

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE October 8-22, 2018, Year 25, Issue 21

The REPORTER

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 796-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Duo Xtreme Mountainbiking
Page 8



Jeff Triman and Anomar Marchena Power Through the Hills photo by Astrid Roedoe



package of dental care and oral care via the ZVK.



► Imagine arriving at your parked car to find some “thing” latched onto the windshield like a blocky, yellow leach. That’s a reality motorists in Bonaire may face as the tax office tests a vision-blocking penalty panel called the “Barnacle.” The BES Tax Service (*Belastingdienst CN*) announced they will soon employ a new device to enforce tax payments. It’s a high tech replacement for the familiar “wheel boot” designed to keep you from driving your car until you pay up. It is a tough plastic 3 ft. x 2 ft. sheet of plastic a bailiff will attach to the vehicle’s windshield with industrial strength suction cups to block the driver’s view of the road. It has an alarm and a GPS to deter tampering or moving the car.

So if you didn’t pay your road tax (or other tax) you may find the “Barnacle” on your car. The *Belastingdienst* says they will first make every effort to make sure you know your tax is due....but if not....

Have questions? Call the *Belastingdienst CN*’s afdeling invorderen (collection department), at 715 8585.

To know more about the Barnacle go to - <https://techcrunch.com/.../the-barnacle-means-no-more-boots-.../>

► ‘Bonni’ the Green sea turtle continues to amaze biologists. Last Monday night, ‘Bonni’ came

From now on Bonaire’s poor get some basic dental care free. The RCN unit of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW unit) will pay for extractions of teeth or molars for residents with a low income. This applies to people who earn no more than the minimum wage, who receive supplemental support or who get an AOV pension without other income. This is the outcome of discussions among the three dental practices on Bonaire and the SZW unit.

In general, residents of Bonaire 18 and older have to pay for dental care. It’s usual for people in the lowest income brackets to postpone a visit to the dentist for toothache. Now the SZW will add this dental care to its usual role of assisting low income residents when they incur unexpected expenses for vital things. Until now, this meant providing a needed appliance, such as a refrigerator or stove.

Residents who believe that they are eligible for this allowance can visit the SZW and provide bank and income statements. Those who are eligible receive a declaration. The dentists will charge the cost of the work to the SZW.

For people in the community, it is not necessary to request a statement. They can go directly to the dentist. The dentist will check with the SZW unit whether the person is actually entitled to benefits.

Other dental care benefits from the Healthcare Insurance Office (ZVK) remain unchanged. For insured persons age 18 and older, removable prostheses, treatments and surgical dental care are fully reimbursed. Children up to the age of 17 are entitled to the full



Ellen Muller photo

Boulder Star Coral releasing eggs bundles late at night

► Bonaire is one of the few places in the world that celebrates the reproduction of corals.

About six or seven nights after the full moons of August, September and **October** it is possible to witness a spectacular underwater event on Bonaire— coral spawning. **Ellen Muller’s** photographs serve to artistically depict the event. More in our next edition.

ashore again to lay her fifth nest of this season... And by now, her first nest is already close to hatching. Bonni’s multiple returns to Bonaire to lay her eggs is unprecedented in STCB records.

After laying her nest, ‘Bonni’ began her journey eastwards, possibly towards Las Aves again. We’re now waiting to see where her journey will take her this time.”



► A pile driving barge will begin driving pilings as part of the rebuilding of the South Pier

They will first attempt to vibrate the pilings into place. If the substrate is too dense the pilings will be pounded into place as well.

Following the restoration the lifespan should extend for 30-40 years. Also added will be new paving, fenders and lighting.

► Last week a heavy thunderstorm that lingered over Bonaire for a full day caused local flooding and power failures in Nikiboko Zuid, Antriol Pariba, Bario Mexico, Lagun, Lagun Hill and surrounding area. The malfunction was caused by a light-



Hans Hass and Captain Don

► The 100th birthday of Hans Hass, the Austrian SCUBA pioneer who dove Klein Bonaire in the 1930s would have been 100 next year.

Beginning in January, *The Bonaire Reporter* will publish details about the life of this early diver and what it meant to Bonaire.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Conti. from page 2) ning strike near the Less Indians ball park and was resolved in two and a half hours.

►On Tuesday, October 9, due to planned electrical system maintenance, WEB's clients in Bona Bista, Finca Verde, Kaminda La Union, Kaminda Gurubu, Kaya Cacique (partly), Kaya Shastan, Kaya Kaskaskia, Kaya Caribe (partly), San Barbola, San Bernardo, Kaya Sioux and surrounding areas will experience an interruption of current from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

►InselAir administrators and the government of Curacao are in discussions with InterCaribbean Airways (Turks & Caicos) to bring both brands under one umbrella. A press release on September 22 confirmed that the company is in talks with Turks & Caicos-based InterCaribbean about a possible takeover. The rumors were also confirmed by InterCaribbean chairman Trevor Sadler. InterCaribbean has more than 25 years of success and currently flies a fleet of a dozen planes with passenger capacities from 7 to 50 persons. Under present rules no foreign carrier can become a majority shareholder of InselAir. The government of Curacao has already invested \$18 million in the airline.

Much of that investment, about a dozen obsolete jets and turboprop

planes, is sitting at the east end of Curacao's airport

►The Bonaire Sky Park is 20 years old this year. In a Letter to the Editor of Port Call (the previous name of The Reporter) in September, 1998, Javier (Mike) Boezem wrote that after living in Europe with so much light pollution making it difficult to see the stars at night he would like to start a Bonaire Sky Park. "The island is blessed with an extremely beautiful sky at night and many people are unaware of it. The Sky Park has no tag, entry fees, park rangers... Donations are done simply by turning off your lights at night!"

In March 1999, Port Call/The Reporter renamed the astronomy column "Bonaire Sky Park." Thank you, Javier!

►The annual influenza vaccination campaign is beginning on Bonaire. The campaign is organized by the Public Health Department of the Public Body Bonaire in collaboration with the general practitioners of Bonaire. The flu shot is available for free from your doctor. The flu jab is for people with reduced resistance, respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis, heart complaints, diabetes, people who work in health care, care givers and/or family of persons with



Flu brochure cover

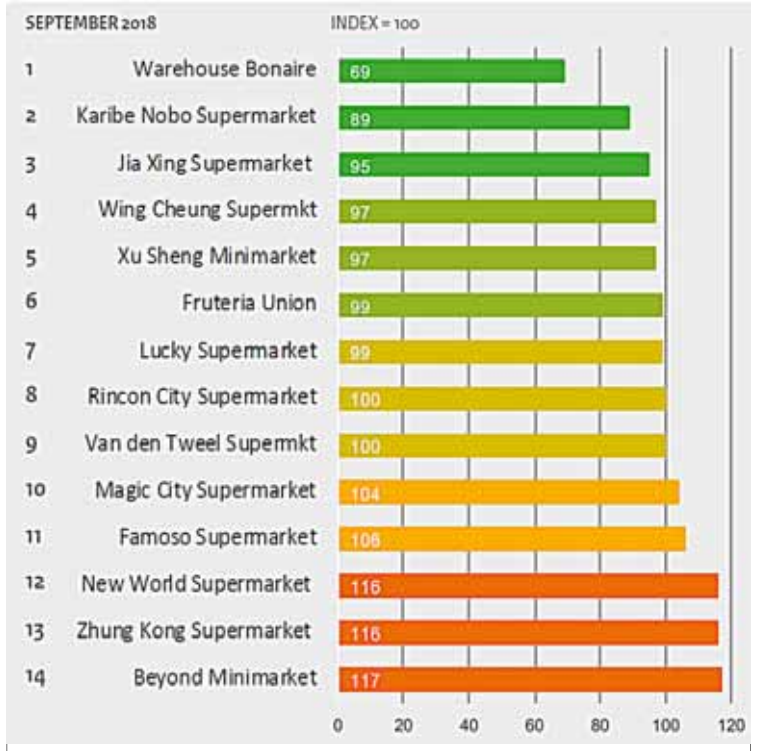
reduced resistance and people over 60. The flu shot only protects you against a specific strain of flu virus. You are therefore not protected against other viruses, such as the virus that causes colds.

For more information and to see if you are eligible for the flu shot, you can get the leaflet, "Protect yourself against flu," from your doctor. The GP can inform you if you are eligible for the flu shot. Keep in mind that it takes about two weeks before the flu shot works. So you can still get flu during these two weeks.



►Bonaire has two Aviramps already available for handicapped passengers arriving and departing on small and medium-size aircraft.

►Wondering which supermarkets have the lowest prices? Consumer advocate organizations Unkobon and FTpKB publish a monthly comparison of prices of 60 products in local supermarkets commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. For the month of September 2018, 14 supermarkets were included in the price comparator. BonDiGro, traditionally one of the cheapest supermarkets on Bonaire, has objections to the comparison method used and chose not to participate for the month. In August they were the second less expensive behind Warehouse.



Still needed is the large model suitable for the twin-aisle aircraft flown daily from Europe. Final arrangements are necessary to ensure the ramps have trained ground handlers (it can take up to

seven persons to position the big ramp), insurance coverage and maintenance.

(Continued on page 5)

FOR SALE Kaya Nikkel 15 Large Home with Ocean Views



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CLICK OR SWIPE TO VISIT THE PARK

Dear *Bonaire Reporter*,

First of all, thanks very much for your information provided since long. I am a repeating guest and come to Bonaire since 1986.

When at home in Switzerland, I really enjoy reading your paper with high interest.

So now my comments to the subject "Click or Swipe to Visit the Park":

Principally is this idea, to replace the plastic tags with something non-plastic, a great one.

Even though, I personally liked to collect my tags as a trophy of all my visits.

Never mind - I remember very well, that we divers get sometimes controlled by the rangers, if we follow the dive guidelines and wear a tag. The number of the tag was noted down.

This is a long time established procedure and seems to work.

But, if I read now the article mentioned above, the electronically tag is issued in form of a QR code.

Where does the QR code go - To the mobile, to a computer, to a handheld device?

And if yes, does it mean, we divers (and also surfers & kite surfers, snorkelers) need to bring our mobile phones to the dive spot in case of a ranger control?

On the other hand, the order of the car renting companies and dive shops is:

Leave your window open & nothing valuable in the car.....

A mobile phone is a valuable device and I never bring one with me, when going out for diving.

Second point is, that I got mostly controlled by rangers on my way to the water, fully kitted up. To verify at that point of the dive process makes sense, to make sure the diver follows the park rules (no gloves, knives, etc...). Do we all now need waterproof mobile device cases? to bring the "tag" with us? -> Very unrealistic!

For controls on the surface, it could be possible to print the tag, but we are all doing water sports and water and paper do not fit. And yes, I read also, that you can be identified from the rangers by your name. If you are in the system, its a go.

Imagine how easy this will be. People from all over the world come to Bonaire and spelling the name might/will cause misunderstandings and then, out of a sudden, you are NOT in the system findable -> Your dive is spoiled!

Please think twice, of initiating this not very well thought through implementation

Have something to say?
Want to give your opinion?
Email reporter
@bonairenews.com

of an electronic solution. ...or have I missed something... :-)

Didi (Zurich)

Response
from the Edi-
tor:



The Reef Support System is much more than a replacement for the current dive tag process. The tag doesn't have to disappear, it is just no longer needed for law enforcement because a more efficient method replaces it. Traditional tags can be made available for collectors.

The present system burdens Park administration, dive shops and divers unnecessarily compared to the new approach. Park users can purchase their permits on line using conventional credit cards, dive shops no longer to secure the cash currently paid directly to them and account for all the tags they sell.

STINAPA should save money and begin to develop a data base to profile their clients to better define new activities with the new system. Park users will experience greater convenience and Rangers will no longer have to deliver tags to the shops and carry cash receipts, instead they can conserve the environment. For enforcement all they need to know is the diver's/user's name.

-G.D.

Topic: Let's Make Another Lac Bay

In the August 27, 2018, edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* (Number 18), Rene Hakkenberg, the former manager of the Bonaire Salt Works, proposed that Gotomeer, a salt pond (salinja) in the northwest of Bonaire, once open to the sea, be unblocked. It is now closed by coral rubble and the road to BOPEC. The idea is bound to be controversial.

Below are two letters. The first is from Bonaire's environmental conservationist NGO, STINAPA, expressing their concern. The second is Mr. Hakkenberg's reply.

Gotomeer Proposal Concerns

Dear Mr Hakkenberg and readers of *The Bonaire Reporter*:

STINAPA cherishes Bonaire's nature, and acknowledges its importance for Bonaire. Our vision statement is: Nature is recognized and treasured as the main resource of Bonaire's existence and sustainable development. In short, *nos ta biba di naturalesa*: nature is our livelihood. STINAPA protects nature and its biodiversity, but more importantly, STINAPA encourages the sustainable use of nature by everybody. Lionfish eradication, reforestation sites, free roaming livestock control and Lac restoration are all efforts towards this one common goal.

Your proposal is interesting and is carefully considered: another bay with characteristics like Lac. However, there are important differences between Lac and Goto-

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Cape Cod, MA, USA



Kate and Rob Bussiere snapped this photo in their home town area of Cape Cod. The couple sailed to Bonaire in September 2017 to escape hurricane Maria. They have been living on their sailboat for over five years. About their time in Bonaire they said we, "Love the time spent on the flamingo island." □

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.



Effects of flooding of the Salinja di Vlijt after heavy rainfall in 2004; Sediment laden rainwater outside the Harbour Village Marina and Salinja Vlijt. Stinapa photo

Lac is surrounded by a fringing mangrove forest that effectively keeps all the sediments out of the central bay. This comes at a cost though: where all the sediments enter the bay on the north side - the Awa di Lodo (mudwaters) - the mangroves suffer and die. This only occurs in the northwestern area of the bay; to the west and south is a limestone shield with little to no sediments running into the bay. In that area the mangroves fare better. The same goes for Pekelmeer - there are little to no sediments entering that system.

Over the years, sediments have filled up Gotomeer, and after it rains, the flow of sediments over the roads into Gotomeer

may be seen. If Gotomeer is opened and small mangroves begin to grow, there is a good possibility that they will be smothered by sediments when it rains, as is the case in parts of Lac.

This is not the first time people have considered opening salinas to the sea. In the past (around 1980), Salina Wayaka was opened to the sea with disastrous results to the reef near the opening. People living on Bonaire back then remember: 'After opening, visibility on the reef near Wayaca was poor for years'. Eric Newton states that the reef near Wayaka

(Continued on page 5)

Letters to the Editor (Continued from page 4)

was one of the most healthy and diverse reefs of Bonaire, and maybe even the Caribbean. After opening Salina Wayaka, the reef was destroyed over a stretch of 400 m. Until now, the reef near Wayaka has not recovered.

In the same period (1982), the entrance near Plaza Hotel was made. Tom van 't Hof, founder of the Bonaire National Marine Park, wrote: 'One thing I want to share with you is my experience with Flamingo Paradise (now Plaza) in the early eighties. We knew we couldn't stop this, but at least we could influence the local government to some extent and document the entire process. I had permanent photo quadrants outside of the planned opening that I monitored before and after. We managed to convince the developer to put a silt screen in place while dredging the opening in the coral dike, but after the silt screen was removed the corals on the lower reef slope, especially the *Agaricias* (lettuce corals) and *Montastrea* (star corals) were smothered in no time. My report with photographs was submitted to the Execuyive College (*Bestuurscollege*).

On Curaçao, a channel was dredged in **Piscaderabaai** - that has an open connection to the sea - which was carefully studied by Dr. Rolf Bak, a prominent coral scientist. Dredging had negative effects on the reef. In the past, reefs could recover. Nowadays, with the effects of climate change and declining reef health, we should try to do everything to avoid all stressors to our coral reefs.

Gotomeer is an important area, with unique characteristics and habitats. It is a flamingo sanctuary and a Ramsar site (wetland of international importance). South of Gotomeer is a Marine Reserve, one of the best preserved reefs of Bonaire with healthy stands of endangered elkhorn and staghorn corals. Before any intervention is undertaken, by law an Environmental Impact Assessment is required. This needs to be planned carefully and will be expensive, and no success is guaranteed.

Anouschka van de Ven for the STINAPA Nature Unit



Gotomeer's future?

RESPONSE TO STINAPA CONCERNS

Dear STINAPA and *The Bonaire Reporter*:

My thanks to STINAPA for their reply to my April 24, 2018, letter, which appeared in a somewhat modified form in two parts in *The Bonaire Reporter* under the title: Let's Create Another Lac Bay. Below please find our response to STINAPA's critique (published above).

We agree with STINAPA that Gotomeer is an important and unique area. But what we have there now is a mostly lifeless, highly saline bay with only some brine flies, occasionally some brine shrimp and totally lacking in biodiversity.

Because the high salinity brine acts as a solar heat sink, temperatures in the deeper parts may rise to some 90°C, further inhibiting marine life.

Experience with flamingos in the Salt Works and Pekelmeer shows us that after opening there will be an increase in nutrients and their numbers will increase. After a proper environmental impact study and assuming a positive outcome and opening Gotomeer to the sea, we can have another Lac Bay, surrounded by mangroves and serving as a huge nursery for all kinds of sea life.

And as currents there go Northwest there will not be any interference with the Marine Reserve to the South, while to the North there is no coral due to BOPEC activities. We are aware that Goto is a Ramsar site, but that does not mean that an enhancement of its biodiversity cannot be made. We would also strongly recommend to make the area off limits for power boating, and a no fishing zone to prevent what happened in the Pekelmeer which is heavily over fished.

As mentioned in STINAPA's response, **there may indeed be some negatives** to opening up Gotomeer to the sea. Is that a reason not to seriously consider, study and if positive, execute it? Let's remember that Gotomeer was naturally open to the sea and that most likely hurricane Tecla closed it off 141 years ago by throwing coral debris onto the shore. Reportedly, 70 people died on Bonaire due to that storm. If opened, STINAPA mentions the possible smothering of future mangroves by sediments. In other words it is better have nothing on its shores, as is now, than to have mangroves that may undergo some problems during extremely rare heavy rains? Does that mean we should abandon the idea or should we, considering the huge benefits that an opened up Gotomeer offers as a nursery for all sea life, find ways to overcome that possible smothering?

Perhaps the measures that are being taken presently at Lac Restoration, a rerouting of rain water, or a catchment of sediments would be effective.

We have no argument with STINAPA's mention of Tom van 't Hof's 1982 claims about the smothering of corals outside the Plaza Marina entrance during its construction. That was 1982. Nowadays we notice that the corals outside the Plaza Marina are in as good a condition as in the area all around.

STINAPA then included a picture showing sediment laden rainwater outside the Harbour Village Marina and Salinja Vlijt. **The implication of this picture is totally misleading** as this area is presently the location of a very successful Coral Restoration site right in front of the Harbour Village Resort, next to Salinja Vlijt. Despite STINAPA's initial opposition to this type of Coral Restoration, it has proven very success-

ful and is being copied worldwide. These facts also show the coral's ability to remove sedimentation when it is not a chronic occurrence. **What is also not mentioned in STINAPA's critique** is that both marinas serve as important nurseries for small fish, which is of huge benefit for our reefs' biodiversity, fish stocks, fishing industry and dive tourism. Both marinas at this time harbor large schools of *masbangus* and sardines which are being hunted by snook, tarpon and other predatory fish. Clearly these two manmade marinas do not damage but, on balance, benefit our cherished marine environment.

Although we are not familiar with the precise circumstances of the Piscaderabaai dredging in Curacao, **it would not be surprising if the long term effect is similar to our two marinas**. Short term coral health is not the only consideration in the preservation of our nature.

The STINAPA response cites the disastrous consequences of **opening of Salinja Wayaca** and the claim that 400 meters of reef was destroyed and has not since recovered. Again, the negatives are mentioned and the positives are ignored. Not mentioned is that the shallow reefs in that whole area are still in poor condition, nor that at the time the salinja was open it was teeming with fish, inside and outside on the reef.

Wayaca was opened to the sea in an attempt to practice shrimp culture. As it was a mostly dry salinja with a thick layer of mud and sediment it was a good candidate for shrimp culture as shrimp thrive in mud. But for the outside reef it was certainly not a good candidate for opening up considering that with outgoing tides the outflowing water took some of these sediments with some deposition on this reef.

However, the claim that visibility on the reef near Wayaca was poor for years is incorrect as it was open for less than one year. Gotomeer and the other suggested sites for opening are bodies of water with considerably more depth without such a thick layer of sediments and mud and therefore the mentioned objections do not apply. Besides, it is suggested to have the exit level considerably higher than the bottom which will prevent sediment removal.

We are all aware that every argument has a counter argument, which all too often leads to endless discussion, paralysis and stagnation, which contradicts the promotion of nature and biodiversity. Yes, it is easier to sit back and do nothing and there will always be arguments in favor of doing nothing, ignoring the fact that doing nothing means regression and missed opportunity to enhance our nature and its biodiversity. However, if doubts about the proposal to open Gotomeer persist it may be easier and simpler to open one of the other bays that is now closed off, as a trial. We suggest Salinja Tam or Frans. If unexpected negative consequences occur it would be a matter of hours to re-close the bay by simply bulldozing the opened channel.

Machiavelli wrote some 500 years ago: *"Never has anything great been achieved without taking risk."*

Rene Hakkenburg



Last month Ruben van Eldik graduated from Land and Water Management. His father, Ap van Eldik, said he did it in four years so he was well prepared in the SGB High School. □

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)

► **Bonaire is already famous for its fine restaurants.** And coming up next month is your chance to have a great meal in many of the restaurants for only \$27.50... for three courses! It's **Bonaire Blond Restaurant Week from November 5-11**. See poster on page 7 for more details.

► **Did you know that Bonaire has its very own Belgian Chocolatier.** Bo Attevelt's scrumptious bonbons and chocolates are for sale at Van der Tweel supermarket. Look for the **Beau Choco** brand, tied with pink ribbons, in the freshly baked goods section. They make the perfect "Made In Bonaire" gift. Or contact Bo directly at 796-9594 / email yorucat@gmail.com.

► **Anita Smits and Wijnand de Wolf** swim completely around Klein clockwise by **in 4 hours, 50 minutes** as a fundraiser for the swimming club Bonaire Barracuda's natural sea pool. **The Bonaire Reporter donated \$50 to the donor who guessed their time.** Their time was a bit faster than that of Bonairean Erwin Muller who circumnavigated Klein in six hours. Over 20 years ago. □ *G./L.D.*

ABOUT THE FAILED TRAFFIC CIRCLE FLAG THEFT ATTEMPT

Dear Editor:

It is not April 1st so I am really confused. Someone tries to steal a flag (see the last edition of *The Reporter*) but was unsuccessful so therefore there is no punishment? Is there more to this story? So do the following all fit in that category?

- 1) Attempted to rob a bank but was unsuccessful - no punishment
- 2) Attempted to rob a house but was unsuccessful - no punishment
- 3) Attempted to steal a vehicle but was unsuccessful - no punishment
- 4) Attempted to attack someone but was unsuccessful - no punishment

No need to continue the list but what signal does this send to criminals and more importantly, those thinking about a crime?

Scared

On the Island Since... September 23d, 1995 - Miguel Alfredo Saragoza



Greta Kooistra photo

“I was born in the Dominican Republic. My mom is Dominican, my father Bonairean. My mom had eight children. I grew up with our neighbor who was my Godmother. She had four adult children but I was her ‘number five,’ the fifth son. She loved to play with me like I was a doll. She’d put rollers in my hair so they started calling me ‘Poppy.’ When my mom went to live on Bonaire, my Godmother was happy to keep me. I already slept there, ate there and had lived with them for years. However, when I was seven, my mom decided I had to come over to Bonaire. My Godmother didn’t like it at all, but she let me go. She knew ‘Mom knows best!’

On Bonaire I went to school right away. There I met Jason, who now works with me. He was my first friend and we’re still friends. It’s hard not to be his friend; he’s Jason!

Dutch and Papiamentu were difficult for me, but at San Bernardo school there was a program where Spanish speaking children were sent three times a week to Reina Beatrix School for extra Dutch classes. I came in the second grade and I finished the extra classes when I was in the fifth grade. In three years I already understood a lot of Dutch.

In Santo Domingo I’d been living in a four-storey government housing complex where a lot of people lived. You could hear music blasting from everywhere and even though people had their problems, they were very joyful. Here I found it very quiet and although people on Bonaire are joyous and funny too, it was a different way of life. I learned to love this island as it is and I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else! If they would give me an apartment in New York City, paid for and everything, I wouldn’t change Bonaire for it!

At elementary school I was taught by **Miss Filomena**. She told me I had to earn things. I wasn’t doing my best and my

points were low, but Miss Filomena talked to me a lot and she showed me I could do it! When I went to SGB I did my best there too. However, sometimes what you think is your best is not your full potential and my points started to decline again. But I was lucky to have good teachers and people who pushed and motivated me to do better every day. They never gave up on me.

After I graduated secondary school I went to MBO 2, intermediate vocational education, level 2, where I did the chef training while I was working at Divi Flamingo Resort. Then, my hotel manager, **Sara Matera**, offered me the opportunity to work a summer job in a very fancy restaurant called *Locanda I Girasoli* located in the commune of Misano Adriatico, in the province of Rimini, Italy.

In 2006 I went for three months and it was one of the best experiences I ever had. In 2007 I went again for three months, and when I came back I finished MBO, and in 2008 I was offered a steady job at *Locanda I Grisoli* and so I moved to Italy. They provided housing, a great salary for an 18-year-old and I didn’t have to pay for anything! But for me it wasn’t about the money at all, I worked with so many good chefs and personalities whom I watched and learned from. That was priceless! I learned different methods, shortcuts and preparations, I learned what to do and what not and I learned from my mistakes and absorbed the good things and kept them. And I loved the nightlife in Italy! I would go to discotheques and dance all night. It was great!

But when the economy started going bad in Europe by 2013, they decided to change the restaurant’s formula and I decided it

was time to go on vacation to Bonaire.

I’d planned 15 days as I came for my best friend’s wedding and to say ‘Hi’ to my other friends, but then I got a job offer with Rum Runners and I accepted it but only for a few days – the Holidays – as it was December. And then... I met the girl who is now my wife and I didn’t go anywhere anymore! I met Stephanie at Cuba Company. She was dancing and I liked her a lot. We started seeing each other but she wasn’t into long distance relationships and I was still living in Italy. So I went back to Italy, arranged everything and returned to Bonaire where we got our apartment and started living together. We started planning to get married and to get our own house and we did get married two and a half years later and just one month ago we moved into our own house in Santa Barbara. Another plan was to get our own business and we’re still working on that.

We got the house because I was saving for a car, but then my wife said, ‘No stupid, we’re going to buy a piece of land!’ In exactly those words hahaha! And from there we started. I took her advice and followed her and they say, ‘happy wife, happy life,’ which is so true! It was a good opportunity and we took it. And you know what? She let me buy a scooter! Hahaha!

I love my job at Rum Runners. It’s a very good job and if it’s not

for my own business or a new learning experience, I don’t see me changing jobs anytime soon. My colleagues are fun and as a chef I can be myself and I don’t get bored. I rotate a lot and I can do whatever I want culinary-wise, as long as the guests are happy. Being a cook has to come from within, otherwise you get really tired from working late hours and all the holidays. You really have to love what you’re doing. And seeing a happy customer makes it worth it.

I’ve also been part of the Bonaire culinary team at The Taste of the Caribbean in Miami. In 2015 we got the first Team Gold for Bonaire, but we lost the competition by three points and I’m still not happy with that, so it’s on my bucket list to see Bonaire being the first at The Taste of the Caribbean, as a cook or as a mentor, just making it happen. I will try to do it next year, but it depends on



Winning at the Taste of the Caribbean



The team at the Taste of the Caribbean competition in Miami

the local competitions if I get the chance to get involved.

In 2015 I also did the Beef and Seafood Competition at the same event and I got Gold for the ‘Best

Beef’ and ‘Best Beef & Seafood Combination.’ I was the overall winner in that category. In 2016 I won the bronze medal at the same event for ‘Chef of the Year’ and in 2017 I won gold as ‘Chef of the Year.’ I like to fusion (combine) what I learned in Europe with my mom’s style of cooking and local flavors. I cannot adapt to one style of cooking; I get bored.

My wife works office hours in administration, so in the morning I cook her a hot lunch because when she gets home around 12.30 I am already at work. With her lunch I leave a note to make her laugh and also the dishes... that’s the deal! We don’t see a lot of each other; but when we’re both free, we try to spend as much time together as possible. We go dancing and we go for a swim, we go to church, or we visit the family or we simply stay at home.

I think Bonaire is good if you compare it to other islands. The whole world is changing and I think Bonaire is changing for the best. I like that it’s quiet and nature conscious and most importantly, Bonaire hasn’t lost its Bonairean ways. Yes, it’s expensive and the roads are bad, but like I said before, I wouldn’t change Bonaire for any other place. I enjoy everything the island has to offer and I love to share that with our tourists as well. You see, I am also a tour guide and I love to entertain the tourists, to make them laugh and give them enough info about the island to make them enthusiastic to come back again! And next to her regular job my wife also tutors children with their homework so we’re pretty busy but we’re only 30, so it’s good to keep yourself busy and work on your future.

I see myself still as a Dominican, but sometimes I feel more Bonairean than a Bonairean. When for instance I see Bonaire playing Little League against the Dominican Republic, believe me, I am cheering for Bonaire!” ■

Story by Greta Kooistra. Photos from Saragoza files



“The whole world is changing and I think Bonaire is changing for the best.”

Full of Life and Okay With It!

How much time must you spend on Bonaire to live the promotional Bonaire slogan, "Once A Visitor, Always A Friend?" For **Manon Beumer** it was just 24 days. On May 14, 2014, she landed on Bonaire looking for a change from her 10 years of working in Hospitality in Switzerland.



Handbike challenging the hill in Austria

On June 7, at 3 am, her visit, and almost her life, was cut short when she dove into too shallow water near Karel's Beach Bar.

Quickly evacuated to Colombia she fought for her life but was left paralyzed from the chest down. She was 33 years old. She was determined to return and last month, thanks to the efforts of her friends and generous Bonaire business owners, she did, accompanied by her father and stepmother.

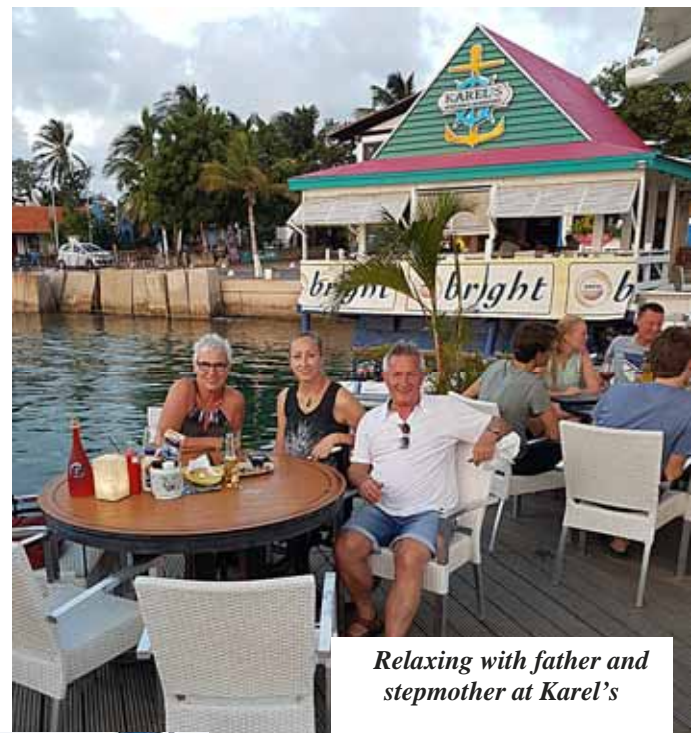
The last four years were difficult; first to regain vital functions, then to relearn basic living skills while unable to walk or have full use of one arm and finally to be

able to live on her own. Well not really, she has her service dog, Quinn, her "best friend." Her life in The Netherlands is full of challenges few of us can imagine. Getting up in the morning and preparing to go out can take hours. In order to just to remain upright in her wheelchair she has to be supported by a corset.

But to talk to her you'd never imagine these things. She's full of life and "OK with it," she says. Manon is a person who accepts and meets challenges. She entered the Austrian Hand-Bike-Battle competition, the first year with an electric bike assist, but the last time totally under her own power on a recumbent

bike... up a 14% grade. She trained for six months to do it. Last July she started work as a coach in her rehab center. Her next goal: "A car of my own." Wheelchair taxis are fine but she's a person who sets high goals.

Coming to Bonaire was one... and she's done it. A couple of weeks at a beautiful house in Sabal Palm, excursions, dips in the sea, nightlife, being reunited with old friends and meeting new ones.



Relaxing with father and stepmother at Karel's



The Bonaire visit was made possible and enhanced by the support of countless friends and many generous businesses

Manon says she will be forever grateful for their involvement. G.D. Photos from Facebook & Bonaire Reporter



Above—A girl's best friend Photo at left—Speeding at sea

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9th DuoXtreme

COVER STORY

The ninth edition of the DuoXtreme International Mountain Bike Race was run mostly over Bonaire's dirt back roads on Sunday, September 30. There were 105 participants from Bonaire, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Spain, Switzerland, the USA and The Netherlands. Conditions were ideal-- partly cloudy, breezy and dry. The threat of rain from Tropical Storm Kirk passing to the north ended with a few claps of thunder just before the race began.

Over the 70 km Xtreme Route and winner of first prize money, and the Men's Category, was the **FX Lefty Team** of **Victor Vrolijk and Reegel Winklaar** from **Aruba** with the incredible time of 2:58:04, an average of almost 24 km./hour... a lot of it over very rough terrain. In second place was the **Trapa Trap** team from **Curacao** of **Manuel Seintje and Barry Bakker**, only three minutes behind. In third was the Bonaire/Curacao combination team of **Virgillio Batista and Faizel Comelia**.

The Senior Men Division was won by **Caspar Rademaker and Peter Winkel** from **Curacao**.

The **Mixed Division** was won by Sports and Exercise instructors **Vera Toonen and Tom Homburg** from the SGB High School. Vera commented, "At the start it was tough, but once the pace was on we flowed. It was a strong example of teamwork." They hoped their example would inspire their students.

In the 50 km Pro Race **Bonaire's Mac Team** of **Mauro Cecilia and Andre Maciel** took first in the Men's Division with amazing time of 2:30:16, about 25 km./hour. Second was the **BonJero** team of **Jerome Spruit and Rody Sambeek**, just three minutes off the pace.

The Mixed Division was won by **Rob and Jessica Westerink** from **Curacao**.

In the Senior Men's Division the top two teams were from Bonaire. Winning were **Arnold Kooien and Dennis Mark**; second were **Dominga de Lima and Frank Böhm**.

Next year, to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Duo Xtreme, a 100 km. route is planned. □ G.D.



FX Lefty Team of Victor Vrolijk and Reegel Winklaar
Delno Tromp photo



Tom Homburg and Vera Toonen at the top of the podium



The peloton hangs a crowded left turn Delno Tromp photo



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The Bike Professionals

Garoshi Madness- The Soapbox Derby

Last weekend on Sunday, September 30, the Rincon Hill was covered with 43 soap box cars ready to race, dozens of drivers, coaches, stands selling food, drinks, sweets, lots of kids and hundreds of spectators lined along the road. It was so exciting.

This was the second annual Kareda di Garoshi (Soapbox Derby) organized in Bonaire by Farid Ayubi and friends.

Work started on the motor-less cars months ago and the competition was fierce. The car has to be aerodynamic and be able to travel fast with only gravity as the "motor." From the photos you can see how innovative some of them are.

Enthusiasm continued as 11 of the cars were loaded up on the Don Andres this week to go to Curacao to race against the cars from Aruba and Curacao on Sunday, October 7.

Here are the results from Sunday's race in Bonaire:

JUNIOR :

- 1st Place: Wenny Soliano (garoshi "Redbull")
- 2nd Place: Charimene (garoshi "Showtime")
- 3rd Place: Alianta Emerenciana (garoshi "Whitelion")

ADULTS :

- 1st Place: Junny Chans (garoshi "Coco Jet")
- 2nd Place: Dj Ash (garoshi "Muskita")
- 3rd Place : Layo (garoshi "Showtime")
- 4th Place: Farid Ayubi ("Redbull") L.D.

Special thanks to Marisona Lake of the Burnoutspeed Association for results and photos.



EEG Boulevard 80I



FOR SALE Oceanfront Apartment, EEG Boulevard 80I Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

This nice oceanfront apartment located on the first floor, offers perfect ocean view and has excellent rental possibilities. The apartment has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and a spacious balcony. There is a beautiful sundeck in front of the apartment. There is direct oceanfront access to the ocean. The apartment is fully furnished and equipped. The kitchen and bathrooms are brand new.

Highlights

- Oceanfront in upscale area
- Direct oceanfront access
- Great rental possibilities

Features

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 Asking price: Price on request

Asking price:
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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

SOMETHING DIFFERENT (Wheelchair Challenges #22)



Seniors at Kunuku Arawak

Every now and then one needs to do something different, to keep up appearances and stay informed. We decided to take part in the celebration of the International Day of the Elderly, which took place at Kunuku Arawak. The party had been organized well, with months of preparation. And there were a lot of elderly persons present. Almost every foundation and association and club was represented.

Transportation to and from was also very well organized. There were speeches, nominations, commendations, presents, great entertainment and good, delicious food and drinks. We had so much fun and decided to come again, next year.

I have never seen or heard of a port-a-potty accessible for wheelchairs, so I was pleasantly surprised that there was one. Maybe this is a tip for all organizations that invite persons with limitations.

Accessibility Week

And it seemed to be a very special start of the month, "Luna di Oktober, Luna di Flor," because there was an "accessibility-week" that was organized by the Platform UN-CLUI. And just today I heard that this week is also the week of the lonely persons.

Art Contest

To be able to pay for a special beach/sea-wheelchair and a portable rubber-path for

beach, MiVaBo is organizing an art contest with prizes.

Persons with limitations are invited to make a beautiful piece of art, painting or drawing. The theme is: "This is my life." Collages are not accepted. All art pieces are to be presented at MiVaBo or at a location that will be announced later. A very special jury will decide which painting or drawing is the best and will award third, second and first winners. All artwork must be handed in before December 1. On December 3 there will be an exposition where all artwork can be admired. The winning artwork will be used for a very special culinary project, to be announced later. "Fine food from fine art." So, please, special Bonairean artists, show us your best. Enter your artworks as soon as possible and maybe even win a prize! Go to Facebook: MIVABO for information.

Care Givers Group

Now for all the care-givers who are at home, taking care of your loved ones, family members, I have some questions: How do you determine your borders and when do you decide that these borders will be shifting?

Are you doing this all by yourself? Or do you talk about it with your partner/family? Why would you want to shift these borders?

(Continued on page 13)

Tras di Montana Trail Route



The TCB team looks over the map of the new route

Drive, Hike, Bike or do it all on a new marked route through some of Bonaire's most beautiful terrain. The rural areas of Bonaire receive an economic boost when they are more accessible to tourists and holidaymakers. A map is now available for the picturesque area of **Tras di Montaña**, the low foothills behind **Seru Largu**. It officially opened on September 27. The mapped autoroute with signage is about 8 km long. Two new hiking trails have been created to further enhance this unique area. Along the trail you will find the first Bonaire airport, **Aletta's Goat Farm**, wind water pumps, old trees, great views and lots more. The map is free and available at TCB. **G.D./L.D.**



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A Garden? Just Do It

ENHANCING YOUR GARDEN

Sometimes I'm looking for a change in my garden. I feel that there just needs to be something new. It can be anything- new plants, a different style, more or other garden elements. Some small or big things can change your garden's "face." Plastic surgery, but in a garden.

Remember, you can start small and it does not need to be perfect right away.

There are many ways and lots of natural elements on Bonaire to give this garden a face lift. Basic good design is the key. Once you have that in place it is time to find the few extras that will give it style: the perfect latch for the gate, just the right garden bench made from driftwood or pallets, or an unusual use of rocks that enhance the overall feel of your garden. Here are some ideas which you can do easily and simply with natural stuff from Bonaire which you can find all over the place.

—To begin with, stones and rocks. What is more Bonaire than stones and rocks? Let your imagination work and create a stone tower in your garden (there are enough examples along the coast to Sorobon.). Think also of a rock garden or a waterfall of rocks and stones, a small pool made with rocks, water plants and a Buddha statue. It make the garden looks like a "secret peaceful place."

—A well-placed trellis with vines. There are some on Bonaire with beautiful purple or yellow flowers. You also see these vines on pergolas and balconies. Oh yes, the passion flower is a nice vine too with beautiful purple-white flowers. Add for example an archway to it that leads to a little garden house or to a peaceful garden corner.

—White or blue ceramic or clay pottery planters in different sizes or shapes together with flowering plants or maybe even in a wild jungle style. Use different colored *trinitaria* (bougainvillea) plants together to make a sea of colorful flowers.

—An enclosed, shaded outdoor room and conversation area made from some driftwood, vines, a fountain and planters, old wooden chairs and yard table— all strong elements.

—Old toilet bowls with beautiful colored plants.

—A garden swing or swing set fixed in a tree.

—A BBQ corner with brick walk and pallet wood chairs, with terracotta pots.

—A potting shed made from old recycled wood for your watering can, pots, baskets and small garden tools.

—Groundcover stones and plants, small rock garden, small veggy and herb garden.

—A Buddha corner. A fountain. Pottery.

—An old wooden rustic gate.

—Old bright colored doors for the garden house (setting the mood for what's beyond).

—Latticework patterned wooden fence somewhere in the garden.

— Flat natural stepping stones which you can find on Bonaire.

—Stairs and garden steps.



A pot of beauty

—Water feature and used cobblestone or beach stones.

—Zen garden and secret garden.

—Big glass balls from the sea, big glass wine bottles with candles.

—Garden edging and garden borders from stones, driftwood, bamboo.

—Old wheelbarrows or wooden wine barrels with plants.

—Granite and stone garden elements.

—Hanging baskets and lanterns.

—Benches in different material and design.

Garden design is the art and process of designing and creating plans for layout and planting of gardens and landscapes.

Material used to manufacture modern garden elements are stone, metals, vinyl, plastics, resins, glass, and (treated) woods.

In a garden, the line is one of the most important and useful of all design elements. As you plan and design your garden, always consider the line that is created by whatever you are adding. There are four main ways to describe lines: curved, straight, horizontal, and vertical.

Curved lines shape informal garden beds and add interest to pathways. Straight lines evoke a sense of order and are more formal. Horizontal lines create a sense of stability. Vertical lines project a sense of strength and movement. No matter which types of line you use, be aware that lines lead the eyes.

Besides lines, light and shade are important too and how they work together. Other elements like contrast, variety, colors, rhythm, unity, pattern, balance, scale, form and texture are also part of creating a garden.

So you were looking for a change? There you go, enough ideas and information to start. So just do it. □
Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Flamingo Adventure Golf



There's even a SCUBA dive to meet

After waiting longer than anticipated, Karin and Hans from the Netherlands could open their Flamingo Adventure golf at Kaminda Lac, the road to Sorobon past the softball stadium. We visited them one Saturday morning and spoke to Karin who just handed out the golf clubs to visitors. Others had just finished their round and raised their thumbs to us that they had found it very nice. We sat down on the terrace to hear their experiences.

Karin had seen an adventure golf course in Florida, and after she and Hans had been on their honeymoon to Bonaire, the plan came to build and open a course on Bonaire. They quit their jobs as bridge master and employee in a casino and moved from *Capelle aan den IJssel* to Bonaire.

Full of enthusiasm the couple purchased all the stuff — statues, mats and a ready-to-build house—and loaded them into containers to be sent to Bonaire.

Then the looking for a suitable piece of land started, and when that was found, it was waiting for the required permits.

This required a great deal of patience, while in the meantime, items were stolen out of the containers. Back then it was hard to keep motivated, but they did not give up.

Eventually they were able to get started, first with assembling the house and placing it on containers, then laying the track with the 18 holes and the different sculptures.

But to their great horror they had not placed the house in the right spot according to the building permit and it had to be moved three meters. It was moved using two big cranes, but then one crane broke down and it was waiting time again.

The hoisting with the cranes was very exciting. Would the move go well, would the house not collapse? So it was pretty stressful for Karin and Hans. But luckily it went well. They said: "We did not have to think that the house would collapse because then we would have no money to rebuild it!"

And then finally the official opening could take place. The time of waiting was over and they could show everyone that they had accomplished their dream.

In the summer, the children of Bonaire could already begin to enjoy the golf course during their vacation. Furthermore, there have already been a few big events- a business cocktail party that attracted around 200 people. The golf course can also be rented for company events. And it's also very suitable for children's parties, stag and hen parties and marriages.

"The reservations are now coming in," Karin says with a radiant expression. And soon with the cruise season they can pick up passengers with their van and bring them to the course, getting even more customers.

Karin and Hans are happy that the wait is behind them and they can show what has

happened to their Flamingo Adventure Golf course.



Sailing yacht Mistress gets a new life.

They get enthusiastic reactions from visitors. Their experiences and the realization of plans could be followed on Dutch TV in the program: "I am Leaving."

The first part was on TV in January, the second part with the sequel in September. Every day Dutch tourists come by to find out how things are going and they ask: "May we take a picture with you?" "We sometimes feel like TV stars, but we like to do it." Their broadcasts were very popular in the Netherlands and everyone wondered if they would succeed and lived along with them with all kinds of reactions to Twitter and Facebook. Also there were people who said: "How can you do something like this?" "Isn't it too hot for this on Bonaire?"

And in the end they succeeded. They have fulfilled their dream. They feel at home on Bonaire. Many of their friends are from the local population and they enjoy being part of it.

They are now full of plans. They want to build a *jeu de boules* court, expand their playground, restore the pirate boat and build a restaurant. They already have a roof terrace with two Jacuzzis. But that is waiting for the permits.

Their adventures can be followed on two Facebook pages: [karinnehans Bonaire](#) and [Flamingo Adventure golf](#).

And on their website: [flamingoadventuregolfbonaire.com](#), where the opening hours and admission prices are and telephone number to make a reservation.

We promised to come back and then hit a ball with friends. □

Story & photos by Oda & Ruud Peters



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.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2018: stinapabonaire.org/events

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, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) Info: 786-0150

Mondays

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

Wednesdays

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

•**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 Cruxita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

Children's Club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

Dutch service Every Sunday evening at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37. Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call +599 787-0646

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 10am. Wednesday- Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Casa de Oracion para todas las naciones, Hanchi Amboina 37 Kralendijk, **Spanish service: every Sunday morning at 9 am. Dutch service: every Sunday evening at 7 pm**

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 Ships

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
09- Oct	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
11--Oct	Equinox	0700-1800	2858
16- Oct	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
18-Oct	NCI Jade	0900-1800	2400
20-Oct	Equinox	0700-1800	2858
22-Oct	Freedom	0700-1800	3634

EXHIBITIONS

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

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit-Terramar Museum**

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

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

•**Yana's Fine Art Museum at 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

Tuesday, October 9 — **Friends of Nature Foundation Exposition** at the TCB office, Kaya Grandi 1, time 16:00 - 16:30

Wednesday, October 10 -- **Regatta Run 1, 2, 4 & 5 km.** Start 17.30 Playa Stadium. Finish Zeezicht Restaurant. Signup Oct. 6 or 8, between 5-7pm at Zeezicht

October 10-13 — **Bonaire International Regatta**, Activities on land and sea.

Saturday, October 20— **Quarterly Cleanup Dive sponsored by Dive Friends Bonaire.** Volunteers check in at 9:30am at Parke Tului Domacasse (playground on the water-side). Potluck at 6pm. Info 780-2572

Friday, October 26 —**The Classical Music Board Bonaire presents soprano Karin ten Cate, accompanied on guitar by Paul Pleijsier** at 8pm. Plaza Beach Resort —More in the next edition on October 22.

Saturday, October 27— **Nos Zjilea Cultural Event, Mangazina di Rei**, creole kitchen, music, crafts, local produce, 8am-1pm

Monday, November 3 —**Annual Study & Career Event** —More in the next edition
—**Taste of Bonaire**, Wellness edition, Wilhelmina Park

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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 08		06:27 0.06 ft	12:18 0.74 ft	19:32 0.13 ft	New Moon	6:25	18:21
Tue 09	00:39 0.56 ft	07:13 0.13 ft	13:14 0.82 ft	20:59 0.07 ft		6:25	18:20
Wed 10	02:07 0.47 ft	08:00 0.19 ft	14:08 0.88 ft	22:14 -0.01 ft		6:25	18:20
Thu 11	03:34 0.43 ft	08:50 0.24 ft	15:00 0.93 ft	23:17 -0.07 ft		6:25	18:19
Fri 12	04:51 0.43 ft	09:41 0.28 ft	15:49 0.96 ft			6:25	18:18
Sat 13		00:10 -0.12 ft	05:53 0.44 ft	10:31 0.30 ft	16:35 0.96 ft	6:25	18:18
Sun 14		00:56 -0.14 ft	06:43 0.45 ft	11:19 0.31 ft	17:18 0.95 ft	6:25	18:17
Mon 15		01:37 -0.13 ft	07:25 0.46 ft	12:05 0.32 ft	17:59 0.93 ft	6:25	18:17
Tue 16		02:15 -0.11 ft	08:01 0.47 ft	12:48 0.32 ft	18:38 0.90 ft	6:25	18:16
Wed 17		02:50 -0.08 ft	08:35 0.48 ft	13:31 0.32 ft	19:16 0.85 ft	6:25	18:16
Thu 18		03:23 -0.03 ft	09:07 0.49 ft	14:16 0.32 ft	19:53 0.80 ft	6:25	18:15
Fri 19		03:54 0.01 ft	09:39 0.51 ft	15:06 0.32 ft	20:32 0.73 ft	6:25	18:15
Sat 20		04:23 0.06 ft	10:12 0.55 ft	16:04 0.32 ft	21:14 0.64 ft	6:26	18:14
Sun 21		04:49 0.11 ft	10:46 0.59 ft	17:14 0.31 ft	22:02 0.55 ft	6:26	18:14
Mon 22		05:12 0.17 ft	11:21 0.65 ft	18:36 0.28 ft	23:04 0.46 ft	6:26	18:13

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(Making Bonaire Accessible Continued from pg. 10)
Do you have yourself in mind or the person you care for? When do you say NO or YES and why so? When do you care all by yourself and when do you need help? How do you ask for help?

I know for a fact that taking care of a loved one is a very hard job. And I also know that nobody can do this as good as you do because you have been doing this for so long, knowing them nearly all your life. But I also know that there comes a time when you need more help and special help

and you need to get some time off. This is a dire process and not everybody is able to do so, or does not dare to ask. That is why we, as private care-givers need to talk, sit together and share our experiences and learn from each other. Give me a call please, and we will plan a meeting. Email: kaarsen-atelierkandelita@gmail.com or phone 700-1813

□ Story & photo by Ria Evers-Dokter



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Hello everyone! This is our precious Bradley. He is a young man of six months who was abandoned, along with his siblings, when he was only four weeks old.

Bradley is a very sweet playful boy and loves, loves, loves to snuggle and sit in your lap. He is an affectionate little guy and purrs constantly. This gentle kitten gets along well with all the other cats and kittens and is the first in line to welcome new friends into the Cat Palace. But Bradley would be perfectly happy as an "only cat" as well.

Bradley is healthy and vaccinated and will be sterilized before he goes to his forever home. If you are interested in bringing this special little boy into your



Pet Of The Week

family, please come visit him at the Shelter very soon! Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 3-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. non-stop. 717 4989/701/4989 Story & photo by Laurie Smith



DID YOU KNOW?

That Bonaire is considered to have some of the healthiest coral reefs in the Caribbean? You probably knew this already but have you thought about why the health of the coral reefs is important to you? A large part of the economy of Bonaire depends on the tourism that is centered around our main attraction –our beautiful coral reefs. Tourism creates jobs so that people can earn money and take care of their families, but we also get food from the sea. Without the coral reefs there would not be many fish living around Bonaire that fishermen could catch, eat and sell. Coral reefs are the perfect place to hide for many different fish species, especially when they are growing up. Coral reefs also protect the coast from being destroyed by the incredible power of the oceans currents, waves and storms. Without the coral reefs the coast of Bonaire would probably look a lot different than it does today. There are even medicines that have been made from organisms on the coral reef. Some of these medicines are used to treat cancer and heart diseases. Maybe someone you know has had their life saved thanks to an organism from the coral reef. Isn't that fantastic?

So, how are the coral reefs of Bonaire doing these days? Although they are considered to be some of the healthiest in the Caribbean, their health is actually decreasing. Since scientists started to study the coral reefs of Bonaire in 1973, the reefs have been less and less healthy. Some corals have almost disappeared and instead there are more areas with only algae or sand. Fish that eat the algae are fewer and the large predators that eat the fish are as good as gone. This sounds really bad, and it is.

Trouble in Paradise?



Duncan McCrae photo

But because we have some of the healthiest coral reefs we must be doing something right, and we must continue to do so. Scientists now know what is needed for a healthy coral reef and many of the things that can be done to improve its health is being done here on Bonaire. The coral reefs are protected and managed in many different ways by different organizations and concerned citizens. A few examples of protective measures include: moorings that prevent anchoring; no spear fishing (except ELF's for lionfish); mandatory diver orientations; fish protected areas; wastewater treatment, etc. With a growing tourism industry and a growing population, more is needed to protect our coral reefs. Better runoff control, less pollution, sustainable tourism, and the list goes on. As we grow, we need to grow with the health of the reef in mind with every new development, policy decision and tourism venture. Without healthy coral reefs, Bonaire will be a totally different island and we will have lost one of the main treasures that sets us apart from the rest.

Story by Emil Ren, Stinapa Intern. Connecting People with Nature..

Ren is an intern from Sweden who studied at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.



Shelter News



Lavi Rodriguez photo

BIG HEART....BIG LOVE

The Shelter staff had a major celebration this week....Teddy and Amy were adopted! Why is that so special? Because Teddy and Amy are older dogs (4 years and 5 years respectively) who have been at the Shelter for three years. Teddy and Amy met at the Shelter and became great friends. For some reason, they were constantly passed over as candidates for a forever home. Until the day that Elizabeth opened her heart and her home to these wonderful dogs.



Jane Disko photo

This story is even more wonderful when you understand the big heart Elizabeth has. She originally came to the Shelter five months ago looking to adopt a cat. Her request: a cat who had been at the Shelter a long time and was least likely to be adopted. She hit the jackpot! Elizabeth took home our sweet black cat Dante (now Jules) who had been with us for almost two years. Gentle, affectionate and handsome, Dante's only flaw was that most people don't like black cats! Elizabeth and Jules became forever friends....a success...but there is more! Elizabeth told us that as soon as she moved to a house, she wanted to adopt a dog and was willing to welcome whoever had been at the Shelter the longest. When asked if she would be willing to take two, who were best friends, she did not hesitate to say yes.

This week, Teddy and Amy joined Jules and Elizabeth in their forever home. Something they probably thought would never happen, as they waited three long years for the right heart that welcomed

their companionship.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your love for these wonderful animals! Jane Madden-Disko



MARK YOUR CALENDAR, DECEMBER 9, ANIMAL SHELTER AUCTION! DETAILS COMING SOON!

In the phot the Animal Shelter's Auction organizer, Dabney Lassiter, receives a year's membership to Bon Bida Gym to auction off, from Sam Hassan, Manager of the Bon Bida Gym..

The big auction, to be held in a SABE-DECO mansion is just two months away.

If you wish to donate something to be auctioned email dabney38@yahoo.com .

And save the date to be sure to attend. **Sunday night, December 9.**



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THE STARS HAVE IT

October 2018

ANDROMEDA!

Autumn is my favorite season when it comes to star stories because we get to see a celestial royal family, a hero and a flying horse.

The story of **Andromeda** begins about 20 centuries ago. **Cassiopeia**, the mother of Andromeda, was not only extremely beautiful, but extremely vain. And one day she made the dreadful mistake of boasting that she was even more beautiful than **The Nereids**, the sea nymphs, who were considered to be the hottest stuff of their time.

Well, they complained to their father, **Poseidon**, the god of the sea, and it is said that among the punishments he rendered to the royal family was to create a giant sea monster (affectionately called **The Kraken**) to destroy Cassiopeia's kingdom.

Sadly, the only way to get rid of the Kraken was to sacrifice Cassiopeia's only daughter, **Andromeda** to the sea monster.

At this time of year, **Andromeda** is easy to find in the sky just after sunset. You can use **Cassiopeia**, **Andromeda's** mother, or **Pegasus**, the winged horse belonging to her rescuer, **Perseus**.

Just after sunset, anytime this week, face east. High in the eastern sky you'll see the four bright stars that form the great square of **Pegasus**. Starting at the upper right and traveling counterclockwise we have **Markab**, **She-ott**, **Alpheratz** and **Algenib**.

Pegasus shares a common star with **Andromeda**. That star is **Alpheratz**. **Alpheratz** (also known by its Bayer designation as **Alpha Andromedae**) marks the head of **Andromeda**, and is a **binary star system** 97 light years from **Earth**. To find **Andromeda's** foot, you can use the stars from the constellation of her mother, **Cassiopeia**. Look to the left of the great square of **Pegasus** and you'll see a W-shaped constellation of five bright stars. This is **Cassiopeia**.

The stars from right to left are: **Caph**, **Chedar**, **Tsih**, **Ruchbah** and **Segin**. By drawing a straight line from **Caph** through **Shedar**, you'll run smack dab into **Andromeda's** foot, marked by the star **Almach**.

Almach is a **quadruple star system** 350 light years away from **Earth** and is the third brightest star in the constellation **Andromeda**.



Between **Andromeda's** foot and **Andromeda's** head, we have yet another star. This one is the second brightest star in **Andromeda** and is named **Mirach**. **Mirach** is a red giant star over 197 light years from us, and it's over 100 times the radius of our **Sun** and almost 2,000 times as bright.

Just up and to the left of **Mirach**, you might be able to spot the furthest object we can see with the naked eye. The ever popular and lovely **Andromeda Galaxy**.

In the **Messier** catalog of deep sky objects, it's called **m31**. It takes a little effort to find the **Andromeda galaxy** and you have to have a very dark night in the **Sky Park** on a clear moonless night. However, to make it a bit easier, you can also use the stars from **Cassiopeia** to help find it.

If you use **Cassiopeia** and draw a straight line from **Segin** through **Ruchbah** and stop when you get close to **Mirach**, you'll be in the neighborhood of the **Andromeda Galaxy**.

You will see a faint cloud which, through a pair of binoculars, will look even more cloud-like. However, it isn't a cloud. It's a gigantic **spiral galaxy**, containing a trillion stars and is very similar in structure to our own **Milky Way Galaxy**, and believe it or not, it's heading straight for us.

Don't worry about it colliding with us in our lifetime though. Although the **Andromeda galaxy** is traveling at almost 68 miles per second towards us, it's incredibly far away and will take almost five billion years to arrive. The **Andromeda galaxy** is so incredibly far away that even though light travels over 186,000 miles per second, it still takes 2½ million years for the light of the **Andromeda galaxy** to reach us. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can purchase items that will enhance your appearance. Put your thoughts into action. Take care of your own responsibilities before you help others. Don't invest too much of your own money. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) This is not the day to be extravagant. You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children. Your ability to converse with charm will entice someone you may have had an interest in for some time now. Don't be taken advantage of by any fast talking salesperson trying to part you from your cash. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Use your added discipline to get what you want. You can make excellent purchases this month. Difficulties with children will surface if you try to break a promise you made. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Do not expect too much from others. Your communication skills are at an all-time high. Try not to attempt to do something unless you are fully intent on following through with the plans. You mustn't make promises that you won't be able to keep. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) A little rest will do wonders. Be aware that minor accidents or injury may prevail if you are preoccupied. Invite friends over. Make your intentions perfectly clear and find out exactly what is expected of you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You need to keep busy doing things that you both enjoy. Don't avoid situations that may deteriorate; try to mend them. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. Don't start any arguments unless you're prepared to accept irrevocable results. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't overspend or give too freely to others. You can make headway if you share your intentions with someone you care about. You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. Help an older member with a problem that faces them. Don't let someone try to bully you into doing things their way. Your temper may get the better of you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Focus on your own domestic problems. You can benefit financially if you put money or maintenance into your living quarters. Let your boss know your goals. Sort situations out as best you can. Watch your spending habits. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You need to spend some time reflecting on past experiences and involvement's. Try to be patient with their inability to accept your new beliefs. Your loved ones could set you off. Exaggeration or deception coupled with overindulgence might be a problem. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Evasion is likely if you aren't direct about your feelings. Older family members may try to make demands. Sudden changes of heart may cause disruptions in your domestic scene. This is a wonderful day to look into courses or hobbies that interest you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects this month. Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life. Older relatives may make unreasonable demands. Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday. □

Michael Thiessen

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