



Santa Claus and Miss Tourism Rayshantaly Coffie with elves J'Nephtery and Jourday-ann Clarenda. Photo and story: Julie Morgan

Holiday Spirit is Everywhere

Holiday spirit was alive in the downtown area of Kaya Grandi and Wilhelmina Plaza on shopping night December 21. From 6pm to 10pm the road was blocked to car traffic, so shoppers could walk freely from shop to shop. The majority of stores were open and some brought their wares into the street for sidewalk shopping. Local musicians provided the background music for the shoppers.

The traditional elderly parade of seniors in decorated wheel chairs passed down Kaya Grandi providing holiday spirit.

Craft vendors, artists and food booths filled Wilhelmina Plaza offering some one-of-a-kind gifts

and local food and drink. Pop Koor Bonaire performed seasonal music from the bandstand to accompany the shoppers as they moved from booth to booth.

No one could resist the lure of the jolly man in the red suit. Countless kids and even adults lined up for a photo with Santa Claus. And that includes Miss Tourism Bonaire Rayshantaly Coffie and elves Jourday-ann and J'Nephtery Clarenda.

Local charity booths were set up for donations, reminding us that the holiday season is a time for giving.

The month of December has been filled with holiday celebrations all over the island beginning with the arrival of Sinterklaas and many

Zwarte Piets. The community celebrated our NGO's for their charitable work and many businesses held parties to thank their employees. Our homes and businesses are decorated to reflect the spirit of the season, whatever that may be to each individual.

All around the world we traditionally have chosen this month as the time to reflect, give to others and show gratitude to our friends. We give thanks for our experiences of this past year as we look to a new one.

The Bonaire Reporter would like to thank our readers. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.



Bonaire's seniors in the elderly parade enjoy the night's celebrations.

BC allocates money for flamingo chicks

This is the second consecutive year that hundreds of flamingo chicks are prematurely leaving the breeding grounds at the salt pans and Pekelmeer. The wandering chicks are found exhausted, run over and many die. Why the chicks are roaming is a mystery.

Last week, the Dutch government via Minister Carola Schouten of Agriculture, Nature & Food Safety approved the monies for research. Scientists from the University of Wageningen will come to Bonaire next year.

Elly Albers, director of Wild Bird Rehab Bonaire said, "We have info from the 1970's but we need some updated information."

In the meantime, the Executive Council (BC) has allocated \$13,000 for two bird experts from Venezuela to come here to advise on flamingo rehabilitation and re-

lease.

Many of the unsuccessfully released flamingos still visit the Wild Bird Rehab and then travel across the road. The government is going to place speed bumps on the road in front of the center to slow drivers for the safety of the birds.

Albers said, "We are also going to apply for a salary to pay someone to look after the birds. I can't be here like I have for the last two years looking after 200 birds all the time and work two jobs."

Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe and Research and Development (R&D) director Etienne van der Horst visited the bird sanctuary at the Mangrove Center. Birds that are found alive are brought here to be cared for by Elly and her team.

Deputy Tjin Asjoe said, "The flamingo symbolizes the unique nature and tranquility of our island. They are an import-



ant tourist attraction. And we as islanders also enjoy seeing how gracefully the pink birds wade through the water in search of food. There is no reason to fear the survival of the colony. But we do want to know what the cause is, so that we can take targeted measures to prevent this animal suffering in the future. I admire Elly Albers and her team, among whom are many volunteers. They do fantastic work that is in the interest of the whole of Bonaire. Fortunately, they can count on the support of many donors." J.M.



Kerenza Rannou- Frans exhibits at TCB



In her nature photographs, Kerenza Rannou-Frans loves to capture the extraordinary in the ordinary. She says that Bonaire's beautiful natural light helps her rediscover and record the beauty of the island and the wonders of God's creations.

You can view Kerenza Rannou-Frans' photographs which are also for sale at the art gallery in the reception area of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Kaya Grandi # 2. Rannou-Frans is the thirteenth local artist to be showcased by TCB.

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Bolivia to be developed? Government responds to public concerns

As reported in issue 22 of *The Reporter*, a plan has been floated for extensive development of Bonaire's wild east, the Bolivia area. Called Plantage Bolivia on its web site, the plan envisions a development of close to 3,000 hectares (over 7,000 acres) that would include up to 1,500 homes and extensive infrastructure. The Owners' Association of Luga Aleha, a minimally developed residential area in Bolivia, expressed their concerns to the Government. Kingdom Relations Director, Dirk Jan-Bonnet, responded with reassurances that, although the government has heard nothing officially about Plantage Bolivia, procedures are in place that assure the plan would undergo careful scrutiny.

Jan-Bonnet said, "I would also like to emphasize that the Minister of LNV is responsible for the protection of nature areas and values covered by international treaties and conventions. The implementation of the obligations ensuing therefrom is included in the Nature Conservation and Protection Fund (BES) Act and is the focus of both the Ministry of LNV and the OLB."

He went on to explain, "This means, de facto, that the local government of the

island, if it so wishes, cannot automatically agree with development projects that would damage nature reserves and values, because the Dutch ministry also bears responsibility for this and therefore [is] also supervising."

The property is for sale by former Governor Richard Hart through Bonaire Properties NV for 12 million dollars. D.M.R.



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SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES

Kaya Nikiboko Noord 37, PO Box 225, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

For Sale

Kaya Gemini 6 - Belnem - Listed for \$595,000 USD



• lot size 888 m2 • living area 235 m2 • 3 bedrooms • 2.5 bathrooms • storage • garage • pool with sundeck

Crown Terrace 110 - Sabadeco - Listed for \$799,000 USD



• lot size 1946 m2 • living area 270 m2 • 4 bedrooms • 3 bathrooms • storage • carport • roof terrace • pool

Crown Terrace 13 - Sabadeco - Listed for \$1,495,000 USD



• lot size: 2756 m2 • living area: 500 m2 • 2 bedrooms • 3 bathrooms • 2 separate studios • garage • office • pool



Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to say “Bravo” to Wilma Nijland (Letter to the Editor, “Are we Nature Lovers,” Dec. 9-23) for her in-depth investigation into the so-called Protected Tree List. So many laws to protect the environment may be passed but it’s the enforcing that is key. Without that nothing will have changed. Wilma’s perseverance has shown that is exactly the case.

How very sad.

Hopefully, ECHO can effect a change and continue even more to not only speak for the environment but also to bring awareness to the public.

Laura DeSalvo

The Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten (CBCS) shut down the Curaçao Girobank on Tuesday, December 10. The counters were closed, credit card payments were refused, and the internet banking system no longer functioned. After arrangements were made to pay customers up to 10,000 guilders (approximately \$5,500), the bank reopened on Friday, with the police present to assure security. However, a run on the bank resulted when a crowd of angry and panicked customers turned up. All branches of the bank had to be closed again. The future of Girobank is uncertain. It may be absorbed by other banks and simply disappear.

The former President of the Central Bank Emsley Tromp strongly criticized several actions of the CBCS during a recent radio interview at Z-86 that was reported

in the *Curaçao Chronicle*. “For example, it is known within the financial world that you close a bank on Friday to prevent excesses and to prepare properly for the period that follows,” Tromp said. He was puzzled why the CBCS closed Girobank in the middle of the week. He reported that the central bank also failed to follow other provisions of its manual on how to close a bank.

According to Tromp, when the Girobank branch on Bonaire was closed recently, all customers recovered 100 percent of their money. In the broader view, Tromp said the “CBCS has misled Girobank customers.” He accused the CBCS of continuing to publicly support the bank for political reasons long after it was aware the bank was failing. *D.M.R.*

Bonaire pays more for gasoline than does Curaçao

The Consumers’ Association, Unkobon, has written asking the Executive Council to explain the extremely high gasoline price on Bonaire.

Unkobon’s letter states that petrol prices in Aruba and Curaçao have been falling for several months while prices on Bonaire have risen sharply. In the first eight months of the year, gas prices on the three islands showed roughly the same trend. But from July on the price of gasoline rose on Bonaire, while it fell on Aruba and Curaçao. In December the price difference between Curaçao and Bonaire rose to almost 31% although the same industry prices are used to determine the consumer price.

Curoil has told Unkobon that the Executive Council (BC) is the only body authorized to determine fuel prices on Bonaire. Curoil has further said that the basis for its price advice to Bonaire and Curaçao is the same, and is certified by an independent agency.

Based on Curoil’s response, Eric Booi, chairman of Unkobon, finds it incomprehensible that consumers on Bonaire have to pay so much more since July than do consumers on Curaçao.

On behalf of the consumers of Bonaire, Unkobon has asked the Executive Council to provide insight into the foundations / structure of fuel prices on Bonaire and to explain the sharply rising differences in gas prices between Bonaire and Curaçao.

Finally, Unkobon, citing the BES Public Administration Governance Act, would like to receive the price recommendations regarding the months of May to December 2019 that Curoil sent to the Executive Council. *Source: Bonaire.nu*

The Bonaire Reporter publishing from Wed. to Wed.

The Bonaire Reporter is moving from Monday to Wednesday in 2020 so we can cover more weekend activities. Our next issue will be January 8, 2020.

Taxes increased on second homes and buildings

The Executive Council has increased the 2020 tax on second homes and buildings from 0.805% to 0.91%.

People with one house on Bonaire do not pay this tax. The tax is paid by:

- People who have a second home on Bonaire, or who have more than two houses on Bonaire.
- Companies that have one or more buildings on Bonaire.

How the tax is calculated

People with a second home pay no taxes for the first \$ 70,000. For example, if someone has a second home with a value of \$ 90,000, she pays tax for \$ 20,000. Presently that tax is 0.805% of \$ 20,000 or \$ 161. In 2020 the tax will be 0.91% of \$ 20,000 or \$ 182; \$ 21 more.

Hotels pay less tax: not 0.805% but 0.46%. In 2020, the Executive Council will increase this tax to 0.52%. For a hotel with a value of, for example, \$ 2,000,000, the tax increases from \$ 9,200 to \$ 10,400. \$ 1,200 more than now.

According to an OLB press release, the Bonaire Public Body thinks that the tax increase will generate around \$

750,000 in 2021. This extra income will be used for economic growth and development, for projects in sports, agriculture and fishing. The Executive Council will draw up plans for the revenues in 2020. The Island Council will then decide on the plans.

The tax increase has been controversial.

Before the Island Council voted on the proposed increase, the Bonaire Business and Employers Association (BBE), presented their reservations. The chairman of the BBE, Eddy Carrillo said that the tax increase will increase the cost of doing business, particularly in the tourism sector, where real estate is an essential part of a company’s working capital.

Opposition leader Clark Abraham of the PDB also criticized the increase. Abraham said he could not understand why the BC wanted to increase the property tax when the OLB had unprecedented budget surpluses and an increasing under-spending of available funds. The PDB also criticized the BC for not stating exactly what the extra income will be spent on.

EZ Air starts commercial flights to Colombia

Beginning January 14, 2020, local airline EZ Air starts two weekly connections between Curaçao and Barranquilla.

According to EZ Air director René Winkel, tickets from Bonaire to Barranquilla will cost around 500 USD. The flight time will be two hours and 15 minutes from Bonaire to Barranquilla, including a stopover on Curaçao. The flights leave in the morning hours, so passengers are in Barranquilla before noon and return to Bonaire in the afternoon. “That is where the time is

saved and that makes flying with us attractive, compared to flying with the larger airlines via Curaçao,” Winkel concludes.

The new flights can be booked at the offices of EZ Air and online via www.flyezair.com

EZAir has been working for almost a year to begin commercial flights to Columbia. The airline had to prove its compliance to aviation authorities for documentation, airworthiness and maintenance. Internally EZAir had to upgrade its reservations system.

Ombudsmen investigate poverty among young adults

The National Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children will jointly investigate the poverty-related problems of young adults living on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

This study will focus on how poverty-related issues effect the experiences of young people in their transition to adulthood. It will look at the bottlenecks they encounter in practice, and what they need from the government to combat them. The report, which is expected in the summer of 2020, will contain concrete recommendations for responsible parties who are concerned with the prevention of poverty for young adults.

The joint inquiry into poverty among young adults is the second in a series of three investigations by the National Ombudsman into poverty issues in the Caribbean Netherlands. In September 2019, the National Ombudsman published an investigation into poverty among the elderly on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Around the summer of 2020, the National Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children will start a joint investigation into poverty-related problems of single parents and their children. The three poverty investigations in the Dutch Caribbean are on the ombudsman’s agenda of the National Ombudsman.

Law Enforcement

Drugs seized at BIA

On December 6th, 2019, a customs drug dog found 1700 grams of cocaine during a routine inspection at Bonaire's airport.

The cocaine was found in the suitcase of a male passenger age 44 who was on an outbound flight to the Netherlands. When the owner was asked to open the suitcase, the sides of the case appeared to be unusually thick, and the cocaine was found within them. Both the passenger and the cocaine were transferred to the Royal Military Police (KMar) for further investigation.

On December 9, Customs CN conducted a routine inspection of all arriving passengers and their luggage from a Curaçao flight. A man, 20, displayed exceptionally nervous behavior. A clothing search revealed four small bags, which upon field testing, were found to contain 245 grams cannabis. The passenger and the canna-

bis were transferred to KMar for further investigation.

Confiscated boat destroyed

On November 28, 2019, the Public Prosecution Service requested that the General Court confiscate a boat involved in smuggling marijuana and ammunition from Venezuela. The four men involved in the smuggling, two from Bonaire and two from Venezuela had previously been arrested and sentenced, as had the boat's captain.

According to Bonaire.nu's report of the court ruling: "The boat and its captain are indispensable and therefore important links for the import of prohibited goods and illegal aliens. The forfeiture of the boat, an extra punishment to the address of the captain, can therefore be properly defended from that point of view. The boat was destroyed today. Let this also be a warning to boat owners."

Police Report for Dec. 11 - 18, 2019

Robberies

During the night of Dec. 11, thieves forced the rear sliding door of a home on Kaya Finlandia. They took away a Scepter brand television and a DVD player.

On Dec. 13 between 1.45 pm and 9:30 pm, thieves forced the back door of a residence at Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot and removed jewelry, cash and three tool boxes.

During the night of Dec. 13, thieves came in through the back door in a house on Kaya Safiro while the resident was sleeping. It is not yet known whether anything has been removed.

On Dec. 15 from 1am to 11:45am, thieves took away a wallet with cash from an unlocked car parked in the yard of a house on Kaya Platina.

Later in the afternoon on Dec. 15, a bank card was also reported stolen from a car parked in the yard of a house on Kaya Shastan.

In the night of Dec. 15-16, thieves forced the front back doors in a house in La Palma. It is not yet known what has been removed.

Between Dec. 14 and Dec. 16, thieves forced the front door to a tourist accommodation in Sabbadeco Terrace, and among other things, took away a black LG TV.

Around 8:15 pm on Dec. 16, the police station was notified of a burglary in a house on Kaya Finlandia. When the residents came home, they saw two men in the house from outside. When the residents banged on the front door, both men ran away. The thieves had forced the back door to enter the home.

Dive site robberies

On Dec. 14 thieves took a bag with contents from a locked car parked at the dive site Tolo between 12:15 - 1:15 pm.

On the roads

Around 7.55 am on Dec. 11, five cars collided at Hanchi Amboina. One driver

complained of neck pain and was treated on site by the ambulance staff.

In the late afternoon hours of Dec. 17 a car came from the Kaya Grandi and crashed into a scooter at Kaya Lodewijk Gerharts.

Around 10:45 pm, Dec. 17, the driver of a motorcycle lost control on the Kaminda Gurubu because he slipped on sand and small stones on the road. The driver sustained grazes on elbows and abdomen and also had a head injury. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Arrests

In the morning hours of Dec. 11, a man, 41, and a minor boy, 16, were arrested for theft and poaching, embezzlement and destruction / damage of goods.

In the nightly hours of Saturday, Dec. 14, a man, 60, was arrested for drunk driving.

During the day on Saturday, December 14, a woman, 36, was arrested for abuse. A woman with initials, 39, was arrested for attempted manslaughter and destruction. At Kaya Flamboyan a man, 49, was arrested for mistreatment.

In the morning of Dec. 15, a man, 49, was arrested for mistreatment.

On Dec. 17, around 9:15 am, two men, 18, were held at a company on Kaya Industria for threats, violation of the Opium Act BES and violation of the Weapons Act BES.

In the early afternoon hours on Kaya Korona, a man, 44, was arrested for theft.

On Dec. 17, around 4:30 pm a man, 20, was arrested for non-compliance with a police order and resistance with violence. At Kaya Nikiboko South, the suspect was twice asked to stop for a traffic check, but he did not respond and continued to drive to a house on Kaya Berlin. Here again he did not respond to police orders and was subsequently arrested.



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question: Since there is no MLS (multiple listing service) on Bonaire, if I list my house with one real estate agency, will other agencies be able to show and sell it? Thanks, Karl

Hi Karl,

There are two important questions to ask any real estate agency before listing your property for sale on Bonaire. 1) Do you permit buyers working with other real estate agencies to view my home? and 2) Do you share the sales commission you're charging me if another agency brings the buyer?

Some real estate agencies only sell their own listings to their own clients. This means that if another agency has a potential buyer for your property, some listing agencies may not agree to show the property or may not share the commission you pay. They want a buyer working with another agency to pay a separate commission to the agency the buyer is working with. That makes two commissions for one home, which may

reduce the price you receive for your home as the buyer has less money for you.

To ensure that all possible buyers see your property, list with an agency that works cooperatively with all other agencies on the island. At RE/MAX, we are happy to work with any real estate agency to sell your home. Our primary goal is to sell your property as soon as possible for the best possible price. That's why we cooperate with other brokers, so your home can be shown and sold to any and all interested buyers.

We also share the selling commission with other agencies if they bring the buyer. This ensures that every possible buyer sees your home, and that they're not penalized with any additional costs if they want to buy your home.

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

Natural death

On Dec. 15, the police station was informed by the neighbors that they had not seen the occupant of a house for three days. Upon arrival, the front door was forced and a strong smell could be perceived. The occupant of the house, a man with initials A.T.W. of 64 years was found dead. The doctor who came to the site found a natural death.

Multidisciplinary hospitality control

In the early evening hours of Dec. 18, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar), Customs and the Fire Department checked 11 restaurants in Playa. The restaurants were checked for possession of the correct permits, hygiene, fire safety, signs of illegal prostitution, illegal aliens and other irregularities.

During the inspection, a business on Kaya Theresa Ilario was temporarily closed due to poor hygiene. In addition, warnings were given at various locations for, among other things, expired fire extinguishers.

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

Enforcement action at the airport on Friday the 13th.

The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar) and Customs Caribbean Netherlands carried out a joint enforcement inspection at Bonaire International Airport (BIA), on Friday 13th of December.

The enforcement action began at 6am December 13th and lasted for 24 hours. Its purpose: to strengthen airport processes and safeguard the security and integrity of the airport.

About 30 members of KMar, Customs CN and BIA checked both passengers and goods. They monitored civil aviation security, including the access and use of access badges of BIA; border control checks on documents of people traveling in and out; and the import, transit and export of goods (baggage/cargo).

Team members intercepted two amounts of unreported monies: 11,000 USD (outgoing passenger to Curaçao) and 24,000 USD (incoming passenger from the Netherlands). As money laundering wasn't indicated, the passengers were fined and asked to fill in forms for the MOT.

According to RCN's press release, the action yielded much information for the three enforcement partners, and similar actions are forecast for the future.

Three piers will be rebuilt in 2020

The Executive Council is speeding up the improvement of the piers in Kralendijk. The commercial Nelson Petrus “Nello” Craane pier (formerly the South Pier) will be extended by 40 meters. The recreational pier for swimmers and divers at Chachacha beach will be totally rebuilt, pillars and deck both. When those two projects are completed, the fishing pier will be extended by at least 20 meters and perhaps more, depending on how much money remains for the whole project.

The Executive Council and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management have jointly reserved an amount of \$ 2.1 million for the pier improvements. Krol, a company from the Netherlands that specializes in hydraulic engineering, will be the contractor, with the Port of Amsterdam International managing the project. Both companies were partners in the

renovation of piers in 2018. A local subcontractor will work on the Chachacha Pier.

According to Deputy of Economic Development Elvis Tjin Asjoe, “This project and especially the speed with which it came about is the result of good interaction between the various sections within the public body. Just like the other projects that the Executive Council has set in motion since taking office in April, this shows that through cooperation you can achieve a lot to make Bonaire better.”

Deputy Tjin Asjoe also complimented harbor master Günther Flanegin for good preparatory work “that helped the Executive Council to decide, together with the Ministry, to make the necessary budget available.” *D.M.R.*



Left top, Marienella Fecunda; Left below, Franchesca Statie; Middle, Shadira DeAnda-Craane, myself Natasja Statie-Gerharts; and Right Valeska Gustowski!

PARROTS AND PEOPLE

With the Holidays around the corner most humans roost together. Families from all parts of the world are flying down to Bonaire and other places to celebrate. This is the case for our parrots too. Although for them, gathering is a part of their daily routine around the breeding seasons. During the holidays, it is the rainy season on Bonaire and the parrots are gathering in bigger groups. This gives us the great chance to estimate the Parrot Population on Bonaire.

Starting this week, additional efforts will be put in finding these new locations, as well as checking all of the well-known roost spots. You can also volunteer for this.

While you celebrate with your loved ones, Echo will conduct pre-roost surveys and determine better vantage points to monitor the Parrot populations on Bonaire. You are free to join by making an appointment through the Echo website, Facebook or WhatsApp contacts.

In 2020 the annual count will take place on Saturday January 25th. Will you join us? Please mark the date in your calendar!

The Loras are counted in a simultaneous count, which requires everyone to set off in the very early morning (pre-dawn) hours to locations all over the island. As the Lora’s wake up and depart from the trees where they’ve been sleeping, they are counted. Each Lora is only counted once. By adding the numbers which have been simultaneously counted across all the sites, the organizers are able to get a sense of the minimum number of Lora’s on the island. This annual census is important for parrot conservation on Bonaire and for protecting the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot (*Amazona barbadensis*) globally.

Prior to the actual count there will be a training meeting and test surveys in which we will explain everything the volunteers need to know. Echo is always looking for new volunteers. If you know anyone who may be interested then please let them know of the big event.

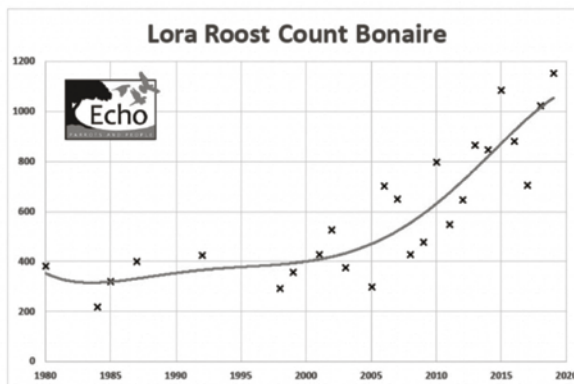
Happy Holidays to all, from the Echo team and the parrot roost at Dos Pos Conservation Center !

To learn more about these parrots and the efforts being made to protect this species, please visit: www.echobonaire.org or adopt a native Christmas tree on www.mybonairetree.org

You can also sign up on the Echo Facebook page to get updates on parrot related activities: www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org/

Thank you very much for your support in 2019, our team counts on you as we count the parrots in 2020!

By Julianka Clarendia



The annual roost count on Bonaire takes place on the last Saturday of January every year. This count gives us an estimate of the minimum number of parrots on the island. This year, 2019, almost 12 hundred parrots were counted (1153), which feels like a relief looking back to 20 to 40 years ago. The numbers were three times lower during Lora counts before the year 2000.

The community is invited to participate and contribute in any possible way to the annual parrot roost count 2020.

The low numbers in the last 10 years when Echo has been a part of the monitoring have been partially explained by the behavior of the Loras. They dispersed themselves more and more in smaller groups and at new, sometimes unknown roost locations. In the past year, several volunteers reported hearing Loras or seeing them flying nearby but not within the area that they were surveying. These reports indicate that we might have missed at least some part of the population.

We want to know if you have seen parrots roosting anywhere on the island?

The parrots may change their roost sites from year to year, which is why it's important we can find out which sites they are currently using!

If you have seen parrots gathering after 6pm, or see groups in the early morning before 7am, then please let us know. You can do this by email to info@echobonaire.org or sending the locations by whatsapp +599 701 1188

Bonaire Travel celebrates 20 years.

For most people, December is a festive month of traditional holidays. But Bonaire Travel finds this month extra special as December marks their 20 year anniversary.

Director and owner Natasja Statie Gerhart looks back fondly saying,

“The last 20 years have not always been easy. Travel has suffered a lot especially when the airlines withdrew their commissions.”

In recent years all travel agencies have experienced intense competition due to the online market.

“But we survived with hard work and especially good service, said Natasja, “We pulled through together.”

She said the success of the company is primarily due to the loyalty and confidence of their customers and their professional and customer-friendly team.

The company began on December 3, 1999 by Natasja and colleagues, Marienella, Shadira and Sheila worked in the front office. Today they are still a team and recently Franchesca has joined them at Bonaire Travel.

Natasja said she is very pleased with her team. The workplace atmosphere is very close and personal.

She said the customer is very important and therefore Bonaire Travel invests heavily in team building and organizes team building weekends for the staff. In celebration of the 20th anniversary and to illustrate its commitment, the company took the entire crew for a teambuilding weekend in the Netherlands. From September 4-8 the staff was treated to business class tickets on KLM and were warmly greeted with an announcement over the intercom, “Welcome to Bonaire Travel Team”. The ladies spent three nights at Sheraton Hotel Schiphol. They rode the train to Alkmaar Volendam and took a photo in traditional farmer attire, cruised the canals and visited the famous Madame Tussauds.

Bonaire Travel is grateful for their customers and hopes for many more years to work and serve. **Merry Christmas!!**



Carla Baruchello will give 3 Yoga Sensible Workshops

While visiting from Italy, method creator Carla Baruchello will give three Yoga Sensible Workshops, designed to deepen students’ awareness of their own bodies. Anyone at any level will benefit. The weekend workshops will be held at Eden Beach from 8 to 11 am: January Sunday 19, Saturday 25, and Sunday 26. Contact Elisabetta Maccari for information and price: betta@web.de. Phone & WhatsApp +599-780-7362

Part 2: Budget Marine's 2019 Waterfront Event



will be yet a part three to this event coming up soon!

The winds were nice, so the Sunfish and Opti's completed their three morning races without any issues. One Cat experienced mechanical issues, so they had to drop out of the race. But one of the Cat's crew grabbed a Sunfish to continue to sail, while a second joined the crew of the competing Cat to complete a nice morning on the water.

Sophie Zeegers and Fernando Simal on Magic Marine took the first and only place in the Cats. Sunfish B class was dominated by Kyren Ogenia followed by Arthur van Bourgonje. The Sunfish A class was led by Ramon Yellowman, followed by George (Kabes) Soliano with Robin Kieft in third place. In the Optimists Silver, Noordermeer took the gold, followed by Lena v/d Keuken and Gilbert Lai. Due to other obligations there were not enough optimist sailors to complete the relay races in the afternoon, so prizes, Santa Hats, whistles and sunglasses were given out at lunch time. The remaining sailboats had a friendly race in the afternoon. The relay race will be postponed to another day. Stay tuned for part three of the sailing!

In the fishing tournament, it was the fish that seemed to have won! Less than



Budget Marine's waterfront sporting event high scale Tuna winner (L) Bernard Emerenciana from *Knot a Yacht* and his (11.2 KG) winner, (Center) Pam Teitel owner of Budget Marine and (R) George (Kabes) Soliano second place winner in Sunfish sailing category.

half of the boats brought fish to the scales. To promote a sustainable tournament and encourage sustainability the newer tournaments are picking target species: Tuna, Wahoo and Dorado. These fish are eaten regularly and are not the reef fish needed for a sustainable and healthy coral reef. Prizes were awarded for the largest tuna, wahoo and dorado. A single large fish is all it takes. Only one dorado hit the scales at a tiny 1.8kg. Fatama on Bull fishing won that category. Rufino Winklaar brought the only wahoo to the scales at a respectable 10.6kg only minutes before the end of the tournament. Three boats brought in tuna, each bigger than the last.

Beginning with Patun on Pattern with 4.4 kg, followed by Jan Emerenciana on Corker who stepped it up to one of 7.2kg, but then Bernard Emerenciana on Knot a Yacht topped them out with the final tuna of 11.2kg for the win.

This waterfront day is sponsored by Budget Marine, E-Zone and Viktor Wijsand Graphic Design.

The 5th Budget Marine Waterfront Events Triathlon, Sailing and Fishing will take place in November next year. Hopefully everything will come together to complete it in a single event filled day!
Story by Pam Teitel. Photos Julie Morgan

—WEB sets rates for 2020—

WEB has set the water and electricity rates for 2020.

The changes for household customers with the most common connections are as follows:

Periodic electricity rates are reduced

The fixed usage rate is reduced from USD 26.59 to USD 26.18 per month. The variable usage rate is reduced from USD 0.2672 to USD 0.2225 per kWh.

For buyers with delivery based on Pagabon, the rate is reduced from USD 0.3801 to USD 0.3331 per kWh.

Lower fuel costs for the production of electricity are largely responsible for the reduction in these rates. From July 1, 2020 - depending on developments in fuel costs - the variable electricity consumption rate and the rate for Pagabon will be redefined.

Periodic rates for drinking water some more; some less

The fixed rate of use of drinking water includes the requested subsidy, but is increased with inflation from USD 7.00 to USD 7.08 per month. The variable usage rate is reduced from USD 4,436 to USD 3,768 per m³.

For customers with delivery via the water truck, the rate is reduced from USD 5,172 per m³ to USD 4,513 per m³.

The variable usage rate and the rate for delivery via the water truck are reduced for several reasons, including a reduction in the costs for electricity and one-off effects. Due to various factors, these rates are expected to rise again in 2021.

Billing

The new periodic electricity and drinking water rates are applied to the invoices from the February month (with a start date for consumption in January and an

end date in February). For Pagabon and the water truck, the new rates take immediate effect from January 1, 2020.

One-off connection rates are increased

The one-off connection rates up to and including 25 meters are set at USD 1,589.87 for electricity and at USD 1,082.44 for drinking water. This is an increase of 1.2% compared to 2019 and therefore equal to inflation.

For a connection length greater than 25 meters, a contribution based on calculations of the actually expected costs applies.

The full overviews of the new rates for electricity and drinking water and the calculation tool with which you can calculate the amount of your drinking water and / or electricity invoice can be found on www.webbonaire.com.

How WEB's new rates were determined

Electricity and water are tightly regulated on Bonaire. The Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) sets the maximum rates and the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate monitors quality. The ACM calculated the cost-effective rates that WEB may charge for the coming year and notified WEB in December. To keep the rates affordable, WEB then requested subsidies for each rate. Subsequently WEB, in consultation with the Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB), then announced the new rates for all customers. The rates take into account the subsidies that were applied for.

Visit us! There are always more photos on our current facebook page:
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Speak Papiamentu with me

“Each of us are illiterate in this world. You have to choose to speak the language where you are living,” said Xiomara Frans, author of “Papia Papiamentu Ku Mi.”

The local language of Bonaire and the Dutch Caribbean is Papiamentu; not Dutch, not English or Spanish. And Xiomara Frans speaks, writes, reads and teaches them all. She developed a method for non-Bonaireans to easily learn Papiamentu and incorporated it into two ‘crash course’ books.

Xiomara was born in Aruba into a family that spoke mostly English. She learned Dutch and Spanish in school and picked up Papiamentu because everyone spoke it in the Dutch Caribbean. The family moved first to Curaçao, then St Maarten and back to Curaçao where Xiomara studied to become a teacher enriching her language skills along the way.

After teaching elementary, secondary and special education for 12 years in Curaçao she moved to Bonaire with her husband and family in 1995.

In Bonaire she taught in the regular and special education schools. She discovered learning difficulties in the both schools. Many of the students who were failing were actually Papiamentu speaking children with behavior problems who couldn’t speak Dutch. These problem kids were 12 -15 years old and were learning at level 1 and 2 classes.

Xiomara and her teaching colleagues decided, “We’re not going to continue with this Dutch method. Get rid of it. Let us at least make sure that these kids can speak and read and spell their native language.”

She worked mostly one on one with the special education children and developed learning programs. While

working as a teacher she developed and taught illiteracy classes at FORMA for adults.

Xiomara taught Papiamentu to Spanish, Haitians and other non-Bonaireans so they could get along in the community.

She began incorporating her teaching method for Papiamentu to the school’s management team and colleagues. During one of the classes she met Mariska Beenen who would later become the color illustrator for her books.

Xiomara had thought only in terms of printing her teaching method into a black and white textbook but the idea of adding colorful illustrations made the book come alive. Before the book was completed Xiomara was asked to teach Papiamentu to the first commissioner of the new status of Bonaire, Hank Kamp and his secretary.

Kamp said, “The lessons were always well prepared and were taught in a pleasant way. It was a pity that I had to go back to the Netherlands before I had mastered this beautiful language...”

She became the go-to person for learning Papiamentu. Xiomara teaches Dutch speaking employees at RCN twice a year.

“A great practical lesson method with which you learn to speak, understand and use the colloquial language of Papiamentu,” said Sybran van Dam, RCN director.

After the first book was released in 2013 she knew this basic course wasn’t enough so she went to work on a second more advanced ‘crash course’ book that was published in 2014.

Today Xiomara teaches classes at her home classroom for anyone that wants to become less illiterate. She con-



Xiomara Frans, author of “Papia Papiamentu Ku Mi”

tinues to teach Dutch and Papiamentu speaking children at a small school a few days a week.

An “I Love Papiamentu” get together is scheduled to begin for anyone who wants to engage in Papiamentu conversations.

Anyone interested in learning Papiamentu can contact Xiomara by email at lady-xiomara@hotmail.com.

Her crash course Papiamentu books are available for English, Spanish and Dutch speaking individuals at Ad-dos bookstore or from Xiomara. Photo & story Julie Morgan

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photo Julie Morgan

Overlooking the beautiful Rincon valley
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23 ^{DEC}	Open	11:00-18:00
25 ^{DEC}	Christmas Buffet	11:00-18:00
26 ^{DEC}	Traditional Night	18:00-22:00
27 ^{DEC}	Open	11:00-18:00
28 ^{DEC}	Open	11:00-18:00
29 ^{DEC}	Open	11:00-18:00
30 ^{DEC}	Open	11:00-18:00
01 ^{JAN}	New Years Buffet	11:00-18:00

Felis dianan di Fiesta

Musea Bonaire (SKAL) held their monthly Full Moon party at *Posada Para Mira* on December 12 to an overflowing house.

Anochi ku Luna Yen is a social activity for the community. People take the stage and recite a poem or other literary creations before the group. Everyone contributes something whether it be a poem, talk, music, food or drink.

A group of singers and musicians dressed in Christmas red performed several songs and Santa and his elves performed a few sing-alongs. A duo of little elves handed out candy to the crowd. Jovianka of *Posada Para Mira* provided drinks and dinner for everyone.



BYOF puts on their Santa hats again

On December 21, over 350 kids age 2-10 received gifts and a special Christmas dinner thanks to the efforts of BYOF (Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation). This is the 19th year the group of young people have organized a Christmas gift drive for children in Bonaire.

BYOF collected shoe boxes for the gifts and purchased Christmas paper and ribbons before they stuffed the boxes with goodies. Each box contained school supplies, hygiene products and toys that they purchased for each of the kids. Over 1500 items were placed in the 350 gift boxes.

For several years, Sun Rental has served as a collection and drop off point for gift and monetary donations for the charity.

The three course dinner and gift distribution was held at Rayo di Solo elementary school. Kids were picked up by shuttle buses at Centro di Bario. *Photo & story Julie Morgan*



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Karst nature park opens

“Thanks to the arrival of this park, we as Bonaire have something extra to offer the tourist that is very special,” said Deputy Tijn Asjoe at the opening of Karst Caves Nature Park on December 13.

Over 10 years ago the Caribbean Speleological Society and Wild Conscience conceived the idea of the park. Scientists, volunteers, and former STINAPA directors, Fernando Simal and Elsmarie Beukenboom, worked to make the park a reality.

According to Simal, in previous years the caves’ inhabitants have suffered from uncontrolled exploration. Formally opening up the caves and providing our CARIBSS (Caribbean Speleological Society) course trained guides will help protect the fragile cave ecosystem from abuse.

The nature park is on 31 hectares of land with a limestone substrate that is perfect for Bonaire’s seven species of bats. The main species is the Curacao long nose bat, but all species are essential to Bonaire’s ecology because bats pollinate Bonaire’s plants.

Bats are the only native mammals of Bonaire, but we haven’t paid much attention to their care, says scientist Jafet Nassor of Venezuela.

“I met with Fernando in 2008 and we started working together on bats. We worked with volunteers and gathered a



robust amount of data on their life cycle: They eat, sleep, have sex and have babies,” said Nassar.

Bonaire is a paradise of caves and therefore a paradise for bats. Each cave is a small cosmos. “If we communicate and keep [the park] alive, as we did with the marine park, then this is a great opportunity for the government to once again be an example for the world and the island,” said Nassar.

Deputy Tjin Asjoe said the park is an asset for the whole of the Netherlands. *Story and photo by Julie Morgan.*

December ArtMart



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Tjaakolina ten Have
(www.Carib-Style.com)

December Art Market held at Hillside on December 15 proved to be worth the excursion. with approximately 20 booths of beautifully produced craft work by local artisans. The aisles were full of customers shopping and buying handmade bags, crochet items, ceramics, nature photos, paintings, jewelry and other unique artwork.



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December 31 New Year's Eve Gourmet Buffet
USD 42.50 serving from 5:30pm

Wrap-up 2019 with The Rum Runners Team. A Gourmet buffet. Spectacular fireworks at midnight with bubbles. The best way to have very Happy New Year!

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Crème of Lobster with seafood & fresh herbs

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Digicel Bonaire announces first big winner

“Shake to Win” Digicel’s Christmas promotion paid off big for local Bonairean Sisi Clarendra on December 19, 2019. Sisi, a resident of Rincon, was trying her luck by “Shaking to Win” in the MyDigicel app and ‘boom’ she received a screen saying “You are a Winner of \$2,500”.

Sisi instantly became the first winner of the local grand prize for Digicel Bonaire of \$2500.

Shake to Win promo began November 20th and ends December 28th. Anyone with an active Digicel data plan of three (3) days or more can participate for a chance to win. The first big prize is gone but there is still a chance to win the other local grand prize of \$2500 on December 28th.

On December 21st, a regional prize of

\$20,000 was awarded to a lucky Digicel “Shake to Win” customer. Stay tuned for more details to come in our next edition of *The Reporter*.

In addition to customers’ participation in “Shake to Win” via MyDigicel app, Digicel instituted a phenomenal radio campaign with the “phrase that pays”, which gives unsuspecting customers a change to win \$100 in cash. Popular radio stations, like: Live 99FM, Breezy FM, and Play FM (Sulaika Ta On) will randomly call Digicel customers who have an active MyDigicel, D’Music and SportsMax subscription for a chance to win. If they answer with the phrase that pays, “Shake to Win with Digicel” instead of “Hello,” they will win \$100 in cash!

The phrase that pays calls will



come to an end on the above mentioned radio stations by December 24th. However it will continue until December 31st via the Facebook page of “Grace Simply Grace” and is limited to five (5) lucky winners per day.

Digicel Group is a total communications and entertainment provider with operations in 31 markets in the Caribbean, Central America and Asia Pacific. After 17 years of operation, total investment to

date stands at over US\$5 billion worldwide.

Digicel also runs a host of community-based initiatives across its markets and has set up Digicel Foundations in Haiti, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago which focus on educational, cultural and social development programs. *Story & photo by Julie Morgan*



A soapbox derby was part of the fun during the North Salina Day festivities on December 15. Lucky crowd members got behind the wheel of the miniature cars. They were first towed up the hill and then rolled back down for an exciting, but short ride. Major businesses on Bonaire were responsible for the creation of the replica cars.

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

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Reef Glimpses

Double Double Take Fish

In the last issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*, Reef Glimpses used a photo of a bright red-orange frogfish resting on a green sponge.

Visually separating the red from the green was easy, but figuring out the parts of the frogfish more challenging.

The frogfish in this photo is perfectly positioned for its profile portrait. There's its pectoral fin (arm equivalent), resting just between some orange cup coral and a small orange sponge.

Waaait a minute. Isn't that its pectoral fin resting on orange cup coral in the center-bottom of the photo? Is this a mutant fish with two pectoral fins?

We all know that if this was a mutant fish, Reef Glimpses would be an unlikely place for its discovery to be announced. A close look at the photo eventually reveals – ta dah! – two frogfish, similar in color and markings. The smaller one is closer to the camera and is actually making contact with the larger one. Both fish face our left. The small black eye of the larger fish is surrounded by a bright yellow circle. The eye of the smaller fish is almost directly below it and a tiny bit to the right. The dorsal (top) fin with three big and three little spots, and the tail with



three dark spots, both belong to the larger fish. The tail of the smaller fish is curved around toward the larger; deep shadow marks the edge of the smaller fish.

There's another shadow on the body of the smaller fish, between its eye and its pectoral fin. The frogfish's commitment to looking spongelike even extends to its gills: here, the evidence of a gill flap is the shadow just in front of the smaller fish's pectoral fin (braced on the cup coral clump). The exhaled water flows through the gill flap but under the frogfish's skin, and exits through an opening in the fish's armpit-equivalent (not visible here).

So, we've got two frogfish, side by side,

like two teenagers at the movies. Yep, this is a mating thing.

Deepsea anglerfish males make sure that, once they find a female, they never leave her. Successful ones physically attach to a female, their other organs atrophy, and they adapt to their extreme conditions by becoming, essentially, sperm-producing parasites.

(Any thoughts you have about this should not be expressed in mixed company.)

Longlure frogfish mating is similar but, like their environment, less extreme. In both cases, the larger females secrete a

pheromone that helps the much smaller males to find them. Once at the source of the scent, the male (or males) would stay as close to the perfumed female as possible, sometimes for days. When she's ready for the moment, the female is so bloated with eggs she can barely move. As she clumsily rises from the reef, the male rises with her, pushing at her bloated belly and then pulling at the gel-covered mass of eggs. She shivers, releases the egg mass, he fertilizes it, and they return to the bottom. (Ellen Muller's video *Frogfish Mating Bonaire* is a great view of this on YouTube.)

Once this event takes place, the male frogfish is no longer attracted to the female. He pays no attention to the female at all.

(Again, not a good subject for comments in mixed company.)

The two eventually drift apart. At least, they drift apart until the next time she wears perfume. So, divers: always check when you find a frogfish: is this one frogfish, or two? *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.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Tijeras, New Mexico

Jeannine Hawk and Carl Rudnick were recently awarded TCB's Bonaire Ambassador Platinum Award for making the trip from Tijeras, New Mexico to Bonaire since 1987. The couple fell in love with Bonaire diving, people, the vibe and the island in general and couldn't stay away. They bought a condo unit at Sand Dollar in 1994 and have visited at least twice a year ever since. They have met a lot of people who are still good friends.

"We live in high desert mountains and realized that Bonaire is a desert island with about the same average annual rainfall as home, kindred spirits or some such nonsense," Carl said, "We just love the place and everything about it – except the recent population, building and traffic explosions!"

Carl and Jeannine live in an off-the-grid solar home and have been in the solar building and plumbing business for 40 years.

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.



Bonaire ambassadors Jeannine Hawk and Carl Rudnick

Mas Deporte i Música!

Kumpra un Quick Pick plan pa Shake To Win.

Digicel



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 26

What was achieved in 2019?

The United Nations has promoted International Day of Persons with Disabilities, IDPD, (December 3) since 1992. On this day, people around the world focus on how to include persons with disabilities at home, work, school and all areas of society. The theme for 2019 IDPD was empowerment.

What empowerment issues did we achieve on Bonaire this year?

Last year MiVaBo organized an art competition. "This is my life". Beautiful results were shown in an exhibition at the Museo di Bonaire. The winning pictures were printed on t-shirts and mugs that were sold as a fundraiser.

December 12 the press were invited to witness the two aviramps at BIA. With great pride the ramps were presented and demonstrated. It made us all very happy. Now a year later, the ramps are still not in use but locked away behind gates, as they appear to be unfit for use on Bonaire!

MiVaBo has an ongoing job: They made houses more accessible by coordinating the installation of ramps from the front door to the gate.

Foundation Zorg en Welzijn Group came to life (for-

mer FKBO) to help Bonairean citizens stay active in our community. To all citizens who are 60 + or with disabilities, they offer special transport to visit the doctor, hospital, therapists; to go grocery shopping, etc. This is a welcome service, since RoRo offers only transportation to those in a wheelchair.

Family-members and friends who take care of a loved one finally get the attention they deserve so badly by a foundation called Mantelzorg Bonaire. They started their services by registering all private caregivers. This is very important, because to offer services, you must know your numbers and facts.

ZVK (Health Insurance) announced that they spent too much money last year. So every dollar is being scrutinized. Appliances applied for are denied without obvious reasons. Treatments once paid for by the ZVK, now have to be paid for by the clients who cannot afford it. Staff changes bring insecurities for the insured. The office is now very hard to contact. treatments do not take place or are late. The organization changed in name and constellation, which is difficult for clients to understand. What is happening with Zorggroep BES?

Every institution that cares for people (Hospital, Kas di Kuido, FKPD, etc) is obliged by law to install a client council. The council represents the patients/clients, and if the council can't, family members or close friends must. Every decision has to be made with consent of the clients or their representation. Alas, this is still not

the case on Bonaire.

Here is THE chance to start empowerment. Every client has rights. If they cannot fight themselves, there must be group of people that can and will.

Streets are getting fixed. Crosswalks are painted. Bicycle paths have ample room for persons riding their scooter-mobiles. But most streets are still full of craters. Sidewalks are non-functioning because broken high curbs make crossing a road very hard. Sidewalks are blocked by bulletin boards, chairs and tourist information booths, Wheelchairs cannot ride smoothly along the boulevard due to concrete rings around the trees.

But there is also good news. The hospital renovation is still going strong. The results are stunning and client-friendly. We do hope that the Kas di Kuido and its clients will get the attention and space they so desperately need.

Kas Flamboyan still offers great respite care. Volunteers offer their time and goodwill and treat and spoil the guests to their hearts' content.

What are the plans for 2020? For everything there is a season! And for change you need a reason. What are we waiting for? Empowerment is ON! Let every organization make a decent plan and act on it as soon as possible. We need ACTION more than promotion to make Bonaire accessible to everybody. *Ria Evers-Dokter.*



A Garden? Just Do It!

End of the year

End of year and there is so much to do. Everywhere people are busy cleaning their yards.

Full trucks with garden waste are going to the landfill. But do you know that there is a lot of green waste that you can use in your compost mix? So don't throw it all away. The rain will make fallen leaves decay faster. Just put them on a heap in a corner of your garden and let it stay for a while. Every time you make your own compost, you will be happy that you have not thrown all the green waste away as it is so useful for your compost mix. It is important to throw away all garbage like old tires, rusted auto parts, old household things, building materials and so on. These things make a yard look so ugly and allows less space for a garden. Also mosquitoes breed in all those things that can contain water. So it's a good thing to give the yard a good clean up and then decorate the trees and your porch with beautiful Christmas decorations. How awesome Bonaire looks with all the lights and Christmas decorations in clean yards, porches and streets.

Bonaire soil

We still have about six weeks for rain and then it will become less and less. So start thinking about certain garden tasks. As I have written a few times, Bonaire soil is a very important aspect for gardening. Before planting you need to improve your soil. First check what kind of soil you have before doing any gardening. The soil needs to be balanced before you begin. Make a good mix of compost, manure, charcoal, black and red dirt and add this to the top soil. Remove stones, dead and alive roots if they are in the way. Rake the topsoil so you get air in there. This will balance the soil life too.

There are different types of soil. How do you change a certain type of soil?

For sandy soil, add humus; this is the process that is written above. This process also works well for coral and chalk soils.

What is sandy soil? This is bigger parts of sand mixed with small stones. This type of soil does not stick together. Water and nutrition is not held by this type of soil; it quickly passes through. Sandy soil needs to be corrected as mentioned above before gardening. This will give a mulch layer on top to improve the structure. Do you remember from earlier articles that rabbit manure is the best to mix into your humus? It has the best balance in nutrition for plants; CO2 (carbon dioxide) 2.4%, phosphorus 1.4%, calcium 0.6%. It also contains microorganisms and is very good to keep the water balance of the soil. Rabbit manure does not burn the roots and slowly releases nutrition to the plants.

For top soil, aerate it by digging and add humus as above.

Sustainable gardening

Looking at the average diet, we mostly consume only 12 plant sources of which 60 % comes from rice, grain and corn. This is not only bad for our health but also for mother Earth. These crops remove all of the goodness from the soil. Over farming with pesticides, herbicides and chemical nutrition is ruining our soils. And also when planting the same plants year after year in the same place without giving the soil an opportunity to rest and recover has a negative influence on soil. The soil becomes poor and struggles from lack of vital strength. After a while you will not get a good crop out of this part of your garden. The best way to use soil is to change plants in certain spots in a garden. This lets the soil rest and become healthy and vital again.

This is what we call sustainable gardening. Our life on Earth is dependent on our way of sustainable use of mother Earth. It is in our best interest to think about our future and go back to more natural ways of gardening and growing our own food. Using the moon calendar, natural rainwater and natural humus is better for our health and for the future of nature and the generations after us. And by the way it's also cheaper for our pocket.

I hope the message in this article of respect, responsibility, love and care of the natural resources of our beloved mother Earth will touch you straight in the heart. And you will garden with pleasure and the best intention for your health, mother Earth and all life now and after us.

Make it your mantra, just do it now

Angliet, Nature lover.



Did You Know? that all the sharks STINAPA has caught so far through the shark tagging project have been female?



Over the course of six shark tagging expeditions, two on the West coast and four on the East coast, we have managed to catch four sharks. On the West coast, near Bopec, we caught two female Caribbean reef sharks. The first reef shark we named Zani, she was 1.84m long, while the other one, Roxanne, was 1.91m long. Both these sharks were outfitted with a small transmitter that would allow us to follow their movements. On the East coast we also caught two sharks. One was a nurse shark with a total length of 1.06m and the other one was a baby Caribbean reef shark measuring just 74cm. Needless to say that the song 'Baby Shark' was stuck in all our heads for the rest of the day! Because this reef shark was so small we didn't want to risk harming it by tagging it, however we did tag the nurse shark. The baby shark was

caught right off Baby Beach, while the nurse shark was caught further north going towards Lagun.

Of our shark expeditions on the East coast, two of them focused on the area near Baby Beach. This is because of the multiple accounts from divers encountering sharks in this area. However, we only managed to catch one shark even though there were many nibbles on the bait. In the image below you can see the locations where we dropped our hooks, between Lac Bay and Baby Beach. When we pulled up the hooks often times we could see evidence of the bait having been bitten. On many occasions the bait was completely gone! We know that the sharks are there and that they are interested in the bait, however we aren't catching them. It raises an interesting question as to why not. Maybe because of the many divers and lionfish hunters in the area they are a bit more cautious around strange objects.

Every so often we need to collect the data from the receivers we have placed at strategic locations around the island. These receivers record a ping each time that a tagged shark swims within 800m of the receiver. On the West coast we have receivers placed at Playa Bengue and one slightly north of Bopec. On the East coast we have a receiver inside Lac Bay, and along the coast extending down to Baby Beach. The second reef shark we caught, Roxanne, was detected multiple times on the receiver at Bopec, which is over 1km north of where we caught her. She often frequents the area at night, between the hours



of 11pm and 3am. While she isn't there every day, she is there quite often. On two occasions she remained in the area for five hours. From the data it seems likely that she is using this area as a hunting ground. While Zani was also caught in the same area as Roxanne, we didn't detect her on the receiver at Bopec. Neither of the sharks ever made it to Benge.

What's next?

STINAPA is continuing this research and will collect more data in the future.

Written by Roxanne-Liana Francisca, STINAPA biologist. Connecting people with nature

Changes in BES Healthcare Insurance claims as of January 1st, 2020

Several elements of the BES Healthcare Insurance Claims Regulation (Regeling Aanspraken Zorgverzekering BES) will change as of January 1st, 2020. The changes concern several new claims, and clarification and further requirements for existing claims and provisions.

New

Medical Devices

The claims for medical devices have been expanded with wheelchairs, shower chairs and toilet chairs.

Stop smoking programmes & Combined Lifestyle Intervention

In line with the European Netherlands, insured individuals may qualify for reimbursement of the costs for a stop smoking programme and a combined lifestyle intervention (CLI). Both must be prescribed by a general practitioner or specialist.

Claims for the stop smoking programme concern medical assistance and any pharmaceutical help following the authorisation of the Healthcare Insurance Office (Zorgverzekeringskantoor, hereinafter referred to as ZVK).

Care related to CLI may be reimbursed in full or partially for insured individuals of 18 years and older. CLI is aimed at a healthier diet, more physical exercise and psychological support. Additional costs, such as costs related to sports, are not reimbursed.

Physiotherapy & remedial therapy for rehabilitation

The coverage of physiotherapy and remedial therapy for rehabilitation is new as well. It concerns treatment for a better recovery after hospitalisation or day treatment. In that case physiotherapy or remedial therapy for rehabilitation are reimbursed for up to twelve months.

Clarifying & tightening requirements

Speech therapy

Speech therapy is only covered for medical purposes, on referral from a general practitioner, specialist or dentist. Speech therapy for non-medical purposes, such as speaking in public or singing training, is not covered.

Dietary preparations and stop smoking medication

Reimbursement of these care products requires the ZVK's prior consent.

Orthopaedic shoes

This is only covered when prescribed by a specialist.

Prescription glasses and contact lenses

Adults are entitled to claim reimbursement up to an amount of USD 170.00 per three years. For insured persons up to 18 years, the amount is USD 170.00 per year.

Companionship in case of medical referral abroad

The entitlement to a companion may apply to the entire

referral abroad or to a necessary part thereof. The entitlement to a companion no longer depends on a disorder but on the limitation(s) suffered by an insured person. Therefore the criterion 'older than 70 years' is no longer used. An insured individual younger than 18 years who is very sick can get companions. These do not have to be both parents. In case of a medical referral abroad for birth, the ZVK reimburses the flight costs of one companion for the period around the birth. The companion will not receive a daily allowance.

Information

The 'Who is insured with the ZVK? What is covered by the healthcare insurance?' information leaflet contains a brief summary of the entitlements of persons insured with the ZVK.

Detailed information on the healthcare insurance and claims which can lawfully be made on the basis of the BES Healthcare Insurance Claims Regulation is available on the website: www.zvkc.nl under 'Care entitlements'.

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

HAIR AFFAIR
Kaya Grandi 67, Kralendijk Bonaire +599 7175990
Whats App 786-1942. www.hairaffairbonaire.com

Job Opportunity

"We are looking for a Warrior; not a Princess" – Andrea Magni (chef)

Want to join our team of waiters at Capriccio Restaurant?
Contact: capricciobonaireandrea@gmail.com

What's Happening

2019 Cruise Ships (TCB)

Wednesday December 25	Christmas Day. Public Holiday
Thursday December 26	Boxing Day. Public Holiday
Sunday December 28	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. Enjoy delicious food, live music, local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations and an exhibition about Rincon. Fun, relaxed and entertaining for kids and adults alike. All proceeds go to our educational programs. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE.
Tuesday December 31	New Years Eve Fireworks
Wednesday January 1	New Years Day. Public Holiday
Sunday January 12	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Boka Onima. 4-6pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.

DAY & DATE:MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Monday 12-23	<i>Braemar</i>	0700-1800	N.pier	988	Fred Olsen
Tuesday 12-24	<i>Monarch</i>	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday 12-26	<i>Summit</i>	0800-1700	S.pier	2450	CEL
Friday 12-27	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	0800-2359	N.pier	96	Sea Cloud Cruise
Saturday 12-28	<i>Ms Riviera</i>	0700-1500	N.pier	1250	Oceania
Saturday 12-28	<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	0700-1800	S.pier	450	Seabourn Cruise
Monday 12-30	<i>Aida Perla</i>	0700-1800	S.pier	3286	Aida Cruises
Tuesday 12-31	<i>Mein Schiff 2</i>	0730-1900	S.pier	2894	TUI
Tuesday 12-31 in TCB schedule	<i>Explorer Of The Seas*</i> Crew center gives alternative date of January 01	0800-1700	N.pier	3840	RCCL

Start the new year with Tai Chi

Everyone is welcome to explore the benefits of Tai Chi in classes beginning January 6, 2020 at Harbour Village. The free classes are taught by Ron Sewell, 30 year practitioner of the Chinese martial art.

Tai Chi is practiced by young and old for its health benefits, meditation and defense training.

Classes will be scheduled daily at 8 am, 9 am and 5 pm.

If you plan to attend the first day of classes on January 6, please notify Ron so he can make the appropriate preparations.

For more info contact ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com.

2020 Cruise Ships from Crew Center.com

Wednesday 01-01	<i>Marella Explorer 2</i>	1300-1800		2177	Marella Cruise
Thursday 01-02	<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	0800-1800		458	Seabourn
Friday 01-03	<i>Freedom Of The Seas</i>	0800-1700		4900	RCCL
Monday 01-06	<i>Monarch</i>	0900-1800		2772	Pullmantur
Tuesday 01-07	<i>Britannia</i>			4250	P&O
Tuesday 01-07	<i>Koningsdam</i>	0800-1800		3375	Holland America
Wednesday 01-08	<i>Norwegian Gem</i>	1200-2200		2800	NCL

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, Bolascenre 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.

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. Debrot. 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 ellenherreraeccochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

What's Happening, Museums & Exhibits, continued on page 17

4000 baby sea turtles saved



Thirty-eight companies and families adopted 44 sea turtle nests and saved 4000 baby sea turtles in Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) Adopt-A-Nest program this year. Through the nest program, STCB raised almost USD 25,000 to protect Bonaire's critically endangered sea turtles.

Nest funds are used to relocate nests that are in danger of drowning, rescue newborn turtles that have become wrapped in roots during hatching and sustain the popular Beachkeeper program. STCB will use the money to collect data that will help protect nests and assess the health of Bonaire's sea turtles.

Collecting nesting data is an important part of STCB's work. STCB uses the data to determine nest hatching success, and to identify possible causes of egg failure.

STCB director Kaj Schut said, "On Bonaire, approximately 80 per cent of the eggs in a sea turtle nest hatch. However, we do see variation across species and nesting beaches. Nests on Klein Bonaire, for example, are often more successful than nests laid on the pocket beaches in the south. Causes of egg failure can include infertility, high nest temperatures, heavy precipitation and the pres-

ence of fungi and bacteria in the nest. With the support of our adopters and the funds raised through Adopt-A-Nest, we can get a better understanding of these factors; how they affect the success of our nests and what actions can be taken to protect our nests even better in the future."

STCB is very grateful for the continuous support of all the adopters. Some celebrated their 5th adoption anniversary, others adopted their first nest in 2019! STCB would like to congratulate everyone with the great outcome of this nesting season!

If you too would like to join this impressive group of nest adopters and work together with STCB to save Bonaire's sea turtles, please contact STCB at +599 717 2225 or send an email to cepa@bonairerturtles.org. By STCB. Photo: *skeez from pixabay*.

Thank you for supporting STCB's mission and saving 4,000 hatchlings by adopting one or more sea turtle nests in 2019:

Best Cellars Bonaire, Blue Jay Holding Bonaire, Bonaire Office Systems, Administratiekantoor Brandaris, Brave Water Foundation, Buts Technical Consultancy, The Cadushy Distillery, Cargill Salt Bonaire, Casa Presioso, ContourGlobal, Dan & Christine Fisher, Dinska Dohmen, Dive Friends Bonaire, dNM Interim, Doris & Martin Elle, Hamlet Oasis, Harbour Village, Harbourtown Real Estate, HVK Stevens, International Tax Advisors, Jim & Judy Kewley, Joan & Alan Zale, Labor Omnia Vincit bv, Michael & Anne Contratto, Moon Tower, Nagico Insurances, Nederlands-Belgische Schildpaddenvereniging, Parrot Island Divers, Patricia Coe, QVillas, RE/MAX Paradise Homes, Sand Dollar Turtle Lovers Club 1 & 2, Sand Dollar Ca'Nesta, Sunbelt Realty Estate, Sundhevy & Stijn, The Laughing Seahorse, Villa Kiki, VIP Diving, Wadyckis Family.

Ask a Geek: Things that make you go HUH?

by Brian Niessen

For the end of year article, I am going to give some examples of things in the technology world that just make you shake your head and go "HUH?"

#1 – Technical Support: A friend bought a new laptop a few weeks ago. She was using it fine, until one day the keyboard started acting strange. She called the store – they had no solution. She called her ISP tech support guys and spent an hour on the phone with them, no solution. She even called Microsoft and spent 2 hours going up the ladder with the technical support team. No solution, but a promise that a supervisor will call back. In frustration she called me and told me "When I type, I get numbers instead of letters!" so I asked "When you press the K key, what number do you get?" and she replied "2". So I said "Press the NUMLOCK key" and problem was

solved! What do these guys get paid for? HUH?

#2 – Forced Upgrades: This is something that drives me crazy. Programs that make you upgrade, even though the version you are using works perfectly. The biggest culprit is Skype. You run it, and it says "You must upgrade." so you upgrade and run the new one and it says "Your operating system is too old. You need to upgrade it." so you do the Windows XP/7/8 to Windows 10 Upgrade and get told "Your computer is too small/old/slow – you need to upgrade it." Talk about forced obsolescence. If this was your car and you were told "You can't drive on this road anymore because your car is too old" there would be lawsuits galore, but in the computer industry (and phones), we just buy a new one for no real reason – I can still only type so fast or play solitaire just

as slow. Maybe there is a class action lawsuit in the making, HUH?

#3 – Websites dictating if you can see them or not: Have you gone to a website and been told "We no longer support your browser. Please update it." (Which leads right back to issue #2). I can understand it for banking or other encrypted websites where they are keeping one step ahead of the hackers, but many of these sites that give the "palm in your face" don't require the security. Why do they turn away visitors over something as stupid as a web programmer deciding he likes the latest and greatest browsers only – HUH?

On that note, may Santa bring you many cool computer and technology gifts to drive you crazy in 2020.

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 *Andromeda collision*

Our galaxy is the Milky Way. It's one of the most spectacular structures in the night sky -- comprising a huge band of color and light stretching from horizon to horizon all across the sky. But, when we collide with Andromeda our galaxy will be no more.

The Milky Way is a mid-size barred spiral galaxy. It's about 100,000 light-years across, and 1000 light-years thick. To be honest, our galaxy is remarkably average, very similar to billions of other galaxies we know of in the universe. Well, except for the fact that the only living things we know of in the universe live here... you know, us.

The Andromeda galaxy or galaxy m31 contains four times the number of stars as our own galaxy and is at least twice as wide. It's spiral, like ours, but the center has a ring of dust — probably from another galaxy that Andromeda swallowed in the past.

You can find Andromeda by looking for the constellation Cassiopeia. Imagine it's a W with points of different depths... if you follow the point of the deeper trough in a dark sky, you'll find the Andromeda galaxy.

Andromeda is heading toward us at 110 kilometers per second or about 250,000 miles per hour. Four-and-a-half billion years from now, our two galaxies are going to collide in a spectacular fashion. Gravity everywhere, billions of star systems, affected. It's going to be nuts for about a billion years while we work everything out, but eventually we'll be one larger galaxy!

We've galactic cannibalism in the skies again and again. Hubble photographed this case of galactic cannibalism in 2009.

I know it all sounds pretty violent, but it's nothing we have to worry about. Galaxies are mostly empty space! The real change won't be to our planet, or our star, but to the night skies. Once the galaxies start to combine we'll have a magnificent night sky! Though we won't be in a beautiful spiral any longer, astronomers think the Milky Way and Andromeda will merge into a new larger elliptical galaxy.

To see the result of an elliptical galaxy in our own skies? That will really be something!

Keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury*,

What's Happening, Museums & Exhibits, continued on page 17

- **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 Bo-

nairean 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 cruiseship days, 9am-3pm. Free.

Pet tips for "Fireworks season"



The fireworks have already begun and will only get worse. It is one of the busiest times at Animal Shelter Bonaire with intake of many dogs and cats found wandering and scared. While humans delight in the dazzling displays, many animals are lost, seriously injured, even killed, during this time of year so here are some tips to keep your pets safe.

- Walk your dogs during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely
- **KEEP YOUR PETS INSIDE** when fireworks are being set off
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks
- Put on some music or TV to mask the firework sounds
- Prepare a quiet space or hiding place for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.

- Ensure your pet is wearing some form of easily readable identification – even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag with a phone number.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, meow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out – it's just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.
- Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behavior. It's OK to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead.
- Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed.
- Pets are likely to drink more when they are worried, so fill their water bowl up to the brim. **BEST TIP:** Include Florence Ditlow's Rescue Remedy in their water bowl. Available at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Pakus di Pruga, DA or Just 4 Pet.
- Seek veterinary advice if you feel your pet needs a prescription calming medicine. **DO NOT GIVE YOUR PET ANYTHING THAT IS NOT PRESCRIBED BY A VETERINARIAN EXCEPT FOR RESCUE REMEDY.**
- Never take your dog to a fireworks display.
- Do not throw or set off fireworks when your pet or other pets are in the vicinity. Dogs that may not be afraid of the noise of fireworks may likely chase what you throw or be curious. This is how many dogs on the island have been seriously injured or killed. *Jane Madden-Disko*



Hello Everyone!

My name is Odette and I am a very happy puppy, about five months old and fully vaccinated, healthy and ready to go to my fur-ever home. I can be very cuddly and love all your attention. Sometimes I can be naughty too but that is still allowed because I am still a baby and with some training and education I will be the perfect companion. I also like to play fetch and I do enjoy watching all the other pups with a view from my private pool. I will do great in a family that already has dogs, because I do like the company of other dogs especially if they like to play and wrestle. I will also do very well in a family with children, maybe we can go swim at the beach, I think I will love that. If you have a tiny space available in your loving family then please come visit me and adopt me! I will be waiting for you at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagoon 26A, Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm and 3-5 pm and Saturday 9am-3pm nonstop, or call the Animal Shelter 701-4989 or 717-4989. *Story and photo by Sanne Attevelt*



L-R: Sanne Attevelt

Travis Sullins

Laurie Smith

Jane Madden-Disko

How to use Rescue Remedy

By Florence Ditlow RN, herbalist and owner of contented, adopted dogs.

Bonaire's traditional New Year's Fireworks are a wonder to see, but they terrorize our pets. You probably know of Rescue Remedy- the herbal stress treatment for pets sold at year's end. I have a few suggestions for administering this solution.

Remember large amounts of Rescue are not needed; you get best effect by repeating a few drops regularly.

Begin adding a few drops to the daily water of your pet, in the week of Christmas.

You may put it on food or treats.

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