtles captured since STCB established standardized methods for the in-water survey and tagging program in 2003.

STCB also introduced new merchandise items: long sleeve t-shirts and hoodies are now for sale at six locations around Bonaire, as well as the STCB office at Kaya Korona #53.

In May of this year, STCB successfully rehabilitated a juvenile green turtle (Chelonia mydas), named 'Rosita', who



was found at Lagoen, floating and unable to feed herself. Due to expert team work, 'Rosita' made a full recovery and she was released back to the wild on Sunday, July 2.

In November, Bondigro Supermarket announced the ban of plastic (shopping) bags! Bondigro also announced that the proceeds from the sale of paper bags at the cash registers will be donated to STCB.

Scientific Advisor Dr. Frank Rivera-Milán has begun to analyze in-water transect counting, netting, and nesting data that STCB has collected over the years. In cooperation with STCB, Rivera-Milán will produce two scientific publications in 2018, as well as review STCB's methodology for netting and in-water surveys.

STCB continued its partnership with Wild Conscience to protect the beaches of the south and the mangroves at Sorobon. These works were part of a wider project, the Ecological Restoration of Lac and the South of Bonaire, which is coordinated by the Bonaire local government and funded by nature funds- 'natuurgelden' from the Dutch government. DPress release/



YUMA COACHING — A NEW BONAIRE SOCIAL SUPPORT BUSINESS

Y uma Coaching stands for movement, direction, consciousness, creativity and originality. My goal is to contribute to a healthy development of the children on the island. I do this by offering coaching to children and support to parents, both individually and through workshops.

My name is Fleurtje Veldkamp and I'm the founder of Yuma Coaching & Cooking. I've lived on Bonaire since I was 11 years old and I love this place! As a social pedagogical aid worker and children's coach, I have extensive work experience, both on Bonaire and in the Netherlands. I speak Dutch, Papiamentu, Spanish and English

Contact with parents is essential. At the beginning we discuss what they're looking for their children and we talk about their vision of the child and their families. As a kindercoach (child coach) I also explain my way of dealing with the child. Together we will find a way.

Cooking is one of the methods that I use in my practice. Cooking together promotes reading and counting skills, cooperation, self-confidence, independence, communication and patience, and especially having fun.

I am convinced that every child has powers, qualities and talents that he or she can use when it encounters barriers, but it an art to discover and use it."

For questions or requests Fleurtje Veldkamp can be reached via phone on 00599-700-1855 or email yumacoaching @gmail.com. DFleurtje Veldkamp/L.D.

llish Home + Protected L

E nvironmentally protected open land in the Caribbean is rare and unaffordable to most people Until now. In the high terrace area of Bonaire you can find 11.5 hectares (28.6 acres) of land with a beautiful home surrounded by a few homes of similar size in an exclusive area of over 260 hectares (600 acres) on the unspoiled east side of Bonaire.

Included on the land is a eclectic living compound of four buildings including a 269 m² (2,900ft²) environmentally refined stylish home with massive walls. beautiful ocean view, no noise-, smell- or light-pollution which is part of the original Bolivia Plantation area. Now offered for sale at a once-in-alifetime price.

Price: \$450,000



Foundations and associations: register your job today!

Hasi bon, pasa bon! 9&10 Nos ta on.

Create a job

2. Register online! www.bondoet.com



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For more information contact Peter at: Sotheby's International Realty Bonaire (+599) 788 1781 or FB Messenger @Sothebysrealtybonaire

Garden

GROWING FOOD IN THE DRY SEASON

new year started and soon Bon-A aire's weather will change too. Slowly the rain will stop, and by the end of February there might be hardly any rain at all. What a pity. All the nice green plants in your yard, the delicious vegetables, the fruit trees full of fruit which you enjoyed so much will again struggle through the dry season.

But I have a surprise for you. There is a plant which starts to grow best with the last few rain drops and loves the dry season to produce. Wondering? I've mentioned it many times in my articles but now I will introduce fully to you.

Cassava (yucca, manioc, tapioca) is its name

A rare plant, originally from Brazil, but after time spread out all over the Americas, Asia and Africa. Cassava is the edible root tuber from the Manihot eaculenta, a wooden remnant branch. It grew originally in savanna soil in South America, so that means it loves dry, poor soil and less rain. Do you understand where I want to go now?

Yes, I want to make the connection with Bonaire. Our soil on Bonaire and dry weather is exactly what this plant likes. And I tell you when I tried it out, and no joke, within a year I got baskets full of cassava which I shared with my neighbors because I could not eat it all. Then I planted it again. Now there's even more, and I gave cuttings away and all of them got baskets full. So I'm sure you will succeed having your own yucca, if you only give it a try.

On Bonaire the plant needs about nine months to develop nice tuber roots. You know when to harvest when the leaves get yellow and come off, after that time. To harvest you have to cut the whole branch away from the main yellow thick stem. Just leave about 60 centimeters from the stem where you carefully pull out all the tuber roots together. But before that splash a bucket of water over the soil to make it soft so its easier to pull out the tuber roots. When you don't harvest in time the roots slowly become more wooden and hard.

The roots cannot stay for long after they are out of the soil. After three days they slowly turn blue. That means they undergo a chemical process which turns out prussic acid which can make some people very sick.

Important to know is that there are two types of yucca: the sweet one and the bitter one. The difference is that the bitter one has hydrogen cyanide, in the form of glycosides which is very poisonous. The sweet one has less of it. But also the bitter yucca is able to be consumed. In Africa and South America women grate the bitter yucca, mix it with water, squeeze it so the poison comes out, then they dry the yucca in the sun. From this dry yucca they make bread or porridge which is very healthy just like the sweet yucca. It's rich in starch which is a good food used a lot in undeveloped countries. It's a very popular food in poor counties because it grows so easily and always bears food even in poor soil and with little water. It has few enemies; bugs don't like it, and because of its poison even our iguanas on Bonaire don't eat it. But what iguanas do is that they pull out the



A young yucca plant

cuttings then the sensitive cutting does not grow anymore when it's planted over again. Once the cutting is big and strong, it's not easy to destroy it anymore. So protect the young cuttings with buckets over them, open on both sides.

How to get plants? Yucca grows by cuttings. You need the dry parts of the thick older stem cut in pieces of about 60 centimeters. The young green part of the stem will not grow. Just insert three quarters of the cutting into little holes in the dirt and water it a little bit every two days. Within a few days the cutting starts growing. It needs space to develop a lot of tuber roots so keep some space, about 80 centimeters, between.



Yucca ready to pick

Don't keep cuttings in water before planting. They get black and won't grow anymore. Yucca cuttings can survive for weeks above soil without any water. Once in soil it starts growing.

Nowadays yucca has become popular as a good food and there is a lot to do with it. To use, you have to peel the brown skin away. The white part inside is easy to store in the freezer for long time. In the Caribbean it's used to cook and eat with fish dishes. Also grated and make bolo with it just like we do in Surinam is delicious. Yucca fries are as nice as potato fries and what do you think of yucca chips which is easy to do and nice for kids to learn how to make their own yucca chips.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) nor Edison Rijna. Knops is the Dutch Ministry's top official most involved with Michelin star cuisine, a diner at the Bon Bonaire. The State Secretary also met with members of the Bonaire Island Council. Governor Rijna gifted him a portfolio of Bonairean landscapes on behalf of the Island Government. Secretary Knops's visit coincided with Venezuelan President Maduro's suspension of travel between his country and the ABC Islands. Read more on page 4.



"Baptism" of the Dive Friends shop during the Delfin proceedings

Delfin General Manager David Rietveld (above) invited scores of people to the gala formal opening of his hotel and the Brass Boer restaurant, as well as the Dive Friends shop on January out what it means to 'hasi bon, pasa 4. It was a great party to mark the opening of another fine resort on Bonaire that is already gaining kudos from guests.



► In the "younger next year" department 74-year-old Bonaire resident John Floyd maintained his long distance bike riding with a tally of more than 3,600 miles (5794 km.) despite health problems. Pabien, John!

Rincon's Cadushy Distillery is in a competition organized by the USA-Today newspaper. They are looking for the top "Caribbean Rum Distillery of 2018". Cadushi Rum is a great drink and deservers to win. Everyone can vote once every day on www.10best.com. At press time Cadushy is in third place behind islands with much larger populations.

While the Brass Boer restaurant has been getting wonderful reviews for its Aroma Restaurant the other evening said "Bonaire Aroma's food was even more outstanding and a fraction of the price." See the Bon Aroma advertisement on page 15 to make a reservation.

Bonaire is getting more and more fun things to do. Bonaire is to soon have a miniature golf course along the road to Sorobon at the Kaminda Lac turnoff. Adventure Golf will cover an area of about 2700 m^2 and is set to open in March.

BON DOET is coming up again! BON DOET is Bonaire's greatest volunteers event, taking place on March 9 and 10. Everybody is invited to volunteer for a day at one of the participating foundations. Foundations and associations can register one or more jobs at www.bondoet.com and apply for up to USD \$650 for materials until Sunday January 21st. Volunteers can choose a job they like and sign up on the same website. Don't wait too long to choose or you will miss out on your chance to find bon!'. See poster on page 10 for more information.

The Bonaire Reporter on line is "Still Free" too. There is no Paywall. But donations help to keep it alive. Go to www.bonairereporter.com.
G.D.





So is this information enough to motivate you to start a yucca plantation? It's now the season to plant. There are people on Bonaire with yucca branches, so look for them and get some cuttings.

Just do it now! □ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover

The Bonaire Reporter January 15-29, 2018

M-F 8am Mon. 5:30pm Sat. 9am

Yoga Sensibile suitable for everyone - All levels welcome!

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Located at: Yoga Terrace at the Eden Beach Resort



What's Happening

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

•Terramar Museum at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free, 717-0423, 780-4327

•Bonaire Museum-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 Lagoen Hill 19- Call for appointment: 599 785-5002. Free entry.

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

•<u>REGULAR EVENTS</u>

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 #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 Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

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

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

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

Mondays

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

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

Wednesdays

•Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am. See Monday for more information. •Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: Sea Turtles of Bonaire, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

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

• Echo offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed.

For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email <u>info@echobonaire.org</u>. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

DATE		CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAP	
Wednesday	17-Jan-18	Crown Princess	0700-1700	N.PIER	3150
Thursday	18-Jan-18	Nieuw Amsterdam	0800-1800	N.PIER	1380
Friday	19-Jan-18	Koningsdam	0800-1800	S.PIER	2650
Sunday	21-Jan-18	Silver Wind	0700-2100	N.pier	294
Monday	22-Jan-18	Mein Schiff 3	0700-1900	N.pier	2500
Monday	22-Jan-18	Britania	0600-1800	S.pier	3600
Tuesday	23-Jan-18	Caribbean Princess	0700-1701	S.PIER	3200
Tuesday	23-Jan-18	Norwegian Dawn	0700-1500	n.pier	2340
Wednesday	24-Jan-18	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	S.pier	3114
Wednesday	24-Jan-18	Carnival Sunshine	0800-1600	N.pier	2974
Thursday	Jan 25,2018	Veendam	0800-1800	N.Pier	1350
Thursday	25-Jan-18	TUI Discovery	0700-2300	S.Pier	2076
Saturday	27-Jan-18	The World	900	N.pier	200
Sunday	28-Jan-18	The World	2300	N.pier	200
Monday	29-Jan-18	Riviera	0700-1800	Safe berth	750
Monday	29-Jan-18	Eclipse	0800-1800	S.pier	2858
Tuesday	30-Jan-18	Monarch	0700-1800	N.pier	2744
Tuesday	30-Jan-18	Costa Magica	0700-1400	S.Pier	3470

No Cruise ships on the following days: Jan. 16, 20, 26. Six days with two ships

Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

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

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

•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: <u>12stepbonaire@gmail.com</u>

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride <u>bonaireibc@gmail.com</u>. Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

EXHIBITIONS

—Coral Restoration Exhibit-Terramar Museum

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

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Tuesday, January 16— Connecting People with Nature, presentation by Stinapa Biologist Caren Eckrich, At DCNA, Kaya Finlandia 10A (across from City Shop) 7-8pm, free. At 717-8444

Thursday, January 18-20— Bonaire Billfish Tournament

Friday, January 26— New Years Concert presented by Classical Music Board Bonaire. A bridge between classical music and Bonaire Island Culture. More on page 2, 14.

Saturday, January 27

—Annual Lora (parrot) Roost Count. Story on pg. 7

— Mangazina di Rei Monthly Open Festival/ 8 am-2 pm. Food, music, drinks, demonstrations and fun.

website for more information of events for the rest of 2017: **stinapabonaire.org/events**

<u>Saturdays</u>

•*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

<u>Fridays</u>

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at **Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol** - Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

Saturday, January 28— Mountain Bike Fun race in Bolivia Plantation. 7:30 sign up, race at 8, \$10. Contact de-Freewieler bike shop, or see www. Bonairextreme.com

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter Celebrating 25 years of continuous publishing

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Produced using 100% renewable energy since 2006— The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 15	11:44 0.92 ft	21:30 −0.13 ft				7:00	18:30
Tue 16	12:20 0.89 ft	22:14 -0.15 ft			New Moon	7:00	18:30
Wed 17	12:58 0.86 ft	22:48 −0.16 ft				7:00	18:31
Thu 18	13:36 0.82 ft	23:15 -0.15 ft				7:01	18:31
Fri 19	14:17 0.76 ft	23:36 -0.14 ft				7:01	18:32
Sat 20	15:00 0.70 ft	23:51 -0.12 ft				7:01	18:32
Sun 21	06:30 0.38 ft	10:17 0.34 ft	15:44 0.62 ft			7:01	18:33
Mon 22		00:05 -0.11 ft	06:26 0.47 ft	11:59 0.30 ft	16:32 0.53 ft	7:01	18:33
Tue 23		00:20 -0.11 ft	06:40 0.60 ft	13:18 0.22 ft	17:23 0.44 ft	7:01	18:34
Wed 24	First Quarter	00:38 -0.11 ft	07:05 0.73 ft	14:26 0.14 ft	18:16 0.34 ft	7:01	18:34
Thu 25		01:01 -0.12 ft	07:38 0.86 ft	15:28 0.05 ft	19:12 0.26 ft	7:01	18:34
Fri 26		01:30 -0.14 ft	08:16 0.98 ft	16:26 −0.04 ft	20:11 0.18 ft	7:01	18:35
Sat 27		02:04 -0.14 ft	08:59 1.07 ft	17:24 −0.11 ft	21:14 0.12 ft	7:01	18:35
Sun 28		02:43 -0.14 ft	09:45 1.12 ft	18:21 -0.17 ft	22:23 0.09 ft	7:01	18:36
Mon 29		03:29 −0.11 ft	10:35 1.14 ft	19:16 −0.21 ft	23:39 0.09 ft	7:01	18:36

Administration and Adviesbureau -A. Joosten, for all your accountancy, business plans, permits or immigration matters (more then 20 years experience) tel: (00 599) 785-6029

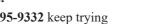
For RENT in Belnem: Large fully furnished 2-bedroom apartment. Good location in quiet and safe area. Walking distance to the sea, restaurant and supermarket. Garden and private parking. Long term \$860.= per month.

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Scrambler Dive Kayak with paddle, leash, seat and wheeled carrier. Excellent condition. Asking \$550 OBO. Call 717-0161 after Jan. 17.



Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

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Pet Of The Week

Veni Wears Her Heart On Her Sleeve!

eautiful Veni is not B shy about letting people know she is looking for love....she wears her heart on her sleeve! She arrived at the Shelter in June 2017 at just five weeks old with her brother and sister Vidi and Vici. Her siblings found their forever homes within two months. However Veni is still waiting for that special someone to notice how special she is. Veni's classic calico markings are bold and distinctive and she will remain a small, kittenish looking adult. She is a sweet and affectionate young lady more than willing to sit on your lap and enjoy some quality time together. She also is a good

little hunter, ready to keep your home free of pests.

How did she get that name? Many people wonder how we come up with the names of the Shelter residents. We use the alphabet as the animals arrive, starting with A and go from there, repeating the alphabet as we use up the letters. When Veni and her two siblings arrived, letter V was up for the cats, a volunteer suggested "Veni, Vidi, Vici"..."I came, I saw, I conquered"....which got a big laugh but somehow stuck! Veni even answers to her name!



Veni is healthy, vaccinated, and sterilized and just waiting, with that big heart on her sleeve, to share your home and your heart. You can visit Veni at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-12p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop.

Visit our website at animalshelterbonaire.com to watch the live "catcams" or make a donation. \Box Story by Jane Madden – Disko

ANIMAL SHELTER NE The Animal Shelter Pakus di Pruga **Needs BIG STUFF!**

re you a property manager, a resort manager, or someone moving house or just replacing your previously loved furniture? The Bonaire Animal Shelter's Pakus di Pruga (across from Brandaris Cafe), which is open every Saturday from 8 am until 5 pm, needs your help. We need furniture of any kind and in any condition. Beds, sofas, chairs, tables, lamps, mattresses, etc.

The proceeds of the sales of our items go to feeding and caring for our dogs and cats at the Shelter while at the same time



Mountain Bike Fun



ust about every month the **de** Freewieler bike **shop** organizes a race for the island's mountain hikers

At right are the results from the 2017 End-ofthe-Year Fun Race.

The next fun race is set for Saturday, January 28, in the Bolivia Plantation. More on pg.14.

John v.h. Hof 59.49 Peter Kruithof 59.49 Virgillio Batista 1.00.53 1.00.53 Nick Ruhe Lena Keukens 1.05.33 Eric Keukens 1.05.33 Ruud Masker 1.06.51 Sedney Marten 1.07.18 Fons de Bie 1.08.00 Jerome Spruit 1.10.06 Frank Böhm 1.16.36 1.19.10

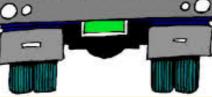
Manuel

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Ronald Nauman	1.21.55
Wotty de Palm	1.22.04
Jan van Tilburg	1.22.52
Katie Walker	1.32.15
Jim Walker	1.32.15
Edward Ypey	1.33.54
Joost van Galen	1.33.54
Kelly Mettes	1.36.15
Jorieke	1.36.15
Andrea Magni	1.36.15
Arnold Koolen	d.n.f.

Caribisch nieuwjaarsconcert Vrijdag 26 januari 20.00 uur San Bernardokerk Toegang \$10 voorverkoop bij: Addo's bookstore en Valerie's airportshop.

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making needed household items available to local residents on a budget. Through your thoughtful generosity it's a win-win situation all the way around. As an added note, we also welcome other donations of clothes, books, and ANYTHING you have had forever and are now ready to part with. But, you say, "Nobody would want THIS?" Wrong! We welcome the donation of absolutely anything. Someone, somewhere will need it and want it.



We are happy to come to you and pick up your donation. Call Dabney at 717-3949 to schedule a pick up. Dabney Lassiter



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2018 IN THE SKY PARK

he year ahead offers many heavenly delights including a comet with potentially surprising brightness. While scores of amazing astronomical phenomena are in the offing, these five events are our picks for celestial moments worth circling on your calendar for 2018.

March 7-8: Planet Parade-- Three planets will form a cosmic conga line with the Moon.

Early risers in late February and into early March will be able to watch a planetary alignment dominate the southeastern sky at dawn, as Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter will seem to hover near each other in the sky. Over a few nights starting on March 7, the waning gibbous Moon will appear to pay visits to each planet in the lineup. And on March 8, the Moon will tuck itself between Mars and Jupiter.

July 15: Moon Meets Venus -Venus and the crescent Moon will make a stunning pair in July.

At local sunset, sky-watchers should look for the thin waxing crescent Moon to appear in a stunningly close encounter with the planet Venus low in the southwestern sky. North Hemisphere onlookers will be best positioned to see the two worlds at their closest-they will appear to be separated by less than 1.6 degrees, which is equal to about three lunar disks.

July 27: Mars at Its Best-- Mars will be at its biggest and brightest since 2003 in July.

On the same date as the total Lunar Eclipse, Mars will seem to glide close to the Moon just as it reaches its peak visibility for the year. The red planet will be at opposition, when it sits opposite to the Sun in the sky, from our perspective. During opposition, Mars will look like a super-bright orange star in the southern sky.

Mars does not have a perfectly circular orbit around the Sun, so the red planet gets nearer and farther from Earth over time. This year, Mars will be especially close to Earth shortly after opposition, coming within 35.8 million miles of us on July 31. This combination means that Mars will be at ters.
Andrew Fazekas

& Bar



its biggest and brightest since 2003, and it won't get this close to us again until 2035. While the planet will look spectacular to the naked eye, people using backyard telescopes will have exceptional views of various Martian surface features, such as its white polar caps and dark volcanic plains.

August 12-13: Perseid Meteor Shower-Considered one of the most intense annual meteor showers, the Perseids regularly produce up to 60 shooting stars an hour at their peak. This year promises to be particularly good in terms of performance, since the peak will coincide with a dark, moonless sky on the night of August 12 and into the predawn hours of August 13. The thin crescent Moon will set during the early evening, creating excellent viewing conditions across the Northern Hemisphere.

December 12: Comet Encounter-Comet 46P/Wirtanen will appear in the constellation Taurus during its closest approach to the Sun. If early predictions play out, comet 46P/ Wirtanen may brighten enough in December to be spotted easily with the unaided eye. If it does attain naked-eye visibility, it will be the brightest comet seen from the Northern Hemisphere in more than five years. The icy interloper will reach perihelion-its closest approach to the Sun—on **December 12** and will be traveling through the bright winter constellation Taurus, the Bull.

Only four days after it slingshots around the Sun, the comet will make its closest approach to Earth, coming within 7.2 million miles of the planet on its way toward the outer solar system. At this point, the comet should be easy to hunt down as it passes by the brilliant Pleiades and Hyades star clus-



ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Quarrels will erupt if you get into philosophical debates with friends. You can utilize your versa tile mind and dazzle others with your speed and accuracy. Your social activity should be conducive to finding love. Financial limitations may add to your depression. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) It might be best to spend time fixing up your premises and making changes that will be appreciated. A better diet, exercise, or a change to a relaxed atmosphere could be ways to soothe your nerves. You can expect to feel confused about your personal prospects. You have done all you can to sort things out a personal level. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will be in the mood for competition, and your ability to lead a group will bring you popularity. Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception. Difficulties will result if you have to deal with controversial groups this week. Beware of colleagues who don't have your best interests in mind. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

<u>CANCER</u> (June 22-July 22) Now is a good time to ask for favors. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with. You can make a huge difference to children if you are able to put yourself in their shoes. Your lucky day will be Sunday

<u>LEO</u> (July 23-Aug 22) Your ability to come up with original ideas will bring recognition from superiors. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of have been too demanding should be put routine in your home environment. Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively. Spend time with your lover this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) A long, quiet walk alone may help you sort out your thoughts. Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Don't overspend on friends or children. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) If you're uncertain of your feelings, keep your opinions to yourself. You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. You will be emotional about money matters. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

<u>SCORPIO</u>(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't push your mate away. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. You may find that your boss is not delighted with your work lately. Try to keep ahead of the game. Your lucky day will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make changes to your living quarters, but not everyone will be pleased with your efforts. You need to do something energetic and different. You haven't been totally honest with yourself and it's time to review your motives. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't take advantage of your expense account. Finish off old projects before starting something new. Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident this week. You should feel a little more stable about your position; however, don't be surprised if a job offer comes your way. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) Your best gains will come through helping others emotionally. Family talks may get a little combative. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. Those who in their place or out to pasture.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday. PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar.

20) Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Travel will promote new romantic connections. Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent. People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. \Box

Michael Thiessen





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