

Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone (599) 796-4055, www.bonairereporter.com email: info@bonairereporter.com

**Three opinions of the government
 Airport master plan reactivated
 Toxic products**



Photos and story: Julie Morgan
 More Real Madrid on page nine and our Facebook page.

Local kids experience opportunity of a lifetime

Training with the best soccer team in the world is a once in a lifetime experience very few people realize. But 81 kids from Bonaire did just that last week, August 12 to 16. Real Madrid foundation held a Bonaire clinic giving kids exclusive training in soccer and a chance to visit Real Madrid Spain.

From 8am to 12pm the youngsters were put through soccer drills and scrimmages in Bonaire's hot sun. But they learned more than how to 'bend the ball' or a 'bicycle kick'. Real Madrid teaches character building, human values, leadership, cooperation and the inherent values of playing a sport. They hope each kid will come away from the clinic as an all around better person and take that into his or her community. Awards are given for good behavior.

In the closing ceremony all participants received a certificate of completion. Dependent on their behavior and attitude throughout the clinic, others were also awarded a Real Madrid soccer ball and pen.

Real Madrid's Clinic Dutch Antilles

director, Brian van den Bergh, thanked the sponsors Digicel, Banco di Caribe and Ennia for their support and contributions to back many of the kids. Each participant's entry fee was \$250 for the training, uniform and other goodies. Sponsor representatives were presented a Real Madrid Team Bonaire jersey in the ceremony as special thanks for their support.

Van den Bergh said, "We would like to say thanks to these kids that were a part of the Real Madrid experience." This was the first time Real Madrid offered the clinic in the Caribbean. Other participating islands were Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

The award for the Most Valuable Players (MVP) was based on good conduct, assisting the coaches, cooperation and helping other players. The MVP awards were earned by Isaac Helmholdt and Kaelan Winkler.

Top honors for exhibiting the true spirit of Real Madrid were awarded to 12 year old Christopher Lammers and 14 year old Julius Rigault. Van den Bergh said

they displayed the values of the foundation, and they are good players. The boys will go to Spain with all costs covered in April 2020. They will participate in the first ever Real Madrid Foundation world cup tournament. Christopher and Julius will play along with others selected from the 82 soccer clinics held around the world. They will also take a sight seeing tour of Madrid and see a Real Madrid game.

Also honored was Sunifa Molina, treasurer for Real Rincon. She was awarded a trip to Spain for all her work in organizing the event.

Van den Bergh said, "The clinic would not have happened without her."

Shahairo Oleana was selected as top local coach of the clinic and he will also be heading to Spain.

Coaches for the kids throughout the week included: Real Madrid director Brian van den Bergh, Real Madrid coach Carlos Blazquez and local coaches Franklin Nicolaas, Andres Bermudez, Terrence da Costa Gomez and Shahairo Oleana.



Julius Rigault and Christopher Lammers were selected as the two best players exhibiting both soccer skills and ethics of Real Madrid.



Players gather for one last huddle before the final match with coaches.



► **Marnix van Rij will assist the Bonaire Public Body with modernizing the local tax system.**

Van Rij's appointment begins September 1 for a

period of six months. His appointment is in accordance Bonaire's administrative agreement (November 2018) to examine local taxes and, above all, to improve collection. The local government may be missing out on millions of income due to poor tax collection.

Van Rij is a tax expert. He has been a senior consultant at Ernst & Young for over 25 years, where he was a partner until June of this year. From 1999 to 2001 he was chairman of the CDA (Christian Democratic political party in the Netherlands) and a member of the Senate from 2015 to 2019. He gained experience



► **MEP (Member of European Parliament) Samira Rafaela (Democrats 66) will make a combined work / private visit to Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire August 9 to 30.**

Rafaela has Curaçaoan roots. Her maiden speech in the European Parliament called for active support for the islands coping with Venezuelan refugees.

In the coming weeks, Rafaela will talk to organizations and political representatives about the challenges they know and the opportunities that the European Union can offer. She will focus on social aspects, nature and young people.

The three islands met her in May when she was campaigning for the European Parliament elections. Partly thanks to the votes from the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom she was chosen with preferential votes. (To be elected by preference votes, 10% of the electoral quota is needed. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_European_Parliament_election_in_the_Netherlands)

► **Road work. The Executive Council has decided to give roads around the schools first priority for road construction.** Roads will be laid at Amplio Papa Cornes school in North Salinja, School Strea Briante / School Rayo di Solo in Antriol and Kolegio San Luis Beltran in Rincon. The tender is currently being prepared and work will start at the end of September / beginning of October. The work will take around six months. The Public Entity Bonaire has received three million euros from The Hague for the construction of the roads around the schools.

Voting by proxies to end

Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Kajsa Ollongren, has decided to curb the use of private proxies in elections in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The Public Prosecution Service investigated whether there had been tampering with proxies at the latest island council elections on Bonaire. A criminal investigation was initiated by the Dutch Caribbean Police Force to determine whether votes had been recruited. The investigation was inconclusive, the police said, because the people most likely involved were unwilling to discuss the matter.

Given the many unanswered questions, Minister Ollongren decided to restrict the use of proxies as a precaution. Chairman of the main polling station, Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna, reported to the Public Prosecution Service in March that there were signs that votes had been recruited.

The Elections Act and the Criminal Code make various acts illegal. Counterfeiting or counterfeiting of ballot papers and proxies is forbidden, for example. As well, it is illegal to buy a voter's pass, or force them to surrender it, or even to recruit them to hand it over.



► **Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna and two of his cabinet employees met with the Supervision and Enforcement Department** on August 12, 2019. Officials and employees discussed the organization of the department and possible changes as a result of the administrative agreement of November 2018. Also discussed were: clear job descriptions, cooperation with agencies such as KPCN (police) for specific tasks, job vacancies, and integrity.

Lieutenant Rijna holds the public order and safety portfolio. Since March 2019, Jair Tromp has been the new director of Supervision and Enforcement. Previously Tromp led the Fire Department of the Caribbean Netherlands for seven years.

► **Tinted Car Windows.** This past week the Island Council voted on a motion connected with the new Road Traffic Regulations. The motion sought to regulate the percent of the tint on a car window, asking for an approval of 55% light transmittance of the front and side windows of the motor vehicle.

In the meantime, serious efforts are being made to implement the various aspects of the road traffic regulations. The BC (Bestuurskantoor Openbaar Lichaam

Bonaire/ Public Office Bonaire) requires the attention of all citizens of Bonaire to take the rules into account. 1. It is forbidden to hold a mobile phone or tablet while driving. 2. Driving under the influence of alcohol is prohibited. 3. Scooters, motorbikes and quad drivers must wear a helmet. 4. Children under the age of four must sit in a car seat in the car. 5. The driver and passengers must wear a seat belt in the car.

Flotsam & Jetsam continued on page 6



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This Week's Stories

Real Madrid clinic	1,9
Airport master plan & management practices	3,13
Flamingo Fitness	8
Toxic products	8
Clean Coast Bonaire	8
Bonaire Clean-up month	11
Artist: Cesar "Cheky" Zimmerman	14

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (Voting proxies, roads, traffic signs, Rafaela, van Rij, hydrographic survey, NGO Platform moves, U15 soccer team, S&E meeting)	2,6
Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Letters & Opinions (Donkeys, Voting rights, Water act, Social Minimum)	4,5
Ask Kate (preparing for buying trip)	5
Law enforcement	6
Parrots & People	7,
Reef Glimpses (Arrow Crab)	9
A Garden? (Sweet potatoes)	10
Making Bonaire "Accessible" #17 Vacation	10
Picture Yourself (Nicolaas-Modrono & Nicolass)	10
Did You Know? (cyanobacteria)	11
What's Happening: Events, Churches, Museums	12
Cruise ship schedule	12
Sky Park (North & South)	13
Ask a Geek (Windows 10 updates)	13
Pet Of The Week (Glenda, cat)	14
Shelter News (No vacancy)	14
Business Directory	15

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Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599)796 4055
 Email: info@bonairereporter.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher
BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com
 Production: Barbara Lockwood
Contributors: Angliet Nature Lover, Ria Evers-Dokter, Jane Madden-Disko, Caren Eckrich, Dee Scarr, Dean Regas & James Albury, Kate Butler, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Laurie Smith, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Julianka Clarendra, Gerrit vander Meij, Wietze Koopman
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Airport master plan reactivated



The control tower and fire station were relocated as part of the master plan for the development of BIA

“The airport is the most important engine of our economy, so we have to take good care of it,” said deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe when announcing that “the master plan is back on the table.”

Netherlands Airport Consultants (NACO) drew up a master plan for the development of Bonaire International Airport over ten years ago. According to Tjin Asjoe, much of the plan has been achieved. “The runway has been improved, the airport grounds have been enlarged by the installation of fences and the control tower and fire station have been relocated.”

“But more is needed to comply with international guidelines,” Tjin Asjoe added. “The platforms and the terminal are too close to the runway. For safety reasons, there must be a barrier-free zone around the track. We do not comply with that now. That is why it is very important to complete the master plan.”

Reenergizing the master plan is one of the primary tasks of Jos Hillen, the recently appointed interim director of BIA, and the new Supervisory Board (SB), a group with a great deal of aviation experience. Hillen says he is not surprised that there are delays. “The previous director had to do without the backing of an SB. The enthusiasm of the staff is not the cause. I only meet people in the organization who are happy that the new Executive Council has proceeded energetically.”

One of the first measures Hillen has taken is to close one of the two widebody platforms where until recently the aircraft of the KLM and TUI were parked. The platform

is not stable because the foundation under the top layer was not laid properly 15 years ago. Widebody planes are again being parked on their previous platforms.

The master plan provides for new platforms and a new terminal. “I am going to talk to NACO, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and other stakeholders about how we can pick up the thread again,” Hillen said. “At an airport, safety should come first. It should not be that you make a profit because you cut back on it. The trick is to meet the requirements and still realize a cost-effective operation with a relatively small airport. That will be a major challenge. There is a lot to do at BIA. What makes it pleasant is that the staff look positively to the future and there is an Executive Council that wants to achieve something. You notice everywhere that good things are about to happen on the island.”

In July Hillen was also appointed interim director of Bonaire Oil Trading N.V., which owns the fuel/kerosene storage facilities at Flamingo International Airport. The new Executive Council directed Hillen to take urgent measures to meet mandated fire safety requirements at the facilities. The measures were stipulated in an administrative agreement between BOT and the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT). Signed in 2018, the agreement was supposed to be fulfilled by mid September, 2019. Hillen and the Executive Council now hope to make the facility safe in another “4 to 6 months.”

New management practices introduced at the airport

As also reported in this issue of The Reporter, the ten year old master plan for modernizing the physical infrastructure at Bonaire International Airport is being revived under the direction of interim director Jos Hillen and his new team of experts on the Supervisory Board. Hillen and the Supervisory Board are also reviewing and updating many management functions at BIA.

According to deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe, “The lack of a Supervisory Board and the understaffing of the management has left its mark on Bonaire International Airport” operations. For example, “There is a lot of overdue maintenance that needs to be tackled urgently to prevent the airport from being blamed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) or even being imposed restrictions.” So a long-term maintenance plan is being developed to assure the airport is maintained sufficiently to meet international standards.

Communication with stakeholders is also being improved. The owners of the stores

Airport management practices, continued on page 13

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Letters and Opinions

To The Bonaire Reporter:

I am writing in response to Al Catalfumo's recent letter on Bonaire's donkey problem. As a supporter of Marina Melis and Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire, I can testify firsthand about all their incredible work on behalf of Bonaire's donkeys for 26 years. When no one cared about injured or orphaned donkeys, Marina and her team of volunteers were there; when no one paid the vet bills to euthanize or heal injured donkeys, Marina and her volunteers raised the money from donations; when donkeys needed a refuge from a street life full of danger and starvation and disease, Marina and her volunteers were there once again to create a donkey safari park, which has become a model for other donkey rescue initiatives around the world. As a result of 26 years of experience, they are the experts on the donkeys of Bonaire, not Catalfumo and his followers. So the plan submitted by Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire to the OLB is the most strategic, practical, and humane, given the current conditions of drought and traffic on Bonaire.

In 2018, 24 donkeys were killed on the roads; since January 2019, 34 donkeys have already been killed. And with more than 11,500 vehicles on the roads (not counting scooters and golf carts), that number will probably be tripled by the end of the year. In the middle of the night, it is Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire that the police or residents call when a donkey's intestines are spilled on the road to Rincon. And Ms. Melis and her team of helpers always show up and pay the vet bills to mend a broken leg or send an unfortunate ezel to donkey heaven.

Even more donkeys have survived because they were rescued from injury and disease and given a home in the sanctuary, especially foals who have lost their mothers. And then it is Ms. Melis and her team of workers who bottle feed that foal many times during the day and night.

With more than 450 donkeys roaming Bonaire, the problem is out of control reproduction. When common sense prevailed, there was a castration program that fixed 200 males so they would not keep making babies, babies, and more babies. Let's not romanticize a donkey's life on Bonaire as Catalfumo does: "Imagine a family living peacefully and a mother and her newborn calf being separated." First there is no family "living peacefully" as males hang out with one another and only visit females when they are in estrus. Second mothers and foals are brought into the sanctuary together and only separated by death on the roads. And, as any animal lover knows, increasing animal populations with diminishing water and food supplies and soaring accidents is just plain cruelty, not a Walt Disney movie!

It is time for the Bonaire government to provide the resources to resume reproduction control, which will reduce injuries, deaths, and misery of Bonaire's donkeys. It is time for the Bonaire government to hold up their end of the bargain and pay to support those females and foals they ordered be brought off the roads and into the sanctuary. If you are not convinced, then ride along with Marina and her team in the middle of the night to assist a mother who has been hit so hard by a car that her baby pops right out of her body.

If you are convinced that the Bonaire government should act now to approve the DSB plan, tell James Kroon (Pablo. Kroon@bonairegov.com) and Etienne van der Horst (Etienne.vanderhorst@bonairegov.com) so no more donkeys will die.

Pauline Kayes, Belnem, Bonaire and Portland, Oregon

An opinion: Equivalent voting rights for the BES-islanders!



Since 2010 Bonaire, Sint-Eustatius and Saba are part of the state system of the Netherlands. The islanders are governed more intensively by the government than the people in the European part of the country. They have, however, no more influence in the elections for the Second and the First Chamber (the Parliament and Senate, respectively) than the European voters. In my opinion they are thereby heftily disadvantaged.

In June 2019 the government Rutte-III has announced its response to the proposals of the Remkes commission for the preservation and improvement of democracy. But this commission and the government have not had an eye for the democratic deficit on the islands as a result of 2010.

UNEQUAL FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

The islanders cannot elect a provincial council like in the European part of the country. On the BES-islands there is no province at all. Instead, the government covers also almost all the regional affairs.

The three island councils on Bonaire, Saba and Sint-Eustatius are roughly the same as the municipality councils in the European part of the country. But in the European Netherlands there are also provinces. Every municipality is part of a province that takes care of regional affairs (South-Holland, North-Holland, Friesland, Groningen, Gelderland etc.). The councils of these provinces, the "Provincial States," are also directly elected by the inhabitants of every province. In Caribbean Netherlands that doesn't exist. Instead the government takes care of the common affairs of the three BES-islands, or lets the RCN do it.

Furthermore, the members of the Senate are elected by the members of the twelve Provincial States. And because there is no province in the Caribbean part of the country, the Senate is also elected by members of three Caribbean electoral colleges. BES

citizens voted for these Caribbean electoral colleges for the first time in March 2019. The island councils also have fewer powers than the municipality councils in the European part of the country. They are not allowed to independently decide to meet in private. And they can decide in private only about a part of the matters that may be decided then by the municipality councils. In addition they may not advise on who the new Island Governor will be. And so the government, the Kingdom's Representative and the Island Governors rule on the islands instead of a provincial council especially.

INSUFFICIENT VOTING RIGHTS

However, in the elections for the Second and the First Chamber the votes of the islanders do not count more heavily than those in the European part of the country. The islanders are so definitely disadvantaged compared to voters in the European Netherlands. They have a considerably greater interest in being able to choose representatives in the Second and the First Chamber because of the considerably more intensive involvement of the government with their existence. The equal treatment of all voters really leads to inequality rather than equality because of the clearly considerably different forms of government in the Caribbean and the European part of the country. However, the Electoral law ("Kieswet") ignores this inequality. And so on this point this law is therefore certainly contrary to the General equal treatment law ("Algemene wet gelijke behandeling"). And to the unwritten principle of good administration that the government does not introduce and implement laws that cause arbitrariness.

THE SOLUTION

It is therefore high time to adjust the Electoral law in such a way that the votes of the voters on the BES-islands outweigh those of the European Dutch to the extent that their unequal circumstances are corrected by a heavier vote. This heavier vote should apply to both the direct elections for the Second Chamber (voting for the Parliament representatives themselves) and in the elections for the First Chamber (voting for the Senate by the Caribbean electoral colleges). In view of the lack of a provincial administration and also reduced powers for local government, their votes should count roughly one and a half times as much as they do now. So that the islanders are finally treated equally in both the elections for the Second and the First Chamber.

Gerrit van der Meij, retired civil planner, The Hague

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.

The attached article describes how the State Secretary has arrived at a particularly low benchmark for the social minimum BES. Publication is appreciated.

Sincerely, Wietze Koopman (Background information: 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.)

Social minimum BES: measuring with two measures

Since the BES islands were included as special municipalities in the country of the Netherlands on 10-10-10, the policy of the Netherlands excels in measuring with two measures. A poignant example of this is the hassle around a social minimum for the BES islands. The successive government teams postponed setting this social minimum for as long as possible. Under increasing pressure from parliament, the State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment has now taken an important step in the fight against poverty in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands.

That step can be read in the letter with the Progress Report on the Social Security of the Caribbean Netherlands, which State Secretary Tamara van Ark sent to the House of Representatives on 27 June. After nine years, a benchmark for a social minimum has finally been established. This is a step over a psychological threshold for the Dutch government, the significance of which should not be underestimated. But to come to that, it was apparently necessary to establish this benchmark fundamentally differently from the social minimum in the European Netherlands.

After the introduction of the Linking Act in the 1980s, the minimum wage (now € 1,637 per month) is the benchmark for the social minimum in the Netherlands. Since the 1960s, the minimum wage has been "a socially acceptable consideration for the work performed that can provide for basic necessities" ¹⁾. With the social minimum, which is set at 100% of the minimum wage, the living expenses of two people are covered ²⁾. The social minimum for a single person is derived from this (approximately 70% of the minimum wage).

Because the minimum wage on the BES islands is much too low to cover the cost of living, the parliament asked for a social minimum based on the cost of living on those islands (in the 60s this was also the starting point in the Netherlands for the setting of the minimum wage). The minimum costs for a two-person household on Bonaire were calculated by an independent research agency in 2018 at \$ 1,835 per month. The State Secretary has corrected for price increases to an amount of \$ 1,922 in 2019.

If it had been measured with Dutch standards, the benchmark for the social minimum

for Bonaire would therefore have been set at \$ 1,922 per month. The Secretary of State comes with different standards for a monthly amount of \$ 945. A comparatively lower amount has been set for the other islands.

The minimum wage may, in the long run, be higher than the benchmark, but how much higher still needs to be determined. For the time being, the policy-based increase of the minimum wage on St. Eustatius in 2020 will be limited to 2% because in 2019 it will already be \$ 63 higher than the benchmark set for this island by the State Secretary.

The State Secretary comes to the considerably lower benchmark by approaching the social minimum for the BES islands fundamentally differently from the Netherlands on four points. For Bonaire, below (in brackets) it is made clear what reduction that yields compared to a social minimum calculated according to Dutch standards. A similar arrangement can be made for the other islands.

1. The social minimum benchmark in the Netherlands is aimed at one person working in a two-person household. The benchmark for the BES islands is aimed at a single person (- \$ 502) who also does not work (- \$ 81).

2. The budget for the social minimum in the Netherlands also includes the costs of relaxation and social participation ³). In the Netherlands, it is not considered acceptable to exclude these expenses when the social minimum is set. They have been included in the budget to prevent social exclusion. For the BES islands, however, the State Secretary opts to remove the costs of relaxation and social participation - if not necessary - from the budget (- \$ 47). The State Secretary therefore implies that social exclusion of minima on the BES islands is socially acceptable.

3. The budget for the social minimum in the Netherlands also includes the costs of heating the home. On Bonaire, the expenses for cooling the home are comparable. That is why an amount for minimum costs of air conditioning has been included in the preparation of the cost of living for Bonaire. A few hours a day 1 air conditioner costs \$ 87 per month in prices of 2019. The State Secretary reduces that amount to \$ 36 (- \$ 51). The State Secretary thus implies that three days a week cooling a home is enough for social minimums on Bonaire.

4. In the Netherlands, the social minimum is based on actual costs of living. For the BES islands, the State Secretary takes a benchmark that is lower than the actual cost amount. For single people or couples without children, that lower amount must be achieved by introducing a rental contribution for private homes in the future on an undefined date (- \$ 294). Whether and, if so, how that contribution will be made depends on the results of a pilot project that will be started on Saba in 2020.

The key question is whether the parliament agrees with this measurement with two measures.

¹) source: <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-34573-3.html>

²) source: <https://www.uvw.nl/particulieren/bedragen/>

³) source: <https://digitaal.scp.nl/armoedeinkaat2018/waar-licht-de-armoedegrens/>

Dear members of the press,

Just before the summer break, a proposal to amend the Electricity and Drinking Water Act was published. https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/alteration_wedb.

In the accompanying opinion piece, I conclude that the proposal involves substantial risks to affordability. Risks that are not visible at first sight. The BES Electricity and Drinking Water Act aims to guarantee both the affordability and continuity of electricity and drinking water. Cost-covering rates are required for continuity; there are tariff subsidies from the government for affordability.

Sincerely, *Wietze Koopman*

Will Bonaire bring in the Trojan horse?

The rates are now cost-effective, but the goal of affordability has not been achieved on Bonaire. According to the CBS, the costs for electricity on Bonaire in the third quarter of 2018 were on average 18% higher than in 2017. In short, because cost recovery caused a 24% increase and the subsidy only limited that increase to 18%. That increase is bad enough in itself. Even worse is that the higher costs of the new tariff system were disproportionately borne by small users. For households that often belong to the lower income group. Pagabon users paid 24% more, and on half of the other small connections, the monthly bill was on average even more than 40% higher. This was because half of the \$ 2.3 million subsidy was allocated to larger (company) connections. Things could be different on Saba and Statia. There the subsidy went entirely to the small connections. It is therefore obvious to find the solution in (making possible) a different distribution of the subsidy.

At the request of Bonaire, however, the ministries of EZK [Economic Affairs and Climate] and I&W [Infrastructure and Water Management] have set up a complex tariff system. Especially for Bonaire. The complicated system does not have to apply to Saba and Statia. It is an opaque monster with an exterior that shines with affordability. But as soon as Bonaire brings in this monstrous, this Trojan horse, it will become apparent after the disappearance of the shiny exterior that electricity is not becoming more affordable. That subsidies are not used to lower rates. That higher rates are now being introduced and subsidies are being used for investments (for example in solar and wind energy) that may result in a lower rate somewhere in the future. A smart move from the Ministry of Economic Affairs: it saves on the separate subsidies that are now available for these investments. A hidden cutback.



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question: How do I get ready for a home-buying trip to Bonaire? What should I bring? Thanks, Irene

Hi Irene,

The most important preparation is to **contact your Bonaire real estate agent before you come to the island** to give us notice of your arrival and discuss what you're looking for. Many people fly in weekly to look at properties. By scheduling an appointment in advance, you ensure that your agent has reserved time to work with you, and has identified properties that will fit your needs.

The second way to get ready for your home buying trip is to **be available any day or time for a property showing**. If there are days and times you are unavailable during your trip, it will greatly reduce the opportunity to see the properties you are interested in. Unlike other countries, we don't have lockboxes, so each showing must be carefully coordinated days in advance with owners, renters or property managers. It is critical that we are on time for showings and it is difficult to reschedule them. We are happy to drive you to each appointment.

If you make an offer on a property, we will need **copies of your passport and driver's license**. If you are even considering a mortgage, it is important to briefly **meet with the bank in person and provide this documentation**, even if you don't apply for a mortgage at that time. Once these documents are on file with the real estate office and mortgage bank, any additional documentation can be provided by email, even after you return home.

Best of luck in finding 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

The substantial tariff subsidies for electricity and water supply have the aim of making the socialized network tariffs in the European Netherlands also apply to the Caribbean Netherlands. Just like on the remote Wadden Islands, this promotes the affordability of this facility on the BES islands. By giving the tariff subsidy a different purpose, the socialization of the fixed network tariffs for the Caribbean Netherlands is not taken into account.

In the Netherlands, the socialization of rates is not subject to a ceiling. There will be a ceiling in the Caribbean Netherlands: a subsidy ceiling has now been made possible in the amendment proposal from The Hague. It seems that the ministries have found a way to limit the - in their eyes too high - costs of solidarity with the Dutch Caribbean. This Trojan horse hides an army of spending cuts and associated tariff increases on the BES islands.

**Vote by September 6th
for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019!
on Facebook: Miss Tourism Bonaire**

Lorenny Mercera
Participant #1
Age: 18
Hometown: Pica
Hobby: Handy Crafts & Sports
Please like my picture for Miss Tourism Internet Bonaire 2019!

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

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

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

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

Miss Tourism Bonaire Pagent is 8pm sharp, Courtyard by Marriott, September 7, 2019 (Advance tickets \$30 from TCB)

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Bonaire Crime statistics January to June 2019

The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force presents an overview of crime and traffic statistics every 6 months. The half-year figures are compared with both the annual and half-year figures for the previous year.

Property crimes: The property crimes show a decrease of 19 cases compared to the half-year figures for 2018. Other theft has fallen from 97 incidents to 66 incidents. Theft of motor vehicles (cars, buses and trucks) shows a decrease from 12 in 2018 to two in 2019, a decrease of 83%.

Violent crimes. January through June 2019 saw 115 violent crimes. In the same period in 2018, there were 110. In the first six months of both 2018 and 2019, 8 robberies [with violence] were registered.

Traffic figures. In the first six months, 622 traffic cases were reported, an increase of 13.5%. With the introduction of the Road Traffic Regulation August, 2019, the KPCN hopes that both the number of collisions, injuries and fatalities will decrease.

Bonaire Police Report for August 3 — August 12

Robberies

On August 12: • between 14.25 and 14.28 on the Kaya Onima, near the rock drawings, thieves took a bag with contents from the back seat of an unlocked car. • Thieves took a TV and other items from Sabadeco Terrace. Probably the same perpetrators also tried to break into the neighbors, but they were at home. • a report was made of a robbery with a firearm at a company in the Nikiboko South. Two suspects with covered faces took a number of valuable articles. The police call on witnesses who have information about this robbery to contact KPCN via telephone number 715-8000 or the anonymous tip line 717-7251.

Investigations

On August 6, KPCN and the Labor Inspectorate checked the legality of those working at a large construction site. Legality is defined by the BES Admission and Expulsion Act (WTU) and the BES Workers' Employment Act. During the audit, KPCN arrested four men who were staying illegally on Bonaire (three Venezuelans and one Dominican). These aliens have been transferred to the aliens detention center and will be deported. Because the aliens were working on the construction site, one or more employers have also violated the BES Aliens Employment Act. The Labor Inspectorate will further investigate the identity of the employers who let the aliens work without a valid work permit.

Fires

August 9: • There was a fire from hot cooking oil on the gas stove in a house on Kaya Kabikuchi in the Antriol Pabou district. There were no victims.
• There was a report that a car was burning on the Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. The cause of this fire is being investigated.

On the Roads

A car accident occurred on the Kaya IR Statius of Eps at the end of the afternoon. The driver lost control of the car and hit an electric pole. Two passengers were transferred to the hospital, from which the 23-year-old J.N.J later died. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Arrests

On August 11: • During a traffic check, two men (25 and 22 years old) were arrested in connection with a violation of the Opium Act.
• After a report that there were suspicious persons near JICN, the police arrested two men both 36 years old with packages that were supposed to be thrown over the wall of the JICN (Justitiële Inrichting Caribisch Nederland / detention center and prison). *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

Coast Guard finds 800 Kilo Cocaine in Venezuelan Vessel.

July 31, 2019, the Coast Guard intercepted a Venezuelan vessel in the territorial waters of Curaçao. When the vessel suddenly started to sink, the Coast Guard took 10 persons of various nationalities to the Coastguard Support Center and handed them over to the Curaçao Police Force. The vessel, which was now half under water, was brought to the Coast Guard jetty at the Parera naval base. The following morning, August 1, the water was pumped out of the vessel and searched. More than 800 kilos of cocaine was discovered. The drugs have been destroyed by order of the Public Prosecutor's Office and those on board are considered suspects in this drug smuggling case.



► **New traffic signs.** As part of the traffic law, the Bonairean island government is placing new road signs. On August 9, employees from public works (R&O) placed the first sign at the roundabout at Kaya Internashonal and Kaya Industria. In the coming days, signs will also be placed indicating no parking, pedestrian crossings and disabled parking.

► **Fuel Prices.** As of August 9th, the price for kerosene increased by 0.10 cents, while the price for propane decreased (LPG 100 LBS by 0.62 cents and LPG 20 lbs by 0.42 cents). Gasoline and diesel remained the same as in July. At the pump, Benzine is 122.00 USDct per liter, and Diesel is 82.00 USDct per liter. The next fuel price adjustment is in September 2019.

► **The Royal Netherlands Navy is sending the hydrographic survey vessel Snellius to the Caribbean.** The naval ship will map the seabed in the Dutch Caribbean for the next 5 months. The Hydrographic Service uses this information, amongst other things, to produce nautical charts and other navigational publications as currents and weather influences are constantly changing.

► **NGO Platform Bonaire is moving offices to Kaya Amsterdam next to the Chamber of Commerce Bonaire on September 1.** The new offices contain a space for quick meetings between NGOs, a conference room, and two workplaces for NGOs that do not have their own offices.

The NGO Platform Bonaire is also organizing a "NGO Connect Night." Five NGOs will introduce themselves to other NGOs during biweekly meetings in the months of September, October and November.

► **EZ Air will give a discount to card-carrying pensioners of Pension Fund Caribbean Netherlands (PCN).** The discount (currently 10%) applies only to tickets purchased at the EZ Air ticket offices on Bonaire (Kaya Italia 1) and Curaçao (Rooseveltweg 505). On a few very busy days in the year the 10% discount may not apply.

The Pension Fund Caribbean Netherlands (PCN) decided in early 2018 to grant a loan to EZ Air for the purchase of two aircraft for air traffic between the ABC islands and Colombia. On August 9, 2019 EZ Air operated its first charter flight, commissioned by health insurer ZVK, between Bonaire and Barranquilla, Columbia.

► **The Bonaire U15 soccer team participated in the Concacaf* Boys Under 15 Championship 2019 August 4-1, at the IMG Academy campus in Bradenton, Florida.**

Bonaire played in the 3rd division where they performed well and did not lose a single match. In all their games only one goal was scored against them due to their good defense and goalkeeper work. Bonaire - Sint Maarten: 0-0. Bonaire - US Virgin Islands: 4-1. Bonaire - Anguila: 1-0. Bonaire - Dominica: 0-0.

*CONCACAF-Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football



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Hope for parrots and people



Reforestation volunteers and Echo staff at Salina Tam



First parrot from the 2019 breeding program is out of the nest box and eager to fly.

With baby loras getting out of the artificial nest box in the breeding aviaries at Dos Pos, Echo has new hope in re-introducing this protected species. The new unnamed loras are getting out of the box one by one. We know the space will be a tight fit for five but luckily they will be released as soon as they are ready. In the meantime we need to create a stable and healthy habitat.

Echo has been leading re-introduction of native plants in exclusion areas to restore Bonaire's ecosystem. More than

13,000 trees were out-planted during the three-year reforestation project. Our nursery doors are wide open again for distribution of native plants for the 2019 tree-planting season. The reforestation is creating an excitement of hope for the future of the island. We are not only seeing rehabilitated parrots flying off, but more than 60% of our plants are being established one root at the time.

Last week a group of 25 people out-planted 501 native species in Saliña Tam. The area is on the road to Playa Frans

and Boka druifi. It is an important habitat for many wild birds. Planting more trees on this side of our divers paradise helps against erosion of the beach and the Saliñas. This is directly beneficial for tourism and the island economy. It is important to create biodiversity around the spiny bushes that dominate the island and make nature on land more attractive for our visitors.

It's a proven fact that planting brings hope to the environment. Are you helping?

The next tree-planting day will be on August 24 at the exclusion area Morotin, in front of the recycling station just outside of Rincon. The aim of reforestation around this area is not only to rehabilitate the damaged soil around the dump, but also encourage local conservation participation. The area of Morotin hosts the windmill farm. It is a prime example of how a small island can synergize the im-

pact of climate change. By creating windmill energy, recycling all of our trash and planting trees we contribute to the solution to the biggest worldwide problem. Join us on the 24th at 9am to plant hope for the world and especially Bonaire's Parrots and People! *Julianka Clarendon*, Director Echo Foundation

Echo's next tree-planting day will be August 24, 8-11am. Join us at the exclusion area Morotin, in front of the recycling station just outside of Rincon.



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A new way to work out with a great view

Most people come to Bonaire to dive, windsurf, enjoy island life or retire. But not Ronnie Heijman of Flamingo Fitness. Ronnie arrived on Bonaire with fitness goals in mind: to get Bonaire fit, bring Crossfit training to the island and offer affordable fitness for everyone.

“It’s ridiculous that people pay their time and money for a subscription to a gym for \$70 to use second hand gym equipment and with no personal attention, Ronnie said, “No where in the world is fitness this expensive.”

He says Bonaire is plagued with the health issues of obesity, diabetes type 2 and lifestyle abuse. Diets of traditional foods and lack of exercise are major contributing factors to both obesity and diabetes.

Ronnie says it’s all about knowledge and accessibility. Healthy foods and exercise need to be more affordable to drive down the weight and bring up the level of health.

“I think that we need to get together and lower the prices of healthier foods – And raise the prices of sugars and junk type foods,” said Ronnie.

Information on how to be healthy through diet and exercise is available everywhere but people aren’t ac-

cepting the information because of the expense.

“The people themselves have to make the decision,” Ronnie said, “We as a company need to make it accessible.”

Ronnie is working through his goals by providing the cheapest gym subscriptions on island. Because his gym doesn’t offer a long term contract, he thought about calling the gym “No BS Fitness”.

And it’s not just the cost. He has created an environment where everyone is comfortable working out. The gym is located in an open air building on the water looking out at Klein Bonaire. Anyone working out has the perfect view of the ocean.

Ronnie said, “Everybody is the same here. It doesn’t matter if you are a five time world champion body builder or an 83 year old person who needs fitness.”

The gym boasts four certified fitness coaches, a nutrition coach, an array of Paramount exercise machines, bikes, ellipticals, weights and Crossfit training equipment.

Ronnie’s specialty is Crossfit and he believes wholeheartedly that it is the best all around fitness training workout. The regimen was developed in California and founded in 2000. Crossfit is promoted as a physical exercise philosophy and com-



Ronnie Heijman coaches Colin Bourke in his Crossfit workout

petitive fitness sport. There are elements of weightlifting, plyometrics, powerlifting, gymnastics, calisthenics, strongman and other exercises in high intensity interval training. A variety of equipment is incorporated. Everyday is a different type of conditioning. Individuals track their workouts on an app. The percentage of men and women is 50/50 and that is true at Flamingo Fitness and worldwide.

“We have commandos and grandmothers doing the same thing side by side but with different weights,” said Ronnie.

Part of the Crossfit training is a nutritional assessment headed up by Ronnie’s life partner Martha. She evaluates a person’s eating habits and develops a plan

based on macros.

Ronnie Heijman’s first Crossfit gym was in the Netherlands but due to the gym’s popularity he fell into the trap of an unhealthy diet due to overwork. He lost the personal contact with the people and knew it was time to move on and get healthy again. He and Martha moved to Bonaire and opened the Crossfit gym in September 2017 and in January 2018 added the machines.

“We have the best place to work on fitness, but in the end you have to do it yourself”, said Ronnie.

For more information, visit the Flamingo Fitness Facebook page. *Story and photo, Julie Morgan.*

We could be destroying our reefs

If we are using the product below or other similar items to clean, we may be responsible for killing aquatic life. This item was purchased locally and who knows what other items are lurking on the market shelves.

How many times do we actually read the ingredients or warnings on packaging? We pick up the product that suits our needs and fits our budget and then read the instructions when we get ready to use it, right?



If a product contains this pictograph the main concern is toxicity for aquatic life. Aquatic hazards may include short-term (acute) hazards on various aquatic life forms (such as fish, crustaceans, algae, and aquatic plants). Posting this symbol is not required by law so many products may be out there that don’t display the dead tree/dead fish symbol they should.

Toxic ingredients also contribute to long-term (chronic) hazards. They impact aquatic life forms by a buildup of toxicity that can affect the environment long term. This buildup is called bioaccumulation and is a major concern. The toxic ingredient accumulates in the algae. The little fish eat the algae and the big fish eat the little fish. This chain accumulates more and more of the toxic ingredient. The buildup can impact spawning, cause genetic problems in offspring and behavioral changes.

It is surprising how many products we use everyday that have this warning symbol.

If we report these items to retailers, perhaps they will stop importing and selling these toxic killers of our reefs. Taking care of our oceans and planet is everyone’s responsibility. *Story by Julie Morgan*

(Thanks to Brian Niessen for discovering this problem)



photo Julie Morgan

Clean Coast Bonaire (CCB) is going strong after one year of dedicated micro plastic clean ups. They are the first in the Caribbean to establish an OSPAR Marine Litter Monitoring program. Each month they clean a 50 sq. meter area rotating between three different beach locations: TeAmo Beach, Boka Onima and Piedra Pretu.

The July 13th clean up survey at Boka Onima Beach yielded 3,811 items of marine litter. There were 80 plastic caps entangled in the sargassum that had washed ashore. The worst culprits were small pieces of plastic and /or polystyrene under 2.5cm – 3,397 pieces. Also found were several beverage bottles with recognizable labels showing that they originated in Trinidad, Suriname and Panama.

CCB will celebrate their anniversary by changing their cleanup time from 8am to 4pm beginning September 14.

Reef Glimpses

Arrow Crab Mystique

Cleaner station ready for action before a client arrives: arrow crabs, ghost cleaner shrimp and anemone



The arrow crab cleans my finger.



One afternoon in the Bahamas, I was guiding newly-certified divers. It had been a typical dive with new divers, we checked buoyancy control and then I introduced a few common creatures: anemones with shrimp, an arrow crab, garden eels in a sandy area, our friendly Nassau grouper.

In the middle of all that, I found an eel about the diameter of a pencil. It was so tiny that when I put my hand on the sand in front of it, it swam between my ring and my finger and rested on my palm! Both of my buddies were able to examine the little eel. When I placed my hand back on the bottom, the eel swam casually away.

That was one of the most amazing things I'd ever seen underwater. I couldn't wait until the dive was over to talk about it.

After the dive:

ME: (excited) My mind is boggled! Could you believe that little eel sat right on my hand? That was amazing!

DIVER: (matter-of-factly) Oh yeah, that was nice. (then excited) But what was that funny brown and yellow thing with the long legs that we showed you? It was like looking at a spider but it wasn't scary! What's it called? I have to be sure to put it in my log!

From that day to this I've never failed to point out an arrow crab.

And since I've been watching arrow crabs, I've noticed a remarkable addition to their behaviors: cleaning.

Arrow crabs hang out where they have protection from predators, such as near crevices or under ledges. Other animals, including anemones, use crevices and ledges too. And some anemones host cleaner shrimp.

The rest is easy to visualize: a fish pulls up to the anemone cleaner station and the cleaner shrimp jump aboard. An arrow crab sees this event again and again. Eventually, the crab moves seeing something edible on the fish. The crab plucks this edible thing off the client fish, and begins a new career for itself.

I've seen arrow crabs clean and I've even been cleaned by them, but there's something else they do that I've never been able to witness: an arrow crab molting its shell.

Crabs, lobsters, and shrimp all have hard shells which can't expand. When one of these creatures grows too big for its shell, the shell splits on the underside, where the tail meets the carapace. The creature within, which is sort of leathery-skinned when it molts, removes its entire body from its outgrown shell through the carapace-tail split. That process would be kind of like an eight-legged diver peeling out of a tight wetsuit through a back zipper opening, with the neck closure fastened, underwater. Wouldn't you love to see an arrow crab (or a diver) doing that?

Once the molt is completed, the tired crab relaxes next to its old shell. At first glance, they look like two arrow crabs, one healthy and the other one pale. The "pale" one is the molt, perfect in every way including the clear protective eye covering -- and pale because it's perfectly empty. I've seen the crab-and-its-molt duo on early night dives, which means the arrow crabs must have molted in late afternoon or early evening. By morning the molt is still around, but the crab has gone, keeping a low profile until its new shell hardens.

So although we've been able to observe the arrow crab new cleaning behavior, its "traditional ceremonies" like molting, though they still take place, are usually unobserved. Who would have expected the arrow crab -- probably the most commonly seen crab in the Caribbean -- to keep secrets from us? *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.



Real Madrid clinic



Kaelan Winkler and Isaac Helmholdt awarded best conduct, Most Valuable Players (MVPs). They best represented the ethics of the Real Madrid foundation. The boys receive jerseys from director Brian van den Bergh and coach Carlos Blazquez.

More photos on *The Reporter* Facebook page....



The second annual Free Roaming Donkeys of Bonaire International Photo Contest begins September 1, 2019. Submission rules and a form are located on Facebook. Just type in PHOTO CONTEST BONAIRE. The contest runs through June 2020.





photo Julie Morgan

Sweet potatoes

We have had occasional rains lately, so I thought I would discuss a vegetable that is so beloved on Bonaire and grows easily everywhere with just a little water.

Sweet potatoes, (*Ipomoeo batatas*) are large, starchy, sweet-tasting vegetables belonging to the Morning Glory family. They are a distant family to potatoes and are not part of the edible nightshade family as are potatoes and tomatoes. They are root tubers, just like carrots and beets.

Root tubers store water and energy like starch and other carbohydrates in the ground. They draw upon these resources to feed the above ground parts of the plant.

Sweet potatoes are the oldest foods known to humanity. Fossils have been found that show they were growing in the Americas 35 million years ago. Recent evidence shows that they have been growing for 57 million years in India.

There are two types of sweet potatoes in most produce sections: firm and soft, but there are about 25 varieties available. In fact there are over 6500 varieties of sweet potatoes. The International Potato Center in Peru has a gene bank with all of them. The varieties range in color from dark red to brown to purple to orange-yellow to white. They also have different taste, shapes, sizes and textures.

Bonaire has the brown-orange and red-purple ones.

A few of the most popular types are: Garnet, Jewel, and Beauregard with the reddish-orange skin and deep orange flesh.

The white sweet potatoes that are crumbly with white flesh and golden brown skin have fewer antioxidants than the orange ones.

Okinawan sweet potatoes are the ones we know as purple sweet potatoes. They have a high anthocyanin content which is a kind of pigment that gives the red, blue violet plant foods their beautiful color and are very high in antioxidants.

Japanese or Satsumaimo sweet potatoes are sweeter than most other types.

Sweet potatoes grow easily on Bonaire because they are very hardy vegetables and can grow almost everywhere. It's best to plant root sprouts, called slips,

from nurseries. Save a few roots from your crop for planting. About six weeks before it's time to plant them, place the roots in a box of moist sand, sawdust or chopped leaves. Shoots will sprout and when they reach six to nine inches long, cut them off the root. To create the perfect environment, create long, wide 10 inch-high ridges spaced four feet apart. Make the holes six and 12 inches apart. Bury slips up to the top leaves, press the soil down and water. Don't over-water the plants or they may rot. Minimize the chances of disease by planting only healthy slips. Avoid black and stem rot by planting resistant cultivars. Sweet potatoes mature in 90 to 170 days. You can harvest as soon as leaves start to yellow but the longer a crop is left in the ground the higher the yield and vitamin content. Destroy infected plants and their roots.

Sweet potatoes keep the best when you keep them dry and cool, (not in the fridge), and use them within a few weeks.

Sweet potatoes lower blood pressure, weight and combat heart disease, strokes and other chronic diseases. They are good for your eyes, reduce inflammation and have powerful anticancer properties. Sweet potatoes are high in fiber, copper, vitamin C, vitamin A, potassium, pantothenic acid (vitamin B5), niacin (vitamin B6), manganese, and magnesium.

Their color is from beta-carotene, which is a pigment and antioxidant. They contain a good amount of protein and a low glycemic index score. This makes them slower to digest.

Sweet potatoes can be used in different ways: steaming, roasting, grilling, stir-frying, mashing, baking, boiling and cooking. The faster they cook, the more the sweetness reduces and if boiled slowly they become sweeter. Bonaireans like sweet potatoes in stobas, soups and even in bolo (cake).

So what can stop you to plant your own sweet potatoes, since you have all this information?

Start now, just do it!! *Angliet, Nature lover*



Vacation time. Taking a break!

Care giving is a very tough job. It puts a big burden on you mentally and physically. The hardest part is getting some rest. We neglect ourselves when we're taking care of a person, especially when it's a loved one, and that makes it twice as hard. You can understand that the battery would need charging and I'm talking about both the body and mind. You neglect yourself because you want to be perfect for the person who is close to you. But, you have to keep a positive attitude and communicate with others. The brain can discharge due to lack of rest and some people call that discharge STRESS. We never really know how stressed out we are because the task we're doing becomes a habit and habits are hard to break. We never really listen to our body. Some people don't understand that. Stress does not care who it gets. Stress can take control without our knowing what's going on and then it's too late.

So this would be the perfect moment to take a vacation. And not only for the caretaker, but also for the person being cared for.

You can go together or separately. Nowadays there are very interesting offers for people with a handicap. They can join special interest groups guided by volunteers. There is something for everyone. You only have to pick: walking, hiking, sight-seeing, swimming, snorkeling or diving.

You can take a city-trip, day-tours or visit special events.

And for the people who like to take it

very easy, there is a cruise ship, a stay in a nice hotel or a weekend-house.

You can travel by boat, airplane, car, or camper; everything is possible. There is an interesting whole wide world out there just waiting to be discovered.

You will have to decide if you will go by yourself or in a group, with friends or your partner.

The only thing you need to do is prepare well. Sit down and discuss the needs, the accessibility and the budget.

Most every travel agency can help you and give decent advice,

Talk to your doctor and physiotherapist. Ask them, as they know you the best and what you can handle.

Pack light or not? Are the clothes you own good for the occasion? Do they fit well, and can they be thrown in a washing machine?

Choose luggage that is well fitted, or have some made especially for you. The rucksack is a great alternative. Suitcases are not very handy.

Are your immunizations up to date? If you are on medication, make sure you have enough for the trip and that it's in the original packaging.

When booking the vacation, make very sure you get your doctor's approval about your diagnosis and have him/her issue paperwork stating you need special help. If you need to make arrangements for a wheelchair, then ask for assistance to get you into and out of airplanes, buses and cars.

All these arrangements, discussions and thinking are a lot of work that could also cause stress. But think; once you are on that boat, in that plane, in that tent or whatever, you will feel awesome and you will have the time of your life.

Happy vacationing, everyone! *Ria Evers-Dokter.*

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Museo Pablo Neruda



In mid-July 2019 Toekijem Nicolaas-Modrono and Feliz Nicolaas went to Santiago, the capital of Chile, South America, in a group trip ACU from Curaçao. They write: "During our stay we had a beautiful trip to the Museum House Isla Negra from the Foundation of Pablo Neruda, famous writer and poet. We saw the place he lived, wrote several famous writings and poems and died after returning to Chile from Europe. Here in the house you can find his collection related to the sea: figure heads, sails, ships in bottles, seashells, Also masks, antique shoes and smoking pipes. With us under the hanging bells you can observe in the back the tremendous tumultuous Pacific Ocean on the wild coast of Isla Negra.

Did You Know...

that the fluffy, weedy, green stuff found in the shallows near the salt pier is actually not algae at all?



photo Julie Morgan

As their name implies, they are bacteria. But, they also share one important trait with plants and algae: they can turn (sun) light into energy and produce oxygen as a byproduct! Cyanobacteria are much older than plants. Scientists even suspect that these small creatures are the reason that Earth's atmosphere contains so much oxygen. When the planet was newly formed, 2.8 billion years ago, the atmosphere was almost devoid of oxygen. But in the last half billion years oxygen levels have risen steadily. This event, sometimes referred to as the Oxygen Revolution, seems to have been caused directly by increasing numbers of cyanobacteria. Without them our atmosphere would probably not have been able to retain this much oxygen. This means that animal life, as we know, would not have been able to evolve at all! Had these bacteria not been around, we wouldn't exist. Currently cyanobacteria are still very abundant. There are many different species and they can be found in fresh water and salt water, from the tropics to the arctic, on coral reefs and in the open ocean. They play an integral role in aquatic food webs and are responsible for some of the oxygen we breathe.

Even though cyanobacteria are very important for a healthy ecosystem, they can still wreak havoc. Under normal conditions they can co-exist happily with other creatures. However when they start growing out of control, an event called a cyanobacterial bloom, they can cause some serious damage. Bonaire's reefs have historically experienced the occasional cyanobacterial bloom, but they usually disappear after a few weeks. Blooms are often caused when cold water from the deep slowly moves shallower (upwelling). This is sometimes driven by strong trade winds. The water is typically high in nutrients and can trigger cyanobacteria and algae to start growing faster, resulting in a cyanobacterial bloom. As soon as the nutrients are used up, the bacteria begin to die off. The bloom at the Salt Pier was first brought to STINAPA's attention at the beginning of this year. The expectation was that the bloom would persist for a couple of weeks and then die off. Unfortunately, it has now been

several months and the situation seems to be worsening. The bloom is slowly expanding. It is becoming wider and moving deeper. The exact cause of this bloom is as of yet unknown, but is likely being caused by excessive nutrients and organic waste in the water column.

Anyone snorkeling, diving, or swimming at the Salt Pier can see for themselves how concerning the situation has become. STINAPA is working with partners to try and find out how the bloom came to be. We are trying to find what type of cyanobacteria it is and how we can prevent this from happening in the future and on other reefs. One of the easiest ways to prevent blooms such as this one is to ensure we keep our waters as clean as possible. This means preventing waste from being discharged in the marine park, but also controlling runoff from land. Not only would this be beneficial in preventing cyanobacterial blooms, it would contribute to stronger and healthier reefs that are better able to cope with an increasingly warmer ocean.

Roxanne-Liana Francisca
Wildlife and marine Biology Trainee



Shallow area of the Salt Pier completely covered in cyanobacteria. Photo by Roxanne-Liana Francisca.

Anyone driving past the salt pier in the last couple of months may have noticed that the water looks a little green. If you enter the water you can see something that looks like algae growing all over the bottom in the shallows. In some cases it can even be seen growing over soft and hard corals. So what is happening at this popular dive site? The Salt Pier is currently experiencing a rapid growth of an interesting type of bacterium known as cyanobacteria.



photo Julie Morgan

Time to pick up some trash....

With the celebration of World Cleanup Day on September 21, Selibon has declared the entire month of September as Bonaire Cleanup Month! There will be planned cleanups with and without volunteers to "take out the trash" throughout the month. The dumping areas in the mundis will be cleared as Selibon makes its way through each area on Bonaire. *The Reporter* will print a detailed schedule of events and information for the cleanups in the September 2 issue. Join the movement!





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"Great food, great value!!!"
Neptune, New Jersey USA - Sept. 2013

"Hopi dushi mes."
Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

"Heel erg lekker"
Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

WEEKENDS ONLY...

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

What's Happening

August 18, 19 & 20	Coral Spawning Night Dives with Dive Friends Bonaire @ 8:30 pm - 11:30 pm Guided night dive to witness coral spawning. Based on predictions from research center CARM-ABI For information and to check pricing and availability, email info@divefriendsbonaire.com.
August 18-24	Ocean Awareness Week (Dive Friends Bonaire) 8am -5pm
Saturday, August 24	Tree Planting Day with Echo Foundation at Morotin. 8-11am
Sunday, August 25	Fishing line clean-up dive. Meet at 9:30am Dive Inn. More on the event under the turtle photo.
Saturday August 31	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. Enjoy delicious food, live music, local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations and an exhibition about Rincon. Fun, relaxed and entertaining for kids and adults alike. All proceeds go to our educational programs. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE.
Friday Sept. 6	Bonaire Flag Day "Dia di Boneiru" Official ceremony: Wilhelmina Park; Administration Parking Lot Cultural Celebrations: Buurtcentrum, Nort'l Saliña
Saturday Sept. 7	Tree Planting Day with Echo Foundation at Goto. 8-11am Soap Box Derby on Rincon Hill Gala Pagent Miss Tourism Bonaire. 8pm sharp. Courtyard by Marriott, (Advance tickets \$30 from TCB)
Sunday Sept. 8	Goat Festival at Washington Slagbaai National Park 8am-5pm. Local dishes made with goat meat, sweets, folkloric music and dance, games and domino. A culinary contest will be held. Entry is free for this event at the visitor center. If attendees wish to travel through Washington Park, normal entry fees apply.



photo Julie Morgan

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and Dive Friends will host the next fishing line clean-up dive on August 25 at 9:30. Meet at the Dive Inn with your certification prepared to dive. Tanks are provided by the host.

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Tuesday	8-20	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	8-27	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	8-29	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782	RCCL

CLUBS and MEETINGS

- **Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.
- **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 **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 Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob.N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 or ride bo-

naireibc@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 ellenherracochrane@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**

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 Conserva-

tion 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.

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 the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.
- **Monthly Cultural Event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei** - Every last Saturday of the month. See the calendar above.
- **Marshe Rincon Krioyo** 1st & last Saturdays. Street market in Rincon, crafts, local food, sweets, noon—6pm.
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989.
- **Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire)** Last Saturday of the month. Donate foods & household items 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.
- **Petanque-Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6pm, Bolascenre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 786-0150.

Airport management practices, continued from page 3

in the departure hall are being consulted regarding the current departure hall expansion. They now are invited to meet with the architect to discuss ways of making the design more functional. Contact has been improved with important partners such as Bonhata and the Tourism Corporation Bonaire. Hillen will be meeting in September with these and other parties to discuss how BIA can help Bonaire achieve responsible growth in tourism. One hope is to restore the Route Development Fund in order to stimulate new air service to the island.

IT infrastructure is also a priority. "My proposal to the Supervisory Board is to invest heavily in this," Hillen said, "so that a good automated data exchange between all stakeholders at the airport is possible, resulting in "a correct invoice at the end of the settlement, without disagreement between payer and BIA afterwards as a recipient." The wifi in and around the terminal will be speeded up, and the website will be redesigned to make it more customer-friendly.

The Supervisory Board has also tasked Hillen with examining the problems in the ground handling services at Flamingo Airport. There are too many handling agents for the relatively limited number of aircraft that Flamingo Airport receives. Hillen says, "There must be clear criteria that handling companies, for example in the area of safety, must meet. I am going to talk to all current providers. In any case, it should never happen again that passengers cannot get out because the handling agent does not have the right equipment. That is bad for the reputation of the airport."

Deputy Tjin Asjoe, said, "I hear good sounds about Hillen's approach, from the BIA organization and from parties that do business with the airport. I understand that the airlines are also happy that a new wind is blowing. The airport is the most important engine of our economy, so we have to take good care of it."

Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

Windows 10 Update Issues

This week has been a difficult week for people using Windows 10. The latest update has caused many computers to just stop working and none of the typical solutions help, including the ones offered by Microsoft.

While in most cases it is very frustrating to turn on the computer and it won't boot up. Meanwhile it holds all of your business (accounting, documents, designs, plans) or life (photos, letters, recipes) on it.

You DID make your backups, right?

In one case here on Bonaire, an accounting office had this happen and the hard drive was encrypted for security reasons. Unfortunately, the only way to get operational was to erase the hard drive and reinstall Windows 10, which was unacceptable. So the technicians set out to recover the data – which ended up being a four day process costing many hundreds of dollars. In another case, it was a simpler recovery because the drive was not encrypted, but it still took the computer out of the office for three days.

Imagine when it is a computer that

is used in a life or mission critical situation – like hospital operating rooms for all monitoring systems or process controllers in factories. Suddenly the screen displays "Doing Windows 10 Update, Do not turn off." in the middle of an operation or other life-threatening situations. The update has now become a very serious situation.

So, what do you do? As I stressed in previous columns, BACK UP DAILY! You never know when this can happen.

And if something like this does happen, one of the people in the stories above recommends Bonaire Automation as they fixed her problem and she didn't lose the data.

All I can say is that I am still happy with my good old XP and external USB hard disks for backups.

....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's Happening, Museums & Exhibits, continued from page 12

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.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it-just look up

The north vs the south

The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. And the moon, planets, and stars rise in the east and set in the west too. So how do the stars move in the north and south?

First, we're going to show you the stars and constellations and then we'll demonstrate how the sky seems to move over the course of the night in each direction.

We have our sky set to 10pm facing north any night this week. The first thing you notice is the Big Dipper, of course! It's about halfway up in the northwestern sky. Four brighter stars make a cup and three more make a curved handle. And since we're facing north, the North Star, or Polaris should be here too, about halfway up in the sky. It's not terribly bright but it should be as bright as the Big Dipper stars.

The North Star is part of the Little Dipper, but good luck trying to find that. Four of its seven stars are too faint to see in most cities. But finding the north star is simple when you have the big dipper around. Simply connect the dots on the two spoon stars, continue that line over to the right, and you will run smack dab into the North Star.

And if you continue that line, you hop over to another recognizable group of stars. They look like the letter w. This is the constellation Cassiopeia the Queen. It doesn't look much like a queen, but the w can be her crown. But the crown looks bent on one side.

As the night moves on the stars in the north seem to rotate around a central point -the North Star. It's also called Polaris because it's our pole star, the star that just happens to be above our north pole. That's 432 light years above our

north pole. But as the earth spins, the stars seem to make a counter-clockwise circle around this spot. As the night rolls on, the Big Dipper gets lower while Cassiopeia rises up higher.

As daytime comes on, the stars are still there. We just can't see them with all the sunlight. But they continue to move around Polaris and as we move toward afternoon, the Big Dipper is high in the sky and Cassiopeia... Bonk! Bonks her head on the ground. Aah, that's why her crown is bent.

Now let's face south. It's 10pm and we have two great summer constellations just above the horizon. Scorpius is on the right and Sagittarius is on the left. You can recognize Scorpius by the bright red, supergiant star called Antares. Antares can be really twinkly when it's low in the sky and thus stands in for the Scorpion's beating heart. Chasing the Scorpion is the constellation Sagittarius the Archer. He's a centaur, half man, half horse, with an arrow notched in his bow. In reality, the stars you can see look more like a tea pot than a centaur. You should also see two other bright, night lights in the south. Those are the planets Jupiter in the constellation Ophiuchus,

And Saturn is in Sagittarius. And don't be surprised to see the moon passing through these planets in a couple of weeks.

So, in the south look for Scorpius and Sagittarius with the planets Jupiter and Saturn among the stars. And in the north look for the Big Dipper, Polaris, and Cassiopeia.

Jupiter. *Dean Regas & James Albury*
<http://www.stargazeronline.org/index.html>

Sat. September 7, 2019.

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Rincon Hill



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---Shelter News---



THE SHELTER IS FULL!

Animal Shelter Bonaire has taken in 110 surrendered or abandoned dogs/puppies and cats/kittens just since July 1!! We are at the limit of the number of animals we can handle and can accept animals by appointment only. Currently, appointments are being made for September. As a result of this overwhelming influx, the drop off cage (Kouchi pa Bestia) at the rear gate of the shelter is locked. If you or someone you know needs to surrender an animal or finds an animal, please call the shelter at 717-4989/701-4989 and we will make an appointment for you to bring in the animal(s). We will try to accommodate you as quickly as possible.

SPAY/NEUTER UPDATE:

As of August 14, Animal Shelter Bonaire has sponsored 346 free spay/neuters for cats and dogs, one of our best years yet. But as mentioned above, the number of unwanted animals continues to grow. The Shelter constantly promotes and educates on the urgent need to sterilize companion animals.

You can help us in two ways:

- 1) Make all your friends and neighbors aware of the need to spay/neuter their pets and of the Shelter's free program.
- 2) Support our free sterilization program with a donation of any amount so we can continue this much needed effort.

REMINDER: ANIMAL SHELTER BOARDING WILL BE CLOSED. Animal Shelter Bonaire boarding facilities for dogs will be closed from September 9 to November 17. Due to the increase of animals being surrendered to the shelter we are expanding our quarantine area, so we must move the boarding facility to another location. The construction will take place during those months. If you are in need of boarding facilities during that time, the Shelter suggests that you contact Jellastone Pet Park at 770-4651 to determine if they have available space.

VOLUNTEERS play a crucial role in the operation of Animal Shelter Bonaire. We are always in need of volunteers, particularly these days with the increasing number of animals in residence. We are especially short of volunteers on Tuesdays and Saturdays. If you have a couple hours to spare on those mornings, or any morning, please email us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or stop by and see us and meet all the grateful cats and dogs you can help. *Jane Disko*

Painting is simply a part of my life

Local artist Cesar "Cheky" Zimmerman says he was born to paint. His promise as an artist emerged in elementary school. He remembers making his first drawings in school. He was drawing holiday pictures at the blackboard. By the age of 14 he was exhibiting and even selling his work.

Originally from Curaçao, Cheky was never formally trained as an artist. Instead, he made his way through technical schools and worked for 35 years at the water desalination and electric company in Curaçao. While working in their drawing department he designed their logo. He made his living during the week and filled his weekends doing what he loved: painting. Cheky retired from the company at the age of 55.

Cheky's favorite subject is Dutch Caribbean plantation homes from the colonial times between 1700-1800. Over the years, his renditions of these iconic, colorful buildings have made his art very popular among residents and visiting tourists.

"It's like the buildings are telling me their own personal story. Why they were built, who owned them, what they were planting on the premises, what kind of people lived there, who were the slaves? The whole history of the buildings come to my mind while I'm painting. I love these buildings," said Cheky.

His work has been exhibited in the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Santa Domingo, Cuba, Guadalupe, Anguila, Aruba, Bonaire and of course Curaçao. Cheky says he knows exactly who has possession of every large painting he has done. As he records each sale with the buyer's name, address, date and the painting.

The source for his landhuis paintings usually comes from drawings or photographs he has taken or found. Residents of the buildings have commissioned many of his paintings. His

Pet of the Week: Glenda



Hi everyone! I am called Glenda. I have lived here at the Animal Shelter for over a year. Although I like it here and I have many friends, I would really like to have a family to call my very own. I am about two and a half years old now. I am friendly to humans and other kitties too. The humans here say I have a super cute squeak when I talk to them and ask for attention. I really am quite affectionate. I am in my happy place when they let me play "hairstylist". You see, I really love to play with your hair. I am sterilized and have all my shots. I am ready to go! Won't you come and see me and let me give you a new hairstyle? My address is Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, and I can have visitors on 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.

Story and Photo by Laurie Smith



favorite medium is oil. He uses canvas and occasionally whatever is available for the base—a board, a piece of a tree, etc.

Cheky does approximately six major paintings a year and many small ones with an average price of \$30 to \$800. He has many repeat buyers.

His three grandchildren have taken up the brush too. Each of the boys has small paintings on display along with their grandfather's in a small studio at his home.

Cheky has been coming to Bonaire since 1970. He finally moved to Bonaire 11 years ago. For three years he and his wife of 26 years, Sulin, lived in Rincon where he had an art studio.

Cheky said, "Bonaire is the place on earth that makes my heart sing."

He built the house he and his family live in today in the neighborhood of Mexico. Guests interested in purchasing his art can follow the signs to his house off of Lagoen Road.

"Painting is simply a part of my life. When I'm painting I'm in another world, said Cheky, "This is a gift God gave to me."

Cesar Cheky Zimmerman's work has been shown on television and in newspapers. Two videos have been produced on Zimmerman's life and his work. *Story and photo: Julie Morgan*



The artist, wife and his grandchildren display some of Cheky's art in his open air studio. L-R: Soluendiev Vos, Rowen Vos, Cheky, Jadrick Zimmerman and wife Sulin.

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3/31

Santa Barbara, Kaya Berilo 39

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