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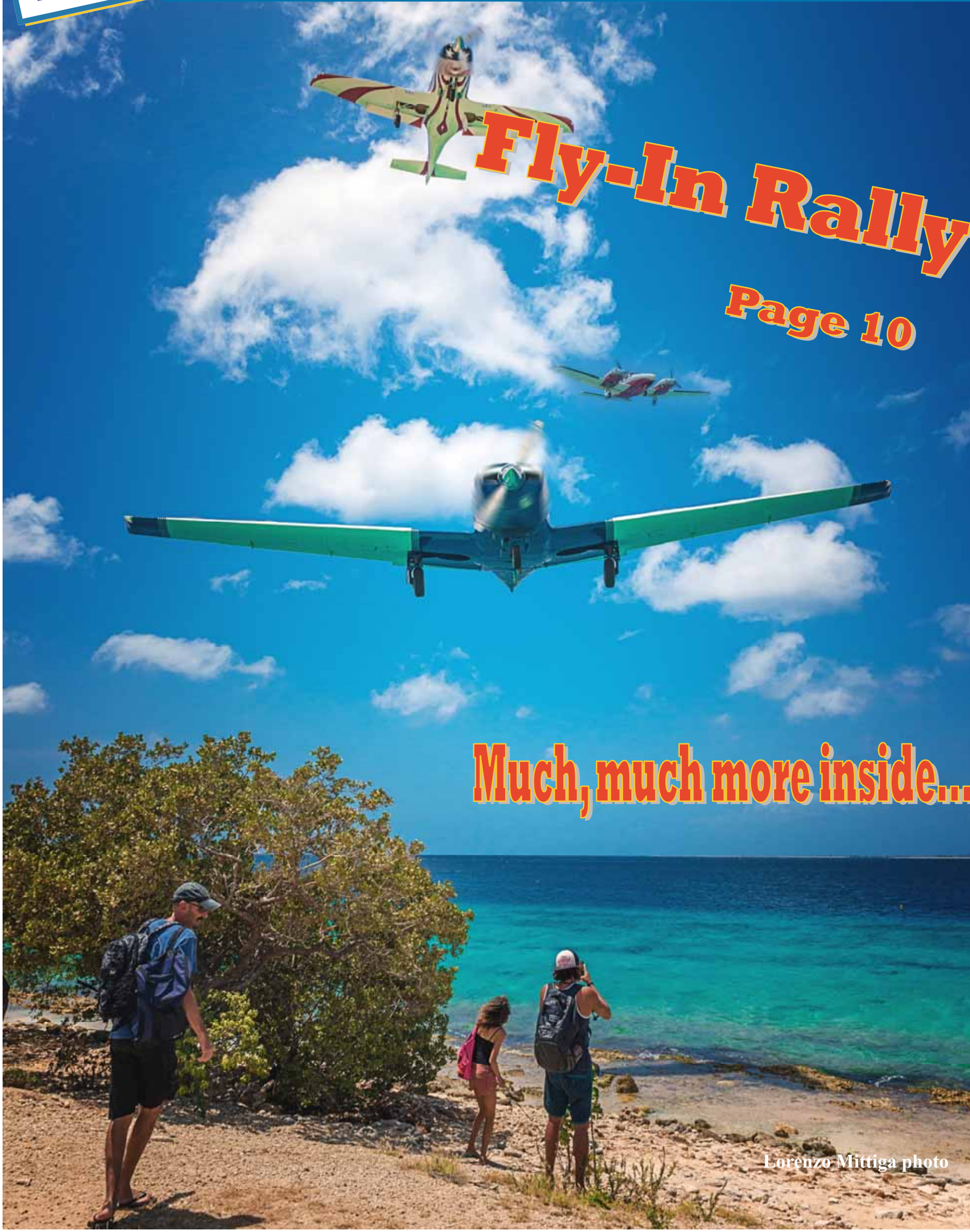
BONAIRE Mar. 26- Apr. 9, 2018, Year 25, Issue 7
The REPORTER

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Fly-In Rally

Page 10

Much, much more inside...



Lorenzo Mittiga photo

MORE INSELAIR WOES



Dutchnews.nl photo

Last Monday, March 19, the number 1 engine of the IniselAir Fokker 50 turboprop aircraft PJ-KVM, en-route from St. Maarten (SXM) to Curacao (CUR), flight 512, shut down automatically at 20,000 ft. due to an unknown failure. Repeated engine restarts were attempted, but failed. The 53 occupants were relieved when their plane returned to SXM, landing smoothly at approximately 2:53pm. The flight originally departed at 1:15pm. The emergency operations that had been initiated at the airport stood down at 3:15pm following the safe landing. For a video of the landing see <https://www.facebook.com/jeanmarc.oliver1/videos/10215401160799823/>

►Following the event IniselAir was unable to put a plane in the air for several days. All its aircraft were down for repair.

To meet the demand for flights among the ABC Islands, Divi Divi Air used both its new Twin Otters to handle about 100 passengers. The Otters have less than half of the passenger capacity of IniselAir's Fokker 50s which are supposed to fly four flights each day. Aruba Airlines was flying its normal daily BON-CUR flight as well. IniselAir normally has two operational Fokker 50s for all its ABC Island and St. Maarten flights.

►It was reported earlier that IniselAir wants to acquire three aircraft of its own, with financing of \$1.5 million almost complete. In addition, the company plans to lease aircraft to save on maintenance costs. The airline is still under deferment of payment of its past debts.

►Last week Jan Heppener was named as the new CEO of Inisel Air. He replaces Gilles Filiatreault, who leaves on 1 April. The 70-year-old Heppener is a figurehead of Dutch aviation having worked for 45 years for Martin Air, Air Holland, Transavia, ArkeFly and Corendon Dutch Airlines.



STINAPA photo

Governor Rijna with lionfish

►On March 17, five teams of lion fish hunters removed 74 lion fish from the waters around Klein Bonaire. Two boats (one from STINAPA and another provided by Sea Donkey) were used. Prizes were provided by Palm Trading NV. Ranger Luigi Eybrecht and the Governor of Bonaire Edison Rijna handed the prizes to the winners. STINAPA really appreciates the help from all the volunteers and sponsors.



Deepsea Freediving photo

►Dive Friends Bonaire is now partnering with world-champion Deepsea Freediving and offering PADI Freediving classes as a PADI Freedive Center. Bonaire is an excellent place for Freediving; the reef drop-off starts shallow and there is a huge diversity of marine life to observe along the entire reef, easily accessible for all divers.

Dive Friends Bonaire is convinced that Freediving is a valuable addition to everyone's dive experience

Yes, freediving also improves your scuba dives. Learning breathing and relaxation techniques will allow you to boost your scuba dive performance and results in a longer "air time." Additionally, the equalization techniques used in freediving can be beneficial and useful for scuba diving. Interested in learning? Have a look at their Freedive course page <http://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/2018/03/freediving-five-reasons-start-today/>



Dutchnews.nl photo

►The Hague - Staff shortages at the Dutch Ministry of Defense can lead to reduction of the strength of the armed forces that are stationed on Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten at a time of strained relations with Venezuela.

Chairman Jean Debie of the trade union for defense personnel, the VBM (yes, Dutch military are unionized) has been warning for some time about the consequences of the growing outflow. Last week it was announced that 73 marines left in the first quarter of 2018, three times as many as in previous years.

"This is not yet the case at the moment because the troops are being sent out for three years," says Debie. The good news is that assignment to the Caribbean is high on the wish list of many military personnel. Debie is committed to continuing the presence of Defense on the islands. "They are part of the Kingdom. We have tasks to do there."

►Four participants are signed up for the Miss Tourism Bonaire 2018 event. The pageant will take place on June 2nd, after a two-month-long program filled with a lot of positive and educational activities like talk shows, tourist and cultural workshops, catwalk training, photo sessions, recordings on TV and radio, sightseeing

(Continued on page 3)

This Week's Stories

Jellyfish Alert	3
The First Catholic Gift Shop	7
Sargassum Impact	8
Introducing The Bonaire Culinary Team	8
The Loras Are Back	9
Private Plane Tourism—Cover Story	10
Making Bonaire "Accessible"	
Wheelchair Challenges #6 -Facilities	11

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (Insel Air, Pier Repairs, Lionfish Derby)	2
Shopping and Dining Guide	4
On the Island Since—Ella Rosa Pikeri	5
Picture Yourself—Colonial Williamsburg, VA, USA	6
Food and Vitality (Hydration)	6
Did You Know—Seabirds Back	9
A Garden—Just Do It (Harvest Time)	11
What's Happening + Cruise Ship + Exhibitions	12
Classifieds, Masthead, Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	13
Pets Of The Week (Nova -Dog)	14
Animal Shelter News—Puppypalozza	14
Miss Bonaire Chosen	14
Bonaire Sky Park (Second Blue Moon of 2018, March 31)	15
The Stars Have It (Horoscope)	15

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
around Bonaire and much more.

Names of the participants for the Miss Tourism Bonaire are: **Supharmy Janga, Carolin Coffie, Giroliana Veld and Marionelis Serberie.**



► **Work on the rebuilding of Bonaire's center pier is progressing steadily.** A steelwork is being built under the water to make the forms for concrete pouring. Local workers who are qualified are being hired. The contractor, the Knoll company, wants as many local people as possible to work on the project.

► **Do you have a complaint about a government department that you cannot seem to come to an agreement with?** Would you like to be heard about your complaints and speak to one of the representatives yourself? Then take yourself to Jong Bonaire beginning Monday, March 25, from 5pm to 7pm, to speak with a representative of the National Ombudsman. In the European Netherlands citizens must first show an attempt

to consult with their adversaries before meeting with the Ombudsman, a requirement not mandatory in the BES Islands.

► **Fifty-seven-year-old Rignald H.,** the Coast Guard officer who became complicit in the robbery that **resulted in the death of police officer Ferry Bakx** in 2016 has been jailed for 12 months as requested by the Prosecution. He passed flight and navigational movements of the Coast Guard to his brother-in-law who coordinated the robbery. He violated his oath of secrecy. Rignald had worked for the Coast Guard for 25 years.

► **In recent weeks seismographs in Grenada have been recording tremors from the underwater volcano, Kick 'em Jenny,** which can erupt at any time. The volcano is 8 km from Grenada and about 750 km from Bonaire.

Boats sailing in the area are requested to stay away from the underwater volcano after the increase in seismic activity increased significantly in recent days.

Kick 'em Jenny is one of the most active volcanoes in the eastern Caribbean Sea above Trinidad and Tobago. It is 1200 meters high and the top is 200 meters under water. Prof. Richard Robertson, from the West Indies Seismic Research Center (SRC) in Trinidad, said that there is no indication that the increased seismic activity could generate a tsunami.

He explains that an eruption probably would not expel enough material to move

(Continued on page 4)

JELLYFISH ALERT FOR BONAIRE

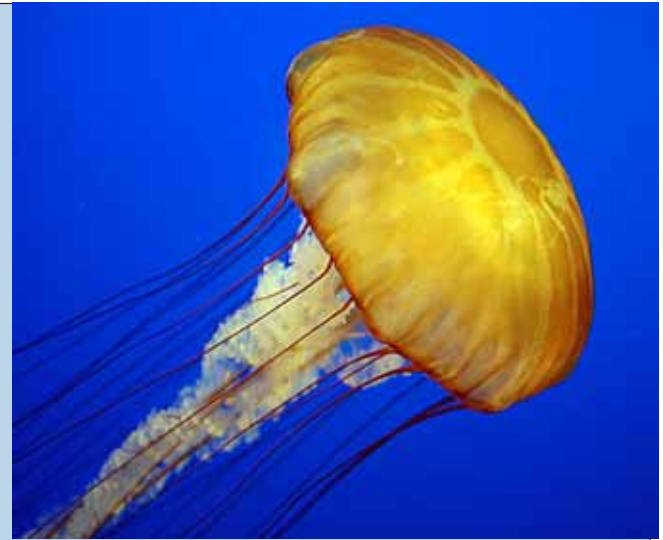
Tropical islands like Bonaire are surrounded by warm seas that are pleasant to swim in. But there are times when human swimmers must take care because other creatures are swimming too. STINAPA reports an increase in the number of jellyfish near the shore. This is due to a combination of plankton bloom, which attracts jellyfish, and strong east wind. There are several types to be aware of:

PORTUGUESE MAN OF WAR

It is a *cnidarian*, an invertebrate life form that include corals, sea anemones, sea jellies, sea pens, and hydras. The Portuguese Man of War has a segment of about 25 cm. in diameter filled with a gas. The gas floats it to catch the wind to "sail." It has very long, thin, up to **70-meter-long** tentacles to stun its prey. Usually the Portuguese Man of War lives in colonies far out at sea. During wind reversals, however, they can come close to the coast. A sting is extremely painful.

BONAIRE BANDED BOX JELLYFISH

The time around full moon is the mating season of the box jellyfish, *Tamoya ohboya*. Jellyfish mate in the evening near the coast. Swimming is not recommended during this time. It is a translucent "balloon" swimming sideways. The sting is very painful and can be dangerous.



Each month during the first 10 days after the full moon a couple of these box jellies are spotted on Bonaire.

COMB JELLYFISH

Comb jellies are oval shaped box jellyfish with a bright striped "comb" with which they propel themselves. These jellyfish **do not sting**. And they are great food for sea turtles! The spot winged comb jelly glows in the dark when something moves. Wave your hand in the water when you see them. A beautiful sight!

Medical Assistance And Self-Help

In 2016, the hospital on Bonaire put protocols in place for bites and stings, including those of jellyfish. Self-help tools are hot salt water, vinegar (note: not for stings from the Portuguese Man of War) and the medicine, Sting No More, available at dive shops and pharmacies. Do not use: urine, fresh water, scratching or rubbing. □ *Press release/G.D.*

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SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. The office is the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.



BEAUTY

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BIKES

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FITNESS & Yoga

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HEALTH CARE

BEST Care Logistics is where to go for convalescent and health products and services: hearing tests/aids, food products, diapers, diabetics, disability aids, impaired vision devices, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, electric scooters, patients beds and more.

ON and IN the WATER

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

OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's most creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. Drone photography too. ScubaVision, recently renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at www.bonairevisionfilms.com.

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

RE/MAX Paradise Homes is your one-stop-shop for Selling and Buying real estate; Purchasing an existing business; Commercial or residential development; Holiday rentals and Long term rentals. See page 3.



Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit. Ad on back page



RESTAURANTS

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

RETAIL

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

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

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



SECURITY

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

STORAGE

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WATER TAXI

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
large amounts of water. The volcano lies on the sailing route from St Vincent to Grenada.

►Last August the "Back On Track" Band lost Peter, the drummer/percussionist to cancer. He was paid a musical tribute in his home on the day friends were invited to say "goodbye." After that the band members didn't know if they could keep going without him. But because of regular requests to perform again, they decided to go on. But Theo, Ruud and Bert agreed on giving the band a new name: Life goes on, "C'est La Vie." See their first performance at Foodie's

Restaurant at 8 pm on Saturday, March 31, See poster on page 7.

►The Ride for the Roses Bonaire Foundation is planning one of the largest Bonaire fundraising events for Sunday, April 8.

The Foundation's main goal is to reach as many people as possible, potential sponsors and donors to raise money for the Princess Wilhelmina Cancer Fund. This fund makes people aware of cancer in different ways, helps and supports cancer patients and contributes to research in the fight against cancer.

The Ride, Walk and Swim events are cycling, walking and swimming. Every finisher is offered a red rose, the rose that



symbolizes a tomorrow for everyone.

Sign up easily via Facebook:
www.facebook.com/RidefortheRosesBonaire/
or buy tickets at the Airport Restaurant, De Freewieler, Lisa Convenience Store or

Multipost. T-shirts will be available at ORCO Bank on Friday, April 6, from 3pm to 7pm, and on Saturday, April 7, from 10am to 7pm and at Eden Beach on Sunday, April 8, before the event starting at 6:30am

►Welcome to our new advertiser Meijer en Matias Schoonmaakbedrijf. If you want something cleaned really well—your home, business, office or just about any other place give them a call. See their advertisement at the bottom of page 9.

►Please tell the owners of the shops you visit to try advertising in *The Reporter*. It's their ads that keep us "Still Free." □ G.D.

Born on Bonaire... 11-11-'64 - Ella Rosa Pikeri



Ella Rosa Pikeri

“My mom was a hard working woman who sewed clothes in order to make money to raise her children. We were six boys and four girls. When I was very young I was already doing housework like I was an older person, so there wasn't much time to play. It wasn't a care-free childhood and my house was not a peaceful home. My father was never home, he was working and he died when he was 42. I felt a lack of fatherly love and protection. My mom was more concerned about putting food on the table – which was her way of showing us love—but for a child growing up it wasn't enough.

I had many questions of why life was like it was. Then, one day, sitting at the back of the house, I looked at the sky and I thought, ‘there must be something out there.’ I was going to the Catholic Church but I was still searching. Every time when there were troubles at home I talked to Him who was living in that sky, but I had not met Him... yet. Then one day, my mom let me go to Curacao to spend time with my grandmother who was a devout Catholic. My grandmother told me she'd heard this pastor, **Kenneth Thijm**, preaching on TV and it touched her deeply. The very next Sunday she attended his service and when the pastor did an altar call, my grandmother went forward. The pastor prayed for her and miraculously she got healed from an arm that had been off and on dislocated from the shoulder joint for 36 years. So when my grandmother told me about what had happened I said to her I wanted to know that God that has so much power. I went to the church and there I had a life experience with God and I gave my life to Jesus. Since that moment I never felt alone again and I came to realize my reason and purpose in life. I was 13.

I went back to Bonaire where I finished high school at 17. Then I told my mother I wanted to go to bible school to become a missionary and a preacher. I went to Curacao to New Life Bible College where I was one of the first students. After I studied for three years they wanted to send us as missionaries into the world, but I wanted to go to Holland to continue my studies at Johan Maasbach Bible School.

Once in Holland it appeared I was too late to enter the school year so I started

working and took some courses. Then I decided to return to Bonaire. I was full of fire for the Lord and I wanted everybody to know about Him. On Bonaire I started preaching and teaching and it wasn't easy because the Catholic pastor had handed out

stickers that said, ‘I am a Catholic and I will die as a Catholic,’ and everybody had one on their doorpost. But I never meant for people to change their religion; I wanted them to have a relationship with Jesus, because a manmade institution like a church cannot save you, but a living relationship with Jesus Christ can.

During the day I was working at Photo Tours with **Jerry Schnabel** and **Suzu Schwigert**, and from there I started working in real estate and I am still doing so. At this job I realized I am a salesperson and I call that a gift. I like the interaction with people and I noticed that when I speak to people they are easily convinced. I got married and I had two beautiful children, but because of life issues the marriage ended after 11 years and I stayed alone with my kids while I was working at the McLaughlin Bank, now RBC.

At the bank I met my second husband, **Kenneth Charles Fischer**, who came to open a bank account. At the time I was terribly worried; I thought my world had come to an end. All the people of the church had left me because of the divorce and I was alone with my problem. There was nobody to give me advice but my one and best friend, God.

When Kenneth first came to my office to fill in the forms, he saw I was very upset. He took my face in his hands and said, ‘Sweetheart, I can see you're having problems, but I want to tell you one thing: God is bigger than your problems.’ Those words



Marinus van Eekelen and Ella Rosa

touched me deeply. A week later Kenny came to my office and said: ‘I will marry you and I will take care of your kids as if they were my own.’ I was ‘Whoooo! Who is this guy?’ And on top of that he looked like a movie star! So, we got married and our marriage had all been planned by God; it was meant to be. Kenny treated me like a queen and took good care of me and my kids and together we also had two beautiful children.

Prayer and Intercession Foundation. I started the church services at my house and I have seen and still see many miracles happen in the lives of people: healing, deliverance and salvation.

When the real estate market dropped a bit I decided to take a job at Van der Tweel supermarket where I became the head supervisor. I worked in that position for more than four years with a lot of pleasure, but I never stopped working in real estate and people always knew where to find me. I am very grateful to Van der Tweel, because it was there that I met my third husband – and it's no coincidence – **Marinus van Eekelen**. It's a happy marriage and this year we are going to be married for four years. I call him my ‘*chukulati blanku*’ (white chocolate). He is my best friend and I am very thankful to God for him.

My children have all grown up. William, the eldest, completed his education in Columbus, Ohio. He's a team leader at Jong Bonaire and has two kids. Stephan, my second son, finished school in Holland and is working for IND and he's married. My daughter Emily is studying architecture in Italy and my son Erich finished high school, did MBO (intermediate vocational education) and is taking a sabbatical now.

Last year I decided to go back into real estate full-time and from January 1st this year I started with **Mi Kas Realty** (info@mi-kas.com) and it's going very well. Besides that, I am also working with the Ministry, preaching and teaching. We obtained a plot of land in Belnem where the Ministry is going to build a multi-functional building where all kinds of activities with children, youngsters and older people will be held. (If you want to make a donation: Prayer and Intercession Foundation MCB Bank # 400.288.01 Swift MCBKANCU BON.)

Well, after all that I have gone through I see a bright future ahead of me in my business and in the Ministry. And my passion will always be to help people find a relationship with God. May God bless you all.” ■

Greta Kooistra



“I started the church services at my house and I have seen and still see many miracles happen in the lives of people: healing, deliverance and salvation.”

Before he met me, Kenny had gone through a tough divorce, and it came to a point that one day when he was driving in Miami he asked God for him to have an accident and die. But then the Lord spoke to his heart and told him he would go to Bonaire where he would marry a Bonairean woman. The moment he walked into my office he knew he had found her! It was me.

We were married for 11 years when Kenny passed away. Again I thought my world had come to an end and I fell into a deep depression. I stayed behind with four children, aged two, four, 13 and 15. But then Kenny's sister **Sue** and her husband **Wil** came to Bonaire to open a restaurant and they helped us in every way and I am very thankful for that. My psychologist was God. I would bring the children to school and go straight to the cross at Seroe Largo where I would spend the morning crying and praying until one day, God told me that it was going to be alright and that He would take care of me and my kids.

I was working at RE/MAX under my own company, paying a fee to use their name and it went excellently. It gave me a boost in life again and I was doing what I am best at: Selling! The important thing was that my clients were always happy, and up to this day most of them have remained friends. I was going to the First Assemblies of God church; I was always devoted to the Lord. Then, in 2002, the Lord spoke to me, telling me I should start a Ministry from

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Colonial Williamsburg, VA, USA



aire Reporters in front of the Capitol . The couples went to Williamsburg with their long-time friends whom they met on Bonaire in 2001. Brought along three printed versions of the *Bonaire Reporter* (all from the fall of 2008) and posed with them for a few photos. □

Bonaire Ambassadors (Gold-level) **Resa & Mark Director**, and 20-year / soon-to-be Gold-level Bonaire Ambassadors, **Alice & Bud Bracken**, commemorated their January 2018 weekend at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia by reading and enjoying their *Bonaire Reporter*.



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. All 2018 photos are eligible for the next contest.

BEST CARE ZORGWINKEL



Soon in our new home

The island's health care foundation offering products and services for sale and rent: hearing aids, special food products, diapers, diabetics, disability aids, impaired vision devices, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, electric scooters, patients beds **and more.** Cooperating with Bonaire's health care insurance

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All About Proper Hydration



To stay hydrated, you need about 2 to 3 liters (9 to 12 cups) of fluids every day. Being active increases your needs due to the fluids you lose through sweat.

Depending on the sport or exercise you do, its intensity, the weather, and your individual sweat rate, you could lose anywhere from 0.3 to 2.4 liters (about 1¼ to 10 cups) of sweat per hour.

It's easy to see how exercising in hot weather can lead to large sweat losses, but it can also happen in cold weather sports like hockey and skiing and even in water sports like swimming.

If you don't drink enough to replace your sweat losses, you can become dehydrated. This can leave you overheated, tired and hurt your performance. Signs of dehydration are thirst, dizziness, headache and muscle cramps. Severe dehydration can increase the risk for heat illness and heat stroke.

Steps you can take:

Stay Hydrated

- Drink throughout the day. Choose water most of the time, but 100% fruit juice, milk, tea, coffee, and sports drinks also provide fluids.

- Check the color of your urine. Plenty of pale yellow (e.g. lemonade color) urine is a sign you are well hydrated. A small amount of dark yellow (e.g. apple juice color) urine could mean that you are dehydrated.

- Drink enough fluids during exercise. To know if you are drinking enough to replace fluid losses, weigh yourself just before and right after you exercise. Be sure to empty your bladder and remove sweaty clothing before weighing. If you lose more than 2% of your body weight during exercise, it means that you need to drink more. For example, a 70 kg (154 lb) person who loses more than 1.4 kg (3 lb) during exercise is not drinking enough. Weight loss right after exercise is water loss, not fat loss. Fat loss occurs slowly over days, weeks and months.

- Choose water or a sports drink during exercise. Sports drinks can be useful in the following situations:

- intense exercise
- exercise lasting longer than one hour
- exercise that takes place in hot or humid weather
- when you wear heavy sports equipment like in football and hockey
- when you have more than one sporting event per day, such as in a soccer tournament. In addition to providing fluids, sports drinks provide energy (carbohydrates) for your muscles and brain and electrolytes (salts) to replace what you lose during exercise.

- Avoid carbonated soft drinks, full-strength juice, fruit drinks or energy drinks during intense exercise. These drinks prevent you from drinking enough to be hydrated as they may cause stomach upset and are too high in sugar for best absorption.

- Avoid over hydration. While it's important to drink plenty of fluids when



you exercise, it is also important not to drink too much. Drinking too much, either before, during or after exercise, can cause low blood sodium levels (hyponatremia), which can be dangerous.

Symptoms of hyponatremia include:

- o swollen hands and feet
- o vomiting
- o confusion
- o wheezing
- o weight gain during exercise or a competition
- o in rare cases, even death.

- Use your thirst as a guide. If you aren't sure how much you should be drinking, pay attention to your thirst and review the following fluid guidelines.

Fluids before, during, and after exercise

Here are some guidelines for how much fluid you may need to drink to stay hydrated and perform at your best. Individual needs may vary. To help your body absorb the fluids you drink, sip them slowly rather than drinking them all at once.

4 hours before exercise —Drink 250 to 500 mL (1 to 2 cups) of fluid.

2 hours or less before exercise —Drink 125 to 375 mL (½ to 1½ cups) of fluid if you have not urinated or only produced a small amount of dark yellow urine.

During exercise —Sip fluid during your activity. Avoid gaining weight, which can be a sign of over hydration.

Immediately after exercise —If you drank regularly during your workout and there was no weight change, drink according to your thirst for the rest of the day.

If you didn't drink enough and lost weight, drink 500 to 750 mL (2 to 3 cups) of fluid per 0.5 kg (1 lb) of weight you lost. Water is a good choice, but milk, 100% fruit juice, and sports drinks are also options as well as high water-containing foods like fruit, vegetables and yogurt. □ *Lucinda van der Wardt*

Lucinda van der Wardt has been a registered dietitian and sports instructor for more than 20 years . After working for more than 10 years in a University hospital in Amsterdam and later in her private practice she is currently owner of Food and Vitality Dietitian practice located at Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk. More info: www.foodandvitality.info tel: 599-785-0170 lucinda@foodandvitality.info



The First Catholic Gift Shop



Coming to Bonaire is the Coromoto Gift Shop, the first Catholic gift shop in the Diocese of Curaçao, a diocese that serves not only the islands of Bonaire and Curaçao but also Aruba, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Martin.

Built in only seven weeks, the Gift Shop is one of two major projects Pastor

Fr. Alphonsus Baak is working on at Our Lady of Coromoto Church in Antriol. Fr. Baak explains that he built the Gift Shop because "It's important that people have something in their homes to remember their faith."

The second project is the renovation of the Chapel of Mercy at the church, which will now house the tabernacle and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

On a recent morning, parishioner **Juan Jose**, who is from Venezuela, was skill-

fully cutting tile and working with a level and tape measure to make sure everything was perfect for the renovated chapel and the sacred items that will be housed there.

Back in the gift shop building, parishioner **Yana Albertus** was busy cleaning the windows, shelves and counters in the new gift shop, getting it ready for the merchandise that will be brought in for sale.

All of this is in preparation for the grand opening of the Gift Shop and re-opening of the Chapel of Mercy on Palm Sunday, March 25, after the 9am mass. That date also coincides with the four-year anniversary of Fr. Baak arriving in Bonaire and coming to our Lady of Coromoto.

The Gift Shop will sell rosaries, bibles,



Yana Albertus prepares the Coromoto Gift Shop for its grand opening at Our Lady of Coromoto Church.



Fr. Alphonsus Baak, Pastor at Our Lady of Coromoto Church in Antriol shows off some of the items for sale in the Gift Shop

candles (for weddings and baptisms), statues, medals, crosses and prayer books. Most of the merchandise was purchased online from the US, Colombia and Holland. The bibles and prayer books will be available in all languages important to the people of Bonaire: Papiamentu, Spanish, English and Dutch.

There are also tables and chairs inside where people can sit, have coffee, and visit with fellow parishioners.

The Gift Shop will be open from 5 to 7pm, Monday through Friday. During the weekend it will be open on Saturday from 5 to 6pm before the English mass, and on Sunday after the 9am mass from 10 to 11am.

The Chapel of Mercy will be open from 8am to 6pm for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The outside entrance to the chapel features a Dutch door in



Juan Jose works on the new altar at the Chapel of Mercy at Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol

which the top of the door can be opened separately, allowing fresh air in, leaving the bottom half closed. "It's to keep the iguanas out," Fr. Baak explains with a smile.

Besides all the construction going on, this parish of 4,000 people has also been busy spiritually. Every Friday evening during the season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter in the Roman Catholic Church, Fr. Baak leads a large group of parishioners through a different community walking the Way of the Cross, praying and singing. □

Photos & story by Alan Zale; reporting by Joan Zale.



C'est La Vie

Live on stage

Zaterdag
31 maart

20.00 uur



Fr. Alphonsus Baak led more than 50 parishioners through the Hato neighborhood, walking the Way of the Cross on Friday, March 9. Each Friday evening during the season of Lent Fr. Baak leads a group of people through a different community, reciting the Stations of the Cross in preparation for Easter. Photos by Alan Zale

Sargassum Impact



On March 19 Governor Rijna and STINAPA Director Arjan de Wolff offered a comprehensive report of the island's efforts to remove the sargassum weed

According to Caribbean leaders, it's a disaster that will take at least 100,000 people and \$120 million to clean up. And its reoccurrence is a definite possibility.

Early this month huge, battery-acid-stinking mats of sargassum algae demonstrated their ability to foul the beaches and near-shore waters of the Caribbean. In some places the mats were 10 feet deep. These great piles of seaweed can kill off native species and result in ocean dead zones when they rob waters of nutrients and then die off, pulling life-giving oxygen out of the water by decomposition.

Environmental forecasters say more events like this are to come, fueled by increasing farm fertilizer-fed nutrients in the sea, warmer ocean temperatures, a slowing of the Gulf Stream, erosion of Amazon Forest soils and a decline in biodiversity.

Bonaire got a large share of the weed.

To clean Bonaire's sargassum invasion, that began on March 6 along the southeast coast, STINAPA, using traditional and social media outlets, mobilized hundreds of people and heavy equipment. **Director de Wolff reported that his staff put in ±2,000 hours of work plus ±5,600 hours by volunteers. Thirteen dump trucks made 115 trips, fed by 13 loaders, five excavators, three bobcats and innumerable wheelbarrows and rakes. Despite the mess on the east coast, the "tourist and diving beaches" in other parts of the island were basically unaffected.**

Over 15 companies and individuals sponsored machines and tools with heavy equipment, rakes, wheelbarrows, surfboards and kayaks. Other companies and individuals sponsored food and beverages for workers. More companies and individuals sponsored other necessities like meeting rooms, toilets, transport, megaphones. Over 10 companies sent organized groups of volunteers. And to top it off more than 40 companies and individuals made cash donations.

STINAPA estimated that 151,503 sq meters of sargassum covered about 15.2 hectares (37.6 acres) with a volume of 45,450 M³ to an average depth of 30 cm on Bonaire's shoreline. By the end of last week it was mostly cleaned up.



STINAPA biologist Caren Eckrich painted a grim picture of the poisonous and suffocating effects of the sargassum mats, "Many of the sea creatures perished," she repeatedly stated.



Lac Bay, pristine again after cleanup

The experts seem to agree that this sargassum invasion is not an isolated incident. To minimize the impact of similar disasters STINAPA believes that Bonaire should begin to prepare, especially because tourism is the main element in the island's economy. It has already demonstrated how to reorganize and crisis-manage its 28 staff and mobilize volunteers.

In his presentation STINAPA Director de Wolff went on to say an early warning system either provided by forecasters or satellites backed by a dedicated budget is a first step. Resources to investigate improved protection and prevention whether provided by watercraft, pollution booms or other means and deploy the best solution.

STINAPA and the Dutch and Island Governments should reinforce their coastal cleanup capabilities to minimize the environmental and economic damage that the ocean can deliver, be it high seas, oil spills, shipwrecks or repeats of a sargassum invasion. **G.D. / photos from the Internet, STINAPA and The Bonaire Reporter.**

Introducing: the Bonaire Culinary Team



The Bonaire Culinary Team is intensively training to compete in the region's biggest culinary competition: the Taste of the Caribbean in mid-June. They need your support.

The first dinner was held Sunday, March 25, at Red Palm Village. It included a multiple course dinner including wine, cocktail tastings and a Cadushy Welcome Cocktail.

This year the team is:(left to right):

- Miguel (Popi) Saragoza** - Senior Chef
- Floris van Loo** - Team Manager
- Josue Chalabi** - Junior Chef
- Maria (Mary) Maestroni** - Pastry Chef
- Sherundly (Shur) Bernabela** - Senior Chef
- Dustin Libiee** - Extra Chef
- Kelvin Ventura** - Bartender

Attend one or more of the fundraising and training dinners, planned for the following dates: Sunday 15 April, Sunday 6 May, Sunday 13 May, Sunday 27 May and Sunday 10 June go to

<https://www.facebook.com/BonaireCulinaryTeam/> for reservations and more information. **G.D.**

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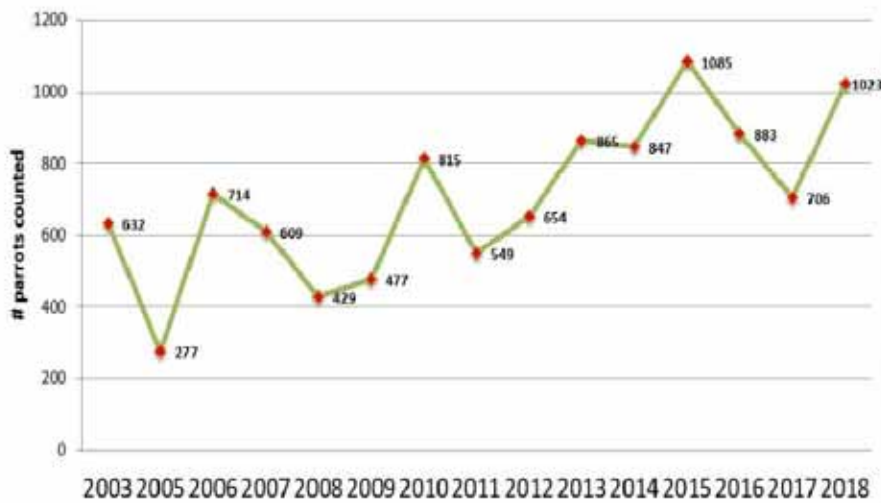
The Loras Are Back!

The Echo Foundation reported that after two years of declining numbers of parrots being counted during Bonaire's annual roost count, they were very happy to tally over 1,023 birds being counted across 25 sites on Bonaire (9 inside the Washington Slagbaai Park and 16 outside). We are grateful to the enthusiastic volunteers, members of the Echo team and STINAPA Rangers for their willingness to wake up in the pre-dawn hours to sit and wait for the parrots to start their day. This was the second highest number of parrots being recorded during the annual one-day roost count.



Kerenza Rannou-Frans photo

Parrot Roost Counts 2003-2018



In 2016, 900 Loras were counted, followed by only 700 in 2017! These low numbers have been partially explained by the behavior of the Loras as they dispersed themselves more and more in smaller groups and at new, sometimes unknown roost locations. Last year, several teams reported hearing Loras or seeing them flying nearby but not within the area that they were surveying. This indicates that we might have missed at least some part of the population.

This year, additional efforts were put in finding these new locations, as well as checking all of the well-known roost spots. Unfortunately, the numbers in these so-called pre-roost count checks gave us a worrying low number, indicating an actual decline in the population. New sites have been found, however, and days before the actual count, some last minute changes were made to find as many Loras as possible.

The staff of STINAPA counted inside the Washington Slagbaai Park this year with the help of some additional volunteers. Outside the park over 50 volunteers visited 18 different sites. The Loras are counted in a simultaneous count, which requires everyone to set off in the very early morning (pre-dawn) hours to locations all over the island. As the Loras wake up and depart from the tree where they've been sleeping, they are counted. Each Lora is only counted once. By adding the numbers which have been simultaneously counted

across all the sites, the organizers are able to get a sense of the minimum number of Loras on the island. This annual census is important for parrot conservation on Bonaire and for protecting the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot (*Amazona barbadensis*) globally.

This year's count was organized by Echo, in association with STINAPA and the Department of Environment and Nature of the public entity.

Visit: www.salbanosloras.info or www.echobonaire.org to learn more. You can also sign up on the Echo Facebook page to get updates on parrot related activities: www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org
 □ Press release

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 Cell: +(599) 782-1456 or +(5999) 679-8367
 e-mail: meijer.matias@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Our gulls and terns are back! Although Laughing Gulls are loud and sometimes annoying, I love it when these migratory seabirds return to Bonaire in March and April because their call reminds me of the beach and of summer. Laughing Gulls, named for their call that sounds like "ha ha ha," are rather large and easily recognized by their clearly defined black heads. They are not easily frightened by people and sometimes even steal food from beach-goers and fishermen (as well as from other birds).

If you are a keen nature lover, you are in for a treat in the coming month. Terns, gulls, stilts (and other birds) are all fattening up in preparations for breeding. They will perform elaborate courtship displays and chase off competing suitors. Laughing Gulls will put their heads toward the ground, toss their heads backwards, call, flap their wings, etc., etc. Once they choose a mate, the pair will build a nest on the ground. These nests tend to be extremely camouflaged. After mating (don't blink or

you'll miss it), Laughing Gulls will lay two to four eggs that the parents take turns incubating for approximately three weeks.

Then the fuzzy chicks hatch and then the real work begins – feeding those hungry mouths! It takes a little over a month before the chicks fledge. As you may imagine, this is a very dangerous time for the little chicks. In the past, they might be eaten by other, larger birds. However, there are now many wild (feral) cats (and dogs) roaming many islands that often eat seabird eggs and chicks.

Seabird populations worldwide are suffering from commercial fishing (accidental bycatch) and predation from invasive species (rats, mice and feral dogs and cats). If you think about it, in the past, islands didn't have these species of mammals preying on seabird nests. What can you do to



help? From April to August, Please be extra careful when walking along the coast. If seabirds are flying above you or dive-bombing your head OR you hear agitated birds squawking at you, then slowly back away. You are probably close to their nest. Because the eggs and babies are so small and very camouflaged, it's easy to accidentally crush them. And if you think there are nests nearby, please don't hang around trying to find them. Why? When you approach a nest, the parents leave the nest exposed and the longer the eggs and/or baby birds are left baking in the sun, the less chance they will survive. □ Story by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting people with nature.

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Private Plane Tourism

How many cruise ships does it take to equal the economic impact of single “Fly-In” Rally? The pilots of the 14 planes and their passengers, 35 people, stayed overnight in Bonaire hotels, ate in our restaurants, purchased fuel, rented cars and did the “normal” touristy things... in a big way.

We don't know the answer but we do know that Bonaire was perhaps the favorite stop of the international private pilot aviation event that started in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on March 12 and will fly a total of 4,146 NM, visiting 10 Caribbean countries including The Bahamas, Grand Turk, Anguilla, Tobago, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Roatan, and Mexico, before returning to Florida on March 29. Flying times between destinations vary from two to six hours depending on distance and the aircraft's speed. Take-offs are staggered, with the slowest planes leaving first, so the landings are more or less simultaneous. Each aircraft is equipped with a “black box” that continuously transmits the plane's location while underway. You can track their progress on the website <https://airbly.com/>.

The planes are relatively small, mostly single-engine, carrying

from two to six persons. It's expensive not only to enter the event, around \$3,000 per person, but to that must be added the fuel cost, maintenance, insurance and the expenses for 18 days. Part of the fees go for charitable donations and supplies for schools in undeveloped countries. The Rally aims at increasing awareness of aviation. The event included pilots from the US, Canada and Switzerland and was conducted in collaboration with hosting destinations. Seminars, workshop, flight formation clinics and orientations prepare the participants. Bonaire's TCB did an outstanding job of making the flying visitors welcome.

One of the challenges facing international travelers these days is Customs, Immigration and Border Control formalities and private air travelers are no exception. To ease the entry of the planes and passengers, the TCB greeted the arrivals and helped walk them through the formalities. **Catherine Tobenos**, the coordinator of the Rally, exclaimed that it was one of the smoothest entries of the trip.

While on Bonaire the Rally hosted a visit by local schoolchildren from of Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardado and Kolegio San

Bernardo who were allowed to inspect the planes and climb inside, take the controls and imagine they were flying high.

A number of the crews went diving and exclaimed about the beauty of Bonaire's reefs. And they didn't have to worry about a no-fly requirement after dives because, in the words of one pilot, “We fly low.”

Unfortunately, the Swiss entry didn't make it to Bonaire because of a landing accident in Anguilla when the plane's propeller hit the ground. And another plane had minor mechanical problems and was being checked out by Bonaire aircraft mechanics.

Technical coordination for Bonaire was ably handled by local private pilot **Wietze Koopman**.

Long-time Bonaire resident **Rene Hakkenburg** said fly-ins are actually not new to Bonaire. In the 60s it was fairly common for groups of private aircraft to visit Bonaire. They usually originated in South America.

For more information visit [www/airrally.com](http://www.airrally.com) and on Facebook (if you still trust it): International Air Rally. **G.D.**



COVER STORY

The pilots were astonished to see over 100 spectators, waiting to see them land, lining the roadside at the airport. It was unprecedented.



The Rally travelled clockwise around the Caribbean Sea returning to Marathon, Florida. From there the planes returned individually to their home airports.



The visitors were pleased with the competitive price of fuel at Flamingo Field. “It was much, much less than at our previous stop, Tobago,” said a pilot.



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A Garden? Just Do It

HARVEST TIME

We've had a good rainy season and now a good harvest too.

Everything in my yard grew like crazy. It's nice to have a lot of fruit and vegetables now but less nice is all those weeds which pop up just as soon as you finish weeding and trimming. Certain parts of my yard are like a jungle. Look at the lower photo. In a few months I got, just like that, a papaya jungle. I guess when I watered there were some seeds in the water and that's how my papaya jungle started. And you know, for the first time I got papaya fruit too, after all those years of trying so many trees but never getting papayas!



Bananas in my neighbor's yard

So never give up, you never know!

Not only are fruit trees growing like a jungle in my yard because of plenty of rain. In my neighbor's garden the typical Bonairean *bacoba* plants (sweet finger banana) grew up into real bushes full of bunches of *bacoba*. Nature is a really strong force when conditions are perfect.

So have you noticed that there is a fruit explosion on Bonaire? Look and you'll see fruit trees— mangos, guaba, mispel, carambola (star fruit), pommegrante, bacoba, cashew fruit, coco, tamarin, cherries (shimaruku), golden apple, birambi, papaya, appeldam, sea grapes, amandel, yellow - and water melon.

vegetarian dahls (Indian soup) and make the dahl taste even better. Or think of "mangolassie," an Eastern dessert from ripe mangos blended with yogurt. Green mango or golden apple chutney is a must on an Indian or Caribbean menu. So who says that we cannot use green fruits that come down with strong winds or the birds?

Plants do suffer a lot now with the dry weather, strong winds and salt in the air. You will notice that leaves dry out even when the plants get watered every day. To give them a chance to survive, move potted plants to a place where the wind and sun are not directly on them to a



My Papaya Jungle

There is way more, and you know what, most of them can rot under the trees. What a pity. Some of these fruits fall off because of the Loras in the trees. But you can do the same with these green fruits. Just wrap them in paper and let them ripen. Then put them in the blender to make very nice juices. Or make jam or fruit syrup with them. Unripe mangos are very nice cooked in

kind of shelter, maybe behind a wall, behind the house or the fence, out of the wind. Put them in a green house or under a big tree. Cut off dry leaves, too many extra stems and dead parts, because they take too much energy from the plant, which lead to a weakness of the total plant. Water straight on the plant or roots so that every drop goes to

Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR-CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, PART 6.



assessments of your shop, your home, your office, your airport. They make a walk-through, ask many questions and bring a huge list of requirements, measurements and more to make sure that your building complies and that it is accessible for persons with any limitation.

Almost two years ago a large group of persons with limitations paid B.I.A. a visit. They came in wheelchairs, with walkers, with a scooter and with their red & white stick. The location was inspected, while they got a tour of the place. After that they sat down with the management and the form was filled out, tips were exchanged and promises were made.

If you are well and do not suffer from any ailment or impediment and you can always do whatever you want, go where you want to go and with nothing to keep you, it is very hard to imagine how life is for a person who suffers from limitations.

But believe you me, life is a bitch when your body does not do what it is supposed to do, when you have to depend on other persons to help you to get what you want, to do what you want. And you always have to compromise. As soon as you get sick, your life starts being the life of others, because you need them. And the waiting starts, waiting for everything: the doctor, the therapist, the lab technician, an appointment, even in front of the special bathroom (because an able-bodied person is using it).

You cannot travel as you please. You always need special help, special forms to fill out, and so on...



This shower threshold can make it easier for someone with disabilities

That is why the taskforce and platform for accessibility of which MiVaBo is a part wants to make life better and make sure that these things improve. MiVaBo offers as-

As soon as the renovation will start, this list will be a guide for the contractor, and we do sincerely hope that as soon as the new airport is up and done it will be perfect and accessible for everybody.

And that, combined with that awesome Aviramp®, traveling will be a smooth thing for everybody with limitations.

If you are going to build a new office, shop, etc. you must contact DROB first. They will give you any information you may need in order for you to build something fit for persons with limitations, according to the law.

Homes also need to be fit to live in for persons with limitations. Oftentimes the bathrooms are the first things that need to get adapted. Thresholds need to be removed, the doors need to get wider, a special stool has to be placed to make sitting down and showering easier, the toilet needs to get replaced by a higher one.

A special chair will be needed, for the person to sit more comfortably, a higher bed is needed to make help more accessible, and at last... the path to and from the road needs to get hardened and wheelchair-accessible, because the help "starts at the gate" and not at the front door.

If your home needs to be adapted, you can contact MiVaBo. They will tell you how to get this help and where to go and most of all... how much this will cost. Not everything is for free, although we wish much of the time it would be. □

Ria Evers-Dokter



the plant. Let your drip system drip as close as possible on trees and plants in the ground. Cover the surface of the ground where your plants are with dead leaves, sawdust, used tea bags or even wet cardboard to keep the soil moist and to lower the heat. But also keep an eye out for bugs- ants, roaches- for which these moist warm spots are the best places to live too. Spray often with some vinegar or ammonia to prevent an infestation of these insects in your yard and close to your house.

Besides fruit I've gotten a lot of vegetables too: eggplants, peppers, spinach, tajeerblad, purslane. They don't look as

nice and as big as in the supermarkets, but to me they mean the healthiest sweetest vegetables I consume. They're unsprayed, they grow in healthy soil under the sun. They're picked when they're ready to eat and go straight to my pot. They're not stored in a fridge or cooler, just from my yard to my mouth. You can enjoy your fruit and vegetables this way too— by only growing it all by yourself.

Start now, just do it. Just do it now. □
Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



What's Happening

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Soldachi Tours—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park) Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Entry fee based on income level.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events— bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2017: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

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

•**Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market) at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month.** Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon

•**Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance

•**Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda 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

•**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.

Wednesdays

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

•**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Presentation upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

•**General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

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

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

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

Fridays

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Cruise Ship Schedules

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
26-Mar	Eclipse	0800-1800	2858
27-Mar	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
28-Mar	Carnival Sunshine	0800-1600	2974
30-Mar	STAR CLIPPER	0800-1500	227
02-Apr	Mein Schiff 3	0700-1900	2500
03-Apr	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
03-Apr	Adventure of the Seas	0700-1700	3114
04-Apr	Zuiderdam	0800-1800	2650
04-Apr	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	3114
05-Apr	Royal Princess	1200-1900	3600
09-Apr	Eclipse	0800-1800	2858
09-Apr	Norwegian Pearl	0700-1500	2338

No cruise ships on Mar. 29, Apr 1, 6, 7, 8— two ships on three days

EXHIBITIONS

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

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit**- Teramar Museum

—**Nochi Coffie exhibit at TCB.**

—**Photo Works on Canvas** by underwater photographer Catherine Salisbury. Bistro de Paris Restaurant, until March 31

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

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

•**Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free

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

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

•**Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors’ Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

•**Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers’ camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

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

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

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Ombudsman Djaluna 26 di mart, 17.00 - 19.00, Jeugdhuis Jong Bonaire

Saturday, March 31

—**Nos Zjilea Cultural Market at Mangazina de Rei.** Local arts and crafts, plants, vegetables, educational presentations, local music. 8am-2pm. Mangazina di Rei is at the eastern entrance to Rincon

— “C’est La Vie” band (formerly “Back on Track”) performs at Foodies, 8pm. More info next edition.

— **Full Moon Walk in Washington Park**—Call STINAPA : +599 -717-8444 to reserve

Sunday, April 1

—**Easter Sunday**

— **Mountain Bike Fun Race** at Jato Baco, 8 am. Sponsored by TIMBO. \$10. Sign up at de Free-wieler or before the race.



— **Kaminda pa 30**—Preparations for Rincon Day. Join the cavalcade through Rincon starting at 4 pm at the east field ending at Rancho Don Pedro.

Monday, April 2—**Easter Monday, Simadan (Harvest) Festival, Rincon** Public Holiday

Friday, April 6—**Taste of Bonaire, Ban Wapa Edition.** Enjoy signature dishes of well known restaurants at special prices, local culture, handicrafts, Wilhelmina Park, 6 pm

Sunday, April 8— **Ride For The Roses: Ride, Swim and Walk 2018.** More in upcoming editions.

Friday, April 27—**King’s Birthday, local holiday.** Events and celebrations in Playa. More in upcoming editions

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 26		01:50	08:05	16:09	21:15		
		-0.04 ft	0.93 ft	-0.28 ft	0.28 ft	6:35	18:46
Tue 27		02:48	08:57	16:54	22:07		
		-0.04 ft	0.87 ft	-0.24 ft	0.33 ft	6:35	18:46
Wed 28		03:53	09:52	17:40	23:02		
		-0.01 ft	0.78 ft	-0.19 ft	0.38 ft	6:34	18:46
Thu 29		05:07	10:51	18:26	23:59		
		0.01 ft	0.66 ft	-0.13 ft	0.45 ft	6:34	18:46
Fri 30		06:30	11:58	19:13			
		0.02 ft	0.53 ft	-0.07 ft		6:33	18:46
Sat 31	00:57	08:01	13:15	19:59	Full Moon		
	0.52 ft	-0.00 ft	0.42 ft	-0.01 ft		6:32	18:46
Sun 01	01:53	09:27	14:38	20:46			
	0.59 ft	-0.05 ft	0.34 ft	0.04 ft		6:32	18:47
Mon 02	02:45	10:41	15:59	21:31			
	0.65 ft	-0.12 ft	0.30 ft	0.08 ft		6:31	18:47
Tue 03	03:34	11:42	17:10	22:16			
	0.70 ft	-0.18 ft	0.28 ft	0.11 ft		6:31	18:47
Wed 04	04:19	12:33	18:07	22:59			
	0.73 ft	-0.22 ft	0.28 ft	0.13 ft		6:30	18:47
Thu 05	05:00	13:17	18:54	23:39			
	0.75 ft	-0.23 ft	0.27 ft	0.13 ft		6:29	18:47
Fri 06	05:40	13:56	19:32				
	0.75 ft	-0.23 ft	0.27 ft			6:29	18:47
Sat 07		00:18	06:18	14:33	20:07		
		0.13 ft	0.75 ft	-0.22 ft	0.27 ft	6:28	18:47
Sun 08	Last Quarter	00:55	06:55	15:08	20:39		
		0.13 ft	0.73 ft	-0.20 ft	0.27 ft	6:27	18:47
Mon 09		01:33	07:32	15:41	21:11		
		0.13 ft	0.70 ft	-0.17 ft	0.28 ft	6:27	18:47



For Sale- 1994 Ford Ranger Pickup, extended cab. 2.3L 5 speed manual. \$3800. Recent tune up with new plugs, ignition module, starter, fuel pump, flywheel, etc. Runs great! Call 717-6862 and leave message.



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Miss Bonaire Chosen



Contestants Ruthgainy Frans, Vera Ghazzouli, and Nagely Lugo on stage

Three Miss Bonaires were crowned last Friday night at Zen's Bar and Café. Finalists were

Ruthgainy Frans (24) – Miss Bonaire World

Vera Ghazzouli (23) – Miss Bonaire Intercontinental

Nagely Lugo (17) – 1st Runner Up, Miss Bonaire.

And it was spectacular. All the young ladies glittered like stars.

The event was presented by the Miss Bonaire Organization which "provides training and access to young women to function as an ambassador of Bonaire at huge international events with a goal of promoting Bonaire's tourism."

Miss Bonaire World and Miss Bonaire Intercontinental will receive intensive training from April until September in public speaking, etiquette and protocol, styling, fashion, culture and general knowledge, catwalk, hair, makeup, presentation skills, photo shooting and more. Also Miss Bonaire World, Ruthgainy Frans, will join several charity projects and work closely with other foundations on improving life of the people and especially the youngsters of Bonaire.

Miss Bonaire World, Ruthgainy Frans, will join the Miss World 2018 pageant to be held in China in mid-October with the finals to be held in mid-November.

Miss Intercontinental Bonaire, Vera Ghazzouli, will join the international pageant of Miss Intercontinental to be held at the end of November in a Latin American country.

The hair stylist was **Franklin Primera**, well known in the world of style and glamour for more than 25 years. The make up was done by Primera and **Norena Petit**. 1st Runner Up, Nagely Lugo's peach gown was designed and made by **Verena Liam** from Aruba. Miss Intercontinental, Vera Ghazzouli's silver gown was from a **Curacao designer**. Miss Bonaire World, Ruthgainy Frans from Playa Pariba, was wearing a black sweetheart line gown embroidered with lace appliqué and ruffles from the famous American designer, **Jovani Couture Gowns**.

ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS



It's Puppypalooza time at Animal Shelter Bonaire! Spring is here and we are bursting with puppies. In addition to our adult residents, we are currently sheltering 23 puppies from under 3 months old up to 8 months old. We have boys and girls, all sizes, all shapes, all colors, all sorts of characters. It is a super-market of puppies!

If you are thinking about getting a puppy (or two!) now is the time to visit the shelter and find your fur-ever friend. All the puppies are healthy, vaccinated and will be chipped prior to adoption. If old enough, they will also be sterilized prior to adoption. If they are still too young, the adoption fee includes sterilization when they reach the right age. We will remind you to make the appointment when the time comes.

Please pay a visit to Animal Shelter Bonaire if you think a puppy is right for you...or if you are interested in an adult dog, we have plenty of those too...or take one of each! It's Puppypalooza time and we're waiting for you at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26. 717-4989/701-4989. **□ Story: Jane Madden-Disko, Photo of three pups: Jane Madden-Disko, Photo of Puppypalooza: Luvi Rodriguez**



Pet Of The Week

MEET NOVA

Let us introduce you to Nova! Much like the exploding star she is named after, Nova is exploding with energy and likes playing with the younger dogs. She is an expert at cuddling, very sweet and also wonderful with kids. Nova loves to go for walks and stays right by your side.

She was brought in after she had been camping for several weeks in someone's backyard, and though this person really liked her she could not care for her any longer. As you can see she is a beautiful

young lady who is healthy, vaccinated and sterilized. Are you interested in meeting Nova or one of her friends? Please stop by at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. **□**

Story & photo by Luvi Rodriguez



Beauty pageants have become a fixture of current Bonairean culture. Participants in the pageants get rewarded by the recognition for the effort put in and often by financial, travel and appearance opportunities. There gain personal development aided by the supporters and sponsors of the events. Communication and interviewing skills get improved, confidence increases as well as the skills to handle stress, pressure and disappointment which are part of life. We wish them all the luck and success.

Organizations, foundations or businesses interested in more information or who would like to join projects may contact the Miss Bonaire Organization at Missbonaire@gmail.com or call +599-700-5705. **□ Photo by L.D. Story by L/G. D. with research by Lara Chirino**



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2018'S 2ND BLUE MOON ON MARCH 31

Last month, February 2018, had no full Moon. Did you miss it? But don't fret or blame it on climate change because March will have two full Moons. And one of them will be blue. Most Blue Moons are not blue in color.

The name **Blue Moon** used to indicate something rare. Not anymore! Popular culture has defined several kinds of Blue Moons. The next one will be March 31. Our last was on January 31, 2018. It was a **supermoon**, too, and underwent a **total eclipse**. But another Blue Moon is coming right up.

They're both Blue Moons by the monthly definition of the term: the second of two full Moons to fall within a single calendar month. The second (and last) Blue Moon of 2018 will be on March 31. We haven't had a year with two Blue Moons since 1999 and won't have one again until January and March, 2037.

Using the name Blue Moon to describe the second full Moon of a calendar month is now the best-known and most popular definition. By this definition, there was a Blue Moon on July 31, 2015, and then – of course – the recent one on January 31, 2018.

The time between one full Moon and the next is close to the length of a calendar month. So the only time one month can have two full Moons is when the first full Moon happens in the first few days of the month. This happens every two to three years, so these sorts of Blue Moons come about that often.

The idea of a Blue Moon as the second full Moon in a month stemmed from the March 1946 issue of *Sky and Telescope* magazine, which contained an article called, "Once in a Blue Moon," by **James Hugh Pruett**. Pruett was referring to the 1937 Maine Farmer's Almanac, but he inadvertently simplified the definition. He wrote:

Seven times in 19 years there were — and still are — 13 full Moons in a year. This

	Full Moon: March 1, 7:51 P.M.
	Last Quarter: March 9, 6:20 A.M.
	New Moon: March 17, 9:12 A.M.
	First Quarter: March 24, 11:35 A.M.
	Full Moon: March 31, 8:37 A.M.

gives 11 months with one full Moon each and one with two. This second in a month, so I interpret it, was called Blue Moon.

Later, this definition of Blue Moon was also popularized by a book for children by Margot McLoon-Basta and Alice Sigel, called *Kids' World Almanac of Records and Facts*, published in New York by World Almanac Publications in 1985. The second-full-Moon-in-a-month definition was also used in the board game Trivial Pursuit.

Today, it has become part of folklore. As the folklorist **Philip Hiscock** wrote in his comprehensive article, "Folklore of the Blue Moon: Old folklore it is not, but real folklore it is."

Can a Moon be blue in color? Yes, but it's very rare to see a blue-colored Moon. You need unusual sky conditions – certain-sized particles of dust or smoke – to create them.

Blue-colored Moons aren't predictable. The sorts of Moons people commonly call Blue Moons aren't usually blue. Bottom line: A **blue-colored** Moon is rare. But folklore has defined two different kinds of Blue Moons, and Moons that are Blue by name have become pretty common. The next Blue Moon is March 31, 2018. □ *Bruce McClure and Deborah Byrd*

Knowledgeable about astronomy? You can help the Junior Rangers. Call STINAPA for info: 717-8444



THE STARS HAVE IT

Late March 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Ignore colleagues who appear to be going in circles. You need a break from your daily routine. Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends. Be sure to pay attention to your bank account. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Opportunities for partnerships are present; but get every detail in writing. Promotions will be yours if you have acted professionally in times of crisis. You may experience financial loss if you don't use good judgment. Take some time out. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Deception is evident around you. Listen to the complaints of others. Real estate and joint financial ventures will be profitable. The home environment will be unpredictable this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't be afraid to make additions to your house. Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. Look into alternate means of supporting your financial burdens. You will find that unfinished projects at home will be most satisfying. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You may be emotional about the way an organization you belong to is handling its business. Be prepared to step into the limelight if you wish to promote your ambitions. Children may cause limitations. You can gain valuable cultural knowledge through dealing with foreigners. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Changes in your home will be positive. Property in vestments should payoff. Chances are you split up the last time because you didn't really want to make a commitment. Your changing attitudes may be causing concern for your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. Don't let your health suffer because of abuse. You may have difficulties while traveling or problems dealing with close friends or relatives. You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Arguing won't help. Romance is quite possible if you are willing to approach someone who interests you. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Older family members will make demands on your time. Good friends will give you honest answers. You can get ahead if you work diligently behind the scenes. Matters pertaining to your home environment will be favorable if you are direct. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You need to pamper yourself for a change. Make love, not war, and all will be fine. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. You can come into money that you don't necessarily work for. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can do well on stage or behind the scenes, the choice is yours. Do a little extra work at home. Don't let coworkers interfere with your objectives. Offers of joint ventures are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You need a break from your daily routine. Don't make those you live with feel unloved or unworthy. Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. Take a close look at documents before signing on the dotted line. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □

Michael Thiessen

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