

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE December. 10-24, 2018, Year 25, Issue 25
The REPORTER

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**Royal
Visit**
Page 9

Julie Morgan photos



Stinapa Director Arjen de Wolff and biologist Roxanne-Liana Francisca with Princess Beatrix in Washington Park



Park Manager Albert Crestian points out a feature of the visitors center to Princess Beatrix. Also in the photo, Leendert van Driel (President of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Board), Delno Tromp (President Board STINAPA), officials and park rangers



Chief Ranger George "Cultura" Thode is surprised by the Princess' explanation. With Albert Crestian, Leendert van Driel, Arjen de Wolff and Delno Tromp



Effective January 1, 2019, the government is raising the fees for use of the Bonaire Marine Park (all the sea around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire to 200'). The official *afkondigingsblad* (proclamation), dated 28 November, jumps the price of the annual scuba "dive tag" from \$25 to \$40, the non-scuba nature fee from \$10 to \$25. It is the first price increase in 13 years and in line with the fees at other Marine Protected Areas. The one-day user fee was eliminated. Now all visiting Park users must pay the fee except cruise ship passengers, those who spend less than 24 hours on Bonaire, kids under 12 and local residents.

Other Park fees like dock permits, ladders, moorings, etc. were also raised. The visiting yacht fee remains \$10/night.

Disconcerting to the industry was the timing of the implementation of the fees without, some felt, due process (like consultation with the OLB's Nature and Environment Commission. Some members of the STINAPA Board said they were unaware of the government edict.)

The water-related and dive businesses who administer the collection of the Park fees, currently burdened by a prehistoric cash-collection system to administer, now have even more responsibility. Using the on-island-developed Reef Support App driven system (described in *The Reporter's* September issues) would ease that burden.

We'll have a comprehensive report following a formal press release from STINAPA set for December 10.

►The Government of Bonaire (OLB) appears sincerely committed to improving its performance to meet the objectives of the Administrative Agreement concluded last month (story in the last *Reporter*). In a press release it recognized that its civil service workforce is characterized by officials who will soon reach retirement age and that it does not have the qualified people and knowledge to do the job necessary in an effective way.

In February 2019 an analysis will be started to establish the desired approach by June 2019. The objective is to strengthen governance and to improve the services for island residents. Close cooperation with the central and island government is necessary to provide the necessary resources.

AIRLIFT NEWS

★Handicapped visitors were dismayed when Aviramp service they requested was not provided.

★The survival of InselAir is a step closer because the airline's shareholders agreed to its acquisition by InterCaribbean Airways and came to an agreement with its creditors. InterCaribbean Airways has less than two weeks to present a bank guarantee letter of 11 million Antillean guilders. If InterCaribbean cannot produce the bank guarantee before December 18, the court could declare InselAir bankrupt. In that case Inselair's 1200 creditors would receive a very small fraction of what they are owed.



Curaçao Courant photo

★It's a big jump from a seven-seat Norman Islander to a 189-seat Boeing 737-800,

but, with the help of Corendon, Divi-Divi will be flying between Curaçao and Sint Maarten and from Curaçao and Bonaire to Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The flight will be done under Divi Divi Air's license and beginning on December 10 to Sint Maarten

Five flights per week will be between Curaçao and Princess Juliana International Airport in Sint Maarten and twice weekly to Guarulhos International Airport in Sao Paulo, Brazil. One of the flights to Sao Paulo may make an intermediate stop in Bonaire. Promotional prices start from \$120 dollars round trip between CUR and SXM.

★American Airlines begins four weekly BON-MIA return flights December 15.

★Curacao has raised its Airport Tax by as much as 50% between the islands. The tax to Bonaire is upped from \$10 to \$15. To Aruba and Sint Maarten from \$20 to \$39. The tax also slightly increases for international flights, from \$39 to \$42. It makes lots of sense to fly from Bonaire direct to your destination.

★Look for Bonaire's airport tax to increase too. Last month a contract was signed for the construction of the 1st Phase Expansion of Flamingo International Airport. Bon Ned Construction signed for the construction. Mario Bikker signed for the airport.

★WINAIR will be increasing seat capacity with nearly 50% on most days of the week. This is in addition to Flights to SXM -Sint Maarten.

►The latest consumer report show that Warehouse Bonaire is again rated the least expensive. The prices of the package of 60 products at Bonaire's most posh supermarket, Van den Tweel,

increased significantly in the month of November. But at the Jia Xing supermarket, prices fell sharply on average. In the ranking, Jia Xing rose from seventh to third place. Van den Tweel dropped from Place 4 to Place 11. Large price changes are often a result of cheaper alternatives being sold out. The price comparator looks at the cheapest available variant of a product.

The average prices of more than 36 products in the 15 food stores remained the same as in October. For an average of 12 products prices went up and for a comparable average number of products prices went down.

In the three most expensive supermarkets, prices average around 30% higher than in the three cheapest supermarkets.

►Thanks to Unkobon a "DigiD desk" will be opened on Bonaire by 31 March 2019 at the latest. DigiD is an abbreviation of Digital Identity. With a DigiD people can use one single electronic code to log in to governmental services. It can be requested online on the website of DigiD.

►Researchers believe that Bonaire can be the ideal place to grow algae that can provide a source for biofuel or animal fodder. The feasibility study recently carried out by Wageningen University & Research (WUR) into the realization of an AlgaePARC on Bonaire has been completed. A video was made explaining what the AlgaePARC can mean in the future for Bonaire.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD1riUKHsO4&feature=share>)

in English, Dutch, Papiamentu with English subtitles)
The next phase of the project has begun with two PhD students from WUR who will investigate how algae production on Bonaire can be produced most profitably.

The AlgaePARC is a collaboration between Wageningen Uni-

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Available on-line at:
www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,
On-line every day, 24/7
Next edition printing on
Monday, December 24, 2018
Deadline: Friday, Dec. 21, 2018



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Conti. from page 2)
 versity, travel organization TUI, public body Bonaire (OLB), the European Union the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research and Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB).

►On 1 December 2017, the **Strategic Tourism Master Plan for 2017-2027** was presented. Over a year later the plan has not been accepted by the island government. Critics believe the study that produced the plan was fundamentally flawed and, among other things, **does not provide the safeguards needed to protect Bonaire's environment.** Tourism interests recently pressured the government for approval. They argue that "tourism is an important pillar for Bonaire, then (the Government) needs to take action.



►A striking new Flamingo sculpture appeared in Wilhelmina Plaza last month. The STINAPA Junior Rangers

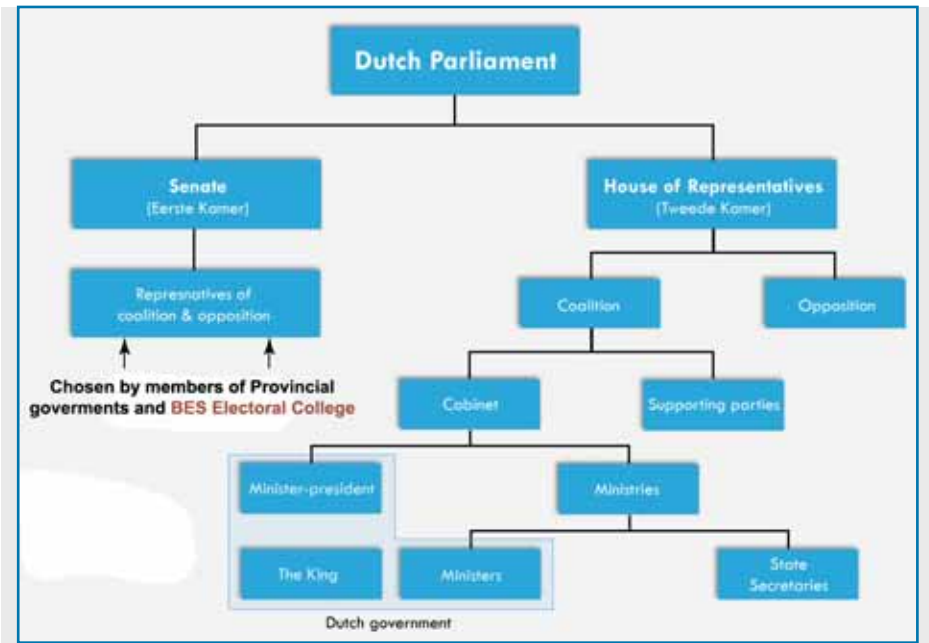
helped renowned Dutch Artist Maria Koijck turn collected marine litter into an amazing attractive piece of art. It began with a large beach clean-up with the help of local kids from Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador and ended as an artistic masterpiece. Make sure you check it out - it's an incredible sight with a very poignant message.



►Have you seen a car with this on the windshield? If you did you will realize that the Tax Service (The *Belastingdienst*) means business. When a taxpayer refuses to meet his tax and payment obligations, this barnacle-like device can be applied. The shield that is placed on the vehicle's windshield will make the car almost undrivable.

Before this happens there supposedly has been appropriate communication with the taxpayer. Only when the taxpayer chooses not to pay, the *Belastingdienst* will have no

(Continued on page 5)



►The BES Islands finally will get equal representation in the Dutch Parliament.

A recent constitutional amendment gives Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, like all other parts of the Netherlands, voting rights for the Dutch Senate (First Chamber). To do this an electoral college will be established for each island who, along with the elected representatives from Dutch provinces (The BES Islands are not part of any province) will vote for the members of the Senate.

The Dutch parliament consists of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives (Second Chamber) can submit, amend and approve bills.

The Senate votes on draft laws that have already been adopted by the House of Representatives.

In contrast to the House of Representa-

tives, members of the Senate are not elected directly by the Dutch population but by members of the provincial councils and, as of 2019, also by the members of the BES electoral colleges. Residents with the Dutch nationality can submit their candidacy for the electoral college of the island where they live until February 4, 2019. On March 20, 2019, Electoral College elections will take place, where Dutch residents can vote for the members of the electoral colleges. This is the same day as the Island Council elections on Bonaire and Saba.

This week, RCN will launch an information campaign to inform residents with the right to stand as a candidate about the nomination process. Potential candidates and voters can also find more information at www.rijksdienstcn.com/lectorcollege2019.

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Man On A Mission

Frans van Efferink is a man on a mission, a mission to transform Bonaire secondary schools into a high scoring, innovative, and caring educational system that values all students and prepares them to succeed in the changing world that awaits them after graduation. As the school's managing director for almost three years, van Efferink has addressed a number of challenges to make that transformation a reality.



Van Efferink with SGB students Joanna Borsboom, Janilsa Offerman and Eddy Paredes who won Financial education project prizes during the Entrepreneurs Week.

First, he discovered when he arrived on the job that the school had more staff and teachers than could be sustained by the budget. In his first year he had to stop contracts, most of them temporary ones. In addition, as Frans van Efferink characterizes it, "The school culture was not proper at the time with the highest percentage of sick leaves I had ever encountered by personnel. And the students had a lot of free time because many lessons were not held as scheduled."

Two years later, the budget is balanced and morale has improved dramatically. As van Efferink describes, "I love my teachers and staff and don't want my management to be distant from the actual enterprise of education. I try to make it simpler for teachers by giving them televisions and laptops and bringing technology in the classroom." Trust has also returned as all personnel recently collaborated on a written, strategic plan entitled "Education in 2020," which has enabled all involved to understand where the school is heading. "Education is about change and we need to be on the same page about that change," van Efferink explains. A major focus of the strategic plan is preparing students for the actual world of 2020 supported by a culture of care, knowledge, and help created by teachers and staff (who by the way now have the lowest percentage of sick days he has ever seen).

Another innovation has been reorganization with the big SGB high school now being composed of four smaller schools (MAVO, VMBO, HAVO, and VWO), each with its own unit director forming an administrative team. Such leadership fosters creative programming for students like the recent entrepreneurship seminar at the Courtyard Marriott attended by 80 students on how to start and run your own business. There is also a division for students, 18 to 25, who have already graduated and want to acquire career experience in hospitality, construction, and now, media. With 500

students involved in MBO, there are plans to expand into an MBO campus on Bonaire so students from Aruba and Curacao can attend.

Van Efferink's greatest satisfaction is the improvement of test scores: MAVO has an 86% pass rate; VMBO an 89%; HAVO 60%; and VWO 83%. Still there is a problem that van Efferink theorizes has "a lot to do with the Dutch language being the language of the exams when it is not your native language." To address this problem, he is proposing more education in Dutch in primary schools, four extra hours a week, so that students will have greater fluency in Dutch when they enter high school and pass their exams more easily. In a show of support, the Dutch government has committed funding to hire the extra teachers needed. Van Efferink recognizes the complexity of the language issue: "Papiamentu is very important for the local population and I do not want to undermine that, but education in subject areas must be in Dutch or English, and the Dutch government naturally prefers Dutch." Perhaps this pedagogical change will accomplish the schools' goals of 80% minimum pass rates.

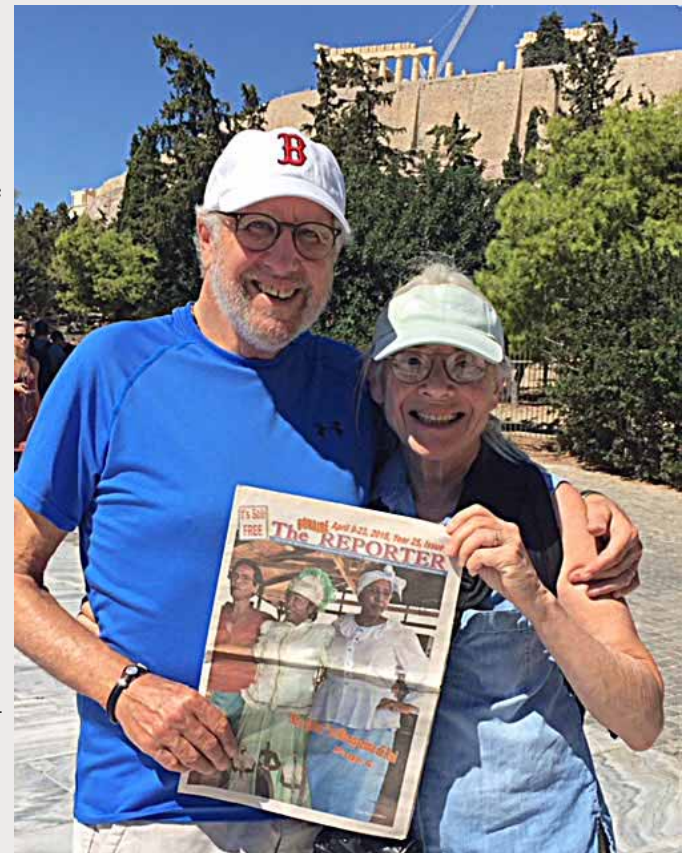
The philosophy of this managing director seems to be resulting in positive change in a relatively short time: "Nobody should be frightened. Nobody should be punished. Parents should be well informed at all times. If teachers are happy, students know that. I want to change this, which is why I am here." Undoubtedly, the more students who succeed, graduate, and attend college in Holland, Canada, or the United States, the greater human resources Bonaire will have from its own citizens to fill the growing number of professional jobs required for a beautiful, growing island. **□**



Pauline Kayes

Picture Yourself With The Reporter At The Acropolis in Greece

Barbara and Rob Levine, are owners at the Sand Dollar. They have been vacationing on Bonaire since 1990. Here they are with *The Bonaire Reporter* during their first trip to Greece earlier this year. **□**



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Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Nepal

From high in the mountains Oda and Ruud Peters sent us this photo of themselves. They are with *The Reporter* in Lo Manthang, Mustang Nepal, 3840 m altitude.

The couple returned to Bonaire in time for Ruud to play Sinterklaas and Oda to be his helper. (See page 6 for their photos of Sinterklaas' arrival.) **□**



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Home Mortgages Made Easier

Getting a home mortgage on Bonaire is more difficult than in the US or the European Netherlands. For example, mortgage rates are many times higher than in America or the European Netherlands, over 5% typically. Banks generally finance only up to 80% of the house value. Home buyers must contribute a considerable amount of equity. In addition, the period of repayment runs up to a maximum of 65 years of age (for example if the mortgagee is 50 years old they can only get a 15-year mortgage) making it difficult to take out a mortgage after the age of 35.

In 2019 The Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) will begin an experiment to provide mortgage guarantees on Bonaire. Designed to stimulate home ownership for starters, young families and the social middle class the program will run for five years.

The current situation means that relatively few houses are sold to working people in Bonaire. In the Netherlands, the National Mortgage Guarantee (NHG) stimulates the affordability and accessibility of home ownership by limiting the financial risks of buying a house. It is often accompanied by an interest discount reducing the risk for the bank. But the NHG was NOT available in the Caribbean Netherlands.

It is more difficult to assess risk because there is no Credit Bureau (BKR) in the Caribbean Netherlands. The *Waarborgfonds Eigen Woningen* (WEW -Own Home Guarantee) has drawn up a structure in order to overcome the unfamiliarity with the housing markets in the Caribbean Netherlands and the risks. The following rules will apply:



- The experiment **only applies to Bonaire** for now;
 - The product can only be offered by **banks that are supervised by DNB** (Dutch National Bank);
 - It concerns a maximum number of **350 guarantees** for the entire period, with a maximum of **70 guarantees** per year;
 - The cost limit for Bonaire has been set at **\$225,000**;
 - The duration of the guarantees covers a maximum of **30 years**;
 - The loan must be **repaid in 30 years** or less in installments
 - Only people with a **permanent employment contract** are allowed to take out a mortgage with a mortgage guarantee;
 - The experiment only applies to the **acquisition of an existing home or new construction**;
 - As in the European Netherlands, a premium or security **commission** is used;
 - The maximum loan amount is **100% of the house value**.
- The effects of the experiment will be monitored and evaluated in the coming years and evaluate whether a mortgage guarantee can be applied to Saba and St. Eustatius at a later stage. □

Press release/G.D.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) other option than to use it.

No tax debt is exempt. Besides road tax-*motorrijtuigenbelasting*, income tax-*Inkomstenbelasting*, property tax-*vastgoedbelasting*, payroll tax-*loonbelasting* also apply.

Should you have any doubts about outstanding tax debts, the Belastingdienst can, of course, provide you with a summary. If you should have any questions on this topic, please contact the Belastingdienst CN's

afdelinginvordering (collection department), via 715-8585.

►The cruise ship industry-sponsored, US-based research firm BREA (Business Research & Economic Advisors), **reported that last season 481,116 cruise ship visitors and crew arrived on Bonaire. This is more than double the passengers reported in the 2014/2015.** The cruise visitors spent \$30.2 million in Bonaire during the 2017/2018 cruise season on shore excursions, watches and jewelry, clothing, food and beverages and local crafts.

The passengers said they were very satisfied with their "overall visit" to Bonaire. The "guided tours" received the highest score.

Cruise visitors to Bonaire were said to spend an average of **\$67.19 per person** which is an increase compared to the \$54.22 calculated in 2014/2015 for average expenditure. BREA estimated that the cruise ships provided direct **employment for 311 Bonaire residents.**

►Following scrutiny by the **National Criminal Investigation Department (NCID)** earlier this year (no criminal activity was reported but preferential treatment and haphazard operation uncovered) **new rules and the policy for the issue of land and leasehold (Erfpacht) will be presented to the Island Council (BC) for approval this month.**

The BC recognized that it is important that the local government's land grant and long lease procedures be done in an honest and just manner. It will incorporate changes in line with recommendations from the NCID's report.

In the new system checks and balances have been introduced and all applications are to be treated in the same way. It does not matter whether the application has been submitted by a family member, a company, a director or an official. Rules are being drawn up to prevent land speculation.

The government has been promised aid for the introduction of the new rules. Holland will make an expert in the field of land matters available to the OLB for eight months. Civil servants from the OLB will receive training in the new procedures.



►The Government, in close cooperation with *Fundashon Cas Boneriano* (FCB), **who oversees social housing on the island, will accelerate construction of rented social housing and shorten waiting lists.** Several studies have shown that about 1,200 rental properties are urgently needed to meet the demand. The plan is to build 500 rental homes in approximately four to five years. The OLB (Island Government) has designated a number of locations for the new construction. The government is making €2.5 million available for

the construction of roads near the first 500 housing units. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has made €470,000 available for the construction of the first 76 homes being built by FCB. The governments are jointly preparing a plan for total financing to guarantee the construction of the 500 homes and the infrastructure in the vicinity of these houses.

► **On November 27th WEB commemorated the 55 years of the distribution of water in Bonaire.** Back then it was named *Dienst Water Distributie* (DWD). DWD and OGEM (*Overzeese Gas- en Elektriciteitsmaatschappij*) were re-named Water en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. in 1978. To commemorate this special date, WEB organized different activities for its employees, pensioners, clients and young people. WEB continues to provide Bonaire's potable water supply, electricity and sewage treatment.

►The new website [Weerplaza.nl](https://www.weerplaza.nl) now has a rain radar online for Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. In addition to the rain radar, there is also a weather forecast with information about wind and humidity.

<https://www.weerplaza.nl/regenradar/zuid-amerika-en-caraiben/bonaire/kalendijk/11893/>



Lotte and Hans Hass

► **Perhaps if World War II had taken a different turn we would know the name Hans Hass as well as we know Jacques Cousteau's.** In 1939, at the age of 20, Hass was diving and photographing Klein Bonaire underwater.

He returned in 1953 aboard the three-masted schooner *Xarifa* to further explore the Caribbean and study the coral at Klein Bonaire. The outline of his precisely laid out camp is still visible on Klein Bonaire, not far from the Carl's Hill dive site. **Beginning in January, 2019, The Reporter will run a series of articles to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of Hass' birth.** □G./L.D.



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Tree Planting Festival



Class 5B Pelikaan School

Each year STINAPA Bonaire celebrates Tree Planting Festival (*Festival di Planta Palu*) in November. One hundred local trees are planted annually at the entrance of Washington Slagbaai National Park. This year Chief Park Ranger Kultura designed a landscape with mainly Wayaka and Shimaruku trees.

On Friday November 23rd, Students of grade 5 of all the elementary schools did the planting.

Desiree Croes, coordinator of the Department of Nature and Environmental Education, opened with a welcome speech to the students. Students then sang the *Festival di Planta Palu* song and prizes were awarded to the winners of the drawing contest: 'Draw your fantasy tree'.

Top prize went to **Sienna Wichart** of Pelikaan School. See poster.

After presentation of the prizes, the trees were planted by the students under the supervision of their teachers, STINAPA staff and also members of Echo Foundation. Wayaka Kibrahacha, Watakeli, Druif'i Laman, Kalbas, Pal'i Sia, Kenepa, Shimaruku, Oliba and Hoba trees were planted all over the park entrance area. Pelikaan student **Ava Wuyts** said, "We had lots of fun planting the trees. I planted a Shimaruku cherry tree."

STINAPA is very grateful to everyone who helped to make a success of this event. A special thanks goes to **Kentucky Fried Chicken** and to the **Echo Foundation** and all the **volunteers**. □ *Press release/G.D.*



Sanikolas Arrives!



Sanikolas (a.k.a. Santa Claus, **Sint Nicolaas**) arrived by tugboat on the dot at 9 am on Saturday, November 24, at the Town Pier. He was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of kids of all ages, parents, grandparents, tourists. The *Swartepieten* danced, threw candy, cavorted, hugged kids and made everyone laugh. The *Pieten* arrived in Bonaire in black face, by popular demand, despite the controversy going on in The Netherlands.

ment moved to Rincon. Later in the week Sanikolas and his *Pieten* spread joy and fun to old folks homes, businesses and other groups. In the Dutch tradition "De Sint" traditionally arrives at the end of November every year. □ *Story & Photos by Rudd & Oda Peters*



Accompanied by a drum corps and brass band Sanikolas was downtown until noontime. In the late afternoon he visited the hospital. On Sunday the excite-

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DID YOU KNOW?

That Bonaire has two species of lizards that can't be found anywhere else in the entire world?



Yes, that's right, these two species of lizards ONLY live on Bonaire and they are called **blò blò**, or **kododo** (above) and **lagadishi di palu** or **totèki** or **kaku** (at right) in Papiamentu. In English they are known as the **Bonaire Whiptail Lizard** (*Cnemidophorus murinus ruthveni*) and **Ruthven's Anole** (*Anolis bonairensis*). Compared to us humans who live all over the world, from the Svalbard archipelago north of Norway to the southern parts of Argentina, the Bonaire Whiptail Lizard and Ruthven's Anole have a very limited area where all of their population can be found. Bonaire covers only 0.0002% of the total land area of the entire Earth. That is all the space that these two lizard species have to live.

A species that can only be found in one certain place is called an endemic species. It is unique to that area and can't be found anywhere else. One would think that spe-



cies with such a limited living space would easily become extinct, but in fact, there are many species of animals and plants that are endemic to different locations all over the world. Many of the locations where endemic species can be found are islands because they are isolated from other places, and oceans are really difficult to cross for most animals.

As lizards, the Whiptail and Anole are related to the other animals in the group known as reptiles. Animals like turtles, crocodiles and snakes are all reptiles. During recent years, many scientists have started to include birds in the reptile group as well. It may sound strange that birds are reptiles, but birds share a com-

mon ancestor with reptiles (millions of years ago) which means that they are all related. This also means that they share some traits that are unique to their group. For example, lizards, birds and other reptiles lay eggs with hard shells.

Both the Whiptail and Anole are common on Bonaire. The Whiptail can easily be seen almost anywhere on the island and they are most active during the daytime, just like us. The males have a beautiful shimmering blue coloration on the tail, legs and sides of the body, while the females are usually more brown with some lighter spots. They can get quite big and reach a length of 40 cm according to some sources. They mostly eat plants and insects but will eat everything they find, even road kill. That is why some call it the Selibon (waste management) of nature. In the Washington Slagbaai National Park and other popular tourist sites where people often have a picnic, the Whiptails can sometimes become very annoying in their search for food. If you want them to leave you alone, don't feed them. This will only attract more lizards. A common behavior that can be observed is that they stand still and wave their foot in the air. This is thought to be a way of saying "I have seen you, don't waste your time trying to catch me." Another common thing that they do is that they have one foot in the air while standing still; this is done to cool down when the ground is very hot. Sometimes they even lift all of their feet into the air at the same time and lie on their belly.

The Anole is a bit harder to see because it spends most of its time up in the trees; it is also most active during the morning and afternoon hours. During the night and brightest part of the day, the Anole usually stays hidden, often in the deep grooves of the Brazil tree (Palu di Brasil). It is well camouflaged and can stay very still which makes it hard to spot, even when it's right in front of your eyes. It has a light yellow to brown coloration with diagonal bands of darker brown colors. The males have a lemon-colored dewlap under the chin which they can stretch out and use to attract females. In Papiamentu the dewlap is called "sambechi" which means "folding pocket knife." The Anole hunts for insects and small spiders that they find in the trees, but they have also been observed in other places where insects can be found, for example among coral rubble. These lizards have even been seen jumping to catch brine flies in the air.

The next time you see one of these beautiful and interesting lizards, remember that **Bonaire is the only place in the world where they live**, and that this is one of many other reasons that makes the nature of Bonaire unique and worth protecting for future generations.

□ *Emil Ren, STINAPA assistant biologist. People with Nature-Photos by Sipke Stapert*

Apologies to Emil for not properly crediting him as author of the previous DYK story on Bonaire vegetation.



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On the Island Since...September 2018 - Nicky Joosten and Antoine Geerman

"I was born on Curacao in 1994, and when I was five days old my mom and I came back to Bonaire where my parents had moved five years earlier. At six weeks I started at crèche Bon Kuido and from there I went to Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador elementary school. In the seventh grade I changed schools and went to San Bernardo school.

I was two when my little brother **Sandro** was born. We've always had a love-hate relationship, but nowadays it's more love, haha! We grew up in Nikiboko. My girlfriends were Dominican, Peruvian and Colombian. We played baseball and had our own dance group and performed at birthday parties. For Karnaval we held our own parade here in Nikiboko.

After elementary school I went to SGB, where I did economics. Basically I skipped school all through my SGB years. I was a terrible teenager! For three years I worked weekends at Mike Gaynor's shop. He was a good guy and he kept me safe. At 17 I went to Holland; I was done with Bonaire and went to live with family in Nijmegen, close to the German border. I started legal assistant training, but I couldn't get used to life in Holland and Nijmegen was like a country town, definitely not the place to be!

I came back to Bonaire where I got my driver's license, and six months later, June 5th, 2012, I left for Holland again. I started in Krimpen aan de IJssel, a municipality close to Rotterdam, but I cried every day for a year. I came too late for my interview at school and wasn't accepted, so I found a job at McDonalds which was a 45-minute commute and my wages didn't even cover the trip. The first couple of years were very hard and I've deleted them completely. The second year in Holland I went back to school which had been my reason to move there in the first place. I did tourism for a year, then secretary training. I figured I could always find work with that diploma.

The second school year I was a trainee at Zadkin College, and from that time on I got back on track. I felt really good, I found friends and every weekend we would go out dancing. February 2015 we were dancing at a club and my girlfriend said, 'There's this guy who wants to meet you.' Reluctantly I started talking to him in Dutch but then he switched to Papiamentu and it went all easy. We kept on talking and when I went with my girlfriends to a friend's house where



Photo: Geerman selfie

Nicky and Antoine in Holland

we used to crash after a night out, he came along. His name was Antoine and he was born in Aruba."

Antoine continues, "I was born in 1992. I had one big sister and I was 16 when my baby sister was born. My childhood was no worries. I was a typical kunuku kid, playing with my cousins in the outback behind my grandmother's house, getting hurt by plants and cacti. However, at school I was bullied a lot. I never knew the reason why my friend and I got bullied, but what happens is, is that you build up anger and become a bully yourself. But growing up you start realizing

"I never knew the reason why my friend and I got bullied, but what happens is, is that you build up anger and become a bully yourself."

there's no need to do it. Then you grow out of it and forget about it. It happened to me in elementary school and in the first year at high school where it was worse because the guys were bigger. Then it stopped because I worked my way out of it. My last three years at Mavo high school were great and I sat with the cool guys.

During my time at Mavo I started going to the Christian Baptism Church. I got baptized and life was all about church and God. It helped me; I had rules and boundaries and I became more respectful, but the way I see it now, it was a little bit of brainwashing. It was too much. I started believing that all the other people would go to hell, and I became very judgmental. But as I matured, I started questioning things and the answers I got didn't make any sense to me. After six years I stopped going to church and I started going out and was having fun, meeting



Greta Kooistra photo

Nicky, baby Ayden and Antoine

girls, all the things I couldn't do when I was in church. I was a late bloomer! At 21 I went to Holland. I was the second person in my family to leave Aruba. I was a pharmacy assistant in Aruba, then I bought my ticket and didn't even tell my parents – I just wanted to go, to explore.

I went to Rotterdam and began my first year of higher vocational education, but soon I found out it was too hard for me, as my Dutch was insufficient. Then I started drawing – something I'd never taken seriously – but I was

executive secretary training. That same year Antoine graduated from graphic school. And I got pregnant. That was last year. We were shocked but very happy! Of course we'd talked about kids, but we'd thought in about 10 years.. that sort of thing!"

"From then on we started planning," *Antoine says*, and he laughs, "Nicky had a new hobby: shopping for the baby. We had our first ultrasound and it appeared that Nicky was already three months pregnant without our knowing!"

perfectly fine. I went to the recovery room while Antoine and the baby went to the ward. Then, all of a sudden, I couldn't feel the right side of my body anymore and my eye was sagging and so was the right corner of my mouth. It took six hours to recover completely. Only then could I see my baby. I had postpartum depression, but we did pack our stuff to come to Bonaire. My dad came to fetch us while my mom and brother prepared everything for our arrival. First we moved in with my parents but now we've got our own place, which is a good thing."

Antoine says, "In the past I worked for two years at Botica del Pueblo in Kaya Grandi in Oranjestad, Aruba. Now I am looking for a similar position on Bonaire. Meanwhile I'm working at a restaurant and also I will be tattooing at Idalia Hair Salon across from Top Supermarket in Playa.

"At the moment," *Nicky says*, "I'm working hard to get over my depression. Of course I want to get a job so Antoine can be more relaxed. I see us both working while Ayden goes to a good crèche and we will have nice weekends, barbecuing on the beach with friends." "For now I have to find my way here," *Antoine says*. "I want to be creative, but I also want to enjoy the beach. Most important thing though is to find a job. Bonaire is not home yet, but it will be." □



Story by Greta Kooistra

"I got my diploma on the 5th of July," *Nicky says*, "and gave birth seven days later on the 12th. In Holland it was the hottest summer in 50 years. Oh my god!"

"The pregnancy wasn't easy," *Antoine explains*, "Nicky lost her grandfather and she had pregnancy diabetes and I had to cope with the hormones. But during that time we talked about either staying in Holland or going back to Aruba or Bonaire. In the end we decided to come here because Nicky has all her family here." "The delivery was very tough," *Nicky relates*. "It took way too long and I wasn't making any progress. Then five doctors came in and told me it wasn't looking good because with every contraction the baby's heartbeat went all the way down. It became an emergency cesarean and within 10 minutes our son **Ayden Presley** was born and he was

MCB Annual Awards



Julie Morgan photo

Bank officials, Managing Director Cherethy Kirindongo (left front) and General Managing Director Leonard Domacassé (right), presented awards to the Stichting Lezen en Schrijven (Reading and Writing Foundation), STINAPA, the Sport Vereniging Real Rincon (Real Rincon Sports Association), and sports champion Davidlee Winklaar in recognition of their contributions to the Bonaire community.

MCB invited the press to their annual merit awards ceremony at the Courtyard Marriott last Wednesday evening. Three non-profit organizations were recognized as well as a special award to kickboxing cham-

pion, David Lee Winklaar. MCB made good use of videos during the press conference:

The press enjoyed a fine meal and beverages as part of the evening. □ L./G.D.

Royal Visit

It was a hectic four-day, intensive and inspiring working visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of The Netherlands with inspiring results. During that time the Princess immersed herself in the nature, people and culture of Bonaire. High spots were STINAPA events like Washington Park visits, Junior Rangers debates, tours, DCNA presentations, visits to Kolegio Strea Briante school and Hófi Kultural Bonaire.



Julie Morgan photo

“Cultura” with the Princess

Organizer/host Arjen deWolff gave special recognition to “Elsmarie Beukenboom, Paul Hoetjes, Julia Marisol Martinus, Tadzio Bervoets for their wisdom and dedication to the events. Also thank yous to Ivan Rijna, Bonnie Roefs and all STINAPA Bonaire Junior Rangers, for the promise of future you delivered. Plus kudos to Tracy Marie Jenkins-Wanga, and Monalisa Domacasse, and Marcel van der Kamp, and all volunteers; also Fary Heiligers, Cora Knopper, Sherman Blanken, Nathalie, Caroll-Ann Soliano, Lucia Beck, Tico Wanga, Rosalinde, Shurandy Thode.

organized so much, guided and taught us so much.

Not to forget the press, journalists from near and far, for helping us tell and show the story. Bge BK. Fittipaldi Pietersz. Casper Douma. Rimaz Ibuya. Sylvia Bonaire. Laura DeSalvo. Aimed F Ayubi.

Invaluable was the support from the Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland - KPCN, Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland and Communicatie Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire and Flamingo International Airport, Dienst Koninklijk Huis, Dienst Koninklijke en Diplomatieke Beveiliging, Rijksvoorlichtingsdienst, all arranged so much,

And of course. All at STINAPA. All at DCNA. Titia Borm, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Emeray Martha-Neuman, Olivier Kramer, Tineke Van Bussel, Kerenza Rannou. On behalf of Leo Martijn, our BNMP manager, and Abitu, our WSNP manager, Anouschka Van De Ven, our ECU manager, and Caren Eckrich, our chief-biologist, and Desiree Croes, NME coordinator,” and the many others who helped make for a perfect four days. □ G.D.

Kaya America 14 / Kaya America 8



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Making Bonaire "Accessible"



Kas Flamboyan Entrance

MORE THAN A HOSPICE

While I write this story I am all alone in the house. As a matter of fact, I have been alone in the house for almost three weeks now and it feels funny and strange.

A wonderful opportunity came upon our path and we took the chance right away.

After eight years of non-stop, intensive caring for 24 hours a day, I could take a break and leave all the caring in other hands. My husband is enjoying a stay in the hospice Kas Flamboyan. A large group of dedicated volunteers here take very good care of their guests who get respite-care. And that is why I may enjoy these days of grace.

Kas Flamboyan is a home where people can spend their last days. But since there is a great need for respite-care, they have also opened their doors for persons who need this special kind of care. For the caregivers at home this means a lot. They care so much and so long and need a break very much. During this break they can recharge, rest, enjoy some R&R and get strong again to take care of their loved one as soon as they return home.

At Kas Flamboyan the guests get all the attention they need and more. They get comforted, pampered and loved, which is also needed very much. So both patient and the family get all the attention and rest they need. And it may seem strange, but being alone, without having to provide care is strange. You constantly have the feeling that you MUST do something. Which, of course, you don't. Now, after almost three weeks I am getting used to it.

Everybody who works at Kas Flamboyan is a volunteer. They work two volunteers per shift in four-hour shifts, three shifts per day. At night a paid nurse works that shift.

The home-care organizations come in and provide all the medical care. There is



Kas Flamboyan interior room

a company that comes in and does the cleaning. The hospital kitchen provides the hot meals. So every angle is covered. The rooms and bathrooms are spacious, very well equipped and clean. There are four rooms available. The living room and porch are very cozy and inviting.

Every admission is applied for at the ZVK by your House Doctor. As soon as the admission is granted the family is invited for an intake. This is done by the managing director. In this case the director is the founder of this hospice. And after the intake you get to know if your stay is approved. And in our case, it was. This is such a relief. One cannot begin to imagine how heavy the load of a home-care-giver is. They are the ones who are giving their all 24 hours a day. We thank all those wonderful persons that are there for their clients and that offer their time, attention, comfort and love.

There will be an open house on a regular basis. I hope there will be a lot of visitors who are willing to offer their time because Kas Flamboyan needs volunteers to be able to keep on giving this special kind of care. Info: Kas Flamboyan, Kaya Guarana 11 Director Mrs. Tanja Kokelkoren, 785-2245; info@kas-flamboyan.com Web: www.kas-flamboyan.com

Story and photos by Ria Evers-Dokter



EZ Air Arrives!

Julie Morgan photos



EZ Air pilots, staff and ground crew for the first landing at Flamingo Field



EZ Air pilots, Jose Zanbrano and Timothy Coesura flew the Beechcraft from

Enthusiastic excitement was the order of the day with the first arrival of EZ Air's posh Beechcraft T-1900 commuter aircraft at Flamingo Airport. Both of the airlines' planes are in the islands and scheduled flights will begin this week. The planes will fly among the

ABC Islands easing the bottleneck caused by InselAir's failures

The EZ team which flew the planes from the US included **Aico Polunius, Franklin Antoin, EZ Air CEO René Winkel, Delbert Rosaria and Danielson Antoin.** □ *G.D.*

Kroes Art at the Mall



It's called "Returning Fishes" by Anna-Marie Kroes and it hangs in the kitchen of Rumba Café Bonaire. Kroes says, "It's about the people who come to Bonaire, fall in love with the island and want to keep coming back, like the owners of Rumba Café." Kroes lived on Bonaire from 1993 to 2001 and created hundreds of paintings of the island, above and below the water as well as the Birthday Calendar for the Animal Shelter. She had an art exhibit, "I Left my Heart on Bonaire," in 2010 at the now-defunct Kas di Arte. □ *Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo*

A Garden? Just Do It

PLANT ALLERGIES AND HAY FEVER



Banana and Pumpkin flowers



Hay fever causing grasses

I have an uncomfortable time these days. I was feeling bad, tired, itching in my throat and ears, running nose, a lot of sneezing, and less interest in doing anything. I was wondering what was going on with me. The first time in my life I was experiencing this strange thing, at one moment I was total knocked out, then after a while I started to feel better. In the end I went to my doctor. As soon as she saw me, she knew what I had, **hay fever**. She said that these days a lot of people are suffering from this. I was not the only one walking around feeling like a zombie. I was not going to die right now. I got some medicine. With the first tablet I felt better. The doctor explained that after so much rain plants are full of flowers and pollen. Now that it is dry and windy this pollen is very concentrated in the air and some of us are or can become allergic to it. Also humans can become allergic and sick from certain plants. This gave me something to study and to write about it.

There are thousands of plant species that can produce skin or other allergic reactions. For gardeners it's very important to know more about this subject. Some people know that they are allergic to certain plants, but most gardeners do not recognize the allergy symptoms which can suddenly start up, even though it's never happened before in all their years in the garden. Most general symptoms are nasal congestion; sinus headaches; sneezing; hives; eczema; skin itching and inflammation as well as skin rashes.

Here are some plants growing on Bonaire that are well known allergens: sunflowers; cashew nut; mango, ginkgo bilboa, watermelon, oleander from which severe dermatitis can occur if crushed leaves come in contact with the skin of a sensitized person. This term **Anaphylaxis** is the name for *severe* life-threatening allergic reactions.

What most surprised me was the information about the banana plant. The protein in banana is similar to that in some other fruits. If you are allergic to bananas, you may also react to avocado, kiwi, chestnut, tomato, bell peppers, olive, potatoes or custard apple.

A person can suffer immediate allergic symptoms in the lips, mouth and throat when they eat certain kinds of raw fruit or raw vegetables. This is known as **pollen-food syndrome**. Banana is one of the foods that can cause this problem. Pollen-food syndrome usually occurs in people who are already allergic to pollens and suffer from hay fever, although the symptoms due to hay fever can be mild.

If you are allergic to bananas you should avoid them completely. Be careful of fruit salads and fruit drinks and anywhere else where banana might be an unexpected ingredient. Also in medicine with banana flavoring (essence) you can suffer the allergic reactions within one hour. Be careful too of care products such as shampoos and body lotions. Always read the ingredient lists.

Some people with banana allergy can

Dance & More at Taste of Bonaire



Dance & More studio's performance at the last Taste of Bonaire was a treat for viewers. The show was opened by the 4-8-year-old children's dance group, followed by the teenage group, aged 9-13 years old. Dance & More is at Kaya Neerlandia 21C. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

tolerate cooked bananas because many of the proteins that cause a reaction are deactivated by heat and that is most likely in those with pollen-food syndrome.

Hay fever is a well known allergy problem also known as **Plant Dermatitis**.

The most important allergenic plants are grasses which are members of the largest family of wind-pollinated plants. The most pollination occurs on Bonaire during dry days after the rainy season. And when there was a good rain there will be a lot of plants and all type of grasses here producing pollen.

Grass pollen is the primary cause of hay fever attacks or seasonal allergic rhinitis. There are in fact always the same three phases of nature pollination pattern: trees, grasses, then weeds.

What happens to us during nature pollination? During the fertilization process of these plants, lightweight airborne pollens are released and transmitted by wind to other plants. When these generally harmless substances are inhaled by those who suffer from seasonal allergic rhinitis, the body may experience an "overreaction" of the immune system. Once the body recognizes the pollen, the immune system goes to work, causing the tell-tale outward symptoms, including sneezing, congestion, runny nose, watery eyes, and itching in the eyes, nose and throat, difficulty breathing and hacking cough. The offending grasses primarily grow everywhere, are very light and are blown for miles, so you do not

have to be close to them. Peak-pollen release is during early to mid-morning hours.

To minimize suffering during grass pollen season, follow these tips:

- Keep grass short, but have someone else do the mowing. If you cannot avoid yard work, wear a mask as you mow.
- Don't hang clothes outside to dry. Pollen bonds to fabric.
- Stay indoors in the early morning hours until 10am when pollen counts are highest. Save outdoor activities for late afternoon or after a heavy rain.
- Shower and shampoo frequently to wash pollen out of your hair.
- Keep your home and car windows closed to prevent airborne pollens from coming inside.
- Certain foods: if you are allergic to grasses, your symptoms are more likely to be triggered by particular fruits and vegetables that have proteins like those in pollen. Fresh celery, melons, peaches, oranges, eggplant and tomatoes may give you an itchy feeling in your mouth.

If grasses in your yard are causing your symptoms, remove them. Replace them with other grasses or plants that don't flower. Don't wait until grasses flower. Chop them off.

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



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WEEKENDS ONLY...

Friday	6-10 PM
Saturday	6-10 PM
Sunday	12-2 & 6-10 PM

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 La- goen 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 - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room 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 Daisycoffe@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 ■

Day	Date	Cruise ship	Time	Pier	Cap
Monday	12/10/2018	MSY Wind Star	1600	N.pier	148 Wind star
Monday	12/10/2018	Norwegian Dawn	0700-1400	S.pier	2340 Norwegian
Tuesday	12/11/2018	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744 Pullman
Wednesday	12/12/2018	Navigator of the Seas	0700-2000	S.pier	3114 RCC L
Thursday	12/13/2018	Freedom of the Seas	0700-1800	S.pier	3782 RCC L
Friday	12/14/2018	Sea Cloud II	0800-2200	N.pier	96 Sea Cloud
Saturday	12/15/2018	Serenade of the Seas	0800-1800	S.pier	2490 RCC L
Monday	12/17/2018	Aida Perla	0700-1800	S.pier	3286 Aida
Tuesday	12/18/2018	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	N.pier	2500 TUI
Tuesday	12/18/2018	Celebrity Reflection	0700-1500	S.pier	2858 CEL
Thursday	12/20/2018	TUI Explorer 1	0700-1400	N.pier	1924 TUI
Friday	12/21/2018	Zuiderdam	0800-1800	N.pier	2650 HAL
Sunday	12/23/2018	Crown Princess	1200-1900	N.pier	3150 Princess

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**

— **The paintings of Luciano Tortorici are on display again at Bistro di Paris**

—**Yana's Fine Art Exhibition at Bon Bida Spa and Gym**
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 all cruise ship days, 9am – 3pm. Free entrance ■

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 14 —Christmas Kids Disco at Industry of Activity (Kaya Neerlandia 21) 6:30-9:30 pm Call 782-6725 for more info.

Saturday, Dec. 15—Adi Figueroa nativity Crib Pesebre Magiko debut at Kaya Piedra Presioso, open until January 6.

Sunday, Dec. 16 —End of Year Sailing Race featuring Windsurf, Optimist, Sunfish at *Kas di Regatta*. Registration 9 am, \$10.

—**Military Open Day at the Town Pier.** Everyone is welcome to take a look at the life of a soldier, both on land and on board two naval ships support vessels, *Zr.Ms. Pelikaan* and the new station ship *Zr. Ms. Zeeland*.

Saturday, Dec. 22—Christmas Shopping Night in downtown Kralendijk Beginning 6 pm

Thursday, Dec 27 —Holiday Cleanup Dive at Yellow Submarine sponsored by Dive Friends/Project Aware.

—**Full Moon Lagadishi Trail Walk**, Washington Slagbaai National Park, \$10

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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 10	15:01 0.94 ft					6:45	18:11	
Tue 11		00:12 -0.19 ft	15:40 0.89 ft			6:46	18:11	
Wed 12		00:40 -0.17 ft	07:59 0.44 ft	10:00 0.44 ft	16:17 0.83 ft	6:46	18:12	
Thu 13		01:03 -0.15 ft	07:51 0.49 ft	11:34 0.44 ft	16:54 0.76 ft	6:47	18:12	
Fri 14		01:25 -0.13 ft	07:59 0.55 ft	12:52 0.43 ft	17:33 0.68 ft	6:47	18:13	
Sat 15	First Quarter	01:43 -0.10 ft	08:14 0.62 ft	14:05 0.39 ft	18:12 0.59 ft	6:48	18:13	
Sun 16		02:01 -0.07 ft	08:34 0.70 ft	15:17 0.33 ft	18:55 0.48 ft	6:49	18:13	
Mon 17		02:18 -0.04 ft	08:58 0.79 ft	16:29 0.26 ft	19:44 0.37 ft	6:49	18:14	
Tue 18		02:34 -0.02 ft	09:27 0.89 ft	17:39 0.17 ft	20:41 0.26 ft	6:50	18:14	
Wed 19		02:52 -0.00 ft	10:00 0.98 ft	18:45 0.07 ft	21:53 0.17 ft	6:50	18:15	
Thu 20		03:13 0.01 ft	10:39 1.06 ft	19:45 -0.03 ft	23:22 0.10 ft	6:51	18:15	
Fri 21	Solstice	03:36 0.03 ft	11:22 1.12 ft	20:39 -0.12 ft		6:51	18:16	
Sat 22		01:08 0.08 ft	04:05 0.06 ft	12:10 1.16 ft	21:26 -0.19 ft	Full Moon	6:52	18:16
Sun 23		02:58 0.11 ft	04:44 0.10 ft	13:01 1.17 ft	22:10 -0.25 ft		6:52	18:17
Mon 24		04:08 0.17 ft	06:09 0.17 ft	13:55 1.15 ft	22:51 -0.30 ft		6:53	18:17
Tue 25		04:49 0.27 ft	07:58 0.23 ft	14:50 1.10 ft	23:30 -0.32 ft		6:53	18:18

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The Bonaire Reporter: George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;
Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor in Chief

Address: Kaya Grandi 89, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available on-line on Facebook® and the Internet Web at: www.bonairereporter.com

Managing Editor: Julie Morgan; **Reporters:** Angliet Nature Lover, James Albury, Ria Evers-Dokter, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden-Disko, Ruud & Oda Peters, Dean Regas, Emil Ren, Laurie Smith, Michael Thiessen,

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Air-line, Ava Rose Wuyts (Assistant)

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
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SandDollar Bonaire
CONDOMINIUMS

Sand Dollar is accepting applications for the following job opportunity:
CONDO PROPERTY MANAGER

The Condo Manager works closely with the hotel manager and will oversee the maintenance and repair of the commonly owned buildings, property and fleet; work with owners to coordinate and assist with unit renovations, ensure all IT and operational equipment are in good working order and supervise approximately 10 staff. We are looking for the right candidate with the following education and skills:

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- Good working knowledge of ICT and Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, etc.)
- Goal oriented, self-driven team player
- Good, accurate verbal and written communication skills
- Fluent in English and Dutch

Salary Range: \$35,000 - \$42,000 USD

For more information or to apply for the position, please send a cover letter with your curriculum vitae in English to board@sanddollarbonaire.com by December 21, 2018

Shelter News Pet Of The Week



Fireworks season is only a couple of weeks away and pet owners need to start thinking about the stress it can cause dogs and cats. You may want to obtain some calming aids such as **Rescue Remedy** which will be available soon at the Shelter, pet store and other locations. If your pet is extremely sensitive to fireworks or other loud noises, you may also want to consult with a veterinarian about **prescription tranquilizers** for your dog or cat. Other than the natural Rescue Remedy, **DO NOT** give your cat or dog any drug that has not been specifically prescribed for your pet by a veterinarian. You could cause them serious harm or even death.



Due to their fright and stress, many pets go missing during that time. Animal Shelter Bonaire, both Bonaire's veterinarians and all the local animal welfare groups recommend that all pets be **micro-chipped** as an aid to reunite with their owners if they become lost. Please have your pet microchipped as soon as possible before fireworks season begins. If your pet is already microchipped please be sure their chip number is registered with the island veterinarians and the

Shelter so we can locate owners of dogs/cats that are found.

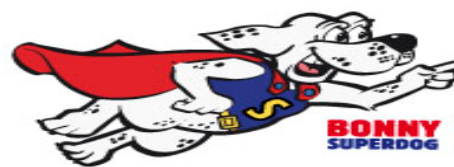
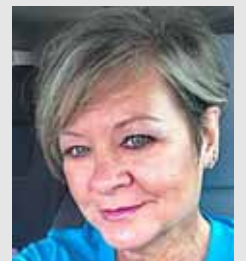
Recently Animal Shelter Bonaire has had an increase in the number of dogs being surrendered for various reasons. As a result, our quarantine area is often totally full. To explain, when an animal arrives at the Shelter, it is placed in our quarantine area where it stays for evaluation of health, behavior, parasite treatment, vaccinations, etc. There are some days when the Shelter quarantine facilities are totally full and we have no room to take in an animal. The staff member on duty will explain this and take the person's name and phone number and contact them as soon as space is available, usually within a few days. On those days we are full, the drop off cage may also be locked because we have no space. In that event, the person trying to drop off an animal should call the Shelter and make an appointment to bring the animal on another day or to find out when the *kouchi* will be open again. Recently, some people are leaving their animals tied to the Shelter fence or leaving them in the parking lot...This is not good for the mental or physical health of the dog. If you need to surrender an animal, **PLEASE** call the Shelter first to see if there is room and to make an appointment to bring your animal to us.

□ Jane Disko-Madden

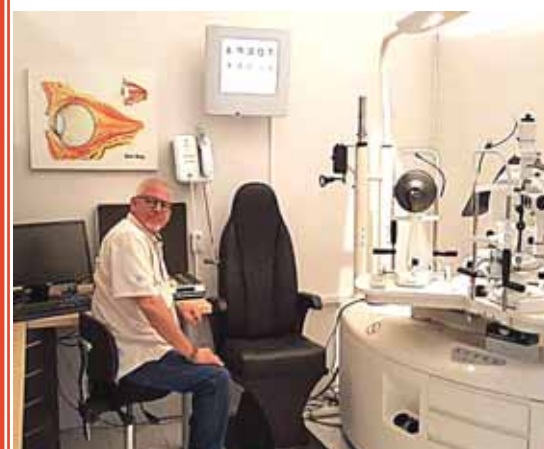


Story by Lucky, photo by Laurie Smith

Hello everyone! My name is Lucky. I am a social, playful girl who loves scratching posts, playing with string toys and running after balls. I have been at the Shelter since I was just four weeks old. Even though I am nine months old now, I am still pretty small. I love when people come to visit the Shelter because I love to sit on their laps and give lots of lovin'. The volunteers here like me too and can't figure out why it's taking me so long to find a home. But I'll hold out for my special someone! I've been told I'm a wonderful companion - after all, I love to be petted and I've got a lot of love to give, so come meet me today at Animal Shelter Bonaire. Monday-Friday 9 am-12 noon, and 3-5 pm. Saturdays 9 am-3 pm nonstop. □



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WINTER AND SUMMER STARS AT THE SAME TIME

With sunset coming earlier in the Sky Park, you can see the stars earlier at night. If you keep watching you will see both the stars of summer and the constellations of winter. In the west, the stars that lit up our summer vacation, the **Summer Triangle**, are heading out for the season. While in the east, the stars of winter will start poking their heads above the horizon. And one guy's wearing a snazzy belt. As darkness falls, **Mars**, who's been hanging around since summer, will greet you. But we'd still like you to stay up a little later so you can see both the stars of summer and the constellations of winter.

Wait until it's fully dark, after 9 pm, and you will see some lovely new stars rising. And after 10 pm the stars of winter really shine. You'll see the summer triangle stars in the western sky sinking in order of brightness, **Vega**, **Altair**, and **Deneb**. And you'll still see them in this part of the sky for a few more weeks. Vega is part of the Constellation **Lyra the Harp**... which looks like a little parallelogram attached to Vega. Altair is part of the eagle constellation named **Aquila**... which looks like a diamond shape. Deneb is the tail of **Cygnus the Swan**... which some people also call the **Northern Cross**. Each night these stars will set earlier and earlier but they will linger in the evening skies through December.

Now face east to preview the stars of winter. Here you'll find six of the 20 brightest stars in the sky and some of the most distinct and recognizable constellations. Two stars of similar brightness are low in the northeast. You might call them... twins... they're **Pollux** and **Castor**, stars that mark the heads of the celestial **Gemini twins**. Up higher in the east you'll spot bright, white **Capella**. This is the brightest star in the constellation

Orion the Hunter



Auriga the Charioteer. Over to the right of Capella is a star with an orange tint embedded in a v-shape of fainter stars. This is the bull's eye of **Taurus the Bull** - a star called **Aldebaran**. Then zoom into the real sign of the season, the belted one, **Orion the Hunter**. He's low in the east. Orion is easy to find, with his distinctive three stars in a row just above the cactus tops.

The belt stars bear the Arabic names, **Alnitak**, **Alnilam**, and **Mintaka**. The belt is definitely cool, but the brighter stars in Orion are great to check out too. The bluer star to the right is called **Rigel**. That marks the left foot of the mighty Orion. Rigel is one of the absolute brightest stars around. It's really far away, as stars go, at almost 800 light years from us. Then, the star in Orion that is decidedly redder, is up and to the left of the belt. This is **Betelgeuse**, a red supergiant star, about 640 light years away. It's easy to remember because it just so happens to mark Orion's armpit. Betelgeuse is one of the largest stars in the galaxy. If it took the place of our **Sun**, Betelgeuse would extend out beyond the orbit of Mars. That means the **Earth** would orbit inside of it! So enjoy the early stargazing this week and look for Mars popping out just after sunset, half-way up in the southern sky.

Then stay up after 10pm to see the summer triangle setting in the west while Orion, Gemini, Auriga, and Taurus rise in the east. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

December 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Get back down to earth and to basics. Your reputation may be at stake if you partake in gossip. Don't let your emotions interfere with completing your chores. Offer love and affection instead of conflict and rejection. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Unexpected bills will be impossible for you to pay. Take time to relax. Stress and pressure at home may have worn you ragged. Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind. You will be able to catch up on overdue paper work. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Get back to the comforts of cottage or home. If you can mix business with pleasure much can be accomplished. Anger could lead to problems. Don't be too hard on yourself. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Social activities that involve the whole family will be enjoyable. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this month. Don't allow personal problems to conflict with professional duties. Take a second look; difficulties with appliances, water, or electricity in your home may be evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Changes in your home will be positive. Property investments should payoff. You can make headway in the workforce if you put your mind to it. Join groups of a humanitarian nature. You could do extremely well in competitive sports events. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. Direct your energy into physical exertion. Residential moves will be favorable. Talk to employers in order to promote your career objectives. Resist secret affairs that could be detrimental to your reputation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Dead end projects could plague you. You may

find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. Ask those in key positions to help you overcome the delays and to support your concerns in order to move on. Don't overspend to impress others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your diplomatic nature will help you in straightening out unsavory situations. Younger relatives may seek your advice. You have been going through a period of change that has caused problems for you with your loved ones. Set a limit, or you'll wind up on a tight budget. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Opportunities will develop through those you encounter while attending organizational events. You can sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. Visitors may be likely to drop by. Find out all the facts before you jump to conclusions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can make profitable investments if you purchase an art object for your home. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Call a good friend. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You could find yourself caught in a one sided relationship. Don't let others take advantage of your good nature. Take time to do something nice for yourself. Put your energy into self-improvement programs that promise to make you into a better you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Stick to doing things that will make you a better person both physically and mentally.

Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Think hard before going into business with friends or family. Your emotions have been pulled out of shape and you need to do a little backtracking. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. □ *Michael Thiessen*

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