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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Real Madrid clinic
Sponge relocation
World Ranger Day



Miss Tourism candidates: L - R Lorienny Mercera, Rayshantaly Coffie, Katherine Montero and Ewellin Lambert. Photos and story: Julie Morgan

Taste of Bonaire focuses on recycling

Tourism Corporation of Bonaire (TCB) and Selibon NV focused on recycling at the Taste of Bonaire with "Recycle and Summer" on Saturday August 3rd.

Locals and tourists flooded Wilhelmina Park. They lined up at the many food booths to taste the locally unique flavors of Bonaire.

This month's Taste was notably eco-friendly. Most all vendors used recyclable or eco-friendly items to dispense the food and drinks.

Bonaire plans to be completely free of single use plastic by 2021. Selibon and other government agencies are working hard to make the transition.

Claris Trinidad of Selibon said they are using this event to let everyone know that

they can't put all their trash in the blue and green Kliko bins. The items must be separated.

"We want to show people how to do that," Claris said.

The recycle theme was evident throughout the evening. Guests could purchase items including jewelry, handbags and vases made of newsprint or paper.

On the stage, musical groups Foyan Boyz and Jeandy-ann Davelaar entertained with their own 'taste' of music. TCB featured a skit written by Seani Bernardino with the players depicting plastic, aluminum, cardboard and glass. In the skit, Mother Nature and Selibon talk with the recyclable players about how they are negatively affecting the earth and how this can be prevented through recycling.

Miss Tourism candidates modeled costumes made of materials we should all be recycling. Their costumes drove home the point that all materials can be used again and not just thrown in the trash.

The girls designed and made the items themselves with the help of their mothers or friends. Candidate Rayshantaly Coffie's skirt, top and tray with goblets were constructed of newspaper. Lorienny Mercer

used aluminum cans in her design of a skirt, top, hat, earrings and handbag. Ewellin Lambert used glass bottles, jars and mirrors for her unique outfit complete with hat, top, skirt and bag. Katherine Montero designed and wore a long dress with a flowing train and hat made of black trash bags and plastic forks. Candidate Shanyviene Seraus was unavailable.

The candidates' costumes were extreme and fun and not really wearable. But manufacturers today sell many clothing items of recyclables. Clothes are being made from water bottles that are chipped, melted and spun into yarn. Companies we all know, like Adidas, H&M and Patagonia, offer these clothes for sale.

Recycled cans live again as a new can or used to make airplane parts, building facades and bicycles. Newspapers, magazines and cardboard boxes return as office paper, pizza boxes, egg cartons and more.

Everything old is new again. Recycling could help save our oceans and planet. Recycle, it's your future.



Engracia "Gacha" Coffie-Piard of Rincon displays a necklace made of newspaper. The contemporary items are available for sale by contacting her 717-6471.



Selibon will dedicate the month of September to cleaning up Bonaire in honor of World Cleanup Day on September 21.

Executive council takes measures to ensure safety of fuel storage

The new Executive Council has ordered urgent measures to meet mandated fire safety requirements at the fuel/kerosene storage facilities at Flamingo International Airport. Additional equipment will be purchased for the Dutch Caribbean Fire Department, and structural improvements will be made to the facilities themselves.

A major safety upgrade, to be completed by mid-September, was the goal stipulated in a 2018 agreement made with the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT). Because that goal has not been met, ILT could be forced to impose restrictions on airport operations, according to deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe. He also emphasized that the Executive Council "find it irresponsible to make concessions to safety."

The safety improvements were supposed to be carried out by the owner of the facility, Oil Trading Bonaire NV. Now the Council has asked the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to make available an experienced project leader for the job, which is expected to take "4 to 6 months."

Deputy Tjin Asjoe also emphasised that the immediate improvements "Do not have to last for 20 years." The entire facility is scheduled for replacement in two years.

Government press release



► **J.G. (Jos) Hillen was appointed as interim director of government-owned Oil Trading Bonaire (OTB)** for a maximum period of six months by the Executive Council, July 24. Hillen's task is to prepare OTB for its role in the process of achieving a sustainable, safe and efficient fuel supply. Since July 1, Hillen has also been interim director of Bonaire International Airport.

The Executive Council has been looking for suitable candidates to fill the vacancies left open in the OTB Supervisory Board (SB). It will be up to the Supervisory Board to recruit a permanent director for OTB.

► **Exorbitantly high rates from banks inhibit business between the Caribbean and European Netherlands.** The Ministry of Finance has announced that they will consult with the public bodies and other stakeholders on the islands. They will then draft a proposal to remove the high barriers to banking transactions between the Caribbean and European Netherlands before the end of the year. One possibility that is being seriously considered is the establishment of a BES bank.



► **American Airlines flights will be reduced for September.** The week of September 2 - 7 the flights will be on Monday and Saturday. September 14 - 28 there will be one flight a week on Saturday. Then in October the flights will go back to four flights a week. Currently American Airlines has four direct flights a week to Bonaire from Miami on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

► **Fishermen saved after 18 days at sea** Mid-July the Coast Guard patrol plane saw a small fishing vessel with an improvised sail, with two people on board desperately waving. The Dash 8 was about 120 nautical miles north of Aruba. The Rescue & Coordination Center (RCC) of the coastguard on Curaçao immediately asked the station ship of the Royal Netherlands Navy, Zr. MS. Groningen, to send their helicopter to hoist the two people from their boat. In the meantime, the RCC asked the ship, S / V Tiarra, that was close by to provide any assistance needed. The police in Aruba were informed of the arrival of the station ship's helicopter and contacted the ambulance service and hospital.

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Vote for Bonaire in the 2019 Dive Travel Awards.

Bonaire is in the top 25 of 78 destinations in the 2019 Dive Travel Awards. TCB encourages everyone to vote for Bonaire. The voting will remain open until October 31st, 2019. The overall winners will be announced at this year's DEMA show, held between November 13-16 in Orlando, Florida. <http://divemagazine.co.uk/travel/8594-dive-travel-awards-2019-the-vote-is-open>

► **Coral spawning.** Divers might see elkhorn, staghorn and pillar coral spawning this month. Carmabi predicts a high likelihood of:

- elkhorn coral spawning anywhere from July 28 to August 15: 9:10-10:10pm
- staghorn coral spawning August 17 to 19: 9:10-10:10 pm
- pillar coral spawning August 18 to 20: 8:35-9:35 pm

You can download the Carmabi Spawning 2019 predictions for the Southern Caribbean from: <http://www.researchstationcarmabi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SPAWNING-PREDICTIONS-2019-Carmabi.pdf>



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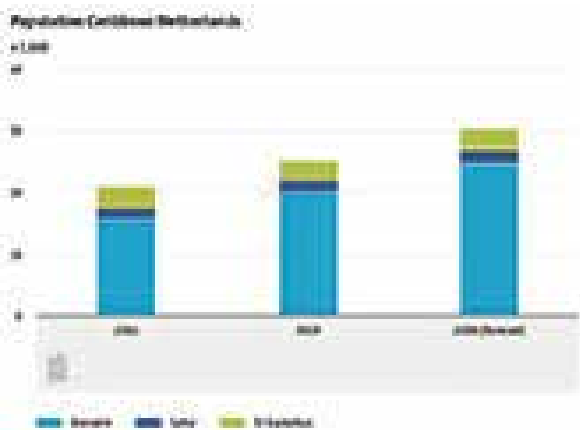
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Caribbean Netherlands Population in 2030 grows larger and grayer

The population of the Dutch Caribbean is expected to grow from 25 thousand now to 30 thousand in 2030. The number of older residents in particular will increase according to the population forecast by Statistics Netherlands (CBS).



Population on Bonaire is growing the most

Since the islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius became special Dutch municipalities on 10 October 2010, their population has increased from 21 thousand to 25 thousand. This growth is almost entirely on Bonaire. The population of St. Eustatius shrunk from 3.6 thousand to 3.1 thousand people, that of Saba increased slightly from 1.8 thousand to 1.9 thousand. According to the forecast, the population of all three islands will increase in the coming years. For Bonaire a population of just under 25 thousand is expected in 2030, for Sint Eustatius 3.4 million and for Saba just under 2.3 thousand.

At the beginning of 2011, 74 [per cent] residents of the Dutch Caribbean lived on Bonaire. In 2030 this is expected to rise to 81 per cent.

Population growth mainly due to migration

Foreign migration contributes more to population growth in the Caribbean Netherlands than natural growth (the balance of birth and death). Since 2011, over 1.9 thousand immigrants have been coming to the islands every year, including more than five hundred from the European Netherlands. Almost 1.6 thousand emigrants left every year. The number of births since 2011 has been over two hundred per year and the number of deaths over 100.

The population on the islands is aging

The Caribbean Netherlands has fewer elderly people compared to the European Netherlands. In 2019, just under 13 per cent of the inhabitants will be 65 or older, compared to 19 percent in the European Netherlands. The number of elderly people has risen since 2011 and this trend is expected to continue. The forecast predicts that by 2030 20 percent of the population will be over 65.

More European Dutch on the islands

Since the beginning of 2011, the number of inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands born in the European Netherlands has risen from 1.9 thousand to 3.3 thousand. The forecast predicts a further increase to 4.6 thousand people in 2030. Immigrants from the European Netherlands have a clear preference for Bonaire: nine out of 10 settle there. For immigrants from outside the European and Caribbean Netherlands, that is six out of 10.

On August 1, 2019 Bonaire's new traffic ordinance came into effect.

► **The Bonaire island government (OLB) has launched a website explaining the new laws** in four languages: Papiamentu, Dutch, Spanish and English. The English site is at: <https://www.verkeerswetbonaire.org/?lang=en>.

The website explains five rules the police will be checking: 1. wearing seat belts; 2. NOT holding a mobile phone when you are behind the wheel; 3. NOT driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; 4. placing children up to three years of age in a special child seat, and 5. wearing a helmet when riding scooters, motorbikes and quads.

During the transition period from August 1 up to and including October 1, 2019 no fines will be issued or imposed, but checks will be made and warnings will be given regarding these five rules.

The law contains more articles than the above-mentioned five that will gradually come into effect.

No waiting list for MRIs

► **BES Health Insurance Office (ZVK) is flying Bonaireans who need MRI scans to Clínica Iberoamérica in Baranquilla, Colombia.**

For the flights, the ZVK has chartered aircraft for 20-22 passengers from Sarpa, an Air Charter and Air Ambulance operator based in Bogotá. The flight takes approximately one hour and 40 minutes. Sarpa has a nurse on board and a ZVK employee flies with him for practical guidance.

The entire trip for an MRI scan takes approximately 30 hours (departure 9:00 am, return 2:30 pm the following afternoon). The patients spend the night in a hotel

Flotsam & Jetsam continued on page 4

FOR SALE Perla Boneriano - Villa Makoshi Spacious Ground Floor Apartment



- Living area: approx. 125 m2 / 1345 sq. ft.
- Wheelchair accessible, designated parking
- 2 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms / storage / rinse tank
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- Virtual 3D tour : tinyurl.com/yyc2mped

Listed for \$269,000 US Dollar



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Letters and Opinions

A cruel trap

Dear Sirs,

While diving on some of the southern sites I have noticed the growth of algae on the sand in water to a depth of about 25 feet. This has increased significantly over the past several years and is starting to cover some of the shallower coral. A green discoloration of the water can be seen from the shore. The algal growth seems to be centered around the salt pier. The beauty of the water is a major attraction of the island and everything must be done to protect it. Has this algal growth been studied and is anything being done to understand its cause and prevent its spread?

Kind regards, *Lee Letwin*

Editor's note: STINAPA will address the algae problem in their next "Did You Know" column in the August 19 issue. Thank you for your question.

Dear Members of the Press,

Just before the summer recess, State Secretary Van Ark informed the Second Chamber about the progress of the fight against poverty on the BES islands. Mrs. Van Ark provided interesting figures that have been underexposed in the press so far. In the attached article I conclude on the basis of the figures that working minima have not made any progress with the measures of 2018. Sincerely, *Wietze Koopman*

Minimum wages not working: still poor in 2019.

On 27 June the State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment sent Tamara van Ark a letter with the Progress report on the benchmark for the social security of the Caribbean Netherlands to the Lower House. That letter sketches a rosy picture of the progress of the package of measures announced in 2018 to combat poverty. The first effects of these measures are now visible, but they are less rosy than the State Secretary outlines.

The figures in the appendix to this Progress Report show that people on Bonaire with a minimum wage did not make any progress in 2019. The minimum cost of living for a single person increased by \$71 in 2019. The minimum wage increased by \$69 after the government's policy measures, but on balance [the income of] this working single person even fell by \$2. A couple with a child, one of whom works, saw the costs rise by \$98 and the income (minimum wage + child benefit) by \$91. Despite the policy-based increase of the minimum wage by 5% on top of the inflation correction, people with a minimum wage did not improve. There are two reasons for this. The calculation for a working single person makes this clear.

1. The first cause is the large difference between the minimum necessary costs of living and the minimum wage. On a minimum wage of \$825, 3.5% inflation correction provides an amount of nearly \$29 extra income. But with an inflation rate of 3.5%, the set amount of \$1,350 in living costs for a working single person increases by more than \$47. Because the cost of living is much higher than the minimum wage, poverty rises if wages increase by no more than the inflation correction. Bonaire has experienced that since 2011.

2. The second reason is that the price increase of the above-mentioned costs for minimums in 2019 is greater than the increase in the CPI (consumer price index). The fixed expenses (no less than 72% of the budget of a single person) experienced a much higher price increase than the CPI. As a result, the cost of living for a single person went up by 24 more than could be expected on the basis of the CPI figure.

The policy increase of the minimum wage by 5% earned the single minimum wage earner \$40 in extra income. He then lost \$18 to cause # 1, and 24 to cause # 2. Count out your winnings ... Fooled! *By Wietze Koopman.*

I write this article in a personal capacity and not as a representative of an organization. I am a former tax inspector and have been living on Bonaire since 2003. After the political changes, I became interested in the consequences of Dutch policy for the people of Bonaire. I previously wrote about the consequences of the new tax and premium system. In the coming months I will pay more attention to the progress of the fight against poverty.



On July 17, mid-afternoon, in the parched, rugged hills 300 meters northwest of 1000 Steps, I came across something cruel. I hope it was an unusual discovery that my ears led me to, but I fear the hills hide more of the same deadly trap. This is why I wish to make its sounding known.

I had gone mountain biking that day, as is my habit in the afternoons. Though the sun is hot, the breezes feel like grace, and the views along the ocean road heading north to Karpata are dazzling. Usually, I take that road all the way to Gotomeer, then to Rincon and back to Kralendijk through the dirt and rubble paths above the western coast. On this day, however, I decided to turn off the ocean road a few hundred meters beyond 1000 Steps, and I headed east into the hills on a dirt road that jeeps can traverse. After a short stretch, I turned north into the brush on a path that became narrow and rocky. Mountain bikers love to show their skills there. I had to dismount several times to negotiate the boulders, which better riders know how to pedal over without a pause. During one such pause I heard an unfamiliar sound, like crying, or rather shrieking, and its abrupt starts and stops alarmed me. I peered for some time into the bramble, for it was thick and hard to discern things in the reflected glare of the sun. I gradually made out two male goats in violent distress. Each of them had a hind leg caught in a white plastic cord tied to branches several feet above the ground. The more they struggled to be free, the more they contorted themselves in pain, hanging by a leg. Their cries became unbearable.

I did not have any knives or scissors to cut the cords and free them from their anguish. How long had they been like that? How long would they remain like that, before dying of thirst or being butchered by whoever set the traps? With these thoughts in mind, I took a quick detour up to the radio towers above Rincon, and the dirt road from there down to the main road near Oil Slick, and then home. I announced to my wife and daughter: "We have to save two goats. They are being made to suffer and die cruelly in the hills." We drove to where I turned off the main coastal road, and walked for about 20 minutes to where the goats were hanging. I cut the cords with a scissors, and they ran, limping, for their lives. We felt happy I then inspected the cords. They had been rigged so that when the goats walked through an opening, a leg would get caught and the cord would tighten and hoist the leg up so that the goat would dangle and thrash and shriek until exhausted.

I found another trap, which I cut. That makes three. I wonder how many more there are, up there in the hills. Now, when I ride, I pack a knife and listen for those terrible sounds. The skies do not hear what the winds are ashamed to carry. *Louis Petrich*

Editor's note: Bonaire Police Department and the prosecutor's office suggested this was animal abuse and punishable. They were clear in saying that each case is different and judged on its own merit. In similar tried cases, the accused served jail sentences or community service. All cases were tried according to Bonaire's penal codes.

Cleaning Saliña di Vlijt

► **A work crew has begun removing sludge from Saliña di Vlijt (located across from Harbour Village Marina).** Because no maintenance work has been done in the saliña for years, it has filled with a low sludge of about 50 centimeters. The saliña is now being cleaned to prevent sludge from flowing to the sea if it rains heavily.

The area being excavated lies east of the saliña and runs to Mentor. It is the property of Public Body Bonaire.

Saliñas are natural water storage areas filled with rainwater and seawater. In the saliña, collected rainwater can flow from higher areas into the sea. Normally its silt does not enter the sea, so the coral is not affected.

Saliña di Vlijt contains three islands where birds can forage and breed. A favorite place for water birds, it is also important for birds that migrate between North and South America.

The clearing is part of the project Erosion Control, Nature Recovery Bonaire.

Flotsam & Jetsam continued

next to the Clínica Iberoamérica.

ZVK says flying patients to Baranquilla offers a good quality of care at a lower than previous cost. When Aruba's scanner failed in April 2019, Bonaire's waiting list rose to 120 insured by the beginning of June. As an emergency solution the ZVK turned to the Clínica Iberoamérica in Baranquilla, Colombia. It took only four weeks for the BES Health Insurance Office (ZVK) to eliminate Fundashon Mariadal's waiting list for MRI scans

Back to school

► **Back to school.** August 19, 2019 is the first school day of the 2019/2020 year. The kids have been on summer holidays since July 8th.



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question: Hi Kate, I read your column in every issue and your excellent advice has answered many of my questions about buying a Bonaire property, thanks. I planned to buy a place in three years and look forward to working with you then. Do you think in three years the prices will go up, down or stay the same? I see prices going up the past few years, so I'm getting nervous and wonder if I should try to buy something now. John

Hi John, Thanks for the kind words. I can't predict the future, but I can discuss past and current trends. Bonaire prices have slowly risen since 2008, with a dramatic jump in sales in the summer of 2017, when hurricanes devastated many other Caribbean islands and turned investors' eyes towards Bonaire.

An increase in the frequency of non-stop flights from the US and Netherlands, more cruise ship visitors and exposure from house hunting TV shows have all increased the demand for properties. Bonaire is still an excellent value, but we are no longer an undiscovered paradise. Anyone who has visited recently has noticed the amount of new construction.

I often hear clients say "I should have bought five years ago." I think we've all thought that when buying real estate, even those of us who did buy five years ago. What I reply is that in five years, their future self will either be glad that they bought now, or lament the fact that once again "I should have bought five years ago."

You didn't mention your price range, but if you are looking for a property under \$300,000 my advice is always to buy it as soon as you can. This price range sells quickly and shows the highest growth in prices each year. You may not be able to find a home in your price range in three years.

If you are looking at higher priced properties, my suggestion is to explore the pros and cons with your accountant, balancing the cost of the purchase now versus an increased price in three years.

Best of luck, I look forward to working with you to find your Bonaire home!

All the best, Kate Butler, GRI, Real Estate Agent, RE/MAX Bonaire

If you have a real estate question for Kate,

email her at kate@bonairehomes.com Tollfree from US: 1-866-611-7362

Law enforcement on Curaçao

July 29, 2019- The police know who stole the 600 kilos of drugs from the police station at Rio Canario, Willemstad, Curaçao. It was a former police officer, who had the help of his former colleagues. The sources also indicate that underworld does not know what to do with these drugs. The 600 kilo seems to be difficult to export, which means that it has now been dumped on the Curaçao market at a very cheap price. Arrests could follow soon.

###

On July 25 at 11:55 pm, the Dash 8 aircraft of the Coast Guard CARIB saw an unlit vessel during a regular reconnaissance flight. The vessel sailed towards Klein Curaçao. The Dash immediately forwarded this information to the Rescue & Coordination Center (RCC) of the Coast Guard, which in turn sent the station ship *Zr.Ms. Groningen* and the Coast Guard Jaguar Cutter. Both ships were patrolling the waters of Curaçao at that time. The Parera Support Center was also informed that the Metal Shark I-02 was deployed to intercept the unlit vessel. The interception took place at 02:45 on 7 nautical miles south of Klein Curaçao. A warning shot was fired during interception. It turned out to be an Eduardoño type vessel with four (4) people on board and a parakeet on board. The vessel was brought to the Coast Guard jetty and the four people were handed over to the police. The veterinary service was informed to come and collect the parakeet.

Tues.-Fri. 9-6 pm
Sat. 9 - 2 pm

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Law Enforcement

Public Prosecution Service (OM)

According to the Public Prosecution Service (OM) in the Netherlands, a Dutch entrepreneur has been depositing illegally acquired funds in an account on Bonaire and investing some of it here. Among other assets, he bought apartments which have been seized.

Harderwijk B. (51) is suspected of fraud, forgery of documents and money laundering. His company, Biodiesel Kampen, converts old frying fat into biodiesel. He is said to have cheated with so-called biotickets, which generated two million extra income. OM says its investigation has turned up an additional four million euros in apparent tax fraud.

His wife, his financial director, and his bookkeeper have also been charged.

Bonaire Police Report for July 19 — August 2

Robberies

July 19, two bicycles were removed from the porch of a house on the Kaya Maraka between 9 am and 5pm. Both bicycles were locked.

July 20 • a burglary was reported in a tourist accommodation at the Kaya Jean B.F.Vitte. The door was broken but nothing was taken. • a light blue Kia Picanto was stolen from Kaya J.N.E. Craane. The keys were in the parked car.

• around 1.36 in the night a burglary was reported in a house on the Kaya Playa Lechi. A window was smashed to gain access.

July 22, an outboard engine was reported stolen during the night. The boat was in for repair at Kaya G.F.Croes.

July 26, the theft of a rubber boat at the port near Kaya J.N.E. Craane was reported.

July 27, theft of two bicycles was reported at the Kaya Playa Lechi.

July 28 a burglary was reported in a house on Kaya Monsigneur Nieuwindt.

July 29

•two men entered a house on Kaya Korona and stole car keys and the car. The residents were at home and heard the men. Around 3.46am the car was found on the Kaya Filomena.

•a report was made of theft with violence to the Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez. A man forcibly took away a Samsung mobile phone. The theft occurred around 2:00am.

July 30 on Kaya Nikiboko South thieves broke open the back door and stolen, among other things, a cordless hammer and drill and a bag with electrical materials.

July 31

•around noon various bags with contents were stolen from a car parked at Kaya Rincon.

• between 4:20pm and 4:31pm, a tourist accommodation located in Punt Vierkant was broken into. A black leather bag with contents was stolen.

August 1. A Makita brand saw was removed from an unlocked storage room near a house on Kaya Zjampou.

August 2. A bag with contents was stolen at 7am at a tourist accommodation located on the Kaya J.N.E Craane.

Dive site robberies

July 20, between 11.45am and 1.00pm a car was broken into at the Jeff David Memorial dive site. Both windscreens were destroyed. Among other things, a diving bag, three camera filters and other diving tools were stolen.

July 21, between 7.15pm and 7.50pm a bag and its contents was removed from Chachacha beach.

July 31 between 7.30pm and 8.30pm at a dive site thieves smashed a car window and stole two mobile phones.

Arrests July 19 a lady aged 39 was arrested by attentive agents in connection with the Firearms Act BES. The firearm was seized.

July 20 around 10.45am two men aged 37 and 18 were arrested for threats with a firearm.

July 27 • around 7.30pm a man aged 40 was arrested for not responding to a police order and insulting a police officer.

• a man aged 44 was arrested in connection with assault, threat and destruction.

Investigations On July 20, a multidisciplinary team from the Police, the Public Entity of Bonaire and the Fire Department carried out inspections at various catering establishments. Warnings were given to those establishments that violated rules of hygiene, fire safety or permits. Such checks will be done more often and violations will be strictly enforced in the future.

In the night from Sunday 21 to Monday 22, a fire was reported in a house in the Tera kora district arrived around 2.20am. Four victims were transported to the hospital. The cause of the fire is as yet unknown. The investigation is ongoing.

Communicatie KPCN

If you want to give an (anonymous) tip, phone (+599) 717 7251

If there is no emergency, phone Bonaire (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000

OLB 2018 financial report shows progress

The Executive Council of Bonaire has submitted its statement of accounts for 2018 to the Financial Supervision Council (Cft). In 2018 the public entity Bonaire (OLB) banked \$64 million in income, spent \$51 million, leaving a surplus of almost \$13 million.

The primary sources of income were \$32.5 million received as benefits from the Netherlands and \$25 million in local revenues. Salaries accounted for \$20 million of the expenses. Purchase of goods and services accounted for \$14 million.

Of the \$13 million surplus, roughly \$3 million is explained by higher than projected revenues. That's good. However, the Cft considers the remainder of the surplus a failure to carry out spending policy decisions made by the government. So \$7 million of the surplus has been allocated to urgent projects, including infrastructure as well as new construction and renovation of schools.

Bonaire is making steady progress in implementing the fiscal responsibility requirements of the Administrative Agreement. After Bonaire submitted its 2017 annual statement and received the auditor's feedback, it drafted an improvement plan for 2018. Now a new improvement plan for 2019 is due this month.

An important stipulation is that the 2019 plan must include a stringent policy for collecting local tax revenues. Tax receivables have more than doubled from 2017 because of increases in land and leasehold taxes, as well as improved tax administration. But many are still not paying the taxes they owe the government.

When the OLB approved and submitted its 2018 statement of accounts, it met the required June deadline. That in itself is evidence of the progress the Bonaire government is making. However, the auditor cannot give an opinion on the reliability of the figures because the information on government spending and indebtedness is incomplete. A stipulation of the Administrative Agreement is that the Executive Council submit, in 2021, a financial statement the auditor can approve without qualification.

Real Madrid clinic begins August 12



photo Julie Morgan

Real Madrid Foundation soccer clinic begins August 12 -16 at Kralendijk Stadium. This is the first time Real Madrid will bring its unique brand of sports values to the Caribbean thanks to local sponsors Digicel, Banco di Caribe and Ennia. The world famous soccer organization has brought this clinic to 48 countries around the world.

Head coach Brian van den Bergh of Real Madrid selected three local coaches to assist him in the clinic for 78 local kids. Van den Bergh has led 11 Real Madrid clinics worldwide. He comes to the field with an impressive resume of international training and coaching experience in the Netherlands, Argentina, and Columbia. He has been technical director in Argentina, Aruba, Peru and Chile.

Real Madrid's unique sport training is not just about soccer skills. Their main objective is to promote the values of the sport and instill a unity through sports. Much of the program stresses social integration, self esteem, cooperation and equality that integrates into the local community in the long run.

On August 16, a final match between the groups will be held. In the closing ceremony, two kids from the clinic will be selected from the 78 participants for an exclusive trip to Spain compliments of Real Madrid. The kids chosen may or may not be the best athletes. They will be selected on the basis of exhibiting the values and ethics of Real Madrid.

Guests and parents are encouraged to attend and watch from the stands. Admission is free. Fans who are unable to attend may watch the exclusive digital content feed on the PLAYGO app, provided by lead sponsor Digicel. Download the PlayGo app from GooglePlay <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.digicel.selfcare.mobile&hl=en>

Schedule for the event is as follows:

Monday – August 12 Clinic Day 1: 8 – 8:25 Opening Ceremony; 8:30-12:30 Clinic

Tuesday-August 13 Clinic Day 2: 8:30-12:30 Clinic

Wednesday-August 14 Clinic Day 3: 8:30-12:30 Clinic; 3-5 Social Activity

Thursday-August 15 Clinic Day 4: 8:30-12:30 Clinic

Friday-August 16 Clinic Day 5: 8:30-12:30 Clinic; 12:45-1:15 Closing Ceremony

For more information about the clinic visit frmclicinsdutchantilles.com or visit the Digicel Bonaire Facebook page. *Story and photos Julie Morgan.*

Filling top vacancies in government NVs

Some top posts in management and supervisory boards of government entities have been unoccupied for years. The Executive Council (BC) is working to fill those vacancies.

In accord with the Administrative Agreement between the OLB and Raymond Knops, State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, the operation and structure of the government's ten NVs and five foundations have been investigated. Deputy Tjin Asjoe said "I have just received the first progress report. The researchers call the many vacant top positions not only undesirable, but also downright alarming because it concerns facilities that are vital for the daily life of the citizens of Bonaire."

"We made an inventory immediately after we took office and started looking for qualified commissioners," said Tjin Asjoe. "At Bonaire International Airport the Supervisory Board is complete again, at Oil Trading Bonaire that will be the case soon after the summer recess."

With the informal help of OLB's communication department, *The Reporter* has identified the following government NVs and foundations: Selibon, WEB, Telbo, Bonaire Holdings, Oil Trading Bonaire, Bonaire International Airport, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, and BonLab. For purposes of financial reporting, these entities are called "government participations."

In June the Executive Council of Bonaire submitted its statement of accounts for 2018 to the Financial Supervision Council (Cft). The auditor ruled the statement could not be verified because it lacked information on the financial operations of the government participations. Deputy Tjin Asjoe: "Many of the companies and foundations lag behind for years in preparing the annual accounts. That really has to change."

Tjin Asjoe emphasizes that government NVs work hard, saying: "I greatly appreciate that, but I am convinced that better performance will be achieved if the management is complete."

World Nature Conservation Day celebrated

STINAPA and ECHO planted 50 trees at Put Bronswinkel on July 28, in a joint celebration of World Nature Conservation Day and the 50th anniversary of Washington Slagbaai National Park.

Park rangers and members of ECHO worked together to kick off the joint project. STINAPA hopes to develop the Put Bronswinkel area as an attractive landmark in the national park. STINAPA's conservation action plan supports continuing reforestation.

ECHO's original three year reforestation project with its exclusion area planting ends in September. However ECHO is bringing it to life again, first with this planting, then with community reforestation days.

Because so much more work is needed, ECHO will once again host a specific tree planting day every two weeks.

The first tree planting day will be August 10 at Salina Tam. For more information contact ECHO through their website or Facebook. *Julie Morgan.*



Right: Roxanne-Liana Francisca, STINAPA wildlife and marine biology trainee, digs in at World Nature Conservation Day on July 28.



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Rangers honored on World Ranger Day

Taste of Bonaire
Summer & Recycle



photo J Morgan

Bonaire's Rangers honored on World Ranger Day; back L-R: Clifford Cicilia, Enchomar Wanga, Rishison Frans, Michel Meye, Edwin Domacasse, Suradno Mercera, Ruthsel Paula, Alessandro Vargas, Jonathan Pourier, Washington Park manager Albert Crestian; front L-R: Edgar Ortegon, Washington Park head ranger; George Thode and Gideon Cicilia. Not pictured are : Interim Bonaire Marine Park manager Leonel Martijn, George Saragosa, Nashantra Mercera and Henry Beaumont.

Bonaire National Marine Park rangers and Washington Slagbaai National Park rangers were recognized by STINAPA on World Ranger Day August 31.

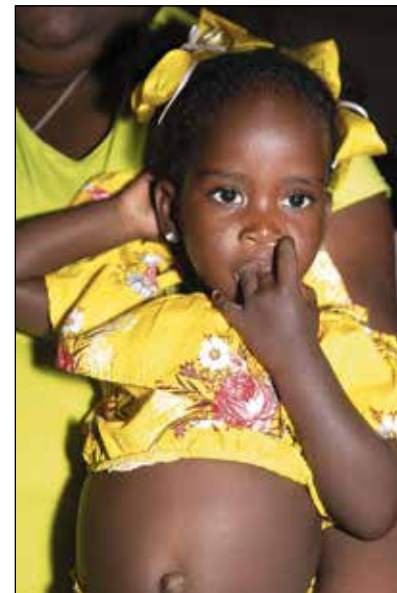
Around the world rangers were recognized in more than 100,000 reserves, parks and protected areas. Tribute was paid to those rangers who have given their lives doing their work.

In a private event at the park, Bonaire's rangers were honored for their vital work in both education and protec-

tion. They protect our coral reefs, animals, and environment.

Bonaire's rangers were treated to breakfast and unique awards were presented:

- **Edwin Domacasse**—BEST Rescue Ranger;
- **Michel Meye**—BEST Boat Captain Ranger;
- **Suradno Mercera**—Most Comical Ranger;
- **Gideon Cecilia**—BEST Snorkeling Ranger;
- **Nashantra Mercera**—Most "eager to learn: Ranger;
- **Enchomar Wanga**—BEST Diver Ranger;
- **Alessandro Vargas**—Rookie of the Year;
- **Edgar Ortegon**—Rookie of the Year;
- **George Saragoza**—Most "Life Experienced" Ranger;
- **Clifford Cicilia**—Most Straightforward Ranger;
- **Henry Beaumont**—BEST Carpentry Ranger;
- **Ruthsel Paula**—Most Laidback Ranger;
- **Rishison Frans**—BEST Sportsman Ranger;
- **Jonathan Pourier**—BEST Overall Handyman Ranger; and • **George "Kultura" Thode**—BEST Storytelling Ranger.



photos Julie Morgan



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Sponge relocation project drawing to a close

STINAPA and Cargill Salt Company's sponge reattachment program at Bonaire's much loved dive site, The Salt Pier, could end soon.

When Cargill knew that they had to fortify the pier pilings, they contacted STINAPA to plan how they could save as much of the pier's marine life as possible. As a result, Cargill and STINAPA have worked together since June 2018 to protect the corals and sponges growing on the famous pier.

With plans to fortify the pier pilings, Cargill has worked with STINAPA since June 2018 to protect the corals and sponges growing on the famous pier. The idea is to save as much of the marine life as possible.

First STINAPA began by removing all the corals from the pilings. They relocated the corals to the dive site, Something Special. Then STINAPA removed the sponges and placed them further down the pilings at approximately two meters below the water surface. STINAPA anchored the sponges with fishing line that they removed once the sponges have reattached.

Roxanne-Liana Francisca of STINAPA said, "We usually get about four to 10 volunteers who show up. Some of them are very fanatical and we see them every time we do a dive. We are hoping to have the project finished by the end of August so that Cargill can start reinforcing the pilings of the pier."

Sponge re-attachment is not a new idea to Bonaire. During 1988-1991 Dee Scarr of Touch the Sea and helpers tied more than 600 sponges back onto the pilings of Bonaire's Town Pier. The idea that is new is the cooperation between STINAPA and Cargill in safeguarding the life living on the pilings at the Salt Pier.

The volunteers reattach sponges every Thursday afternoon. For more information visit the website STINAPA.org and the Dive Friends Sponge Relocation/Cleanup Project on Facebook.



photo J Morgan

Dive Friends quarterly cleanup illustrates cruise ship impact



photo J Morgan

An amazing 84 volunteers were on hand for the Dive Friends quarterly cleanup on July 27. The group consisted of scuba divers, free divers and land-based staff. Everyone helped retrieve an estimated 200 kg (440 lbs.) of trash from the area surrounding the North Pier in Bonaire.

Volunteers returned an overwhelming abundance of fishing line to land, filling a large Kliko receptacle three quarters full. Caitlin Hale of Dive Friends estimated the length of line at least 80 km or the distance from Bonaire to Curaçao! Volunteers also removed 467 glass bottles and glass, ceramic and metal fragments from the sea floor. For the first time, these items outweighed the number of plastic items collected.

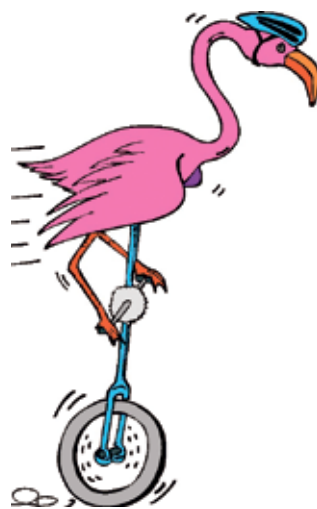
The clean-up crew collected pieces of plastic, plastic cups and cutlery, 13 cell phones, 17 sun hats and 10 cruise ship IDs. Caitlin Hale of Dive Friends said the number of cruise ship items found under the pier displays the effects of the cruise ship industry on our water and reefs.

As usual, volunteers spotted tires and vehicle batteries. Bonaire's marine park will remove these via lift bags at the next cleanup.

At the end of day many of the volunteers enjoyed a potluck BBQ at Dive Friends Hamlet location.

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to clean our waters of Bonaire.

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Beach litter is increasing, but we can all make a difference!



Reef Glimpses

Snail Hordes: Another Way Coral Is Killed

The photo on the left, with the scorpionfish, was taken shortly after this snail horde attacked what seems to be a perfectly healthy coral colony.



The second photo was taken (from a different angle) a few days later, showing that the snails had moved along the colony, devouring all the living coral in their path.



If the snail horde doesn't consume the entire colony, the remaining coral animals (polyps) will continue to grow and reproduce as usual. The skeleton where the polyps were eaten, though, will be bare forever of the coral who built it.

This particular bared skeleton was quickly taken over by encrusting algae, but a newly-bared skeleton can also host sponges, anemones, fire coral, and other creatures which can eventually spread out and injure or kill more of the polyps of the original colony.

This process of encrustation can be seen better if you're oriented to the coral colony, since I didn't take the two photos from the same place. In the lower left-hand corner of the scorpionfish photo there's a sort of frilly triangle shape of live coral, with the snails moving in from the right. In the later photo, the frilly triangle is on the upper left side and it has been completely denuded. It didn't take long for the snails to drastically reduce this coral colony.

The white parts of the skeleton were the most recently exposed. Those areas consumed just before the white ones are greenish with early algae growth, but still show all the details of their sharp ribbing. The area of the skeleton whose polyps were exposed the longest is covered with thick algae.

This formation caught my eye at first because of the scorpionfish, and then because of the snails. Now it can help us learn to tell living coral from dead coral. The parts of this colony that are alive and well are various shades of tan, and look clean and precise and neat. Brain coral skeletons don't show individual polyps, but the living coral tissue, especially in the first photo, reveals the mouths of individual polyps in the coral channels; they look like pale asterisks (*).

Being able to distinguish living coral from dead coral is both bad and good. It's bad because seeing dead coral is depressing. It's good because it helps us understand the coral reef habitat, and the more we know, the more we can help. And it's good because that's how we know the snail hordes don't inevitably consume the entire coral colony.

Dee Scarr

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef* (for children); in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses". The *Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the *Carib Inn* on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.



STCB is seeking support from the government and the community to protect Bonaire's beaches. STCB's Manager Mabel Nava: "Beaches are not very extensive on Bonaire and we need to take good care of them so that we can all continue to enjoy them safely. If we keep our beaches clean, Bonaire's community as well as sea turtles can use the beach without putting themselves at risk. Risks for people may include cuts, burns (fire pits, charcoal), transmission of bacteria as a result of dogs urinating and defecating on the sand, and for sea turtles the killing of eggs due to crushing (cars), cooking (fire pits) and digging (dogs)."

Please keep the following rules in mind when visiting the beach: dispose of trash properly (you can use the garbage facilities at the beaches or take your trash home), park your vehicle on the side of the road or in a place that has no sand or vegetation, do not light fires on the beaches and find out where you can and cannot walk your dog. "If we all adhere to these simple rules, Bonaire's community, nesting sea turtles and sea turtle hatchlings can continue to use the beach safely," says Mabel Nava.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is concerned about the rise in trash on Bonaire's beaches. As part of the volunteer Beachkeeper program, STCB has been collecting data on the amount and type of trash found on Bonaire's sea turtle nesting beaches for several years and the organization has found an upward trend.

Rubbish collected by STCB's Beachkeepers on Bonaire's sea turtle nesting beaches (i.e. Te Amo & Donkey Beach, pocket beaches in the south and Klein Bonaire) include cans, glass and plastic bottles, bottle caps, diapers, cigarette butts, straws, fishing line, balloons, raw chicken leg bones, many pallets and more. In addition to the trash, STCB's volunteers also regularly find tire tracks, fire pits and dog tracks on the beaches, and man-made structures (e.g. stone structures, pallet chairs/tables) that form obstacles for nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. *Kaj Schut, Communications & Fundraising Officer, Sea Turtle Conservation*

###

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is a non-governmental research and conservation organization that has been protecting sea turtles since 1991.

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Here are some reasons to use rabbit manure.

-Rabbit manure has 4 times more nutrients than cow or donkey manure and it is twice as rich as chicken manure. Cow, donkey and chicken manure are considered "hot" and need to be composted (well-rotted) to use as fertilizers, rabbit manure does not.

-Rabbit manure is organic matter, and improves poor soil structure, drainage, and moisture retention.

-It improves the life cycle of micro-organisms in the soil and worms love rabbit manure.

-It is not as smelly as other manures and is easy to handle. Rabbits produce a ton of manure in one year.

-Rabbit manure is packed with 2% nitrogen, 1% phosphorus, 1% potassium, other minerals and micro-nutrients.

-It contains beneficial trace elements such as calcium, magnesium, boron, zinc, manganese, sulfur, copper, cobalt and more.

-Nitrogen (N) Rabbit manure is higher in nitrogen than sheep, goat, chicken, cow or horse manure. Plants need nitrogen to produce strong green growth.

Phosphorus (P) Rabbit manure is also higher in phosphorus than other manures. It helps with the transformation of solar energy to chemical energy. Phosphorus also helps plants withstand stress, contributes to more and bigger blossoms and is great for root growth.

-Potassium (K) helps with fruit quality and reducing disease; plants will not grow without it.

Rabbit droppings are the secret to a healthy vegetable garden. Rabbit poop fertilizer can truly change a garden, and if you have rabbits you have an endless supply of droppings at your disposal. Make that waste into something you can use for an amazing garden.

Rabbit poop fertilizer can be used in many ways in a garden.

1-The manure can go straight to the garden.

2- Give transplants a boost; when digging a new hole for a transplant, add a little poop before putting the plant in. This give the roots an instant fertilizer to tap into.

3- Compost RABBIT POOP. It is a great addition to your compost, makes the soil rich and breaks down pretty quickly



4- Red wiggler worms love rabbit manure. They are composting superstars and are the preferred worms of vermin composters everywhere.

Brew rabbit compost tea. Rabbit poop compost tea is another option for a super rabbit poop fertilizer.

The recipe: Soak two cups of droppings in a five gallon bucket full of water. Keep it covered and only uncover once a day for stirring. Keep the brew far from the house because of flies. After three to five days the poop will completely break down and settle at the bottom. Keep the brewing tea in a warm, sunny spot for best results. Use it to water plants.

Some people find making the tea is too much work. They say just fertilize with the rabbit compost. It has the same effect. Try both to find out which is best for your garden. I understand some soils have different reactions when using the tea or compost.

You might think, interesting story, but there are no rabbits on Bonaire. But let me give you the good news, yes, there are. In my social network I have five friends with rabbits and I'm sure there are more. Most of them throw the rabbit manure away. What a waste of such good stuff. If you want it, put a note on any kind of social media. I'm sure you will be lucky. It's a win-win situation. They are happy to get rid of the manure and you are happy to have it for your garden. To be in time for the upcoming rainy season, start preparing your soil in the last months of the year. As I wrote in my last article, immediately use the fresh rabbit manure in and on top of the soil. You will have the best next harvest.

As time goes fast, start now, just do it.

Angliet, Nature lover.



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 16

Make a wish....



Last week I watched an interesting show on television. It was called: "The Undatables." I did not know what to expect, but this title

said it all.

A few persons with limitations or a handicap were looking for someone special in their life. There was this young lady with a visual impairment, another young lady with an intellectual impairment and borderline personality disorder plus a young man with cerebral palsy.

They knew exactly what they wanted: a mate, a special friend and maybe a friendship that might change into a love of their life. They were all helped by an agency that specializes in these kinds of relationships. And I have to admit, they did very well.

I was very touched by the honesty of these brave, young persons. They did not know what they were going into, but did so with a bravery to be proud of. They had nothing to lose, only to gain, because they realized that if this would not work, there was always hope for another chance.

I was touched by their openness. They were so vulnerable they made me cry. None of them got a match, but that did not stop them from going on and trying once more.

Everybody has a right to happiness, friendship and love. Life can be lonely and bitter without all that, especially when you are "not like anybody else."

And it is not easy to find someone when there is no agency. People tend to find friends in a sports club, a gym and at church. So, how to fight that kind of loneliness when you are not like "the others"?

At the gym you only get to go for physiotherapy. And only able-bodied people are members of sports clubs. One only gets to go to church when family or friends of the family take you.

Maybe we should have Paralympics on Bonaire. This type of program should not be that difficult to start. One only needs to get together and talk things through, get to know what is needed and find a few volunteers.

Maybe sports are not for everyone. But there are sports that you can participate in, like bocce. I heard that in Den Stashi there is a giant game board a group can play and at the parking-place of the botika at Sabana, they pay chess with enormous pieces. Warahama offers horseback riding and if you come with your own volunteers, you are set to go. And if not, you can ask the management if they will volunteer.

The physiotherapist could start a "fall-prevention-training." With a mixed group of participants, it might be possible to find friends and volunteers.

A talent show might be an option allowing people to showcase their talents and impress people. You might need a friend to guide and coach you. This might be something MIVABO could organize and the minister for the handicapped could be a special guest and give us some good advice on how to fight all that loneliness. *Ria Evers-Dokter.*

Picture Yourself with The Reporter



Bonaire Ambassadors Bill and Cathy LeBarge at home in Halfmoon, New York with the Captain Don Day issue of The Bonaire Reporter. Bill has been coming to Bonaire since 1972. In 1973 he began bringing his open water scuba students for their checkout dives. He introduced his sister Susan Ryan, also a Bonaire Ambassador to Bonaire and she even owned a house here. Bill introduced his wife to be Cathy to Bonaire on a pre-honeymoon trip 35 years ago.

His first stay on the island was at Hotel Bonaire with Captain Don Stewart. Bill remembers Don was running what he called the red and green sleds (boats) that were flat and close to the water. Don would have to wear his mask and snorkel so he could breathe through the waves caused by the trade winds and the speed of the boat.

Bill said, "We also got to dive with Ebo on his sailboat, often going to the park and diving the most amazing coral canyons and with schools of wonderful reef fish. The old days always seem to have been better than these days but it was a very special time. Cathy and I are blessed to be called friends of Bonaire and friends of Captain Don and Diving Freedom... It has become our home away from home."

Did You Know... that bees are great mathematicians?

Bees are amazing creatures! For instance, did you know that one gram of bee venom is more deadly than one gram of cobra venom? Even so, it would take over 1000 bee stings to kill an average person. Or that honeybees are the only insects that produce food humans can eat? Here's an interesting fact about honey: you would be able to survive by eating nothing but honey for the rest of your life! This is because honey contains all the vitamins, minerals, and other essential nutrients we need to survive. Honey can also be used to treat wounds and burns. It helps soothe the pain and prevent infections. While honeybees are arguably the most widely known bees, there are over 20,000 known species of bees! Bees come in a variety of colors. We are all familiar with the traditional yellow and black coloration, but bees can vary in color from completely pitch black to bright reds and greens.

With so many bee species in the world, one can imagine the very different lives these species lead. Contrary to popular belief, not all bees live in elaborately constructed hives, nor produce honey. It is true that some bee species live together in highly social nests or hives with very strict hierarchies and division of labor. However, the majority of bee species prefer to live alone or in more loosely organized communities. Scientists believe that only about 10% of bee species are truly social and live together! Interestingly, all the females of the solitary species can and do lay eggs, unlike the social bee species, who only have one egg laying female in the hive. You could say that they are all queen bees.

Many bee species are ecologically and economically very important. With the exception of some parasitic bees

(that hijack the nests of other bee species to lay their eggs) most bees collect pollen and/or nectar as food. In doing so, they help plants reproduce by carrying pollen from one plant to another and fertilizing them. This process, called pollination, is incredibly important not only for maintaining the incredible diversity of plants we have around the world, but also for the food we eat. Over 30% of the fruits and vegetables we eat would not be able to produce seeds or seedlings without bees. That equates to over US\$15 billion worth in fruits and vegetables per year in the USA alone! And that is without including the revenue generated from selling the honey they make.

Even though a bee's brain is incredibly small, about the size of a sesame seed, their brains are incredibly powerful. This allows them to do some pretty incredible things. For example, bees are really good learners. Some of the behaviors exhibited by social bees are not instinctive, but need to be learned; young bees need to be taught by the older ones how to make honey. As bees do not have vocal cords they figured out an innovative way of communicating with each other: they communicate by dancing. A bee's dance can communicate not just the distance and direction to a flower, but also at which angle from the hive the food is located. They can also alert each other of threats to the hive and mobilize as a unit to protect their home.

One of the most amazing facts about bees is that they can outperform computers for some mathematical problems. One of these is known as the "traveling salesman problem". When it comes to calculating the most efficient way and shortest distance between multiple locations, bumblebees are the only animals (humans included) that are known to be able to come up with the solution. Even some computers can't solve this problem! Bees, honeybees in partic-

ular, are also very efficient builders. Each cell in a hive is an exact hexagon. Not only that, but they also figured out how to construct a structure with the least amount of material possible that can still contain the most amount of space and honey for the colony.

Bees are in essence little nerds capable of solving some complex problems and sometimes working together to achieve incredible things. However, they still need our help. Bee populations have been declining around the world and while we do not know the exact cause, we can still help! If you come across a beehive, don't destroy it. Bees won't attack unless they feel threatened, so as long as you leave the hive alone you have nothing to fear. You can also plant flowering plants in your yard or leave a little water basin out for the bees to drink from when they get thirsty. Remember, plants need bees and we need plants! Helping the bees also helps them help us.

*Roxanne-Liana Francisca
Wildlife and marine Biology Trainee*



Perfect hexagonal cells in a beehive! These cells are used to store honey, eggs, and larvae.

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How to watch the kids play in the Real Madrid Clinic Aug 12-16, 2019.

Watch the live feed on your device. Download the PlayGo app from GooglePlay <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.digicel.selfcare.mobile&hl=en>

The public is welcome to watch the kids at the Kralendijk Stadium. See page 6 for the schedule.

photos: Julie Morgan

What's Happening

Saturday, August 10	Tree Planting Day with Echo Foundation at Salinja Tam. 8-11am. Echo is planting native trees to reforest and restore Bonaire's native dry forest ecosystem. Bring a water bottle, insect repellent and sunscreen (non-chemical by preference). Wear clothes and shoes you can work in and gloves if you wish.
Saturday, August 17	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Piedra Pretu. 8-10am Clean Coast Bonaire runs a Marine Litter Monitoring Program at designated beaches on Bonaire. Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys.

REGULAR EVENTS

"Reef Renewal Bonaire." A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email info@reefrenwalbonaire.org.

"Sea Turtles of Bonaire" is a free public presentation about Bonaire's endangered sea turtles—topics such as where to see sea turtles, how they live, what they eat, how they reproduce and how you can help! Where: Yellow Sub, Dive Friends Bonaire (on the front porch) 8:00pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

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 information of events for the rest of 2019: stinapabonaire.org/events, Tel. 717-8444

Bonaire Goat Farm Tour. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, and more. \$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950.

Echo. See Bonaire's parrots. Wednesday at 5pm \$10 per person. Public Conservation Tour. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. We need at least one day's notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

Voting is open on Facebook for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019



Lorienny Mercera
Participant #1
Age: 18
Horoscope: Piscis
Hobby: Handy Crafts & Sports
Please like my picture for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019



Katherine Montero
Participant #2
Age: 17
Horoscope: Aquarius
Hobby: Karate & Painting
Please like my picture for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019



Shanyvienne Seraus
Participant #3
Age: 18
Horoscope: Aquarius
Hobby: Dancing & Singing
Please like my picture for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Tuesday	8-06	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	8-13	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	8-15	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782	RCCL

ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

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

• **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.

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

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 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-10am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday 8:30am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

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

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

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

Catholic. San Bernardus in Kralendijk. Services, Sunday at 8am & 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol. 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. 4.30pm-7.30 pm.Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

• **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. *Coral Restoration exhibit.* 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. *Salute to the Sailors exhibit*—Free

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thurs.- Sun.Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 Donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

• **Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. 788-9015 or 796-5681

• **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of WWII American soldiers' camp. Self-guided tour. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to on the right. Entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

• **Yana's Fine Art Museum** at Lagoen Hill 19- Call:599 785-5002. Free entry. Also exhibited at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Wednesday through Saturday, and cruise-ship days, 9am-3pm. Free.



Rayshantaly Coffie
Participant #4
Age: 17
Horoscope: Virgo
Hobby: Singing & Painting
Please like my picture for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019



Ewellin Lambert
Participant #5
Age: 19
Horoscope: Gemini
Hobby: Swimming & Photo Shoot
Please like my picture for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is asking you to vote on Facebook for your favorite candidate for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019. The last day to vote is September 6, 2019.

TCB will announce the winner of Miss Internet Bonaire 2019 during the Miss Tourism Bonaire 2019 pageant which will take place at Courtyard by Marriott starting at 8pm sharp. (Advanced tickets are available for \$30 from TCB.)

https://www.facebook.com/Miss-Tourism-Bonaire-160019578042544/?ref=py_c

Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

♪ Clean Up Your Own Keyboard ♪
Apologies to Elvis Presley and his song "Clean up your own backyard."

Everybody who uses a computer knows their keyboards are dirty... But where does it come from and how do you clean it?

Most of the grime is food – crumbs from our lunches, spilled coffee, greasy fingers and while it's not super damaging to the keyboard, it can cause keys to stick or skip when you press on them.

The other dirt that accumulates is dander (dry skin), hair, pet fur, smoke (cigarette), ashes, salt (from the ocean), and general dust – along with the bugs and their poo (they are eating all the crumbs).



So, what to do?

First off – turn off the computer so you don't inadvertently hit any keys. Then you can use a can of compressed air, or just blow on the keyboard with your mouth to remove all the big pieces. Do NOT use a vacuum cleaner, as most of them will suck the keys right off the keyboard, and then you have a really big problem. (Unless it's a vacuum or an attachment specifically made for keyboard cleaning.)

Then take a small paintbrush, old toothbrush (dry), a Q-Tip, or even just folded paper towel and gently clean between the keys. Use tweezers to pull out anything that won't come out on its own. (You can also turn it upside down and whack it a bit to dislodge any grit and grime.)

Once the bits and pieces are removed, take a damp paper towel and wash around the keys and the key tops. Do not use any sprays or detergents, as they may wash the letters and numbers right off the keys. And definitely do not use any solvents like acetone or paint thinner, as they will usually just melt the keys into little blobs of icky plastic.

Once you are done, let it dry, and turn it back on and you should have a nice clean keyboard.

Now, if you have any keys that are actually stuck or don't generate a letter when pressed, that can sometimes be fixed by removing

the key top gently, and cleaning with rubbing alcohol (or vodka in a pinch). Since there are so many keyboards and styles, it is best that you Google your computer and keyboard (eg: ACER FERRARI LAPTOP KEYBOARD REPAIR) and you will usually find How-To videos and web pages that show you, step by step how to clean and hopefully repair the keyboard.

Good luck and happy clacking...

....Brian Niessen, *The Geek*.

Do you have a question about using computers and computer technology on Bonaire?

Email it to the editor, and we'll get an answer for you next issue.

What is Yoga

by Sarah Sati

Yoga has gained immense popularity over the past 40 years. By December 2015, 52,746 teachers were registered in the U.S.A. alone through Yoga Alliance, with many more existing unregistered.

As with anything that grows too quickly, a natural by-product is often the watering down of the essence of a thing. This is no different for yoga. Popular yoga is generally believed to be comprised solely of the physical practice of asana. Asana are body postures assumed to be purely for the body; to strengthen, tone, elongate, and relax one to a state of health. Some philosophically minded people would go farther than this explanation to include the bodies effect on the mind.

While it's true the physical practice of yoga can have a positive health effect on the body, it is incorrect that the physical practice alone is yoga, or that the use of asana is for the body at all. Over time I hope to explain to you, dear reader, what yoga is, what comprises a yoga practice, what the difference is between yoga and other practices, like gymnastics or relaxation, and why one should desire to undertake the practice of yoga as a method for culturing the mind.

In this first article I introduce the meaning of yoga and define the eight-component system comprising it.

Yoga is a Sanskrit word that translates to mean union or, to yoke. As the leading text on yoga, the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, expounds, the aim of yoga is to unite the individual soul with the universal soul. Through the practice of yoga, this unification comes from the quieting of the fluctuations of the mind. The claim made by yoga is that only when a mind is unaffected by the natural ups and downs



of the material world is one able to find inner peace.

Yoga is one of the first psychological practices known to man and consists of eight limbs, called ashtanga. These limbs are: moral/ethical practices (yamas/niyamas); body postures (asana); breath control (pranayama); sense withdrawal (pratyahara); concentration (dharana); meditation (dhyana), and; complete absorption (samadhi).

Each limb of yoga works to help an individual condition the mind away from ignorance that leads to suffering, and into wisdom that leads to peace. This de-programming, as one may consider it, cultures an individual away from the mundane plane of materialism, desire and attachment. Over time one discovers that true joy comes not from acquiring more, but from turning inward toward the true self.

To find out where to do yoga on Bonaire, visit @yogaonbonaire on Facebook. To read more from Sarah, follow her on Instagram or Facebook @sarah-satiyoga or visit her website www.simplyyogi.com.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it—just look up

The fishhook and the scorpion!

One of our favorite summer time constellations is visible above the southern horizon after sunset this month and it has quite a story.

Scorpius the Scorpion is gracing the southern sky this month, but did you know that Scorpius has a totally different identity that has nothing to do with scorpions?

About an hour after sunset, any night this week, facing south you'll be able to see the familiar j-shaped pattern of stars that make the constellation Scorpius the Scorpion.

According to greek mythology, Scorpius was sent by Gaia, the Goddess of the Earth to punish Orion for boasting that he was the greatest hunter to ever live. So while he was hunting, the scorpion attacked Orion, stinging him with its poisonous stinger.

The scorpion was then placed in the sky to mark Gaia's victory.

That however is not the only story about this bright pattern of summer stars. Believe it or not, many people see this j-shaped pattern as the giant fishhook of the demigod Maui. In Polynesian folk lore, Maui and his brothers decided to go fishing. He brought his magic fishhook with him and instructed his brothers that once he tossed the fishhook in the water, no matter what they caught, keep paddling and do not look back.

Almost instantly, Maui's fishhook began to pull up large objects from the ocean. Excited, Maui's brothers paddled faster, and Maui pulled harder and harder. Many hours passed and the brothers were exhausted from all the rowing. Against Maui's instructions, they decided to look back at what Maui caught, and boy were they surprised.

Indeed, one of the brothers exclaimed, "Maui caught land!" Maui was furious, exclaiming, "had you not looked back,

we could have raised a greater land!" We now know these small pieces of land as the Hawaiian islands.

In addition to that, Maui tossed his fish hook into the heavens to slow down the sun so that the summer months would have more hours of daylight. To this day, we can see Maui's fish hook in the sky every summer.

The stars of Maui's fish hook (aka Scorpius the Scorpion) have intriguing names. Starting from the west and working our way east we have the three stars marking the claws of the scorpion. Graffias, Dschubba and Pi Scorpii.

Down and to the left of those three stars you have Al Niyat, Antares and Alniyat. Yes, Scorpius has two stars with the same name. The first Al Niyat is Sigma Scorpii. It's a binary star system over 500 light years away.

The second Alniyat is Tau Scorpii. It's a blue-white star over 400 light years away from us and over 18,000 times as bright as our sun. Between Sigma and Tau Scorpii lies Antares, the famed rival of Mars.

Antares is so large that if you were to place in our solar system, Mercury Venus, earth and Mars would all be orbiting in-

side Antares.

Lastly, lets show you the tail. Moving away from Tau Scorpii, we have Epsilon Scorpii, Mu, Zeta and Nu Scorpii, Sargas, Iota and Kappa Scorpii and Shaula and Lesath (which mark the stinger).

Shaula and Lesath are sometimes called the cat's eyes because they seem to glow mysteriously like the eyes of a cat. Shaula is over 36,000 times the brightness of our sun and is approximately 570 light years away.

Meanwhile, Lesath (which means "bite of the poisonous one") is also close to 580 light years from us and over 12,000 times the brightness of our sun.

So there you have it. One constellation with two inspiring pieces of folklore. As the night passes, you can watch Maui's fish hook descending toward the horizon. Or you can imagine it being a menacing scorpion, desperately trying to find Orion the Hunter.

And if you look closely, it's being followed by a bright, non-twinkling light. That light is Jupiter. *Dean Regas & James Albury* <http://www.stargazersonline.org/index.html>

Shelter News



IT'S HOT!!

If it's hot outside for you it's even hotter for your pet! Animals don't have efficient cooling systems like humans (we sweat) and can overheat easily. Here are some tips to keep your furry companions cool and safe and to avoid heatstroke.

- Take walks only in the early morning and/or late evening. Try to walk in shaded areas.
- If the pavement is too hot for your barefeet, guess what...it's too hot for your pet's paws. Avoid hot surfaces like asphalt or concrete that can burn your pet's paws. Avoid the beaches during this hot weather, the sand is too hot for them too.
- Take breaks and offer water frequently.
- At home be sure your dog or cat has shade in an open area (a dog house is too hot) and plenty of access to cool water. Large, deep bowls keep water cooler longer; you can add a few ice cubes during the day to keep the water cool.
- Fill a large container with water for your dog to splash or lie in. Or wet him down with a hose during the day.



Pet of the Week: Tinus

Dear animal friends,

My name is Tinus and I'm almost 2 years old. It's not that old, but spending almost your whole life in the Animal Shelter makes you feel old. It's not what I was hoping to do with my life. I've been at the shelter since I was 3 months old. Don't get me wrong.... I do like the shelter people very much, they are my family. They clean up after me, they feed me, play with me and hug me... but they are not my owners. I would like to know what it's like to have a home and an owner... just the whole experience of being a pet! A lot of my doggy friends have found their forever home but I'm still waiting for the perfect family that will love me and that I can call my own. I am ready to go, I am healthy, vaccinated and neutered!

I am full of fun and joy and I even know how to take a selfie!!! I like attention and am a real "huggy bear". I love to go for walks and I will walk elegantly next to you showing off my long legs. I am friendly to other dogs and really like girl dogs. About cats, I am not really sure....they scare me sometimes but I think I just need to be more familiar with them so I can learn not to be afraid. I love people, especially the small ones....no, not for eating....for hugs and kisses!

Would you like to share your hugs and kisses with me? Come visit me at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26A, Monday-Friday, 9 am-12 pm and 3-5 pm, Saturday 9 am-3 pm nonstop, or call the Animal Shelter at 7014989 or 7174989.

Selfies by Tinus; Story and Photo by Sanne Attevelt

JOIN OUR GANG!



- Wet some towels and put them in the shade for your dog or cat to lie on. Alternatively, a frozen water bottle wrapped in a towel for your dog or cat to lie beside works too.
- Don't assume your pet knows when to stop being active! Dogs with "no quitter" attitudes and hyperactive dogs can run themselves into heat stroke or exhaustion without hesitation. Always make sure you have control of your pet in extreme heat.
- Dogs like British Bulldogs and Pugs are more prone to heatstroke and should be carefully monitored.
- AVOID THE CAR WHEN IT IS HOT AND NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET ALONE IN IT! Even when parked in the shade with windows open, temperatures in cars rise extremely quickly which can cause your pet to dehydrate and develop heat stroke which can be fatal. If your pet must travel in the car stop for frequent water breaks to keep it hydrated.

SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

IN DOGS:

Heavy panting; excessive drooling; excess saliva; bright red, gray, purple or bluish gums; muscle tremors; trouble standing or walking; dizziness; vomiting; diarrhea; rapid pulse.

IN CATS:

Rapid breathing; rapid pulse; redness of tongue and mouth; "sweaty" feet; stumbling or staggering; panting; drooling; vomiting; excessive grooming; lethargy.

If your pet exhibits these signs YOU NEED TO GET TO THE VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY AND CONDUCT SOME FIRST AID ON THE WAY. Cool your pet on the way with air conditioning in the car and/or lightly cool them with water from a spray bottle (NOT ice water). Get them drinking water on the way if they are able to drink. Heat stroke is a serious condition that requires immediate attention and intensive care is generally required to save your pet's life. Any initial first aid treatment on the way to the vet greatly increases the chance of survival but is not enough. *Jane Disko*

Cyclists compete in Sunbelt Funrace



Cyclists swept through the dusty roads and trails of Bolivia exploring areas many had never seen. They were enjoying the 2019 Sunbelt Funrace on July 28. Twenty-four men and women bikers competed. They challenged themselves in the Elite 35km (two rounds of 17.5km) or in the Funrace (five rounds of six or eight km). One of the top riders on Bonaire, Virgilio Batista, finished round one of the Elite35 in 40 minutes and the total ride in 1.27.45. The longest time for the two rounds was 2.03.13. Three elite class riders who rode in a small pack completed the long race within seconds of each other: Fons de Bie-1.33.43, Jonas Fischer-1.33.46, and Jerome Jerome Spruit-1.33.48. Liselotte Bijsterveld held the top time for all five rounds in the Funrace at 2.07.00 and John v.h. Hof finished second with 2.17. The next bike race is the Duo Xtreme Bonaire 2019 on September 29. This is the 10th year for this ride.



Sunbelt Funrace Elite winner Virgilio Batista (center) is awarded a bottle of Prosecco by Sunbelt's Martinj Eichorn (left) and Jan Henk Van Der Wier (right). Batista is considered one of the best mountain bikers on Bonaire.

It attracts riders from the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao, St Maartin, USA, and South America. We will publish more information in the August 19 issue of The Reporter.

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