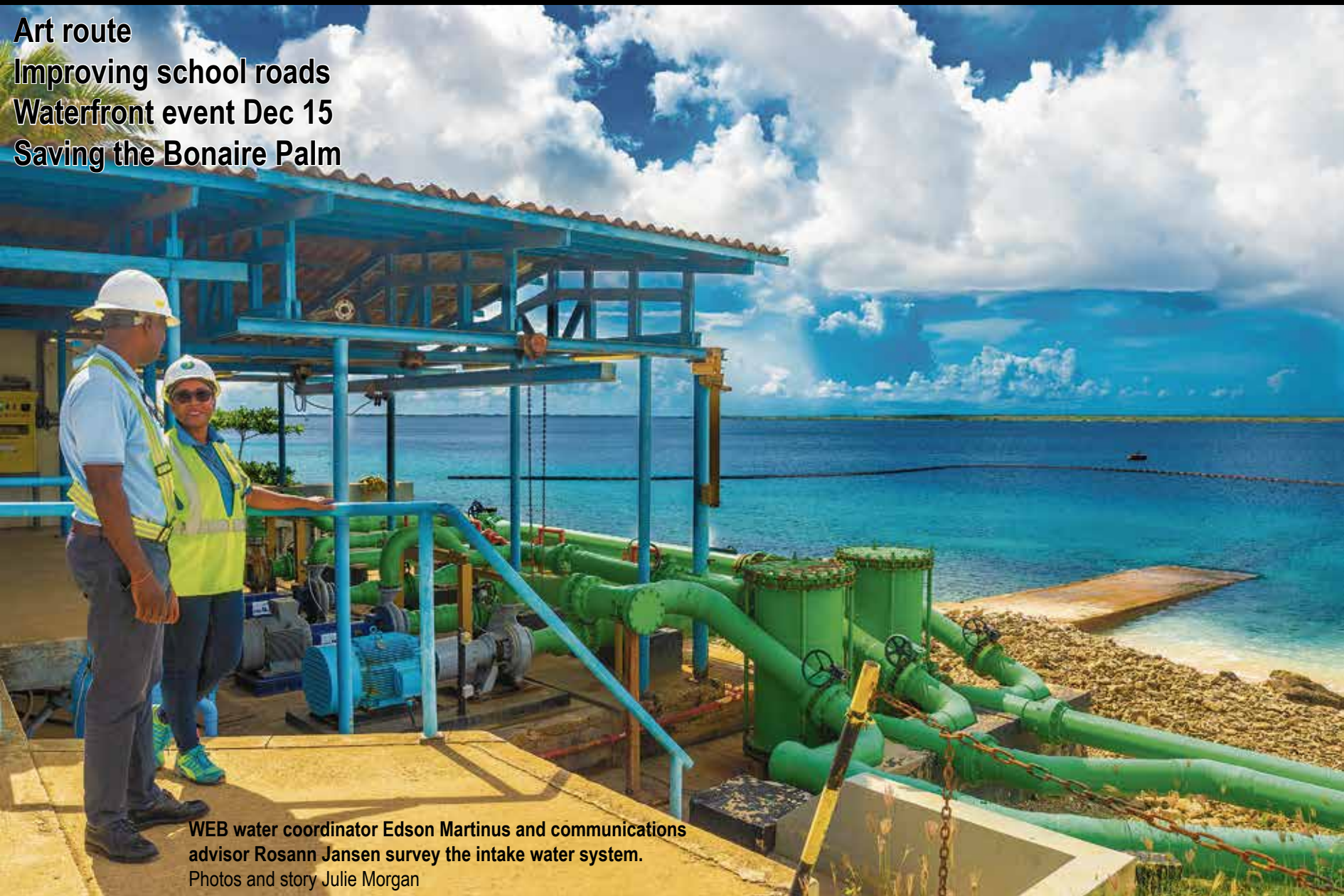


Art route
 Improving school roads
 Waterfront event Dec 15
 Saving the Bonaire Palm



WEB water coordinator Edson Martinus and communications advisor Rosann Jansen survey the intake water system.
 Photos and story Julie Morgan

“We have good quality water in Bonaire,” E. Martinus

Gorgeous turquoise and cobalt blue water surrounds Bonaire and beckons us to swim, dive, sail, fish and ponder life. But unfortunately we can't drink it unless it has been desalinated and that is the job of WEB (Water, Energy Bonaire).

For 1000s of years there has been some form of desalination to make beautiful blue water drinkable. The Greeks boiled the water to evaporate the fresh water away from the salt, and the Romans used clay filters to trap the salt.

In the early days on Bonaire, the water came from rain or fresh water wells and was then transported by donkeys. Later on cisterns were installed.

A growing population in 1963 prompted Bonaire to begin desalinating the water through a thermal process. Unfortunately the process created a warm, high salt residual product that went back to the ocean. This was really bad for our reefs and marine life.

Since 1986, WEB has worked with IDE Technology. In 1998 they adopted the newly discovered reverse osmosis process for desalination using GE (General Electric) process.

With the new plant, WEB will use IDE's technology Pro green technology with DOC (Direct Osmosis Cleaning).

IDE's Solutions Manager Yoav Menashe said, "DOC is a chemical free process that allows for continuous stable performance while reducing energy consumption."

But how does desalinating currently work and what are the new changes?

Water is pumped from the ocean through two large fiberglass intake pipes with mesh screening preventing sea life and other debris from entering. The water is routed to pretreatment that removes any debris that made it through the intake. From there it goes through the reverse osmosis membranes which are a series of layered filters sandwiched together in pipe form. The water runs through these pipes twice.

At this point in the process the water is so pure it is undrinkable. Therefore to control the PH, Calcium carbonate is added to keep the PH at the international standard of 7.5-8.5. The salt and any debris is returned to the ocean at the same temperature as it entered.

But all the matter clogs the reverse osmosis membranes and increases the energy consumption of the plant.

With the IDE Pro green DOC this won't happen.

The DOC uses the osmotic pressure of the brine to "wash" the membranes and clean them reducing the energy consumption and prolonging the membrane lifetime.

With the old GE technology the membranes had to be removed and cleaned to eliminate any possible chemical spills in the ocean.

Once desalinated the water is pumped to the nine tanks on Bonaire and distributed: two at Hato, three at Seru Langu, two at Sabadeco and two at Rincon.

WEB's water coordinator for the last 20 years, Edson Martinus said, "The new one is a modular plant so you can add on, or if one part needs repair, then the whole operation

doesn't have to go down."

WEB's onsite laboratory tests the water quality everyday according to "BES drinking water quality ruling." (Website ruling: <https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0028642/2010-10-10>)

The WHO (World Health Organization) sets international standards for water quality. However the standard set specifically for Bonaire and the BES islands is much stricter than WHO's international standard. Water is measured for conductivity or saltiness and is measured in microSiemens per centimeter. WHO sets the conductivity to be less than 1000 uS/cm; the Bonaire standard is less than 400 uS/cm.

Martinus said, "There are lots of checks and balances and controls tested in the lab to make sure it is up to stan-

WEB, continued on page 6



WEB and GE current reverse osmosis system provides 1600m3 and 4800m3 respectively per day.

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Bonaire losing to Jamaica as a Dutch vacation choice

Netherlands vacationers are increasingly deciding to go to Jamaica for their holidays, rather than Curaçao or Bonaire. They consider the ABC islands more expensive than Jamaica, which regularly offers attractive alternatives, especially all-inclusive packages. According to research conducted in the Netherlands by VakantieDiscounter, Dutch people spend an average of nine days on a sun holiday during the winter period. Almost half of them opt for an all-inclusive resort, and that percentage is growing. At the moment, Bonaire offers only one all-inclusive resort, Plaza Beach.



The court has awarded Plaza Resort Bonaire the right to close its drawbridge. For security reasons, Plaza had opened the bridge in 2017 because no one was using the island it connected to. The opened bridge allowed the residents of Laguna Marina to sail under it. Now, Plaza is redeveloping the island at a cost of \$ 40 million and wants to connect it with a fixed bridge. The Laguna Marina residents brought proceedings against Plaza, complaining that a fixed bridge would be too low to let their boats through.

The court considered that the residents had never before complained about the bridge that had been there since 1995. Since the bridge was opened two years ago, only one new resident has a boat that is too large to sail under the bridge. This resident was offered an alternative place in the harbor by Plaza at no extra cost. The judge therefore considered the economic interest of Plaza to be more important in this dispute.

Extra AOV for elderly people with a low income

From January 1st 2020, the old age pension (Algemene Ouderdomsverzekering, AOV) will be supplemented for elderly people who have a low income and little equity. The measure is taken by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment to increase incomes and benefits in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Persons aged 64 or over, who have been lawfully residing in the Caribbean Netherlands for a minimum of five years, are eligible if they have an income that is lower than the minimum wage. On Bonaire this is an amount of 951 USD per month. On Saba and St. Eustatius it is USD 1,134 and USD 1,147 respectively. Any pension from a former employer is exempt up to \$ 54 per month.



St. Eustatius celebrates its first inclusive wedding. The weekend of November 30th, St. Eustatius joined other Caribbean territories by celebrating a same gender wedding. Native-born and raised Statian Walter Hellebrand, monuments director of St. Eustatius, married his lifelong partner, Chris Russell, a freelance commercial writer. The chair of the College for Human Rights of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Adriana van Dooijeweert, was the speaker at the wedding.

Van Dooijeweert commented: "This is also important as a message to young people who may struggle with their feelings ...we all have access to the same options. And that includes marrying. Pledging one's love to another is the same no matter the gender combination. Love is love."

The person's equity is also included in determining the entitlement to Extra AOV. A capital limit of 8,760 USD maximum applies to Bonaire. For Saba and St. Eustatius this is USD 10,460 and USD 10,600 respectively. Elderly people who have more than this amount in equity are not eligible for Extra AOV.

The Extra AOV can be applied for between January 6th and April 1st 2020 at the SZW-unit of RCN. This is possible by appointment or during special consultation hours. You can also find more information about Extra AOV on the RCN website.

In addition to the Extra AOV, the regular AOV pension will increase by 2020 for all elderly persons entitled to AOV. This is an increase of 6.2% on Bonaire, 5.3% on Saba and 2.7% on St. Eustatius. The adjusted old age pension is automatically credited to the account of the elderly persons entitled to AOV.

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Government spending 3 million euros to improve school roads

A six month road upgrade project has been launched that will improve safety for children attending some of Bonaire's schools and reduce the dust in their school environment. Unpaved roads will be asphalted, damaged roads will be repaired. A total of 4.5 km of roads will be improved, beginning with Papa Cornes Community School in North Salinja. That project will include a new roundabout to be constructed at the junction of Kaya Amsterdam and Kaya Chippewa. Then work will proceed at Kolegio San Luis Bertran in Rincon and the schools Strea Briante and Rayo di Solo (including the daycare center) in Antriol.

Notably, this will be the first major project to be independently implemented by the OLB under the Administrative Agreement. It is a step toward the Agreement's goal of strengthening the executive power of the local government. According to deputy James Kroon, "Within the framework of good governance, we wanted to adhere to the requirements of due care, all the more so as we demonstrate to the government that we can execute these types of projects very well in-house, with the help of professionals and partners we have selected ourselves."

With three million euros in funding promised by the Ministry of Infrastruc-

ture and Water Management in the Netherlands, the Bonaire Space and Development Department hired Caribbean Project Developers (CPD) to organize and supervise the tendering process. After a transparent tendering procedure, the project was contracted to Bonaire Wegenbouw Maatschappij (BWM) on the advice of CPD. The management and supervision of the correct execution of the work has been outsourced by the OLB to Civil Engineering Caribbean (CEC).

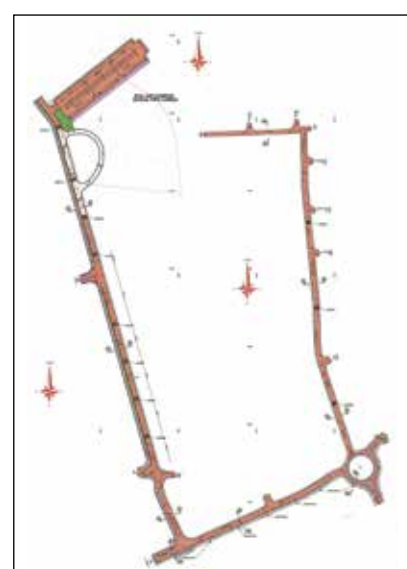
"This is the first visible milestone that we have achieved through good cooperation, for a better Bonaire. Together we stand strong!," said Danny Rojer, program manager of the Administrative Agreement.

After the school roads are finished, work will begin on Kaya Nikolas, Neerlandia, and two roads in Belnam. *D.M.R. Photos by Julie Morgan.*

Top: Unveiling the project sign board

Left: Road plan for Papa Cornes Community School

Right: Deputies James Kroon and Elvis Tjin Asjoe excited about the project



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<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

The seed has been planted; Lodge Harmony is here to stay



We invite all interested persons to a public meeting where we will give more information and answer any question on December 10, 8pm at the Bonaire Scouting Building, Kaya Nikiboko Noord, #2. For more info you may call secretary Michiel Bijkerk (796-2650) or president Michiel Rumpff (701-7703). Freemasonry is a worldwide fraternity which can open doors for you in nearly all countries of the world.

We knew we took on a tough job in establishing a Freemasonry Lodge on Bonaire in September 2018. The job was to establish harmony on Bonaire. Our small island society is as diverse as can be imagined. We speak four languages, our population is a mix of all human races and religions and our people have come from more than 100 nations. There is an incredible mix of cultures, customs, religions, ideas and opinions. Can we ever harmonize this?

‘Yes, we can!’, provided we are guided by broad spiritual thinking. Freemasonry does not have an ‘agenda’. We believe that if we can make good men better, then one way or the other we can bear fruit in our community. We accept members of all recognized religions, all political backgrounds and all societal ranks, rich and poor, all races and all nationalities. The only thing required is that you put aside your prejudices and make yourself respect, or at least tolerate, opinions and ideas that are different from your own. And you must be willing to fraternize. We do indeed believe in and promote the Brotherhood of Man.

Traditional Freemasonry does not accept women members, although there are mixed lodges and also women only lodges. For the time being we believe that if we can establish harmony and fraternity among men, we are at least laying a good foundation. It’s possible that in the future we may set up a women only lodge (known as the ‘Weavers’ in Holland). The point is, we have made a start and what the future brings we cannot foresee.

We practice an initiatic system in the privacy of our own temple (“lodge”). We do not teach anything. Instead, we hand our members the tools, symbols and ideas to help each individual member find his own way to spirituality and his own understanding of God. And we use the Temple of Solomon as the symbolic archetype for the members to find his own contribution to a just society. Each Mason tries to turn himself into a perfect cubic stone, fit to be used in the building of Solomon’s Temple, which stands for a society based on Justice, Respect and Unity. For that we need well-informed and strong people who are up to the task of making this a reality. We know this will take time. But the work has to be done. So, if this resonates with you, we suggest you begin now by contacting us and applying for membership. *Michiel Bijkerk*

The hurricane season in the Caribbean is officially over

2019 goes into the books as the fourth most active hurricane season since 1969. A total of 18 storms were given a name. Most of these storms were weak and short-lived, but six developed into hurricanes: Barry, Dorian, Jerry, Humberto, Lorenzo, and Pablo.

For the fifth consecutive year, the hurricane season began before the official date of June 1. This year the season began on May 20 with storm Andrea. The heaviest hurricane was Dorian, who swept across the Bahamas in September.

ARE WE NATURE LOVERS ? (1: Trees)



Dear editor,

In the edition of last week you have published a “Protected tree list”. The list made me wonder how the protection of trees works. So I did a little research, this is what I found.

Last Friday I drove on Kaya Korona and just opposite of “Toezicht & Handhaving” (the department that has to control and act if there is an offense of rules concerning permits and destination plans). I saw that three large, more than 100 years old, Wayaká’s were just cut down. These are on the list of protected trees!

I thought strange that they have a permit for cutting down such old protected trees. I went to Toezicht & Handhaving to make a formal complaint.

Below is what seems to be the day to day practice, when you deposit a complaint in the case of cutting down a tree which are mentioned on the list of protected trees, at Toezicht & Handhaving:

When you deposit a formal written complaint, Toezicht & Handhaving will go to the abuser and ask them if they have a permit. If they don’t have a permit then Toezicht & Handhaving tells them to go to R&O to ask for a permit (after they already have cut down the protected tree(s)). At R&O they have to tell what kind of trees (species and how big they are) they cut down without a permit. Outcome is that they only have to pay the normal fee for a permit, the same fee which they had to pay if they had asked the permit upfront. Case closed.

This can not be true? So I did a little more research, this is what I found.

The ‘protection’ rules are written down in the “Eilandsverordening Natuurbeheer Bonaire” and “Eilandsbesluit Natuurbeheer Bonaire”. For the public there is an “Informatieblad beschermde bomen” (Information brochure protected trees) which mentions that you have to ask for a permit if you want to cut a tree. For the permit you have to pay between \$85. and \$195. for each tree you want to cut down, depending on the size of the tree.

The basic rule is that you *don’t get a permit* for cutting down a protected tree, the only exceptions are when the tree is a serious threat for the public safety or in case of an emergency.

If you ask for a permit it will be published on the Facebook page of OLB and you as a citizen can make an objection if you think it is wrong to issue the permit

for cutting down a tree and so help to preserve nature.

What if you cut down a tree without a permit? Serious trouble, that is what you think when you read the law. The law has two kinds of approach:

- When you did not know that a permit was required, then there can be a fine of max \$56,000 or jail time of max one year.
- When you knew that there was a permit required, then there can be a fine of max \$560,000 or jail time of max 4 years.

The judge is allowed to set the fine in regard to the financial strength of the person involved. This sounds serious.

Bonaire is serious at protecting trees. Bonaire is a nature loving green island so this is what you expect.

So in practice it is *much easier to cut down the (protected) trees* that are in your way and if somebody complains then you go to R&O and get a permit after the fact and pay the permit price, no publication and no possibility for the citizen to object against the issue of the permit. It’s much easier for OLB and for the person who wants to cut down a protected tree.

What is the value of a list with protected trees when you can cut them down so easily *without any sanctions*? Why bother to go through the hassle when there is no incentive to do it the formal way? It makes no difference when you act with or without a permit you pay the same, except when you pay afterward you do not risk the interference. What a disappointment.

As a reaction to this disappointment I’ve bought three extra Wayaká’s and planted them at our kunuku. They will be protected that is for sure. But it will take more than a hundred years to become as beautiful as the ones cut down (see photo).

I have a great admiration for the people of Echo, who are planting young trees and keeping up the spirit.

Signed: Wilma Nijland...

###

Response from the Director of Echo Foundation

Thank you for being so aware and serving as the eyes for Bonaire’s environment.

This is highly needed and much appreciated.

I took immediate notice of your message and to others who have been on site and took notice of this tragedy. I’ve continue securing that the message came to the people authorized to do something and prevent more deforestation on that day.

I also contacted the government and together with Johan we presented our concern about lack of information and reinforcement towards this legislation. We are meeting again with them in two weeks and hope to facilitate the government on awareness for the protected species.

I’m glad Mr Nijland is also writing a letter in the Reporter as well. Saludos Kordial - Kind Regards,
Julianka Clarendia, Director Echo Foundation

Join the Bonaire Culinary Team 2020

Do you want to join the BCT on their journey to the biggest culinary competition of the Caribbean; the Taste of the Caribbean? This is your chance. Our team of six needs to fill the following three vacancies: • Senior Chef; • Junior Chef • Bartender

Sign up by Dec 20 via the link below for our information evening on the 22nd of December.

<https://forms.gle/awZRzmZ6HmpzS8nz8>. (*You must be currently working on Bonaire.*)

Please nominate before Dec. 15!

At the Vakantiebeurs 2020, TCB will award two organizations or persons with the following awards:

Golden Flamingo: A person or business that in 2019 made a difference in marketing and promoting Bonaire.

Pink Egg: An encouragement prize to a person or business that did something special to promote Bonaire.

Do you know (a) person(s) or organization(s) to nominate for one of these awards?

Please send your nominations to marketing@tourismbonaire.com.

Law Enforcement

Police Report for Nov. 22 - Dec 6, 2019

Robberies Nov. 8-Nov. 19

On the night of Nov. 8, a gray / black Gilera scooter was stolen from the parking lot behind the church in Playa.

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. 10 thieves forced a sliding door to gain access to a tourist accommodation in Sabadeco. They stole jewelery, among other things.

On Nov. 10, between 1 am and 9 am thieves searched two unlocked cars parked in front of a house on the Kaya Den Bosch. A Skill brand drill was removed from one of the cars. On the same day a theft was reported from a car nearby, parked in the yard of a house on the Kaminda Santa Barbara. Thieves destroyed the window of the rear door and took away a gray jack.

On Nov. 18, unknown persons forced the side door of the house on Kaya Jasin-to. They turned everything upside down and destroyed interior doors. It is not yet known what has been removed.

On Nov. 19 a house on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago was burgled. After 6 pm thieves entered the through the back door and, among other things, took away two televisions and jewelery.

Robberies Nov. 22-Dec. 6

On Nov. 22, during a routine traffic check on Kaya Seminole, three goats were discovered. Two men, aged 35 years and 24-years, who were in the car were arrested for theft and vandalism. The car was seized. The owner of the goats was informed. The police continue to carry out regular traffic checks, checking for the validity of driving licenses and insurance documents, but also for alcohol intake and irregularities as mentioned above.

Between Saturday Nov. 23, 10 pm and Sunday Nov. 24, 7am, thieves entered a tourist accommodation at Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot through an unlocked sliding door. They stole, among other things, a black iPhone 7+, a white Oceanic dive computer, a black Suunto sports watch, a red iPod model Nano, red Bose earbuds and the car keys of a rental car. During the break-in the owners were sleeping in an adjoining bedroom.

Between 5:30 - 5:50pm Nov. 27, thieves took a wallet out of a car parked in the parking lot of an apartment complex on Kaya Imelda.

Between 8pm and 10pm Nov. 30, a black Kymco scooter with the MF-749 registration number was stolen. The scooter was locked with a chain lock at a restaurant on Bulevar J.A. Abraham Blvd.

Between 6pm and 9:30pm Nov. 30 a generator was stolen from a home on the Kaya Patachi. The generator was on the balcony of the house.

Between Nov. 29 and Dec. 5. thieves forced the sliding door of a house on Kaya Chippewa. A number of televisions, a black macbook, a few telephones and watches were removed, among other things. The case is being investigated.

Dive site robberies

On Nov. 30, between 1:30pm and 2:15pm while the owners were snorkeling at a dive site on the E.E.G. Bulevar thieves took two beach bags with, among other things, a black iPhone XR, a wallet with cash, different passes and black Arnett brand sunglasses.

On the roads

On Nov. 27 around noon at Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot near the roundabout, a scooter slid when accelerating and the driver fell. She suffered grazes and bruises on her ankle. She was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Nov. 29, a chain collision between three cars took place at Kaya Industria. A victim hurt her chest and a 10-year-old passenger hit her head. The ambulance arrived to treat them on the scene.

In the night hours from Friday, Nov 29 to Saturday, Nov 30, at the center of Kralendijk a driver reduced speed after the police used flashing lights. Also a driver of a moped bumped into the curb along on the Kaya Korona, lost control and fell. A man was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

In the morning hours of Nov. 30, a chain collision between three cars took place on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver of the middle car complained of pain on his arms and neck and was checked on the spot by the ambulance personnel. Everyone could go home after this.

Arrests

On Nov. 22, around 8:15pm, a man of 51 years of age held at a catering facility for public intoxication.

On Nov. 23, around 11:15 a man of 41 years was arrested for abuse.

At around 5 pm on Sunday, Nov. 24, a man of 27 years was arrested for causing danger in traffic. When the patrol signaled him to stop for driving dangerously, he drove off, resulting in a chase. When police succeeded in stopping him, he ran away on foot and the pursuit continued on foot, after which he was arrested and his motorcycle confiscated. The police emphasize once again that this type of driving behavior endangers traffic and causes nuisance to the environment. This will be strictly enforced to keep traffic safe for everyone.

On the night of Nov. 25, around 2am, a man of 31 years was arrested on Kaya Korona for assault.

On Nov. 28 around 11:45 pm a car was stopped because it was swinging on the road. The driver did not initially show her driver's license and insurance certificate. She also refused a breath test. The driver, a woman of 56 years was arrested for driving under the influence and not complying with a police order.

(Dec. 1, on Kaya Nikiboko Noord, a 28-year-old man was arrested for attacking another man with a broken bottle during a fight. The victim was rushed to the hospital. His condition is unknown. *Source Bonaire.nu*)

Around 1:15am, Dec. 6, a 29-year old



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Question: I am thinking about selling my Bonaire condo, do you think I should leave it empty and "stage" it, or should I rent it and make some income while its for sale, even if it doesn't look as nice? Can buyers look past an unstaged home or a messy tenant? Nancy

Hi Nancy,

I'm a big fan of staging properties to show them at their best, since we're selling a lifestyle in addition to a property. As an experienced home stager, I offer free professional home staging to all Sellers who list their homes with me. My recommendation is that if you do not have anyone renting the apartment currently, leave it empty and staged. Units without renters are always clean and ready to show. Rented units can take days to schedule a showing with the tenant or property manager, and the condition of a rented property can vary.

I understand the dilemma of wanting the home to sell as soon as possible at the best price, versus the risk of losing rental income if the home is on the market for a long time. One way to

decide whether to rent while showing is the likely selling price of the home, which can help determine how long the property will be on the market. Homes priced below \$350,000 tend to sell more quickly since there are more people looking in this price range. I've sold every home listed with me in that price range in under 90 days. If you have a property priced at a half million dollars or more that may take longer to sell, you might choose to rent it, with the understanding that tenants permit showings and keep the property clean.

Whether you rent it or not, it is important to have it cleaned and staged for the initial listing photographs and the RE/MAX 3-d tour that buyers can view online. Prospective buyers can then see the property looking its best, even if there are renters at the time of the showing.

*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. Tollfree from U.S.: 1-866-611-7362

man was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES. An amount of suspected drugs, two cell phones, cash and the vehicle have been seized for further investigation.

Investigations

Abuse was reported in the evening hours of Nov 29. A man was beaten up at a small restaurant in the center area while he was waiting for his dinner. He was taken unconscious by someone to the hospital. The case is under investigation. *Communicatie KPCN*

(The Police Force of Caribbean Netherlands (KPCN) carried out a planned action between Thursday Nov. 29 and Sunday December 1 in a effort to thwart or prevent illegal prostitution at various establishments on the island. Seven illegal immigrants were arrested and transferred

to the local prison (JICN), pending their deportation to their country of origin.

Call on residents

According to the KPCN, determining illegal prostitution and/or human trafficking is not easy. They ask residents of the island to actively report signs of either illegal prostitution or suspected human trafficking. *Source Bonaire.nu*)

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

Budget Marine launches part 2: Dec. 15th.

Budget Marine is proud to present "Part Two" of the Bonaire Waterfront event. Last month, the Triathlon took place, but we had no wind, so we postponed the boating events. On Sunday December 15th, the boats will cast off for the sailing and fishing events.

The sailing is fun, different and open to all. A simple on-line system will handicap the yachts to make a fun contest even if the boats are drastically different from each other. Sunfish will be available for charter for those who know how to sail, but don't have a boat. We will have some serious races and some fun relay races, so come join the fun.

The sustainable fishing tournament is the same day. We have only three target species of fish. We are looking for the largest of each. The rules are simple, bring the fresh fish to the weighing station at the fishermen's pier between 1 and 4pm and let's see who has the biggest fish!

Register at Budget Marine Mon.-Fri. 8-5 or Sat 9-12. Sailing captain's meeting is at 9am. Fishing can begin anytime

See you on the 15th! *By Pam Teitel.*

How to help reforest Bonaire

The general public, both individuals and organizations, can join Echo Bonaire's effort to recreate the original dry forests of Bonaire. People can plant and nurture some of the 20,000 intended trees on their own property. Once started in Echo's green houses, the young trees of endangered and protected species need to be planted in places where they are safe from goats and donkeys, then carefully nurtured until they can survive on their own in Bonaire's challenging environment.

Echo's volunteers have been fencing dedicated one hectare exclusion areas in wild places on the island, planting trees among the vegetation that is already growing there, then hand watering them. Bonaireans can purchase trees from Echo to plant on their own property providing they can meet the same two requirements. They must have a location where the young trees can grow safe from herbivores, and they must have a watering plan (hand watering, irrigation system) for supporting the trees through their first year of growth.

The commitment can be as small as purchasing a single tree from Echo for home landscaping. Or people can buy many trees and plant them in a fenced exclusion area that's already been created, such as a large garden or a kunuku. For volunteer plantings of 10 trees or more, Echo will provide expert advice regarding species selection for that habitat and soil, planting methods, and care requirements. Discount prices are available for large projects. Some volunteer plantings on the island exceed 100 trees.

Echo Bonaire can be contacted at <http://www.echobonaire.org/> or info@echobonaire.org. D.M.R.

Mas Telefon LTE!
Kumpra un Samsung A10s i Shake To Win.

Digicel

Saving the Bonaire Palm

Echo Bonaire intends to plant 20,000 young trees in its efforts to re-establish the original forests that used to cover the island. Some species have already been lost to free ranging goats and donkeys and other destructive practices. But Echo hopes that many species, though their populations have been drastically reduced, can still be brought back.

Saving the native Bonaire palm has become one of the goals of the reforestation project. Only 25 of the trees are still growing in the wild, all in a small area in the Lima district. Echo has been including young Bonaire palms in the mix of species it is propagating around the island.

Echo starts young trees in its nursery, then plants them inside areas fenced to exclude goats and donkeys. Most of the protective exclusion areas were created by Echo, but volunteer individuals and organizations have sponsored some of them.

In a volunteer exclusion area at the north end of the island, Echo discovered an opportunity to launch an experimental planting of Bonaire palms. Of the 110 trees initially planted there, 10 were Bonaire palms. A few planted in one area have done conspicuously better than the others. They are planted in the coral, which may replicate the limestone flats



The Echo team plants an experimental grouping of the native Bonairean palm. Photos Julie Morgan

where they grow in Lima. So Echo has planted more palms in the same location and will track their growth. Echo hopes both to create a reproductive grove there and to determine where best to plant palms at other sites around the island. D.M.R.

The young palms are planted in holes in the coral.



Edson Martinus shows cross section of reverse osmosis pipe.

Kiwanis donates 28 child safety seats

On November 29, Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk, Bonaire donated 28 child safety seats to three childcare organizations. The organizations, chosen with the advice of Youth and Family center (SHiF/Jeugd en Gezin), are: Tabitha Kumi Foundation, a crisis relief centre for women and children; Sentro Pre-eskolar Hardin Tia Sus, a preschool in Rincon, and Mama Hoben Aktivo. The organizations will provide the car seats to less fortunate families who have children under four years of age, so the families can comply with the safety rules of the 2019 Traffic Ordinance.

Kiwanis's fund raising was given a boost when they were approached by owners of La Terrazza who wished to support a community project as part of their anniversary event.

During the celebration La Terrazza and Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk together raised more than \$1600 for the Child Safety Seat Project by auctioning goods, services and art graciously donated by companies and individuals.

The 28 child safety seats were delivered to Bonaire thanks to IFC and Austoeltje.nl/ Ellermeijer Trading in the Netherlands and the local company Rorgo Services.



Ceramic mosaic bust - Joseart



Painting - Han van der Nijn



Ceramics - Monique Ojers

First ever Art Route attracts visitors

Uncovering the hidden gems of art by Bonaire's local artists was as easy as looking at a map this past weekend, November 30 - December 1.

The concept was brought together by the Art Committee, artists Joanne Nicolaas of the Workshop Factory, Monique Ojers of Nu Kua Ceramics Bonaire, and

Petra van Zoelen of Wonderful Pictures by Petra.

Twelve artisans displayed their work for anyone who set out on the art trail. At times finding the locations was a bit of a challenge, but reaching the art destination was a true reward.

All types of mediums were exhibited: paintings, stained glass, fashion, jewelry, ceramics, driftwood art, photography, mandalas and mosaics.

Individual artists received between 15 and 60 visitors.

If you missed the art route, the artisans will be a part of the December Art Market at Hillside on December 15, 12-5pm. Many artists are expected to display their 100% homemade original work.

A part of the December Art Market sales proceeds will be donated to Bonaire Animal Shelter and Kunuku Kakkelvets. *Story and photos by Julie Morgan*

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

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Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Bronx, N.Y.



Barry Prezioso of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey has been coming to Bonaire for the last 15 years. With *The Reporter* in hand, he stands in front of Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, New York.

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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STCB publishes scientific paper

On November 28th, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) published an article in the scientific journal *Endangered Species Research* in cooperation with Frank Rivera-Milán and Fernando Simal (WILDCONSCIENCE). The paper, 'Green and hawksbill turtle abundance and population dynamics at foraging grounds in Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands', can be found online at www.int-res.com/articles/esr2019/40/n040p243.pdf.



well-recognized journals supports the work of STCB in different ways. Publications emphasize STCB's credibility and help the organization to obtain funding, so that they can continue to collect data and to conduct conservation activities. In addition, annual assessments of Bonaire's sea turtle population allow STCB to assess the results of these conservation actions and to make informed management decisions.

STCB would like to thank its volunteers and interns for their dedication and support in the field. Without them this publication would not have been possible. Also, a special thanks to STCB's funders and donors who have supported STCB's activities since 1991.

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

The study was based on 16 years (2003-2018) of monitoring data from transect-count and net-capture surveys. The data was analyzed to obtain a baseline population estimate. The data also analyzed yearly trends at foraging grounds at three locations: along the entire west coast of Bonaire, Klein Bonaire, and inside green turtle 'hotspot' Lac Bay.

STCB data shows no trends in sea turtle abundance along the west coast of Bonaire and around Klein Bonaire. Over the 16-year study, STCB found an average abundance of 555 green and 70 hawksbill turtles in this area. For Lac Bay, there was a positive trend in annual abundance for green turtles, despite the recent introduction and rapid expansion of the invasive seagrass *Halophilla stipulacea*. Mean turtle abundance in Lac Bay is calculated to be around 350 individuals at any given time – the turtles swim back and forth between the bay and the outer reef.

Publishing scientific articles in



All over the world Crossfit participants participated in the AMRAP Challenge, "24 Hours, Six Athletes, 500 Reps Per Hour" on Dec 7th and 8th. And that includes our own Flamingo Crossfit, the Fitness gym on Bonaire owned by Ronnie Heijmans. The six person team of five women and one man muscled through the challenge of approximately 68 exercises, one person at a time, with no stopping from 7am to 7am. L-R: Danielle Hoflan, Noortje van der haagen, Joyce van Bakkum, Maarten Boon Jorieke Haarhuis and Kelly Mettes.

Get ready to shop

Bonaire residents and guests can look forward to Christmas shopping night and Fiesta di Bari on Kaya Grandi and the central area on December 21, 6 to 9 pm.

The events are organized by TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) and SKAL (Department of Culture, Art and Literature). They are sure be a hit with all the last minute Christmas shoppers as well as anyone who just wants to get in the holiday spirit.

Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance. Kids or 'big kids' can get a photo with the jolly old man. The air will be filled with music: Gaita; a Christmas choir, 'Pop koor Bonaire' and a DJ playing the traditional Christmas fare. Hungry shoppers can look for delicious traditional Christmas foods like "ayaka" and olibollen at the food stands. There will be arts and crafts and more from Marshe di Playa and Bonaire Art & Crafts Association.

At 7pm the traditional elderly parade will pass down Kaya Grandi. The street will be closed to traffic to allow for the parade and for shoppers. Fiesta di Bari begins at 8pm and extends to 11 in Wilhelmina Park.

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Bonaire Christmas Shopping Night

Saturday, 21st December 2019

From 18:00 till 21:00
Kaya Grandi will be filled with

- Shopping
- Arts & craft
- Live Music and DJ's
- Local Christmas dishes
- Take a picture with Santa

Fiesta di Bari

Local, end of the year traditional music at Wilhelmina Park
From 20:00 till 23:00










Reef Glimpses

Double Take Fish –or, was that a fish or a sponge?

Look deeply into the eyes of this fish predator.



Without artificial light, this bright red longlure frogfish would look like an uninteresting brownish lump -- a brownish sponge -- on the green finger sponge.

– right down the throat of the predator froggy. If the prey fish is too long to go straight down, its struggles push it in a loop so it curves to fit inside the expandable stomach of the frogfish. How’s that for efficiency?

The challenge is to get prey critters to swim by in the first place.

Frogfish meet this challenge in two ways: first, by appearing harm-less. All their fish parts are in all the right places, but their lumpy-dumpy shape, their colors, their eyes and spots that resemble pores of sponges, even their gill arrangements, make frogfish look much more like sponges than fish.

Not coincidentally, almost no fish eat

sponges, and the ones who do are angel-fish, so looking like a sponge helps protect frogfish from being eaten themselves. And, since sponges are a common, non-threatening part of their habitat, reef critters aren’t wary of them.

But what if the prey fish aren’t hanging around the frogfish’s ambush site? Then the frogfish lures them in for a visit. Literally, with a lure. A functioning lure, adapted from the first dorsal spine and attached just above the froggy’s mouth and between and below its eyes. Every species of frogfish has its own unique lure: some look like specific critters and others, like the bit of pale fluff that’s this frogfish’s lure, are just generally intrigu-

ing to fish.

A lured-in-but-not-clued-in prey fish would see the frogfish from the same perspective as the camera did here. The froggy’s eyes are almost impossible to see because of their sideways-facing positions. No matter how much in love with these amazing fish we may be, we can only look deeply into one frogfish eye at a time. *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.

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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 24



How to make this Christmas extra special.

Not everyone has the resources to celebrate Christmas or to do something extra over the holidays. When you earn enough income it is easy. And it will make you feel better this year if you can do something special for somebody or a group of persons.

Donate food to the food bank. Look for items that will hold for a long period of time. But also put in extras like sweets, cookies, nuts, chips, etc.

Buy a whole lot of socks, undies, t-shirts and hygiene products for children as well as adults. Wrap them nicely and donate these to the food bank too.

Plan a fun and festive day and invite a family in need. Spend the day together and at the end you may present them with a gift basket.

Organize a BBQ or a pizza-bake and invite a group of people in need. Make it an event to remember. If you want to make it big, ask supermarkets to cooperate.

Get together with friends. Buy a lot of small gifts.

Wrap them beautifully and put them in a lovely basket or box. Bring this to a daycare center for the elderly or for the handicapped.

Get together with a peer group, make beautiful little wishing-cards and ask the cruise-market to sell them. The money can be donated to a special foundation or people in need.

Ask one or more restaurants not to discharge food at the end of the day. Ask them to pack it in containers and deliver those to families in need.

Make a dream come true, (a special trip, a nice set of clothes, a visit to Curoçao, ect.) Get in touch with foundations like FKPD, Z. & W. group and ask for the staff's cooperation in finding what the wishes are and try to realize them.

Ask a shop to organize give-away-days and invite people in need to come and shop.

Create gift-certificates together with shop owners: a month to the gym, one month free entrance to a pool-facility, entrance to the miniature golf place, etc. and pres-

ent them to special groups.

If you have a choir, a band or a music group you can offer free concerts or lessons.

Offer your own specialty as a free service: help with taxes, handyman services, sewing clothes or doing odd jobs.

Almost every foundation and organization organizes Christmas-celebrations. Ask around and offer your services as a volunteer for that event.

Organize a Christmas bake sale and donate the money to a special organization or family.

Use your own creativity. And if you are not so creative, ask friends, neighbor or your peer groups. You will be surprised with what one will come up with. For inspiration you can sit down as a group and watch television programs that provide all this information. Give demos and talk about the dos and don'ts.

This way we all will have the most wonderful time of the year, that we can enjoy to the fullest, because we really, really did something. Wishing everybody "Happy Holidays." *Ria Evers-Dokter.*

JICN art market attracts crowd



Over 200 paintings, woodcrafts, furniture, handbags and other crafts were exhibited for sale in a market at the new JICN (detention center and prison) on December 7. This was the fourth year for the market, but the first time at the new prison. All the items were crafted by the inmates as part of a skills program that prepares them to re-enter society.

The new JICN holds 120 but currently there are 80 men.

Project leader, Aisheline Lacroes, heads up the program that offers training and education in many fields.

Lacroes said that they want the prisoners to learn that if they behave well, then they will earn more privileges in society.

"We're giving them structure to live a normal life and

giving them a second chance," said Lacroes, "It's important for society to give them a chance."

Every week, Monday – Friday the inmates study in full day classes given by individual instructors: painting, woodworking, sewing, music, yoga, and food and beverage. Cora Knopper, communication advisor for RCN, said, "We are motivating people by teaching them to try and do their best; that is an important step to socialization."

Many inmates haven't experienced the structure of normal life. The program hopes to give them that structure.)

The program purchases more supplies with the art and crafts sold at the market. *Story & photos by Julie Morgan*



A Garden? Just Do It!

Gardening by the moon

Did you ever take time to admire the beautiful full moon in the sky shining over Bonaire's landscape and the surface of the sea? Let this question inspire you to do so, because our moon impacts all life on mother Earth.

Here is the story about it.

Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was a philosopher and scientist, who came up with a philosophy about gardening which became popular in the world.

He founded a system of organic agriculture, now known as Biodynamic agriculture. His system was one of the first and contributed significantly to the development of modern organic farming. This way of gardening is not meant only for commercial gardening but also for you in your little garden.

The moon travels around the Earth every 29 days. The position of the moon in the sky has a huge influence on plants, animals and people's behavior. According to Steiner, as a passionate gardener, you should follow the position of the moon for gardening. He made a "moon calendar", saying that the moon affects the water table and the tidal flows, etc. The water table rises in the earth and this helps the flora that covers the surface of the earth. During the 29 days that the moon travels around the earth, four days the moon is new, 11 days the moon



is waxing, three days the moon is full, and 11 days the moon is waning.

As the moon grows in the night sky the light from it gets stronger.

The full moon is the best time to plant, and to re-pot seedlings.

The waxing moon is the term used when the moon is getting fuller, so in other words, from the new moon till it becomes a full moon. At this time the sap flowing in plants is the most active. Above the soil the plants are growing. Do Not take cuttings or re-pot at this time as it will disturb the plants. Sowing seeds is best now as the moon is growing in force. The seeds will grow faster and develop, as if the moon is pulling the seedlings up from the soil.

The waning moon is the term used when the moon is getting smaller, or from the full moon till it becomes a new moon. This is the time to trim plants if they are sick or too big. when the moon is new its especially good for

the plants. The sap stream is slower so the plant will lose less liquid and will recover better. Also root development is much better at this period. The waning moon is the best time to be busy with your plants roots and soil. Give them more compost (healthy soil), nutrition (minerals) and rain water as this will make strong and healthy roots.

For this month the full moon is on the 12th of December and the new moon is on the 26th. There are calendars for the gardening moon schedule and on the internet you can google it.

Nowadays biodynamic gardening and the word "sustainable" goes hand in hand and becomes a MUST in our daily life. Healthy soil is a basic requirement for balanced gardening and is rich in "soil life" like bacteria, fungus, worms, bugs and insects. The life in soil takes care of good structure giving air action, holding moisture and providing nutrition. Making compost is the best thing to do for improving the "soil life." Organisms in the soil are very selective and artificial compost, herbicides and pesticides kill the life in the soil and are the worst thing for a healthy garden. To feed your garden soil, good compost is essential. It stimulates the soil life and changes the soil structure in a good way. Soil life processes the compost to give full nutrition to your plants. Remember, make your compost from rotting leaves, ash, charcoal, manure, black and brown dirt from Bonaire. Locals take the black dirt from under the trees where goats lie down in the "mundi" (bushes).

So do the work and together with the rain and full moon its a great time for gardening. Just do it now.

Angliet, Nature lover.



Did You Know? that a damselfish species may be coming to Bonaire uninvited?

Neopomacentrus cyanomos, also known as the regal demoiselle or regal damselfish, is a fish native to the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific Ocean, found around coral reefs to depths of 25 meters. The regal demoiselle is an oblong, completely dark brown fish with an obvious black shoulder spot. The outer edge of its dorsal fin is blue with a white rear edge and its tail is concaved with a white center.

Invasion: Regal demoiselle were first discovered in the Gulf of Mexico in 2013 and have been slowly expanding their range and have recently been found in Trinidad! So far, they have not been reported in Bonaire, but it may only be a matter of time. How did regal demoiselle get here from the Indo-West Pacific? It is believed that they were living on a petroleum platform that was relocated from their native region to the Gulf of Mexico. This is a similar story to that of Orange Cup Corals, Tubastreaea coccinea (non-native to the Caribbean), that are thought to have been introduced to this region via ship hulls.

The regal demoiselle's ability to live in different conditions could explain how it was able to colonize shallow waters and reefs throughout the Caribbean and other



nearby areas.

Damselfish, depending on the species, can be male or female for life or they can be hermaphroditic (both sexes). Some hermaphroditic species start off female and turn into males, some are the opposite, and some are both sexes at the same time!

Damselfish prefer to live on high edges of reef drop-offs or near large coral heads and they usually stray less than two meters from their habitat. They prefer corals and other structures with places to hide and places to make their nests. Regal damselfish are planktivores, which means that they eat phyto and zooplankton. Phytoplank-



ton consist of microscopic algae and zooplankton that consist of (mostly) small animals and juveniles of larger animals that drift with the currents. Damselfish are also diurnal eaters, which means they eat during the day so at night, when the larger fish come out, they can hide in their coral homes.

So, why are we concerned about this invasion? The ecological impacts of invasive regal damselfish are still largely unknown. However, their living preferences and their diet are the same as many fish native to this region. Therefore, regal demoiselles are competing with native species for space and food. Bonaire's marine ecosystem has experienced several recent invasions, including the non-native lionfish and a seagrass species, Halophila stipulacea. Each invasion brings changes to our environment, many of which we don't fully understand.

If you see a regal damselfish in Bonaire, try to get a photo and please contact STINAPA at nature@stinapa.org

Written by Lola Salvador, STINAPA intern from Avans University in the Netherlands. Connecting people with nature

Bonaire Ambassadors Maedas receive gold medal status



Amateur underwater photographers Patricia and Jeff Maeda fell in love with Bonaire while on their honeymoon in 1997. The couple from Houston, Texas, were recently awarded Gold Ambassador medals by Tourist Corporation Bonaire. (TCB) on their 23rd visit to the island. Pat said, "We come to Bonaire for the spectacular diving to visit our good friends that live here and enjoy the food."

Pat and Jeff originally stayed at Sand Dollar, then Plaza Resort but their home away from home for the last 14 stays has been Coral Paradise.

—NGO gala: everyone wins—



Everyone Wins! For the first time this year, the NGO Platform declared all their great NGO organizations winners. The NGO Platform Bonaire is the umbrella organization of foundations and associations (NGOs) on Bonaire. The NGO Platform Bonaire is also the volunteer center of Bonaire. The winners were: 1. Gilbert Teffer volunteer at Dance Sensation Dansschool; 2. Milagros Beaumont volunteer at Fundashon Cocari; 3. Rachel Domacasse volunteer at Fundashon Echo; 4. Albis Rivera volunteer at Fundashon Kuchara; 5. Mini Kroon volunteer at Kas Flamboyan; 6. Charlotte Rodriquez volunteer at Kiwanis Club Bonaire; 7 & 8. Justian Cicilia & Xavier Janga volunteers at Mi Mes Hofito; 9. Indira Martinus volunteer at Rode Kruis; 10. Dabney Lassiter volunteer at Stichting ADRA; 11. Emelien de Jongh volunteer at Stichting Mi Teater; 12 & 13. Pat & Bruce Davis volunteer at STINAPA. MC for the evening was Aimer Ayubi.



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What's Happening

Tuesday December 10	Freemasonry public meeting 8pm at the Bonaire Scouting Building, Kaya Nikiboko Noord, #2. For more info call secretary Michiel Bijkerk (7962650) or president Michiel Rumpff (701-7703). See page 4.
Saturday December 14	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Te Amo. 4pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.
Sunday December 15	Triathlon Waterfront event. Sailing and fishing tournaments at Regatta House. Pre-register Budget Marine. See page 5. December Art Market at Hillside from 12noon to 5 pm. Artists and artisans provide 100% handmade goodness. Part of the proceeds goes to the Animal Shelter and Kunuku Kakkelters.
Saturday December 21	Bonaire Christmas Shopping Night. Christmas Music. 6pm till 10pm. Shopping with discount in most of the stores in Kaya Grandi and Kaya Grandi adjacent. The elderly Christmas themed parade. Local Christmas dishes will be available. See page 8.
Wednesday December 25	Christmas Day. Public Holiday
Thursday December 26	Boxing Day. Public Holiday

—Regular events—

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

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

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours—\$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

Soldachi Tours. See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about

the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for information of events for the rest of 2019: stinapabonaire.org/events, Tel. 717-8444

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

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

—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

• **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

• **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.

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY & DATE:MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Monday	12-9	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744 Pullmantur
Monday	12-9	Carnival Miracle	0800-1900	S.pier	2124 CCL
Tuesday	12-10	Britannia	0700-1700	S.pier	3600 P&O
Wednesday	12-11	Azamara Journey	0800-1700	S.pier	3600 Azamara Cruises
Wednesday	12-11	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	S.pier	3114 RCCL
Thursday	12-12	Flying Clipper	0900-1900	N.pier	330 Star Clippers
Thursday	12-12	Le Dumont dUrville	0730-1800	N.pier	Ponant Cruises
Friday	12-13	Crown Princess	1200-1900	N.pier	3150 PCL
Friday	12-13	Zuiderdam	0800-2000	S.pier	1916 HAL
Saturday	12-14	Vision of the Seas	0800-1700	S.pier	2015 RCCL
Sunday	12-15	mv Europa 2	0800-1900	N.pier	516 Hapag-Lloyd
Monday	12-16	Aida Perla	0700-1800	N.pier	3286 Aida Cruises
Monday	12-16	Reflection	0700-1500	S.pier	2858 CEL
Tuesday	12-17	Explorer of the Sea	0800-2000	S.pier	3114 RCCL
Wednesday	12-18	Silhouette	0700-1600	S.pier	2886 CEL
Wednesday	12-18	Marella Explorer 2	1300-2000	N.pier	1836 Marella Cruise
Thursday	12-19	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782 RCCL
Tuesday	12-24	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744 Pullmantur

—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

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

Catholic. San Bernardus in Kralendijk.

Services, Sunday at 8am & 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol. Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios). Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10am. Wednesday- Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. 4.30pm-7.30 pm.Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

—Museums & exhibits—

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

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

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

• **Washington-Slagbaai National Park**

Museum and Visitors’ Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. 788-9015 or 796-5681

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

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

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

Football academy ATIP starts “The Dreams Project”

Bonaire’s “Anything is Possible Soccer Academy Foundation” (ATIP) is working to give the Island’s young talents a chance for a professional football career.

On Friday evening, November 29, 32 children and their parents signed a contract with ATIP’s Dreams Project. The contract specified that the athletes follow certain rules. For example, twice a week they must attend homework supervision, training and a meal at the academy.

ATIP held tryouts for the Dreams Project. Fourteen children were selected from the Under-14 football clubs,

and 16 were selected from the Under-16 clubs. ATIP looked at talent, commitment and discipline. Initiator and head trainer Jermaine Windster is very clear; “Mentality and discipline is everything. Together with the parents and the school we are going to give these children the opportunity to get the best out of themselves.”

Both project leaders have a football history in the Netherlands, America and Venezuela. Jermaine Windster got the chance to study and play football at the University of Charleston in West Virginia and Leroy van

Dongen played at Feyenoord. Teachers from the After School Institute for Homework Support will support the young people.

Project leaders will have monthly contact with the young athletes’ teachers and parents to make sure that the kids stay on the right track.

“If they do not follow to these rules, they will be kicked out of the project. We want them to understand how important discipline is and how without it, they could lose out on a lot,” said Windster.

Ask a Geek: What the heck is eSports?

by Brian Niessen

Remember back in the late 1970’s a game called PONG arrived at the pinball arcades. And then the following Christmas it arrived under our trees, menorahs or in stockings?

Then home computers like the Commodore 64, TRS-80, Sinclair, and Apple arrived and we got to play games on them.

Then the Nintendo, Playstation, Sega and others hit the market with amazing games.

We would play until our parents said “Turn that off, do your homework, do your chores, etc.”

Now, fast forward to 2019 and we have this thing

called eSports – which is basically playing video games for money!!! Earlier this year, a 16 yr old “kid” won \$3 million playing a video game.

I bet his parents didn’t tell him to stop playing video games and do his homework!!!

eSports is a multi-billion dollar industry with teams around the world owned by the same groups which own football, baseball and basketball teams.

The difference is that eSports team members are not athletic or sociable people. They are usually teams of five who sit at the front of a stadium with 10’s of thousands of fans watching live, and millions streaming in

the internet.

At this moment, there are over 2 billion eSports players worldwide, and eSports is slated to become an Olympic sport in the next few years.

So, when you tell your kid “Turn off that video game and get to work” be aware that you might be stunting his/her career ambitions.

“Rank up, get in the game, and play to win!”

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.



BONAIRE SKY PARK

Geminids meteor shower

Meteor showers are like nature’s fireworks, and this December you’ll see the Geminids -- one of the strongest showers of the year.

Geminid meteor shower will sling bright shooting stars this winter, though a just-past-full moon will make all but the brightest hard to see. The shower will peak on Dec. 13-14, but even after the peak, bright meteors may be visible for a few days after those dates.

The Geminids are considered one of the best meteor showers every year because the individual meteors are bright, and they come fast and furious. This year, because of the moonlight, around 20-30 may be visible per hour. However, the Geminids’ many fireballs may be visible despite the moon. In the darkest skies, streaks of burning matter can peak at around 50 per hour (or

around one every minute).

The best time to watch will be around 2am December 13 and 14.

Meteor showers are usually caused by earth passing through the tail of a comet, but unusually, the Geminids are caused by a ‘rock comet’— an asteroid that behaves like a comet. The Geminids are associated with a near-Earth asteroid that may have undergone a collision with another object in the distant past to produce the stream of particles that Earth runs into — creating the meteor shower. This particular asteroid is named asteroid 3200 Phaethon and orbits the sun every 1.4 years. Rocks in space that are about to collide with Earth’s atmosphere are called meteoroids. Those that streak through the atmosphere are called meteors, and if they reach the ground (which won’t happen with the Geminids, as the particles are too small to survive the trip) the rocks are called meteorites.

The Geminids, as their name implies, appear to come from the bright constellation Gemini (the twins). You can find Gemini in two ways. To find Gemini in the Northern Hemisphere, look in the southwestern sky for the constellation Orion, which is easy to spot by the three stars in the hunter’s “belt.” Then look just up and to the left of Orion to see Gemini, high in the southwestern sky. Or you can draw an imaginary arrow through the Big Dipper -- from Megrez diagonally through Merak – and it will point to Castor and Pollux, the heads of the Gemini twins. In the Southern Hemisphere, Gemini appears to the lower right of Orion and both will hang in the northwestern sky.

Even though they’ll radiate from Gemini, meteors can appear in any part of the sky traveling away from that point. If it’s clear, definitely get out there and peek.

Sources: <https://www.space.com>; <https://www.stargazeronline.org>

Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Arlene Nagtegaal Spencer

Yoga after 60

Yoga is for everyone, you just need to be ready to start. This is the most important discovery I made after my years of yoga practice.

My story is a bit different, as I became a yoga teacher at the age of 62.

It is easy to start something new at a young age. At an older age you make many excuses not to start something new. It is never too late to dedicate ourselves to yoga.

There is a short story that expresses perfectly the gifts of meditation.

Buddha was asked what have you gained from meditation.

He replied: “nothing.

However, let me tell you what I have lost: anger, anxiety, depression, insecurity, fear of old age and death.”

My reason to becoming a yoga teacher was mostly for myself, to deepen the practice and to know the philosophy of the ancient texts, And then came the desire to share my experience with other people.

What did I get from yoga? I overcame my fears, I could explore the immense potential of my breath, I improved my flexibility and strength, I made peace with the aging process and I dove into the big ocean called “Spirituality.”

To be more specific:

My fears: yoga taught me to look my fears in the eye and challenge them.

My breath: yoga has taught me to lay still and pay attention to my breath. It’s the gift of life. To breathe from low in your solar plexus, to follow the breath, to listen to the breath, to feel the breath. To feel your deep inhalation and your long wonderful exhalation that cleans your body of toxins. The breath that calms you when you need to make decisions. The breath when you exhale deeply and you let go of so many things you do not need anymore.

Flexibility and strength: yoga has helped me with the fight of gravity, it has given me strength to stay in a posture because my muscles have become strong and

my flexibility has improved. It has taught me to walk tall, with a long spine.

Aging: yoga has given me the insight that aging is something you can do gracefully. And that it’s a privilege not extended to everyone.

Meditation and spirituality: yoga has taught me to take the time to see and feel, to enjoy a sunset, a sunrise, a full moon, the stars, the rain; everything that has to do with nature. By taking the time to admire these things you calm your mind and even without closing your eyes you are meditating. Then you want more and you find a quiet spot in your home to sit and close your eyes and to be thankful and grateful for all you have, and for who you are becoming.

Now I teach at Smiling Buddha Yoga, Yin yoga, yoga is for everyone, every age and every body. The only limitations are in our mind. *Arlene Nagtegaal Spencer*



Bonaire has a strong and diverse yoga community. We have invited each of the Island’s teachers to write about the type of yoga they teach.

Shelter News

It's almost fireworks season!

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

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

Please help rescue our Rescue Remedy angel

Since 2006 around the New Year holiday, Florence Ditlow, a retired professional registered nurse, has made Rescue Remedy here on Bonaire. With her all natural calming aid for pets, Florence has been helping Bonaire's pets stay stress free during fireworks for 14 years. And she has been helping Animal Shelter Bonaire as well! All proceeds from the sale of Rescue Remedy are donated to the Shelter.

This year Florence needs some help. Please help her help your pet during fireworks stress. She is currently making the rescue remedies and will need more small bottles than she has. Please bring any 2 to 3 oz. size bottles (such as dropper bottles or spice/herb bottles) to the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26 or the Shelter's Pakus di Pruga, Kaya Simon Bolivar. Not only are you recycling but you are helping stressed pets in need and the Animal Shelter Bonaire as well. Three good things out of one small bottle! *Jane Madden-Disko*

Pet of the Week: Sadie



Hello friends. My name is Sadie and I am about nine months old now. Some people found me along with my sister in their garden when we were just a few weeks old. They were not sure what happened to our mom so they brought us to Animal Shelter Bonaire. We have grown up at the Shelter and my sister has found her fur-ever family. Although I miss playing and snuggling with my sister, I have lots of friends here at the Shelter. But I really want to be like my sister and find my own family to love and love me back. I love to play...and as you can see by my picture, sometimes I play so much that I fall asleep with whatever I'm playing with! I can be a bit shy at first but warm up to you quickly. If you think you could love a sweet little kitty like me, please come and see me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagoen 26. I can have visitors Mon.-Fri. 9am-12pm and 3-5pm, Saturdays 9am-3pm nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989

Story by Laurie Smith. Photo by Travis Sullins

Fireworks terrify pets!

Create a safe haven for your pets in a sheltered, escape-proof part of your home with plenty of water. Also, turn on the TV to help mask the fireworks with familiar sounds.



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