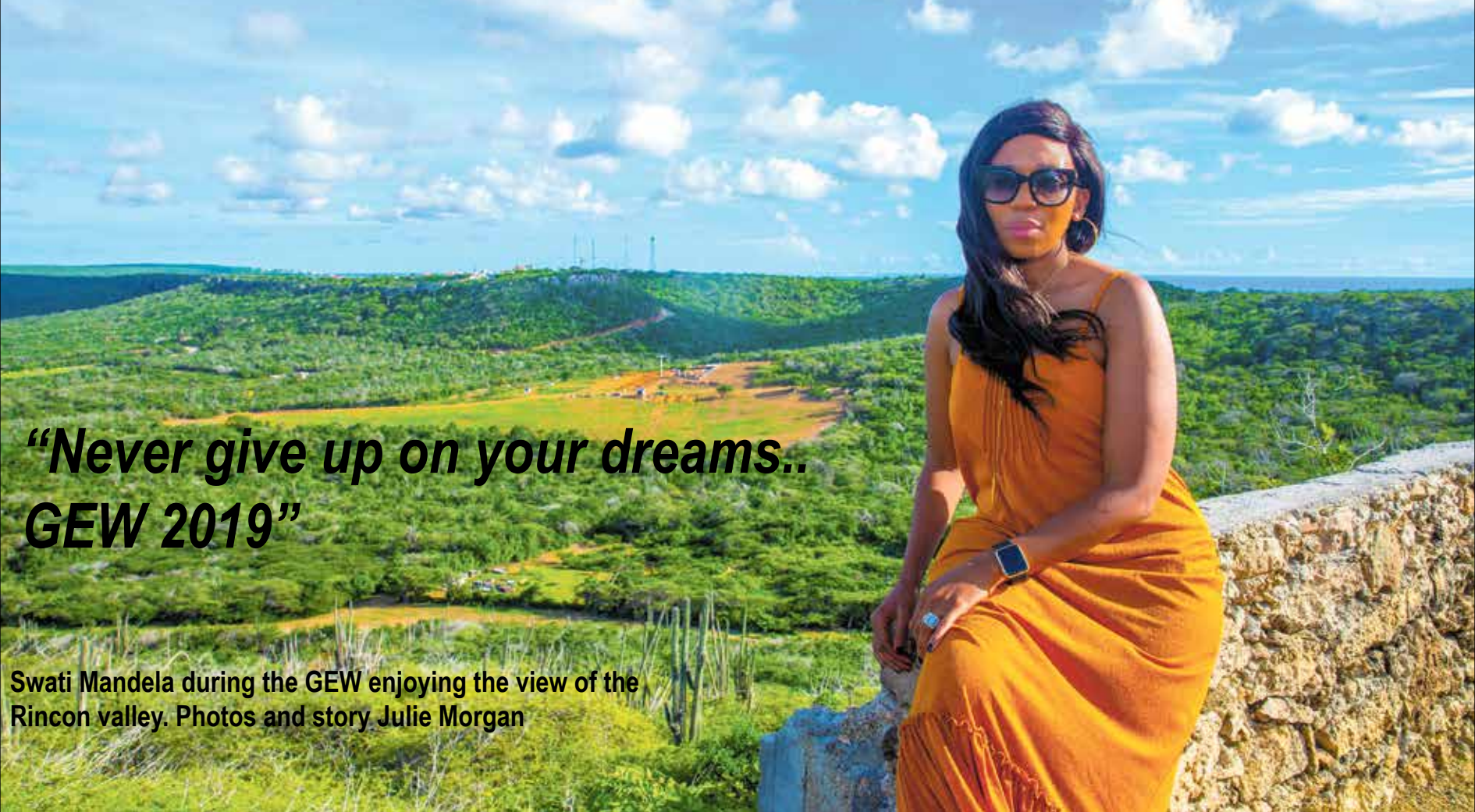


**Triathlon**  
**Protected tree list**  
**Sinterklaas Arrives**  
**Roland Colastica: Buki di Siman**



**“Never give up on your dreams..  
 GEW 2019”**

**Swati Mandela during the GEW enjoying the view of the Rincon valley. Photos and story Julie Morgan**

“Commit to a vision and stay the course,” said guest speaker Swati Mandela, at the closing ceremony of the fifth Global Entrepreneur Week (GEW) in Bonaire November 18 – 24.

**The week’s activities**

“Focusing and Investing in Yourself” was the GEW theme. The week staged events designed to stimulate creativity and encourage the imagination of young people and adults.

The schedule began with an eco-friendly ‘trash art’ contest at the elementary schools and the Jong Bonaire kids were challenged with a 3P’s (painting, play and poem) competition. At the closing ceremony, November 23, the students displayed their work and one student even wore hers, a dress made of trash. All artwork will be on display at Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB).

Approximately 800 attendees participated in the free week-long entrepreneurship events. Amilea Pieterella spoke to the kids on entrepreneurship, financial education, and held an after school quiz. Adults gathered at the Habitat conference

room in the evenings. Topics included: ‘Crypto currency’ by Success Factory; ‘Rediscovering your Inner Fire’ with sponsor Digicel Business, Business taxes by Chamber of Commerce and ‘Investing in Improvement’ by MCB. Digicel Business and the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a round table discussion led by Pieterella, where young entrepreneurs discussed their experiences in starting a business. The GEW traveled over the airwaves via five different radio stations reaching some 16,000 people throughout the week. A variety of speakers discussed financial education and balancing family and work.

**The closing ceremony**

The ticketed closing ceremony featuring Swati Mandela at the Marriott Ballroom. Mandela drew a crowd of over 200 guests.

GEW Bonaire president Amilea Pieterella and GEW’s Grace Winkler of Curaçao led the crowd through the evening of speeches, entertainment and thanks.

Deputy Nina den Heyer told the crowd, “Sometimes we go through crappy

things... when things seem to go against you rather than for you, don’t give up. You are adding to the value of our island. Follow your dream, once you have that dream it’s yours, believe in it.”

There are 170 countries involved in GEW. Bonaire joined the GEW thanks to Curaçao, explained Elgenia Pieterella of GEW Curaçao. The two sister islands have been nominated by world-wide

GEW for most businesses per capita and most events per capita. Curaçao won for most sponsors per capita and shared the honor with Bonaire.

At the ceremony, Digicel was acknowledged for their vision and major sponsorship for three years of the GEW by president Amilea Pieterella. Digicel’s

**GEW 2019, continued on page 9**



Bonaire GEW Team 2019

## How best to govern the government NVs still on front burner

Discussions are continuing on how the government should “optimize the relationship between the public entity as a shareholder and the supervisory boards and management boards of governmental corporations.” According to Deputy Tjin Asjoe: “Public service companies provide vital services in our society. Good governance, accessibility, affordability and continuity of their services must be guaranteed.”

At issue is how to implement the many recommendations in the report, “Towards an Active Shareholding.” The study, commissioned under the Administrative Agreement, was conducted by crmLiNK, a Netherlands consulting firm, and the subsequent implementation is being managed by 'Quarter Maker Participations'

Nerry Gonzalez.

According to the Usibo, the island’s unions are concerned the government is moving towards further privatization of government services, as happened formerly with the telecommunications service, Telbo; the waste management service, Se-libon, and the airport service in Bonaire International Airport N.V.

Tjin Asjoe and Gonzalez recently conferred in the Netherlands with Zeeland deputy Jo-Annes de Bat about how the provincial government of Zeeland has arranged its relationship with government companies. They learned that “the province of Zeeland is, among others, a shareholder in North Sea Ports; the Provincial Zeeland Energy Company; the Westerscheldetunnel; a ferry; and Impuls Zee-



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe in conversation with deputy Jo-Annes de Bat of Zeeland. Photo: OLB

land, a development company whose task it is to strengthen the Zeeland economy, for example by recruiting companies.” The provincial government of Zeeland’s first priority is to actively assure the companies serve the public interest. *D.M.R.*

## People in Wadden Islands pay less for water. Why not Bonaire?

The people in each province of the Netherlands are expected to pay rates that recover the costs of their utilities. However, the people of BES Islands live in a municipality, but not in a province as well. Therefore they are not protected by the same economies of scale. On each island the people have to cover the full costs by themselves. With amendment of the Electricity and Drinking Water Act pending, the Central Dialogue Bonaire has raised this issue with the ministers Wiebes (Economic Affairs) and Van Nieuwenhuizen (Infrastructure and Environment).

The CD argues that the principle of cost recovery cannot be applied to the

“isolated” Caribbean-Dutch islands, given their scale. The BES representatives point out that Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius must each pay rates that cover, for example, the supply of drinking water, while islands such as Ameland or Texel, as parts of a province, spread their costs much wider.

The Central Dialogue Bonaire is a consultative body consisting of the local government (Executive Council and governor), employers, trade unions and the Chamber of Commerce. The CD have told the ministers that the same principles apply to other issues like cost of living, purchasing power, poverty. *D.M.R.*

## Executive Council attends pre-conference training

The deputies Nina den Heyer, James Kroon and Elvis Tjin Asjoe attended the annual aldermen conference in the Netherlands during November 19 and 20. The focus of the conference was ‘sustainable management in a changing environment.’ As preparation for the alderman conference, the deputies first participated in a training program especially for administrators in the Caribbean Netherlands. It was tailored to the specific administrative circumstances on the islands and the challenges that confront the Executive Councils. The training is part of the strengthening of local government agreed with the Dutch government in the Administrative Agreement. *D.M.R.*

## Price changes as of January 2020

► **TELBO announced that it will increase its rates for internet and TV subscriptions in 2020.** For non-commercial users the increase will be between four and five percent or an average increase of 4% for most TV services (\$2) and internet services (\$3). Internet rates for the business market are increasing by an average of five percent.

► **Pensioenfonds Caribisch Nederland (PCN) will keep the premium for 2020 at the same level as in previous years,** namely at 22% of income. According to the PCN board, “Although the fund is being affected by falling interest rates, they did very well when it comes to their return on investments: Year to date PCN has achieved a return of no less than 15% on their investment portfolio.”

► **The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment will raise the minimum wage on Bonaire by 6.2% to \$5.48;** on Saba by 5.3% to \$6.45 and

on St. Eustatius by 2.7% to \$6.43. The amounts of the various benefits will also increase.

► **Parents and guardians will also receive more child benefit in 2020.** For Bonaire this amount will be \$ 83 per child per month. For Saba this amount is \$ 84 and for St. Eustatius \$ 85. From 2020 there will also be a supplement for fully and permanently disabled people and for those entitled to Old Age Pension (AOV). With this supplement their income per month will at least equal the Statutory Minimum Wage.

► **Looking back to increases in 2018.** In 2018, prices of residential property sold on Bonaire were on average 21.6 percent higher than one year previously. The number of homes sold and the total sales value increased as well in the span of twelve months, according to Statistics Netherlands (CBS). The price increase is partly due to a relatively higher number of seaside homes for sale.



► **Time’s running out. Get those new plates on your car.** December 10, is the new deadline for replacing your old number plates. Since new number plates were introduced in June, many deadlines have been waived. If the Dec. 10th deadline holds, citizens who have not yet replaced their old number plates will risk being fined.

Citizens who have not yet purchased their 2019 license plates can make an appointment with the Finance Department. Phone: 717 5330 ext. 2637. Email: tax-olb@bonairegov.com. Whatsapp: 770 5330.

► **Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius ran turn-in campaigns for weapons in the last weeks of October.** During the “Surrender and Disarm” campaign, one firearm was returned on Saba and two on Bonaire.

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# WEB will no longer pay for water



photo Julie Morgan

A ceremonious ground breaking signified the contract signed between WEB, IDE and Bonaire government. L-R Hennyson Thielman, for Deputy Elis Tijn Asjoe of Bonaire Economic Affairs; Alfred Koolman CEO of WEB and Gilad Cohen CEO of IDE Americas and IDE Technologies

Arguably Bonaire may have some of the best tasting water around and it is even going to get better. On November 21 Water and Energy Bonaire (WEB) signed a contract with IDE Technology for a new desalination plant that is scheduled for completion by 2021.

WEB currently produces 1600 cu meters per day and purchases about 4800 cu meters from Suez Water Technologies. With the new plant WEB will be able to produce all the water it needs on its own.

According to WEB CEO Alfredo Koolman the demand has increased 8% in the last year. Koolman said, "We have had many discussions and disagreements to scope out the best solution... We are committed to sustainability and affordability to contribute to Bonaire for a Blue Destination."

WEB and IDE have worked together since 1986. They agree this is a new chapter for WEB and IDE. The plant will once again incorporate reverse osmosis technology with no chemicals being used.

Gilad Cohen CEO of IDE Americas said, "This is the most complicated but most innovative plan... We own this responsibility to make sure this is a success and that you will be provided with the water you expect." J.M.

# —Trees planted at Festival di Planta Palu—

Festival di Planta Palu was celebrated for the 10th year at Washington Slagbaai Park on November 22. The nine Bonaire primary schools with approximately 300 kids ages seven - nine took part in the planting celebration.

The kids competed in a drawing contest of a tree for the celebration. At each school STINAPA's Desiree Croes met with the children and told them a story about trees as a natural resource. Her story explained that trees supply oxygen and food for both humans and animals to live. The children were then instructed to draw a tree for the festival contest.

On festival day the children were decked out in 10th Anniversary Planta Palu t-shirts and helped plant 117 native trees at the park entrance. The trees were supplied by Echo's reforestation project nursery.

Trees planted included: beishi, kenepa, wayaka, shi-maruku, huku and hoba.



The kids competed in a tree drawing competition. Overall winner, Kynan from Basischool Aquamarijn, stands by his poster.

From the 300 drawings eight were selected and Kynan from Basischool Aquamarijn was the overall winner. The other nominees were: Anaisa Winklaar, Kolegio Strea Briant; Dabertson Manzana, Kolegio Papa Cornes; Daveon, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador; Isabella, Kolegio San Bernardo; Janoe Janga, Kolegio Rao di Solo; Legently, Kolegio San Luis Betran and Matias, Basischool De Pelikaan.

Festival di Planta Palu was initiated by former Stinapa director, Elsmarie Beukenboom. She was recognized for being a reforestation pioneer. During the last 10 years, over 1000 trees have been planted on the Festival di Planta Palu. *Story & photos by Julie Morgan.*



Elementary kids help plant one of the 117 native trees with Echo director Julianka Clarenda.

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## Youth protection training begins for council researchers

Mid-November 2019, the Council for Child Protection from the Netherlands (RvdK) began a one and a half years training program for their Island counterparts, the Guardianship Council Dutch Caribbean. After the first training week on Bonaire, local council researchers from Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba will continue their training in an e-learning environment. They will also receive remote supervision. After a "train the trainer program," senior council researchers will, in the future, train others in the region.

### The role of council researchers

When severe problems occur within a family, the Youth Care authority can call in the Guardianship Council. Working with the youth workers, the Guardianship Council examines whether the assistance provided is sufficient to dispel the threat to the child's development. If not, the Guardianship Council conducts an investigation. If the research shows that the child needs to be given compulsory assistance, the Guardianship Council then asks the Court to impose a formal child protection measure. According to RCN's website, "The most common measure is a family supervision order. A family guardian is assigned for this. The family is obliged to accept this assistance."

## Bonaire attends a conference on Family Justice Centers

A Bonairean delegation took part in the international conference "One Safe Place for Hope and Empowerment" in Antwerp, November 2019. The European Family Justice Center Alliance (EFJCA) sponsored the conference. The EFJCA develops and supports local Family Justice Centers all over Europe. Their aim: to help victims and their children find all services they need in ONE PLACE: medical professionals, caretakers, counselors, advocates, prosecutors, police officers and others.

The Bonaire delegation believes that Bonaire should also have a Family Justice Center (FJC). During workshops, delegation members learned how to set up and organize a FJC. Conference sessions explored issues relevant to Bonaire: domestic violence, gender-related abuse, and child abuse and exploitation.

The Bonaire delegates emphasize that everything must be done to prevent domestic violence. "But as long as it happens, it is our duty as administrators to ensure



The Bonairean delegation who participated in Antwerp in the international conference 'One Safe Place for Hope and Empowerment' Photo OLB

that victims are helped ... That is why I am going to explore how we can realize the arrival of a Family Justice Center on our island," said deputy Nina den Heyer.

The Bonairean delegation consisted of deputy Nina den Heyer; members of the Island Council, Daisy Coffie (MPB) and Gerald Silberie (UPB); Inge Berben and Ingrid Sealy of the Society & Care Directorate; and Mariella Djamin of the Youth & Family Center. PDB members from the Island council were also invited, but withdrew their initial registration.

# PARROTS AND PEOPLE

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."* (Baba Dioum, 1968.)

Echo started with the Loras, proving that rare species can be safeguarded through conservation and education. The Lora has been legally protected by Antillean legislation by treaties since 1952 and now by the national and island laws. The Lora is so special that it is depicted on the Lieutenant Governor's official chain.

Still we need to recognize that our Loras can be threatened by deforestation, as can other species worldwide. Deforestation brings loss, fragmentation and damage to breeding and living areas. Protected species are key to Bonaire's biodiversity. Our native trees are on that list of protected species.

### Laws protect Bonaire's native trees

Some of Bonaire's trees are absolutely protected. 'Protection' means that they cannot be cut or removed. It doesn't matter where they grow – whether in nature, or on government land, rented land or property land.

These trees are still protected when they grow on land for which a building permit has been granted. A building permit alone does not give the permit holder permission to destroy the protected species. If someone wishes to cut down a protected tree that person must apply to the

local government (OLB) for an exemption (ontheffing). If the exemption is granted, the person must pay a re-forestation fee. The legislation states that the Executive Council can designate trees and cacti that must be preserved due to nature values, landscape values, cultural-historical values, values of urban and village cleanliness, values for recreation and quality of life or image-determining value.

See the sidebar for the list of protected trees that are available from Echo.

### It's that wonderful (rainy) season

It's the most wonderful time of the year... for us, Echo - parrots and people. The big flocks of parrots bring colors back to Dos Pos Conservation Center. And the rains have brought out the green leaves and red fruits of the shimarukus giving Bonaire's dry forest the colors of Christmas.

The Loras have moved to getting better food in Nature and now hundreds of wild parrots entertain us at Echo. This signal tells us it's time to start exploring new roosts for the pre-roost count in December in preparation for the 2020 annual roost count. On January 25th we aim to confirm if the population is as big as we experience in dry season when the parrots are in the neighborhoods.

Thanks to Echo's reforestation and education programs our parrots are getting more food, and people can enjoy the native forest for many generations.

## Protected tree list

Trees and cacti that are on the list of valuable trees may not be felled or harvested. These trees are absolutely protected. They cannot be cut or removed. It doesn't matter where they grow – whether in nature, or on government land, rental land or ownership land. *The list can be viewed at the Environmental and Nature Policy Department of DROB.*

Echo is making available for adoption rare trees on the protected species list. Adopt through the [mybonairetree.org](http://mybonairetree.org) and every Friday 8am-12 noon at Dos Pos Conservation Center :

- Amyris ignea (A. simplicifolia)
- Celtis iguanaea Clusia sp. - Beshi Yuana
- Crateva tapia- Surun di Mondri
- Geoffroea spinosa (G. superba) - Taki
- Guaiacum officinale -Wayaka
- Guaiacum sanctum- Wayaka Shimaron
- Guapira fragrans (Pisonia fragrans)
- Guapira pacurero (Pisonia bonairensis) - Mushibari
- Krugiodendron ferreum - Koubati
- Manihot carthaginensis - Kasabi di Mondri
- Maytenus tetragona (M. sieberiana) - Dakawa
- Maytenus versluysii
- Phoradendron trinervium
- Schoepfia schreberi - Mata kombles
- Spondias mombin - Hoba
- Ximenia americana - Ishiri
- Zanthoxylum flavum (Fagara flava)- Kalabri
- Zanthoxylum monophyllum (Fagara monophylla) - Bosua

**At Your Service-pg 15.**  
this issue's featured advertiser

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PARROTS AND PEOPLE

# Law Enforcement

## Police Report for Nov. 8 - 22, 2019

### Robberies

On Nov. 8, a man of 41 years was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES.

In the afternoon of Nov. 8, two men were arrested at a restaurant on the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot for fighting.

On Nov. 9, a house search took place in a tourist accommodation on the Kaminda Djabou. A boy of 15 years was held for threats via social media.

On Nov. 18, a man of 42 years was arrested for mistreatment. Also a man of 23 years was arrested for vandalism and abuse.

On Nov. 20, a house search took place in the early morning hours in a house in Antriol in the context of a violation of the Firearms Act BES. During the search, two fake firearms, a small amount of marijuana, and a number of things that appear to have come from theft were seized. A man of 21 years of age was arrested for threats.

### On the roads

On Nov. 10, around 3.15am a collision took place on the Kaminda Lac. The driver crashed into the fence of a home. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance. He received a ticket for driving under the influence.

On Nov. 10, around 4 am, a collision took place on the Bulevar E.E.G. A car destroyed a large part of the gate at the airport, ending up at the airport yard. All three passengers were taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Nov. 15, around 1.23 am a "hit & run" took place at the Kaya Grandi. A car hit the left mirror of a car coming from the opposite direction. When the driver who caused the collision was approached, he drove away.

On Nov. 15, a scooter landed in a pit on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham, causing the driver and passenger to fall. They both suffered grazes and were taken to the hospital by the ambulance.

On Nov. 16, around 10.30 a car bumped into a container on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The driver had bumped her head and was checked on site by the ambulance personnel.

On Nov. 16, on Kaya Esther the driver of a scooter wanted to move in front of a car and lost control, causing it to fall. She suffered grazes and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Nov. 15, around 7:30 am the driver fell off his moped on Kaminda Gurubu. He suffered grazes and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

### Public Prosecution Verdicts

On November 7, 2019, the Public Prosecution sentenced the four suspects accused of the Van den Tweel Supermarket robbery on May 20, 2019. The suspects were sentenced to two, four, five and seven years imprisonment. In addition, three of the four suspects each have to pay "a third of the loot because crime cannot

Shortly thereafter, around 7.50 am, the police station was informed that a car had crashed on the Tourist Road near Tolo. The driver lost control in a bend of the road and turned over. The driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Nov. 13, a man of 33 years was arrested for failing to comply with an order and endangering traffic after a short pursuit. The scooter on which the suspect rode was seized. He also received an official report for driving without a license and without insurance.

On Nov 18, a the driver of the scooter fell off the scooter. She complained of pain on her right ankle and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Nov. 21, on Kaya L.D. Gerharts, scooter collided with the boot of a pick-up when the pick-up drove backwards from a construction site. The driver of the scooter sustained a large scrap on his left hand when he fell, and was treated on the spot by the ambulance personnel.

On Nov. 22, at 2am a car crashed into a lamppost on Kaya Internashonal. The driver had a head wound and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

### Arrests

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### How to contact the Dutch Caribbean Police Force

If every second counts:  
emergency number 911 (free)  
If you want to give an (anonymous) tip,  
phone (+599) 717 7251  
If there is no emergency,  
phone (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000

pay" (USD 27,500 if not paid, to be replaced by 172 days in custody).

A suspect who was convicted of money laundering and possession of weapons and was sentenced to 12 months in jail and 240 hours in community service.



## Ask Kate

### Bonaire real estate advice

Shelter, or sell them.

When making an offer on a furnished property, you will receive an inventory list that shows what items are included. Look at the list carefully, since the owners may exclude some furnishings in addition to their personal items. At the final walk through prior to closing, this list is used to verify that the items listed remain with the home.

*All the best, Kate Butler, GRI, RE/MAX Bonaire*

**If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com). Tollfree from U.S.: 1-866-611-7362**

## Bonaire's 2020 budget submitted to ministry on time

The Executive Council has met the November 15, 2019 deadline for submitting the 2020 budget. The budget was drawn up by the Island Council for approval to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The budget is balanced. Expenses total \$ 49.1 million. Personnel is the largest expense at \$ 22.8 million. The purchase of goods and services is the next largest at \$ 10.9 million. Subsidies and contributions to institutions and governmental organizations have a budget of \$ 10.4 million.

On the revenue side, the \$ 27.7 million Free Benefit that the public entity Bonaire receives from the government is the largest item. Switching to euros, the local taxes have been estimated at € 10.9 million; while € 6.7 million comes from fees, and € 3.3 million from rents and leases. The Executive Council (BC) is cautious about spending its reserve.

Only after the Annual Accounts have been dealt with, will the BC submit proposals to the Island Council for spending the reserve.

The BC notes that it has taken only a few months to successfully control budget process. Having met the timeline set out in the FinBES Act (Public Finance Act Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba), the BC now wishes to improve the content quality of its budgets.

In addition, the BC is considering a more effective budget process. One suggestion: if the Island Council can submit written questions to be answered in writing before the oral hearing, the actual debate in the Island Council can gain substance. The BC argues that written questions and answers will make it more interesting for the public to follow the budget debate.

The 2020 budget has been published on the website of the public entity.

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

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# Triathlon draws record number

Bonaire Waterfront Events planned a day of sailing, fishing and Triathlon on November 17th. With not a breath of wind, the sailing was postponed. The organizers decided to keep the water events together, so both the fishing and sailing will take place on December 15th instead.

The Triathlon was a great success. In this fourth edition, organized by Budget Marine, participation grew to over 60 athletes. There was an opportunity for people of all ages and fitness levels to compete. Competitors could select from two distances, and decide to compete as teams or individuals. The oldest and youngest competitors were together on one team. Grandma Elma v/d Keuken, mom Antje Gunther and seven year-old daughter Kyra v/d Keuken competed together, placing third in the short team event.

The shorter distance was a 350m swim, followed by a 10k bike and a 2.5k run. Joey Postma, the fastest athlete, finished in 46 minutes, and others were happy to survive in one and a half hours. Joey's wife Alie Postma took second place in the ladies' category. She was beaten by mom, Bonnie Perron by 15 seconds while her dad took third in the men's -

keeping the whole family in the medals. Alie Karmen rounded out the ladies in third place. Paul Bouter took second in the men's category. Teams Timothy Richards, Xerzyan Wedevoort, Marcel Spruit; and Basi Spruit, Gina Schreiner, Alexander Tromp filled the team's first and second places.

The longer distance was a 700m swim, followed by a 20k bike and a 5k run. Wout Hendricks dominated this event with a time of 1:16, followed by Bart Smits and Cesar. Thara van der Borgh placed first in the ladies followed by Jeanine Beau van der Schur and Diana Isabel. Teams of Ruby van den Berge, Dean Peters, Jaedan Crestian and Daan Peeters finished a tight race with team of Simone Sweets, Floortje Asperen Vervenne and Peter Winterwerp second, followed by a team of two, Rob van Kasteel and Anders Sandberg in third and a second team of two, Elena Werdath and Inge van Bergen in fourth.

Keeping the rules easy, one person can do more than one segment of the event. Though the course was flat and should have been easy, four bikers had flat tires during the event. Luckily some carried patch kits and were able to make quick repairs on the course. Others were not



**Three generations (L-R): Elma v/d Keuken, Antje Gunther, and Kyra v/d Keuken with Pam Teitel** Photos Julie Morgan

so lucky and had to drop out.

Budget Marine always counts on the great service of eZone and was very happy for their support and partnership on this event. Viktor Wijnand Design provided super graphics and Web design. 56screen printing here on Bonaire did a great job on the dry fit t-shirts.

Next year will be the fifth edition to celebrate Budget Marine's 20th anniversary. We will likely add one longer course of a quarter triathlon, so start training now! This will be held the same week in November next year. Keep an eye on the Bonaire-waterfrontevents.com website for details as they become available.

*Written by Pam Teitel. Photos by Julie Morgan*



**So much fun! Floortje van Asperen Vervenne, out runs her husband and fellow team member Peter Winterwerp.**



**Peter Winterwerp copes with his flat tire while Noel Hayden enjoys riding the open road.** More Triathlon photos available on our Facebook page.





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# Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

## It's birds, it's planes, it's aliens....

### Starlink Satellites



Last week, just after dusk, the internet was abuzz with questions of “What is that in the sky?” when there was a train of stars following each other. The answers were everything from “aliens” to “military attacks” to “I don’t know and I am scared.”

Well, it turns out, after very quick Google searching,

that it was a launch and subsequent release of some of the Starlink Satellite network by Elon Musk’s Space-X company.

Then the question came up “What is Starlink?” The Wikipedia answer is “Starlink is a satellite constellation being constructed by American company SpaceX to provide satellite Internet access. The constellation

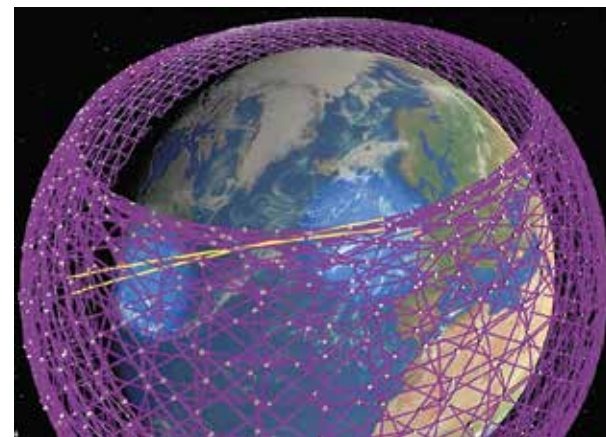
will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites, working in combination with ground transceivers.” In other words, they plan on blanketing the earth with thousands of satellites over the next 10 years.

Why? SpaceX’s plan is to bring fast cheap internet to the entire world – whether you are in the outback of Australia or middle of Africa or downtown Los Angeles – your WiFi antenna will point UP to the satellites.

Stay tuned... and keep your eyes skyward.

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.



### Picture Yourself with The Reporter

## Dubai



**Howard Harrison writes:** Hi, my name is Howard Harrison and this is my wife Kim. This picture was taken in mid-September 2019 while visiting Dubai. Kim and I spend about six months a year here on Bonaire where we own at Sand Dollar and the remainder of time in the State of Kentucky in the USA. We love The Reporter and had it delivered to our USA address for several years. We still look forward to reading it online when away from Bonaire.

**WIN A PRIZE!** Are you elsewhere? We’d love to see you in *The Reporter*. Hold up the printed cover, or go digital and pose with *The Reporter* on your tablet, computer, or phone. Please identify everybody in your photo, and tell us about yourselves. All 2019 photos are eligible for the annual prize.

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*“I wouldn’t be the man I am today if I didn’t read when I was young.”*

*Roland Colastica*

Reading Week, (Siman di Buki) wrapped up last week. Once again famed author and teacher, Roland (Roy) Colastica, was one of the highlights for both kids and adults.

Roland has such a love and strong dedication to reading that for the last 27 years reading weeks in the Netherlands, Curaçao and Bonaire have been high on his agenda. This was his fifth reading week in Bonaire. This time around, he spent his time with the kids and parents at the library. He visited the schools everyday. A fabulous storyteller, he incorporated his dramatic skills with props to entertain them.

Originally from Curaçao, Roland grew up reading and has not stopped.

He remembers every evening after prayers the family of nine sons, one sister and mother and dad would sit together. Each parent would hold a book. Roland noticed after a while that his dad would tell stories but he never actually read from the book; he was simulating reading.

It was very common in those times that people couldn’t read. My father didn’t learn to read until my older brother went to high school,” said Roland, “A teacher had told my parents,

“If you want to gain something in life you have to read.”

His parents taught him the importance of reading. He has passed it on to not only his children but to countless others through his books, teaching and reading events.

Roland’s love of reading as a young man branched into theater. This led him to the Netherlands where he studied and performed for eight years. It was there he

began teaching others and learned how important theater was to a person’s development.

Returning to Curaçao he worked as a drama teacher for 18 years and trained others to become teachers. He taught 12 classes a week and two to three hours at the university.

Roland believes drama is a combination of knowledge and teaching. He calls himself a non-traditional teacher.

Roland believes that students shouldn’t be taught in the same way as they are all individuals and the only way to truly teach is to appeal to the interests of the individual students.

Roland began his writing career with poems for adults but transitioned into children’s books after becoming a father. He loves the range of fantasy available for writing for kids.

After his 11th book he stopped because

he said, it just wasn’t coming anymore. My pen went dry.

Instead he began writing scripts. He concentrated on subjects that black people deal with, including breast cancer and emotions.

“Black men can’t talk about their feelings. They have to be macho – don’t cry or be emotional,” said Roland, “There is no literature on men being a father so I wrote my experiences as a man, in ‘The Pregnant Father’. This book was written in Papiamentu but translated in Dutch, English and Spanish.

This past week parents and their kids gathered at Rayo di Solo School for a ‘teaching performance’ by Roland. The idea was to teach the parents how to read or tell a bedtime story. The kids, parents and some teachers were decked out in their pajamas and even brought sleeping bags, pillows and blankets.

Roland told an interactive story complete with props. He seemed to express every emotion, facial expression and sound possible to tell his tale.

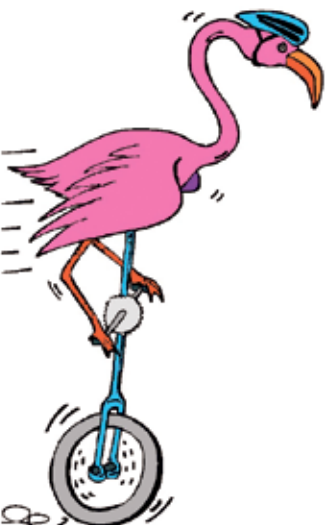
“I want to get rid of this myth right away. Reading is not to fall asleep. It needs to be energizing to discover the beauty of life and beauty of reading rather than falling asleep,” said Roland.

At the end of Roland’s storytelling, the kids were far from sleepy.

Roland Colastica is the author of 12 books and 15 plays to date. Among his many successes he has written, directed and produced cultural arts programs for the Netherlands royal family five times. He was awarded the prestigious Cola De-brot Award for his work ‘Fireworks in My Head’, his first children’s book and was decorated as a Knight of the Dutch Kingdom. *Photos & story by Julie Morgan*



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# Reef Glimpses

## Knot Meeting the Challenge of Survival

Wouldn't it be nice to be a fish? To be able to stay underwater for hours without having to worry about depth or running out of air? Of course, being a fish is more challenging than worrying about depth or running out of air.

Take the life of a moray, for example. Spotted morays are primarily predators of fish. Their long, thin, sharp teeth are perfectly adapted for penetrating a struggling fish. Once the moray has a prey fish in its toothy grasp, it swallows the prey whole.

Spotted morays are also scavengers, so when a spotted moray came across this dead flounder under the North Pier a couple of decades ago, the moray was eager to make a meal of it. Trouble was, the flounder was way too big for this moray to swallow whole. (Morays may be long and thin like snakes, but their jaws don't unhinge like snake jaws.)

The solution the moray used is captured in the photo: the moray embeds its teeth into the fish, wraps its tail around its own body, and pulls its head through the resulting loop – which gives it the leverage to tear off a bite-sized piece of the fish! It swallows that and repeats the process. In this case, the moray gobbled pieces of



A moray--tying himself into a knot

the flounder until it could barely swim (I'd swear it was staggering, except I think you need legs to stagger), then worked its way to a crevice where it must have rested for days.

Morays use the knot for more than turning too-big prey to bite-sized pieces. Once, again under the North Pier, my eye was caught by a swarm of wrasses around a piece of bait on a hook, dangling right in front of a moray's den. The moray didn't look particularly interested in the bait or the wrasses or anything else, but a trumpetfish drifted closer, very particularly interested – not

in the bait, but in the wrasses. The trumpetfish drifted, concentrating on the wrasses while trying to look as if it had no interest in the wrasses at all.

Suddenly the predator struck!

The swiftness and accuracy of the strike were as astonishing as the identity of the predator and prey. The wrasses scattered, all of them. The prey was the trumpetfish, who, concentrating on the wrasses, hadn't noticed (or considered) the moray. The eel had grabbed the trumpetfish near the middle of its body; swallowing it like that would have been difficult. Instead, the moray created a knot. When the moray pulled its mouth through the knot, the trumpetfish's body folded, and the eel was able to swallow it (although not without some difficulty).

An internet search of "moray eels in knots" had more results than I'd expected and listed many videos of moray knot tying, although none of the ones I saw were Caribbean.

So, do I still think it would be nice to be a fish? Yesss, but I think I'll do some more research before I make the final decision. *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.*

### GEW 2019, continued from page 1

Andre McKenzie and Ashanty Toppenberg were recognized. McKenzie was presented with a Mandela authored book by the secretary of the governor's cabinet, Ryan Christopher Frans.

GEW guest speaker, Swati Mandela, is the granddaughter of South Africa's anti-apartheid activist and revolutionaries, the late Nelson and Winnie Mandela. Swati is an activist who has continued the work her grandparents initiated. A strong advocate for women, she was profiled in the book "200 Women Who Will Change the Way You See the World."

Swati spoke of her grandparents struggles, their drive and beliefs and how those same ideas can work for anyone.

Swati said, "One of my personal deepest truths is that if whatever you pursue is for the greater good, you cannot go wrong."

Swati grew up in her grandmother's house sharing a bed with her cousins.

She was a witness to many things Winnie Mandela endured for human rights.

She told the crowd, to ensure your endeavors are successful, follow these six simple truths of her grandparents:

*One - Remember that you have been put here on Earth as a servant of the people.*

*Two - Build a vision for whatever you want to achieve and carry out that vision with purpose and determination.*

*Three - Hold onto your dignity with all your might and everything you have. Without dignity, you have no power and always consider others and treat them with dignity.*

*Four - Value education and please help those who cannot easily access it.*

*Five - My personal favorite, have a sense of humor. Laugh a lot. Laugh loudly and most importantly please laugh at yourself.*

"Finally, I would like to say that the lives and legacies of both of my grandparents are urging us always to never ever, ever, ever, give up on our dreams," said Swati Mandela.

More GEW photos available on our Facebook page.



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RUGGEAR RG730	<b>\$339.00</b>
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# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 24

## Having confidence.

get to Curoil to pay for a new one. That you don't have to drive through the mondi over bad roads to get to their offices. If driving there isn't possible, have confidence that somebody with computer-skills can help you pay online, so you can keep cooking.

When you suffer from a chronic disease you must have confidence that you will be able to get to the ER. for check-ups, help and advice. Or, that family-members can get off from work to these consults. Have confidence that someone can accompany you into the consulting rooms, because you sometimes are too insecure to understand what is being told and done.

When you live in Rincon, you must have confidence that you do not have to go all the way to Playa to do your banking or to talk to a deputado. All these services need to be available. These are rights people have fought for and worked hard to get.

When you get older, and have severe mobility issues, you must have confidence that you will be granted that new adapted wheelchair. And because lifting you to and from that special wheelchair is too heavy, you must have confidence that a mobile patient lift adapted for safe and easy lifting will be granted.

When you cannot afford certain auxiliary tools, instruments and appliances, you must have confidence that you will get them. Without them you will be confined to your bed for the rest of your life, and that makes your quality of life very low. Buying them is extremely expensive, and you must have confidence that you don't have to start up a "Go Fund Me" to get the money.

Our population on Bonaire is growing, and the elderly are a group that is growing very fast. The elderly often need daycare, meal services and decent housing. They need care from people who can anticipate accidents, so we can avoid bandages and casts. The facts of elderly life can be grim. They don't need surface things done for them (eg. for a little icing on the cake, a proposition was made on Facebook for surprise care packages for the elderly for Christmas, just like the children). We have work hard to face the hard facts of what the elderly do need. To make relevant policies, you need to be able to see the pain or even feel the pain to be able to take away the pain.

The elderly and handicapped people need to have confidence that the youth and policy makers will take care!  
*Ria Evers-Dokter.*

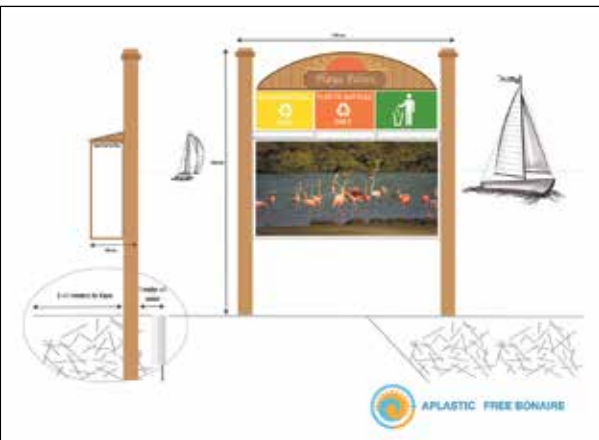
They say that if you strongly believe, you can make it happen. All you have to do is think about it several times a day, write about it before you go to sleep and hold that thought. Never stop believing. Have confidence that this wish or dream will come true.

A handicap, however, rarely goes away. But you can hope that treatment will lessen the symptoms. Confidence can help; can make little improvements. Having something to hope for and to live for may give you wings to fly further and higher.

When supermarkets expand or re-build, you must have confidence that the construction is built according to regulations: there will be ample handicapped parking, a decent ramp to the entrance, aisles broad enough for scooter-mobiles to drive through and the merchandise easy to reach. Maybe even trained staff available to assist...

When you cannot cook anymore because the cylinder is empty, you must have confidence that you can easily

## New trash/recycle bins to be placed along the waterfront



A Plastic Free Bonaire (NGO) is launching a project to place eight trash/recycle bins along the ocean side walk in Kralendijk. The NGO is pleased to join with support from Selibon and approval of the Executive Council. This is a collaborative effort to reduce trash on the streets in Kralendijk and in the ocean. The project is scheduled to be completed by March 1st, 2020.

The new trash/recycle bins are designed for users to help separate glass and plastic bottles into separate containers for Selibon to pickup and recycle.

A photo competition titled "Help Keep Bonaire Beautiful" is scheduled for January 2020. The top eight photos selected will enhance the visual appearance of

the trash/recycle bins. Local residents are encouraged to submit their photo showing the culture and nature of Bonaire. A cash prize will be given to one person who is randomly selected from the eight winning photos. Bonaire schools are encouraged to join the competition.

Selibon NV is responsible for the implementation of waste management within the public institution of Bonaire and is the only company designated by the government for the collection, treatment and processing of waste.

A Plastic Free Bonaire is a registered NGO that actively shares a passion for the well being of Bonaire and the environment.

## A Garden? Just Do It!



### Callisia fragrans



Callisia fragrans

bean and United States and then to other places where it has been cultivated as an indoor ornamental plant.

Callisia might look like a bromeliad or lily and grows like a spider plant. It is actually in the Wandering Jew family of which we have many types on Bonaire and its just as easy to grow and care for as this whole group of plants.

Callisia has small, white, fragrant flowers on tiny fragile stems. The fleshy thick stem with leaves become violet if it gets too much sunlight. It likes the shade of trees, balconies and porches and then the leaves become dark green and fat. It also does very well as a ground-cover. Instead of growing wild grass try Calissia or another plant of the Wandering Jew family. It stops the grass from growing fast if at all. Callisia has plantlets that can be cut off and planted in moist fertile soil to get new plants or just put some soil of your yard mixed in with some rotten leaves. Water every two-three days to keep it nice looking. It can perfectly withstand the hot dry climate of Bonaire, no doubt about it. Take away dry leaves and dead parts so it can spend its energy to grow the plant and to get a lot of plantlets. This makes the plant look like a funny bunch of green in the baskets.

For those who have less time but want some green on the porch this is a perfect plant to decorate the place. Care is minimal with successful results.

Beside the fact that Callisia is such a nice plant this basket plant purifies indoor air pollutants as many houseplants do. In addition, parts of the plant are edible and can be used in herbal remedies. Callisia is a natural antibiotic, antibacterial, and antioxidant. The leaves especially are used for treatment of various skin diseases, burns and joint disorder.

It has high medicinal properties and a rich folklore reputation as an antiviral and antimicrobial plant. In Russia Callisia leaves are infused in vodka and used in a tonic for skin problems, colds, heart problems, cancer, varicose veins, upset stomach, and inflammation from arthritis. The leaves are also used in wines and dried for teas. The Bonairean homemade coco oil, infused with Callisia can be used as a muscle or joint rub and it's also good for bruises and for varicose veins.

So you see, there is nothing wrong with this plant, only good stuff.

And if you plant it now, you might have Christmas with a porch, living room and/or office with baskets and pots full of beautiful green Callisia fragrans as Christmas decorations.

Isn't that a good idea? Think of Christmas gifts. Start now, just do it. *Angliet, Nature lover.*

Have you ever heard of Callisia fragrans? This is a plant that grows in many yards, pots and baskets on Bonaire.

I also have it in baskets hanging in trees and as a ground-cover plant. It always does well, in good and bad times but with this rain it's even more beautiful.

Callisia fragrans (beautiful name), commonly known as the basket plant, chain or inch plant is a species of the Callisia genus, in the Commelinaceae family. Callisia comes from the Latin words for beautiful lily. This plant is originally from Mexico. It later travelled to the Carib-



**Thanksgiving**  
November 28, 2019

## Thanksgiving Dinner

Butternut squash soup  
Seafood chowder

Homemade Cornbread • Home made assorted bread

Marinated sweet potato, corn, apple and walnut salad  
Mixed salad • Crudités mix

Whole roasted turkey served with three kinds of stuffing:  
•Classic American•Classic Ground Beef•Rum Runners Style

Oven roasted ham with a maple, garlic & bourbon glaze.

Sautéed Broccoflower, broccoli and carrots

Green veggie casserole with bacon bits and red onions

Spicy cranberry & apple relish

Cranberry sauce • House style gravy

Mashed potatoes with fresh garlic and parsley

Bourbon candied yams

Pumpkin pie • Sweet potato cakes

Pecan pie • Fresh fruit salad

**All you can eat buffet \$ 30.50**

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Two seatings available: 17:30 (5:30pm) and 20:00 (8pm)

## Sinterklaas Arrives



*And what was that splashing in the water?*

As you stood watching Sinterklaas and the Swarte Piets arrive, you may have wondered about all the splashing by the north pier. The Bonaire Barracudas Ladies Water Polo Team was playing the Ladies Team from Curaçao.

Having set up this great water venue for our Curacao visitors, the Bonaire Barracudas will compete against each other as well. We have over 100 members in the Bonaire Barracudas (ages six to 60) and 60 members will be competing in the weekend tournament. Between swimming and water polo, the club has a variety of teams who will also face each other to make an exciting weekend of games. The kids teams are the Under-10 years old, Under-12, and Under-14. The Under-19 Men will compete against the Adult Mens Team. The tournament continues as we go to print, so you will see the results in the next issue. *By Pam Teitel*

The man in the red suit arrived in Bonaire aboard a tugboat November 23. He was accompanied by several boats filled with approximately 40 dancing Swarte Piets. Sinterklaas and his entourage of Deputy Nina den Heyer, Miss Tourism Raystantaly Coffie and Komishon Sanikolas made their way to a large adoring crowd and an awaiting Mercedes. Photos Julie Morgan



# What's Happening

# 2019 Cruise Ships

DAY & DATE:MM/DD CRUISESHIP TIME PIER CAPACITY & LINE

November 30	<b>Mashe Rincon Krioyo</b> Street market in Rincon, 1st & last Saturday each month  <b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 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.
November 31 December 1	<b>Art Route Bonaire 2019.</b> Free. Travel to the workshops of local artists. See page 4. Grab an official Art Route map at TCB Bonaire, Between-2Buns and other spots (Check Facebook page: Art Route Bonaire.)
December 5	<b>Sinterklaas birthday celebration.</b>

Tuesday	11-26	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Wednesday	11-27	Silhouette	0700-1600	S.pier	2886	CEL
Wednesday	11-27	Koningsdam	0800-1800	N.pier	2650	HAL
Thursday	11-28	Summit	0800-1800	S.pier	2450	CEL
Thursday	11-28	Star Flyer	0900-2200	N.pier	170	Star Clippers
Saturday	11-30	Ms Europa	0800-2330	N.pier	408	Hapag-Lloyd
Sunday	12-1	Wind Star	0900-2200	N.pier	148	Windstar Cruises
Monday	12-2	Aida Perla	0700-1800	S.pier	3286	Aida Cruises
Tuesday	12-3	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	N.pier	2894	TUI
Wednesday	12-4	Explorer of the Seas	0800-1700	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Thursday	12-5	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782	RCCL
Sunday	12-8	Royal Clipper	1300-1900	N.pier	227	Star Clippers
Monday	12-9	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Monday	12-9	Carnival Sunshine	0800-1700	S.pier	2124	CCL

## —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](mailto: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 Bo-

naireans 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](http://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](mailto: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, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 786-0150.

## —Clubs & meetings—

• **Bridge club.** Meets every Wednesday to play. Start at 19.30 at Jasmin Garden. To join: call 7174052 or mail to:[tonsailing@gmail.com](mailto:tonsailing@gmail.com)

• **Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesdays,**12:15-2 pm - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (all addictions welcome) Wednesdays** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Meeting starts at 7pm. For more information, email: [12steprecoverybonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12steprecoverybonaire@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 Sabena 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)  
**Dutch service** Sunday at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37.Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call+599 787-0646

**International Bible Church.** Kaya Pápago 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](mailto: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.

**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 [ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto: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.

# A Plastic Tide aired

A Plastic Free Bonaire aired its second movie “A Plastic Tide” at Sign Studio on November 14. The movie, produced in 1917 by Sky.com, illustrates how our plastic trash comes back to haunt us – forever.

The film features some of the worst areas in the world affected by plastic debris, and what the people are doing to counter the onslaught.

Local groups on Bonaire are doing and saying the same things as these clean-up groups. No matter how clean the area is when you leave, the next day there will be more trash to take its place.

Every year 320 million tons of plastic are used and eight million tons of it enters our oceans. It takes 4% of all oil production to make all the plastic products.

In 1941 VE Yarsley wrote in his book “Plastics”,

Plastics is the name given to a large number of new substances invented by chemists to take the place of metal, wood, glass, and porcelain. Their remarkable physical properties are determined by the long chain-like structure of the molecules. They are strong and tough, light in weight, smooth, attractive and resistant.

We’ve been using this new innovative product since 1941 and some of those original plastics are still around today.

The plastic trash rolling in with the tide and gathering around the coast and on the beaches looks awful, but that’s only the beginning of the problem.

Every month Clean Coast Bonaire meets as citizen scientists to sift through the sand to pick up and categorize all the little bits of plastics known as micro plastics. In another life these bits were the single use plastics, straws or other countless items made of plastic. The stuff never goes away....

According to the film, one plastic bottle can break down to millions of pieces. Fish eat it then we eat the fish. It’s estimated that 4,000 tiny plastics a year can build up in our body.

Marine life, turtles, birds all eat plastic, thinking it is food. In the film, a researcher displayed several autopsied birds. Their stomachs were filled with plastics they had eaten that were drifting in the water along the shores. Birds starve to death eating these plastics. They think they are full because their stomachs are full of the plastics.

The researcher said that wildlife tells what we are doing wrong. What is happening to the wildlife is happening to us.

If you missed the film on November 14 at Sign Studio, you can watch it on <https://news.sky.com/video/special-report-plastic-pollution-in-our-oceans-10742377>. By *Julie Morgan*

## BONAIRE SKY PARK Where did all these constellations come from?

Where did all the sky pictures come from, and who came up with them?

For thousands of years, our ancestors have looked up at the night sky and wondered what it all was. Even as recently as 100 years ago, before the proliferation of street lights, if you went outside on a clear, moonless night, you could see thousands of stars, right from your backyard.

Without a scientific explanation of what the stars were, many ancient cultures thought the stars were divine. Each star was considered a god, fixed in position, relative to the others; appearing to rise in the east and set in the west, night after night.

Imagine how magical, mysterious and awesome the heavens must have seemed to our ancestors. As a person went from youth to old age, they would see the same stars in the same locations year after year; the same at age five as at age 50. And the sky seemed so high above them that the stars were unreachable, as if they were

attached to the inside of a large, crystalline sphere, with us at the center.

And this crystalline sphere would appear to rotate around the earth, again...with us at the center, making the stars appear to rise in the east and set in the west. This repetitive motion of the stars was very predictable, so many ancient people used the night sky as a primitive clock.

Not only was the daily motion of the stars repetitive, but over the course of a year, the stars you could see would gradually change, but 365 days later, the same stars you saw a year ago would appear in the same place; so if you look up at the stars after sun-set on your birthday, you’ll see the same stars in the same place, every birthday, for as long as you live.

The human brain likes to make order out of chaos. Although the distribution of the stars in the night sky is random, your brain immediately wants to make patterns out of the brightest stars.

So, as our ancestors spent their evenings gazing at the stars, they would play a celestial game of connect the dots, making patterns (both big and small) that represented objects, animals or people. We call these patterns, constellations.

There are currently 88 official constellations in modern astronomy. The constellations you can see depend on where on earth you live.

For example, people who live in Australia can see some of the same stars that we can see from North America, but not all of them. And vice versa.

Australians can see the Southern Cross, but only a few of us in North America can. North Americans can see Ursa Major (the Great Bear), but New Zealanders cannot. The only place on earth where you can actually see all 88 constellations at the equator.

So as people around the world played connect the dots with the stars, they would create fanciful stories about each of the constellations they created. Many of these stories were used to pass down cultural values of morality, or tell stories about love, courage or honor.

These constellation stories were handed down from generation to generation, so constellations came from stargazers like you. So you too can always create your own constellations out of the stars you can see every night as you... Keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury* <http://www.stargazersonline.org/index.html>

## Did You Know? that you can vote with your butts?



after the second beach clean-up. The voting box is a different way of cleaning up cigarettes. Instead of throwing away your cigarette in a tube or garbage can, you can vote with your cigarette. We hope to get people excited about voting with their butts!

The first voting box has the question: ‘Besides Wayaka which snorkel site is prettier?’ People can choose between two answers: ‘Slagbaai’ or ‘Playa Funchi’. The second voting box has the question: ‘Which site do you think is nicer?’ with two answer options: ‘Boka Kokolishi’ or ‘Slagbaai’.

A third beach clean-up will be done a month after the last beach clean-up, to find out if the voting boxes helped reduce the amount of discarded cigarette butts. If you’re a cigarette smoker, the next time you head over to Washington Slagbaai National Park, after you jump off the cliff, don’t forget: let your butt do the talking and tell us what you think. If you’re not a smoker, you can still vote by searching for and voting with cigarette butts that were left on the ground by irresponsible smokers.

**And did you know that Bonaire’s coastline is 10 times more polluted with plastic than North Sea beaches in the European Netherlands?**

You might think, how is this possible? The European Netherlands is 41,543 km<sup>2</sup> and has 17.18 million citizens, while Bonaire has a surface area of only 281 km<sup>2</sup> and a little over 20,000 inhabitants. Bonaire is therefore almost 150 times smaller in size.



A recent article from the Netherlands reported that Bonaire’s beaches and coastlines have a great deal of trash. However, they didn’t explain where this trash comes from. A continuous stream of trash is deposited on the East side of the island by the tides and currents. While some of the trash is local or regional, we also get discarded items coming from the countries all the way across the Atlantic. So, if you find, for example, a cosmetic bottle or a plastic spoon, there is a big chance it belonged to someone in Spain or France.

We can all agree that the trash bombarding Bonaire’s coastlines is not only ugly, but it also poses a risk to animals on land and in the sea. On Bonaire one of the beach clean-up organizations is Clean Coast Bonaire. Once a month they go with volunteers to different coastal sites to collect trash and conduct marine litter surveys. They have reported a total of 50,178 trash items after one year at three different locations. A large amount of the litter was made of plastic and Styrofoam, but half of these trash items were cigarette butts! At one specific location, Te Amo beach, the results were shocking. The volunteers found 1,530 items over a distance of only 50 meters. Of these 1,530 items, 815 were cigarette butts. Now, you might think that cigarette butts are not that harmful, but not only do cigarettes contain various chemicals that are very harmful to animals, cigarettes also have a plastic filter made of cellulose acetate which can take over a decade to decompose. *Written by Romy Geertsma, STINAPA intern. Connecting People with Nature*

In a previous ‘did you know’ we wrote about finding a way to reduce the amount of trash in the park, and hopefully to decrease its negative environmental impact. Since that article, we have, with the help of the Stinapa Junior Rangers, taken multiple observations and completed two beach clean-ups. At the first beach clean-up, 292 cigarette butts were found and at the second beach clean-up, only a month later, 96 cigarette butts were found.

After collecting the data from the first beach clean-up, we decided to encourage people to properly discard their cigarette butts. We placed two voting boxes at Slagbaai



## Pet of the Week: Tio



### Introducing Tio.

Just like black cats, black dogs get overlooked because of their color but, if you are looking for a new friend with lots of energy then Tio is the one for you. This young friendly dog is only 10 months old. He has been with us since he was a tiny pup and has been bottle fed. Tio loves digging in his water bowl, but we do not know if he is a swimmer; would you like to find out? Tio is healthy, has been castrated and is ready to find a new home. If you are you interested in meeting Tio or any of his friends, please stop by the Animal Shelter Bonaire located at Kaminda Lagun 26. We are open Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm and 3-5pm and Saturday from 9am-3pm non stop. Or call the Animal Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989 *Story and photos by Sanne Attevelt.*



'Children's Rights' was the theme of the "Christmas Holiday Gift Project" on November 19 at Sentro di Bario Ambiona. For the 10th year Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) and Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) have joined to make a memorable holiday by giving gifts to 100 children. Stichting Project FORSA organized the event and selected the children along with the schools. Representatives from the sponsor groups and Miss Tourism Bonaire, Rayshantaly Coffie, were on hand to wish the kids a happy holiday. Thanks were also given to FORSA, Orlando Francisca of Rento Fun and the volunteers for their support and dedication to the children.

## Shelter News

The Shelter's dog boarding facility will be closed from January 7 to February 29.

Although we have been progressing with the construction of our new dog boarding area, there have been some delays due to lack of construction materials. Therefore our dog boarding facility will be closed from January 7 to February 29. We will be able to take new boarding reservations beginning March 1, 2020. 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.

### Buying donations locally.

We are often asked what items the Shelter needs that can be purchased locally. Here is our list:

- Pedigree Adult Dog Food
- Pedigree Puppy Food
- Large Canned Dog Food
- Member's Mark Complete Cat Food
- Purina Complete Adult Cat Food
- Tidy Cat Non-Clumping Cat Litter
- Printer Ink (HP664XL Black, tri-color)
- Heavy Duty Garden Hoses
- Garden Hose Repair Parts
- Gallons of Bleach
- Gallons of Tempo Disinfectant
- Fragrance Free Baby Wipes
- 11 gal. Heavy Trash Bags
- For vaccinations: BD Plastipak 2.5ml syringes & 23G x 1" (0.6 x 25mm) needles

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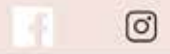


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