



Story & Photos: Alan Zale

2020 parrot roost count
Cruise Ships (part two)
BC will meet in neighborhoods

Ride Sail Swim Walk for the Roses

As the early morning sun rose up above the horizon, poking through scattered clouds, it provided a picture perfect start for an estimated 800 participants starting their walk from Eden Beach Resort on Sunday, in the Fifth Annual Ride-Sail-Swim-Walk for the Roses fight against cancer.

The event supports the Princess Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire, which focuses on prevention and care for cancer patients and their families.

Rose's President Jursi Marshall said, "We exceeded our expectations this year." He attributed a lot of that success to connecting this year's event to February 4th, which is World Cancer Day.

The day began with a warm-up for the walkers, who had a choice of either a 6.5 km (4 mi) or 9km (5.6 mi) route. Shortly after the last walkers headed north from Eden Beach, the bikers began their ride south, for 13 km (8mi) or 25km (15.5 mi). Both events finished where they began. Walkers and riders crossing the finish line were handed a rose by one of the many volunteers helping to make the fundraiser a success.



Jeaniro Balentien and family. Jeaniro is a three times Hodgkins Disease survivor.

most 100 swimmers entered the water for the 1.2 km (¾ mi) aqua trek from Kas di Regatta to Eden Beach.

The swimmers were escorted by two boats from the Bonaire Marine Park and two volunteer kayakers. The first swimmer to reach Eden Beach was Marcel Spruit followed by Patricia Vos and then Marcel's brother Sebastiaan. Swimmers were marked with a participant number so as they emerged from the water at the finish, they could be easily identified. Numbers were recorded to ensure all swimmers finished safely and were accounted for. They were then handed a rose.

This year's "Roses" had the added event of Kite boarding and sailing. Participants reached speeds well beyond 20 knots as they made their way from Atlantis Beach to Klein Bonaire. They were then shuttled back to Eden Beach by water taxi.

"Rose's" President, Jursi Marshall, oversaw this first time event from one of two Bonaire Marine Park boats escorting the sail participants. Marshall is already making plans for next year's sail. He plans to change the time to better integrate it with the other three events.

Next up was a warm up yoga session before the al-

Ride for Roses, continued on page 9

BOPEC situation stirs rumors and demonstrations

Lt. Governor Edison Rijna has announced that, contrary to rumors being spread on Bonaire, the delivery of fuel by BOPEC continues to be assured. The production of electricity and water is not endangered, he said. In the meantime, former employees have been demonstrating at the BOPEC gate continually for more than a week.

The demonstrators have been showing up and settling into shaded areas daily. Sometimes a dozen or so people have been observed there. Sometimes the crowds seem to be in the range of 50 or more.

The demonstrators told The Reporter that when BOPEC was forced to close down its operation as a fuel transfer depot, two problems were created for the island. The supply of fuel for power generation was threatened. And many Bonaireans lost their jobs. They agree the government has handled the fuel threat well.

But, they say, the government has ignored the dire financial circumstances of BOPEC's former employees. They need assured incomes, and they are demanding opportunities to work for a living. *D.M.R.*

The BC is now going to the people



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe plays some songs on his guitar for the elderly in Cocari.

In January the Executive Council met for the first time in a local neighborhood. In Rincon Governor Edison Rijna, deputies Nina den Heyer, James Kroon and Elvis Tjin Asjoe gathered at the multi-functional center Cocari. During the break the BC visited the elderly in Cocari and listened to their personal experiences. Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe played some songs on his guitar.

From now on the BC, which meets every week, will hold one meeting a month in a local community. Antriol, Nikiboko, North Saliña, Playa, and Tera Cora will be on its schedule as well Rincon. The BC wants to involve citizens in policy decisions and to hear from local residents what they think about what is

happening on Bonaire.

While in Rincon the BC inspected the condition and facilities of the Rincon stadium. The college also took a look at the old road Broertje Janga, where work has not been completed. As well, the BC visited Colegio San Luis Beltran. The OLB has reserved funds to renovate the playground of the school.

At neighborhood meetings the BC can discuss, on the spot, urgent matters that might arise when they talk with residents, or they can put those matters on the agenda for subsequent meetings or further consultations with neighborhood residents. *D.M.R.*

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Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:
 Phone (+599)796 4055
 Email: info@bonairereporter.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher
BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com
 Production: Barbara Lockwood
Contributors: Angliet Nature Lover, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Sky Watch: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini, Kate Butler, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Laurie Smith, Jane Madden-Disko, Travis Sullins, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Julianka Clarenda, Don M. Ricks, Pam Teitel, Alan Zale
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BES banking services judged adequate



Finance Minister Wopke Hoekstra

Finance Minister Wopke Hoekstra has declared the banking services provided on the BES-islands to be 'adequate.' He reported to the Second Chamber that there currently is a stable minimum level of banking services in the Caribbean Netherlands. "Adequate" is not a strong word. Wonder what other adjectives the minister considered, then rejected. *D.M.R.*

Feb. 8th deadline photography contest.

A Plastic Free Bonaire (APFB) is accepting images of Bonaire to be exhibited on the front of the eight new recycle/trash bins to be located on the waterfront. Photographs may be submitted to: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/APLasticFREEBONAIRE/ or via WeTransfer to Aplasticfreebonaireinfo@gmail.com.



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OMNI launches Samsung store



Grand opening and Samsung launch at OMNI's new location at Kaya Amsterdam 25B (4112)



A customer experiences the new Samsung interactive corner



Unicomer's Virendar Rathore, commercial director; OMNI manager Hitesh Baxani and Darlene Cunningham, finance director

Omni, a Unicomer store, officially opened the doors of their new store at Kaya Amsterdam #25B with a Samsung store launch on January 24. Approximately 120 honored customers and guests were treated to drinks, snacks and prizes.

Willy Dwarkasing won a 55 inch.

Unicomer BES island officials assisted store manager Hitesh Baxani with the grand opening: Sonia Manglani, regional manager; Virendar Rathore, commercial director and Darlene Cunningham, finance director.

Television, radio stations and newspapers covered the event. Aimed Ayubi of radio station 99.9 broadcast the event giving full coverage even down to the announcement of the winners of the big frequent customer drawing.

Everyone who visited the store received a pillow as a door prize

With four times the space of the previous downtown location, Omni features an interactive Samsung corner with the latest smart phones, smart watches, televisions and other Samsung products. Another great addition is the sleep center with

The lucky winners yielded big Samsung televisions. Anuska Francees was on hand to hear her name being called for the 82 inch, Carole Dehlem won a 65 inch and

Serta and Restonic mattresses.

Mastertech, Mabe and more.

In addition the Omni store includes product lines from LG, TCL, Radio Shack, Whirlpool, Panasonic, Midea,

Omni is open six days a week from 8:30am to 12:30pm and 2 to 6pm. *Story & photos Julie Morgan*

Want to sell your property? Check what has changed in 2020

Until 31 December 2019 all real estate agencies were cooperating and showing your property to all buyers no matter which real estate agency had the listing for sale. If a sale was made, both real estate agencies would divide the commission between themselves so there were NO extra costs for the seller or the buyer.

As of 1 January 2020 this has changed.

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 to pay a separate commission to the agency they are working with. That makes 2 commissions for 1 home, which reduces the price you receive for your home as the buyer has less money for you.

At **RE/MAX**, we will show your property to all interested buyers and will cooperate with any real estate agency. **Our primary goal is to sell your property quickly and for the best possible price.**

We will share our commission with any broker who brings a buyer for your home. This assures you that every possible buyer will see your home, and that they won't have to pay any additional costs if they want to buy your home.

Need an appraisal? **RE/MAX** is qualified to provide appraisal reports that are accepted at most island banks.



Feel free to contact us if you have any questions
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St Eustatius prepares for local elections

On February 15th a new administrative phase will begin on St Eustatius as the Island prepares for the 2020 elections of its Island Council. This phase will be led by Mr. Marnix van Rij, who has been appointed by the Council of Ministers as the new Government Commissioner together with his deputy Mrs. Alida Francis.

Mr. Marnix van Rij and Mrs. Alida Francis will officially take over the current tasks effective February 15th.

Mr. van Rij, the new Government Commissioner, was a member of the First Chamber (Senate) from June 2015 until June 2019 and a partner at Ernst & Young until July 2019. In his current function he is a strategic advisor for the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations in the Caribbean Netherlands on Bonaire.



Mrs. Alida Francis, the new deputy government commissioner, was born and raised on St. Eustatius and has been working in the Caribbean for thirty years. In her latest position she was employed by RCN communication and she made an important contribution to the reconstruction of St. Eustatius after Hurricane Irma.



Mr. Marcolino Franco and Mr. Mervyn Stegers will end their tenure as Government Commissioner and Deputy Government Commissioner respectively. Franco and Stegers took office two years ago when the Temporary Act on Neglect of Duty in St Eustatius (Tijdelijke Wet Taakverwaarlozing Sint Eustatius) went into effect February 6th, 2018 resulting in the administrative intervention by the Dutch government. The first phase of the temporary act focused on rebuilding the island's infrastructure as well as reorganizing its civil service core. "Statia is on the right track. Almost all of the infrastructural and organizational projects are in the implementation phase or will be completed in 2020," states Franco. To ensure a smooth transfer of the tasks that have already been set in motion and are nearing completion, Franco and Stegers will work together with the directors and unit managers of the Public Entity St. Eustatius.

Dear Editor

I have to agree with the environmentalists mentioned in the last paragraph of your story in issue 2. Here is the story of how an algae became an invasive species. http://www.columbia.edu/itc/cerc/danoff-burg/invasion_bio/inv_spp_summ/Caulerpa_taxifolia.htm

What algae species will the proposed algae farm introduce? *Arthrospira platensis* (Spirulina)? What is the possibility of it mutating into an invasive or toxic salt-water species that could impact large areas of the underwater coastline? Unlike *Caulerpa*, commercial *Spirulina* is produced from cyanobacterium. If a cyanobacterium mutates because of saltwater cultivation techniques and escapes, it could be impossible to control.

As a 40 year return visitor and diver in Bonaire, I am curious ... How will Bonaire ensure that an invasive mutated algae story isn't repeated? Bonaire already has the lion fish, it doesn't need another invasive species, especially an algae. *Thank you, Gary Barrett*

Bon Dia,

It is with great sadness that I read the Jan 22 - Feb 5 issue of the Bonaire Reporter. I try to come to Bonaire at least one to three times a year. I've been trying to plan my next trip for October, November, or December 2020. Flights that have been in the \$600-\$800 range previous years are well over \$2500 now and take incredibly long travel times, with huge layovers. Still, I would consider coming but for the news in the latest reporter.

The last time I was on Bonaire the cruise passengers were horrible. Blocking roadways as they took the whole width for their group to travel. Smashing through soft coral, sitting on hard coral, and many other atrocities.

As if the previous issue's coverage of the sale and planned destruction of Bolivia with the eviction of so much essential wildlife wasn't enough. Now comes the report of even much higher numbers of tourists and the creation of an algae farm with no idea what the algae will be used for. Does "putting the cart before the horse" ring a bell? There is no question that at some time algae will escape into the environment. That is 100% sure. The only question is how long it will take.

I am afraid I can no longer consider Bonaire a desirable destination for my diving. It breaks my heart, but it seems Bonaire has sold out to the fast buck with little concern for the future. *Fred Bates*

Hello Reporter Team,

The challenges facing wildlife are complicated and delicate. People flying drones for social media 'likes' is not.

Most people with drones cite ignorance due to lack of

signage and clear information upon arrival in Bonaire. One Youtuber asked me why officials hadn't held it until his departure as they do in other countries where drones require a permit. He had a point.

It may be common sense to some of us that flying drones near a bird nesting sanctuary is at minimum an irresponsible thing to do; but it seems common sense is no longer common.

Perhaps it is prudent to revamp signs and tourist information if greater enforcement is not yet possible. *Best, Brie Patangay. Lugá Alehá*

To the Editor:

I read the Bonaire Reporter and come to rely on it for comprehensive coverage of things that matter and are of interest to those who live and frequent the island. I also pay attention to the crime reports as it pertains to the safety of all.

Your reports of the recent traffic accidents has been incomplete and erroneous. Within the past two weeks I witnessed three separate car accidents within a two block stretch of Gob N deBrot: 1. A pickup truck exiting a parking area of a condominium collided with a passing car (much damage, police and tow trucks involved, traffic delayed); 2. One car rear ended another (police called, traffic delayed); 3. two car accident where one car hit another from the side (the road was blocked off and traffic diverted for hours, police, ambulances, tow trucks. Only the last accident was reported and you neglected to report that the driver of one of the cars, a 48 year old female and mother, died. This is just within two blocks, where is the rest of the island?

People have a right to expect the proper facts and not a diluted, feel-good, make-the-island-look-good rendition of the truth. This happens now with scientists trying to play down the ill effects of cruise ships on the marine environment so as not to lose the meager funding that they now get and it leads people not to trust (or read or avoid) the sources of the inaccurate information.

If your sole source is the police, then perhaps you can report that the information is being withheld by them and readers may not blame you for the lapse of integrity. It is likely, too, that the robberies are being under-reported and a female was recently assaulted by her ex-husband and the police and prosecutor did not act in her interests (she is now leaving the island).

I hope that you can remedy this issue so that those of us that wish to remain safe, can properly do so.

Charles M. Baltayan

Editor's note: Charles, the police report is printed as we receive it.

Commander of KMar visits Bonaire



The commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar), Hans Leijts, visited the Caribbean in recent days. During his time on Bonaire he talked extensively with his KMar colleagues and chain partners. Leijts said that he finds it important to have personal contact.

The Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee has command of the organisation on behalf of various ministries. These are the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice and Security. Lieutenant General Hans Leijts

was appointed Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee on September 2, 2019.

The Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee has specialised personnel for various tasks, such as border control, criminal investigation, foreign missions, surveillance, police assistance or other types of assistance, and training. During operations, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee often works with other elements of the Netherlands armed forces and various partners, such as the National Police Services Agency, at home and abroad.

Law Enforcement

Police Report for January 20 to 31, 2020

Theft

Between Jan. 20, around 6:30pm and January 21, around 8:45am thieves took a dark gray Yamaha outboard motor from a fenced-in area on Kaya Feniks.

In the night of Jan. 27 a high pressure cleaner was taken from the doorstep of a house on Kaya Bulado.

Also In the night of Jan. 27, thieves took a wallet out of an unlocked car parked in front of a house on the Kaya Papa Cornes.

Theft at dive sites & beaches

On Jan. 21, various reports were received about theft from beaches. From the beach at Sorobon, thieves took a gray / black backpack away while the owner was swimming. The bag included a Samsung s10 +, Samsung AirPods and cash.

At Te Amo Beach on the E.E.G. Bulevar thieves stole a gray / green Totto bag, including passports, an Esika brand watch, a power bank and cash.

Traffic accidents & violations

In the night hours of Jan. 24, a collision took place on Kaya Korona. A scooter hit a donkey. The driver of the scooter injured his head and scraped his right leg. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance. While searching for his ID in the saddle of the scooter, police found and seized a quantity of marijuana. The scooter has been brought in for safekeeping and can be retrieved by showing valid documents.

On Jan. 25, alcoholic checks were held at various locations between 00.15 and 02.45. The inspections took place at the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, near the marina, the parking lot at the Kaya L.D. Gerharts, opposite the FORMA and in the Center area. A total of 26 cars were checked. Seven drivers blew far above the allowable amount of 220 µg/l. An official report has been drawn

up against these drivers for driving under the influence. Ten scooter drivers received a warning for driving without a helmet. A man, 31, was arrested in the Center area for public intoxication.

On Jan. 26, the police on the Kaya I.r. Stadius van Eps intervened when a large crowd gathered to watch street races. The police's emphatic presence and their checking of various vehicles ensured that no street race took place and the spectators went home. After that, the police in the Center area seized a scooter from a driver who had been guilty of firing and producing excessive noise.

On Jan. 28, a traffic check and a check for foreigners were held in the afternoon hours. A total of 49 vehicles were checked, with four processes being verbally written out. 18 foreigners were checked, and all documents were found to be in order.

On Jan 31 a unilateral collision with a scooter took place at 02:30 hours on Bulevar E.E.G. at Te Amo Beach. The driver was injured in his face and on his right elbow. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Arrests

In the afternoon hours of Jan. 24, a man, 31, years was arrested on the Bulevar E.E.G. for abuse.

On Jan. 27, a man, 35, was arrested for abuse.

On Jan. 29, a man, 26, was arrested on Kaya Finlandia for violating the BES Aliens Act.

In the morning hours of Jan. 29, a man, 44, was held for theft. Later, around 3:30pm, a man, 18, was arrested in connection with stolen goods.

How to contact the KPCN
emergency number 911 (free)
anonymous tips, (+599) 717 7251
general (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000

Introducing Bonaire's new Island secretary, Tim Mueller



The Executive Council of Bonaire (BC) has appointed Tim Muller as island secretary as of May 1, 2020.

Muller is currently island secretary on Saba. Muller has held various positions in the Netherlands: in the city of The Hague as general director of the Public Affairs department, in Amsterdam as deputy director of the Social Development Department, as well as at the Twynstra Gudde consultancy firm and at the Ministry of the Interior.

Muller: " In 2015 I came to the Caribbean from the Netherlands with my wife Yvonne and our daughter Jessye. We are both of Surinamese descent and it is good to be in the region again. After the Saba adventure, I look forward to giving my strength to the further development of the Bonaire public body. I would like to get to know my colleagues and everyone who helps to build a better Bonaire. "



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question: Hi Kate, Do you think it's better to buy an existing house or buy a lot and then build my own house? Which is cheaper? Roberta

Hi Roberta,

Great question. Generally, an existing home will cost less than buying a lot and building a new home of comparable size and features. The benefits of an existing house are that you can use it as soon as you buy it, and it may have features that would cost you more if you were building now (for instance, an in-ground pool and mature landscaping, furniture, etc.)

If you want a house designed to your specifications and built in a certain location, then it may make sense to buy a lot and have the house built. Houses here can take 12 to 18 months to build once construction starts. There is a lot

of commercial and residential building taking place on Bonaire right now, so it will also take some time to get on a contractor's schedule.

We always recommend that if you build, you either live here and act as project manager or hire a project manager and make frequent visits yourself to supervise construction progress. You can save some money by providing your own appliances, fixtures, windows, doors, etc.

Best of luck in whatever you decide!
Bonaire!
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

Flotsam continued from page 2.

► **According to the Public Health Department, the new corona virus (2019-nCoV) is unlikely to reach Bonaire** as no direct travel exists between China and Bonaire.

Common signs of coronavirus infection are respiratory problems, fever and cough. In severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia, kidney failure and can be fatal. To date, the disease does not seem very contagious from person to person because in China few patients' relatives have fallen ill.

Chinese authorities identified a cluster of new coronavirus 2019-nCoV infection in the city of Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. Afterwards, people with the virus who had previously been in Wuhan City were found in other parts of China. Thailand, Japan, South Korea and the United States have also reported cases.

► **Consumer prices on Bonaire continued to rise in 2019.** In Q4 2019, prices of consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 2.2 percent up on the same quarter one year previously. The rise in average prices was mainly caused by price developments of transportation, with petrol nearly 10 percent and diesel over 11 percent more expensive than in the same quarter in 2018. Fresh fruit drove up the price level as well, rising by nearly 39 percent year-on-year. On the other hand, clothing and footwear were less expensive.

In 2019, Bonaire saw annual average price levels rise by 1.3 percent on the previous year. The annual year-on-year increase was 0.7 percent on St Eustatius and 0.5 percent on Saba.

► **February's fuel prices will include an increase for LPG 100 Lbs of \$ 1.51 and 20 Lbs of \$ 0.48.** Petrol, kerosene and diesel prices remain the same compared to January 2020. The Bonairean Island Government (OLB) will announce the next fuel price adjustment in March 2020.

► **Bonaire's consumer organization, Unkobon, will not be publishing its supermarket price comparison for January, 2020.**

Unkobon is currently talking with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) and the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) to clarify how the price comparator can be used in the coming year.

Unkobon has published a supermarket price comparison every month since August 2018. The price comparator was a temporary partnership between consumer organizations, Unkobon and

FTpKB (Fundashon Store for Konsumidó Bonaire) and the EZK, RCN (Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland/ government service for Caribbean Netherlands) and Sage B.V. The partnership expired in December 2019.

Fifteen supermarkets participated in the Bonaire Price Comparison in 2018-2019. The Price Comparator recorded the lowest prices of 60 frequently purchased products at these 15 supermarkets every month and compared them to arrive at a ranking. The consumer associations believed that when consumers pay attention to prices, they can save on their groceries.

Cruising in to 2020 (part two)



Government regulations determine prices for taxi fares. Manager Gerrol Pourier pictured.

The cost of cruise ships

Cruise ships are divided into three categories: economy, mid price and elite or luxury. Bonaire’s 2017 Master Plan is hoping to attract the latter. In addition to being smaller, these ships are newer and equipped with the latest environmental technology in air, noise, ballast emissions and pollution controls. And their passengers are just like the class of ship – ‘elite’.

A local tour company in business for many years agrees. They remember the early days when the passengers were a better class and would spend money on the island. But even then cruise ships weren’t their major source of tour income.

A 2017 global economic impact report from CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association) says cruise ships are a \$134 billion dollar industry catering to 26.7 million passengers and providing 1,108,676 jobs. (CLIA-2019-State-of-the-Industry.pdf)

In Bonaire, cruise ships bring in an estimated \$2-\$3 million dollars to the local government (OLB), according to their finance department.

Harbor master Gunter Flanigen said, “We charge per tonnage of the ship and this varies. A big ship might end up paying between \$6000 and \$8000 for berthing.”

In addition each ship pays the normal harbor fee, pilotage fee, head tax for passengers and any other special needs fees.

Currently each person pays a \$2 head tax but that will increase to \$3.50 beginning May 1. Flanigen says this will give the local government an increase of around \$750,000 from cruise passenger income.

Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe said with future fiscal reform there is a benchmark of raising that fee to \$8 or \$10. The current head count in the Caribbean is \$8.92, so this would at least put Bonaire in the norm.

The government also charges cruise passengers who scuba dive \$10 for the Stinapa nature fee while stay over divers pay \$45. Regular price for any type of water sports activities: snorkeling, windsurfing, kite boarding, kayaking, swimming, etc., is \$25, but cruise passengers pay nothing. And that goes for Washington Park too, they pay nothing. The current marine park law states that if a visitor is on the island less than 24 hours then they don’t have to pay but the government is working on the law.

This is an ongoing controversy due to the impact the ships and the passengers have on our reefs, coral and ocean.

Bonaire residents making an income from cruise ships usually provide services to the passengers in the way of

tours or transportation.

The Bonaire Explorer Association (BEA) consists of 38 companies. They have 173 employees and tour guides that provide 130 land tours and 43 sea tours. They use 148 cars, buses and vans, 25 boats, canoes and kayaks. This equals 1978 seats.

And then there is the Taxi Association Bonaire (TAB) with 40 vehicles and licensed guides providing taxi services and tours.

Taxi and tour rates are regulated by the government with a maximum price of \$25 per person for a north or south tour.

Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association (BACA) has 38 booths of arts, crafts and food set up in Wilhelmina Plaza on cruise ship days. They aren’t required to be licensed but they do pay \$500 for booth space per year on cruise ship days. There are Cruise Ship Tour Agents (CSTA) who work directly with the ships; Bonaire Destination Services (BDS); Bonaire Tours & Vacations (BTV) and Fiesta Tours (FT).

Restaurants and stores report little income from the cruise ships.

It’s unclear how much the cruise passengers actually spend on Bonaire. Estimates range from \$42-\$69 but most people say it is much less due to the low-end economy mega ships.

Harbour master Flanegin claims the passengers are providing an extra \$30 million to Bonaire’s economy yearly, whereas the Bonaire Masterplan estimates \$42 per person.

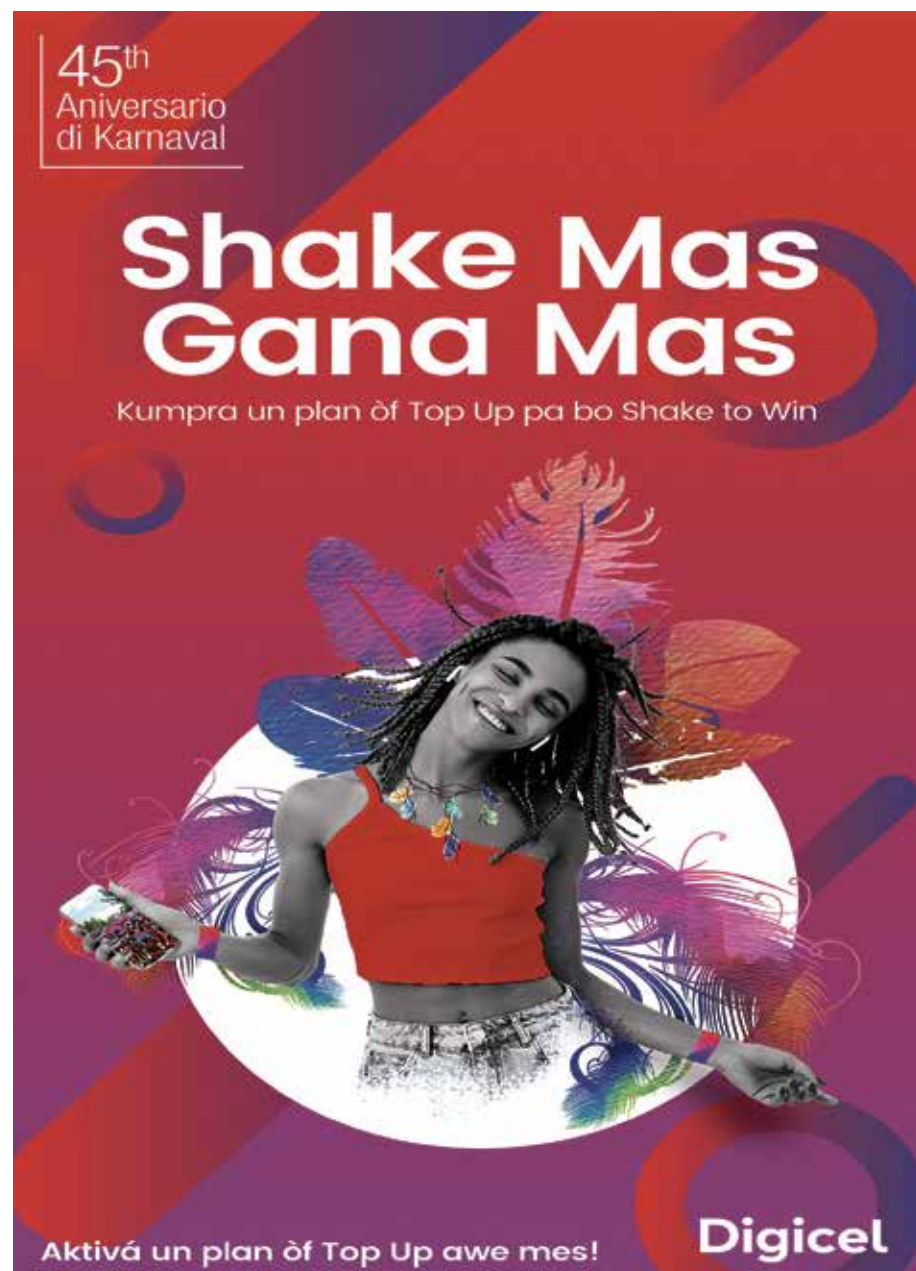
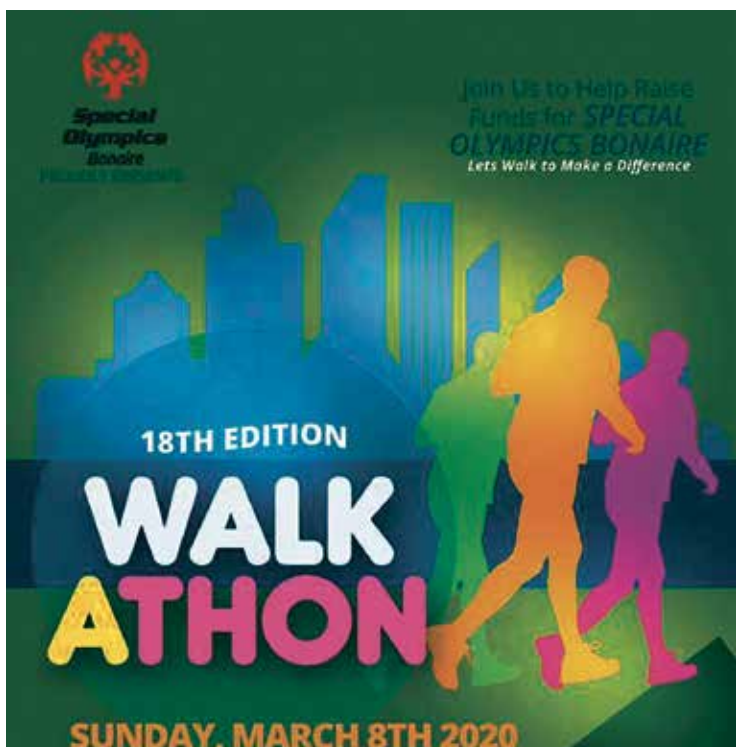
According to Tijn Asjoe Bonaire needs a better infrastructure with restroom fa-

cilities in the area at the piers for the cruise ship arrival/departure. This would not only support the cruise ships but all tourists in general. He is also very aware of the traffic due to the bikes, golf carts and buses that jam the roads and prohibit residents from getting to their destination.

“There needs to be a change. We want to have a four or five star standard of living for tourists. Cheap tourism, we don’t want it,” said Tijn Asjoe.

But even with elite cruise ships and a better infrastructure to handle them, the fact remains that cruise ships are detrimental to all nature and are linked to global warming. Pollution from cruise ships consists of air pollution through the emission of many various substances, ballast water, noise pollution and grey and black water. Cruise ships can legally discharge untreated water between four and 12 miles from land while the ship is traveling at a slow speed. https://www.dcbd.nl/sites/www.dcbd.nl/files/documents/achteruitgang_koraalriffen_caribisch_nederland_oo-wageningen_universiteit_and_research_496168.pdf Story and photo Julie Morgan

The United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued a new rule for cruise ships, the IMO2020. It is considered the strictest pollution law yet and it went into effect January 1. Ships will have to deal with their sulfur emissions immediately. The IMO is offering support to countries to enforce it. (<https://skift.com/2019/10/31/the-cruise-industry-will-soon-face-its-strictest-pollution-standard-yet-can-anyone-enforce-it/>)





Reef Glimpses

Taking a Little Light *Off* the Subject

My first night dive had been filled with new sights and experiences; at 30' of depth we'd stayed over an hour, and it still wasn't enough. I looked forward to my second night dive the entire week. We got suited up, jumped into the water, and, in the confusion, a photographer tapped my temple with his powerful strobe.

It fired right at the side of my eye. I couldn't see a thing – you know the feeling, from land camera flashes before they had those flickering lights to prepare us for the main flash? Except I wasn't dry, sitting on a chair in some restaurant, I was on my Second Night Dive.

I could not believe how long that light affected my eyes. Actually, I couldn't tell how long that light affected me, since I couldn't see my watch. Or anything else, for a frightening length of time. I spent much of Night Dive #2 wondering if I'd ever see properly again.

Luckily for me, no permanent damage was done to my eyes.

Under usual circumstances, human eyes automatically limit the amount of light that enters them. In addition to that, we protect our eyes from sunlight and other bright lights, especially when our pupils are dilated.

Unluckily for me, this was a pretty extreme example of blasting an unprotected eye with bright light. Normally the flash would be much farther away, and, if I hadn't been taken by surprise, I could have closed my eyes.

Fish don't have that option because they have no eyelids. The underwater world has no natural bright light so reef creatures, with the exception of some shallow-water fish, had no need to protect their eyes from light. No need, that is, until the last century or so when increasing numbers of underwater photographers began to use increasingly bright illumination.

So: how can we avoid disturbing fish with light?

We have two main uses for artificial light underwater: to see better ourselves, at night or in the daytime, and for photography.

To avoid disturbing fish with a dive light, use the edge of your light beam -- where the light is softest – and use the least bright illumination that enables you to see the critter. Dim light is less likely to disturb animals; they're more likely to continue doing whatever they were doing when you spotted them. Since watching fish swim away is pretty boring, using dim light creates a winning situation all around.

The situation with underwater photography is more complicated, but there are still things we can do to help our fishy subjects. Options include using less intense



This silvery fish photo was taken without artificial light.

light (lowering the power of the flash), diffusing the light (a white cloth rubber-banded over the flash works well), and using continuous light such as video lights (to avoid the shock of the flash). Another option is the one least chosen, most challenging, and voted by fish Absolutely Our Favorite Type of Underwater Photography, Fins Down: using only natural light. No flash. No flashlight. No candle. Just the camera and the photographer and the underwater world.

Want to get a different perspective on fish behavior? Make a dive with your flash off and turn your brain on to a different facet of underwater photography.

In order to encourage underwater photographers to use natural light, we are working on a natural light photography event during a celebration for Captain Don in May marking his arrival to Bonaire. To keep things enjoyable, the maximum value of awards will be \$25.00; awards will come primarily from Bonaire sponsors and will go to participants who are on Bonaire. Other details are not yet finalized. *Dee Scarr*

PARROTS AND PEOPLE in balance with nature



Thanks to the enormous group of volunteers the Annual Roost Count 2020 was bigger than ever. Not only the numbers of volunteers continue to grow, but the parrots and counters on last Saturday of January also surpasses the numbers of previous counts.

During the annual parrot count 2020 organized by the Echo Foundation, 1,228 parrots were counted with help from 108 volunteers. That is 75 parrots and 20 parrot counters more than in 2019. The volunteers who invested their early Saturday morning were separated to cover 35 roost sites around the Lora Habitat areas on Bonaire. Most roost sites were in the Northern part of Bonaire including eight in the Washington Slagbaai National Park which was covered by Stinapa employees, Junior



Rangers and International visitors. A large number of the volunteers who helped Echo estimate the population of yellow-shouldered Amazon parrots were tourists or part time inhabitants of Bonaire. Some of the counters had three years experience and planned their Bonaire holiday to include the annual count. Luckily, we also had a big group of locals who helped us count including parents who brought their kids with them to secure the future of Bonaire's parrot count!

The biggest roost on the island is proven to be Fontein, a nice Kunuku where Echo was established in 2010.

Parrots and people, continued on page 8

We are happy this area is so healthy and after 10 years still serves as a habitat for our native parrots. As part of the preparation for identifying better viewpoints for counting the Loras, we checked most of the other known areas where the parrots have slept for years. With seven people divided in three viewpoints, Fontein numbers were estimated around the same amount as last year. These groups actually counted 301 parrots and left the site at 8:05 AM where a big group of parrots remained playing in the trees without flying out to be counted. On the morning of the count, the behavior of the Loras

activity started no earlier than 6:20 am but most was at 7am in the morning.

Echo has more than 45 roost sites that can be monitored throughout the year for better understanding of the roosting activity of parrots in the wild. Research like roost counts and nest monitoring are proof that the parrot population on Bonaire is stable and in perfect balance with a healthy ecosystem. A healthy dry forest is important to conserve because the Loras rely on it as a habitat to live, feed, sleep and reproduce.

At Dos Pos Conservation Center we continue to serve

as a captivity roost to 25 Loras in the first month of 2020. Two were rescued and are a part of the Echo rehabilitation program.

The conservation work Echo does is dependent on people who believe it is important to invest in nature. Time of volunteers and donations are essential for our continued success and monitoring as we celebrate the Echo Foundation's 10th anniversary. Visit us at Dos Pos center, Facebook or website for more about Echo: parrots and people! *Story Juliana Clarendia, Director, Echo Foundation. Photo Julie Morgan.*

Crash Tender ready to serve



Bonaire's firefighters at the Bonaire International Airport Firehouse

Equipped with the latest in fire fighting and information technology, a brand new crash tender was officially put into service at Bonaire International Airport Firehouse on January 31.

This specialized aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle (ARFF) is a 2019 Oshkosh Global Striker 3000 built in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA. Made specifically for the Flamingo airport, the ARFF was ordered in December 2018 and arrived a year later. Since then the vehicle has gone through testing on Bonaire.

After speeches from Albert Gieling, Interim Commander of the Caribbean Netherlands Brandweer (Fire Service), Jos Hillen, CEO of Bonaire International Airport and Lt. Governor Edison Ryna, the new vehicle was blessed by Fr. Ranulfo Goneda of San Bernardo Church.

Following the blessing, Firefighter Iven Melaan took

officials on a demonstration ride up and down the airport runway.

The new crash tender, designated CT 16-05, was designed and built with attention to detail for both dealing with an aircraft emergency and easy maintenance.

Brandweer Officer Kenneth de Palm, Head of Technicians, explained features on CT 16-05 that include new hose reels on each side, that can be easily operated by one firefighter. Previously, stretching a hose from the crash tender required two firefighters. New hoses are longer and will reach the entire interior length of an aircraft. The green start button by the driver's door starts the vehicle, saving time as the firefighter puts his gear on outside.

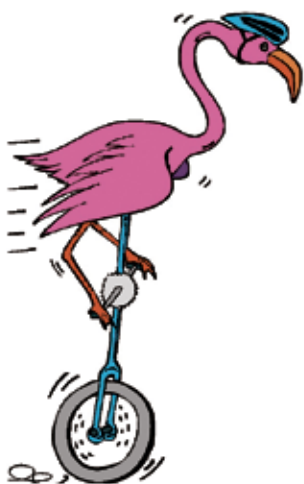
The engine compartment was designed so that a technician can walk into it and have access to parts that need to be repaired. Sensors, linked to a display, will tell a

firefighter immediately if something is not working properly and what needs to be repaired. *Story and photos by Alan Zale*



Brandweer Officer Kenneth de Palm, Head of Technicians, explains features on CT 16-05.

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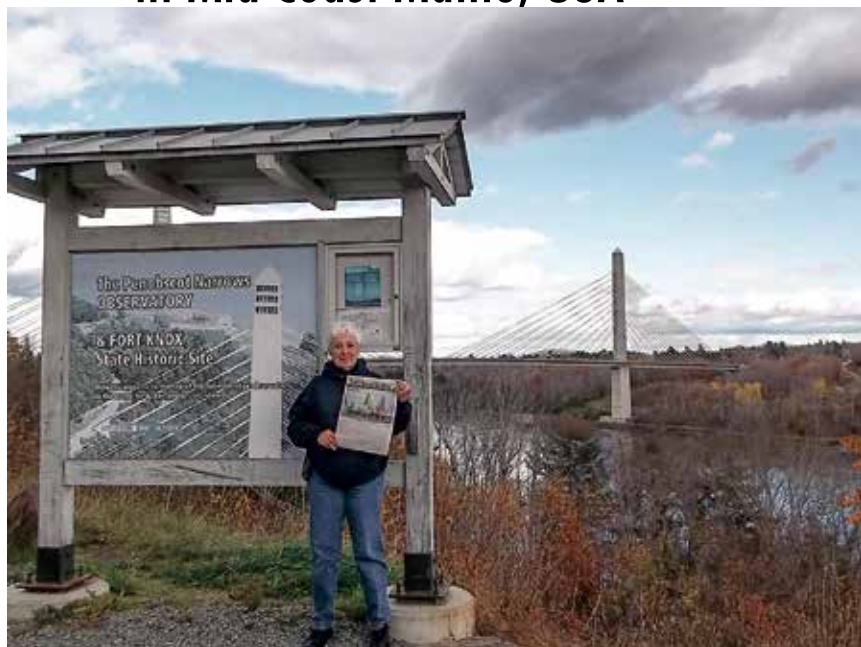


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Picture Yourself with The Reporter in Mid-Coast Maine, USA



Cathleen Connor, a timeshare owner at the Divi Flamingo Resort, displays *The Reporter* at the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory in Prospect, Maine. The 2,120 foot (646m) cable-stay bridge, with its 440 ft. (134.11 m) high observatory, is the tallest public bridge observatory in the world.

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 2020 photos are eligible for the annual prize. We will announce the 2019 winner in our Feb. 26 issue.



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Ask a Geek: Why is my computer leaking?

by Brian Niessen



Why is my computer wet?

Before I came to the Caribbean in 2008, I bought a new laptop in Vancouver with an extended three year warranty and fearing overheating, I bought an under-laptop cooling fan.

Every Saturday night, I perform a full weekly backup to an external USB drive. Before I went to bed, I checked that the backup was complete, disconnected the external disk and turned off the laptop and had a good night sleep, knowing I had a backup copy safely tucked away.

One particular Sunday morning, I went into my home office and turned on the laptop and it didn't start up. I thought "This is why I bought the extra 2 year warranty" and looked for the warranty forms. Of course, the warranty expired YESTERDAY!

I was now a bit frustrated, so I picked up the laptop wondering which Window™ to throw it out of, and noticed a puddle of water on the cooling fan. When I moved the cooling fan, there was an even bigger puddle of water on the desk.

Being a geek at heart, I got out my screwdrivers and took apart the laptop (all 39 screws) only to find it

was very wet inside. I put a bit of the water on my finger and tasted it and it was very salty.

It was at that point that the numbers added up and I checked the under-laptop cooling fan and realized that I forgot to turn it off.

All night it had been cooling a cool computer in a hot humid climate, causing the salt water to condense and basically short out the computer.

With nothing to lose, I removed the hard drive and took the motherboard to the kitchen sink and washed it with soap and water, much to the chagrin of my wife.

I put it out in the sun to dry, and then reassembled it and BINGO, it worked!!!

That was in 2009 and I am writing this article on the same computer, but now I remember to turn off the cooling fan each night.

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.

Ride for the Roses, continued from page 1.

As you look at a sea of white shirts participating in the Roses' events you will see an occasional red shirt stand out. The red shirts signify the participants who are cancer survivors. Each has a unique and personal story to tell.

Lillian Boyle walked with John, her husband of fifty years. She is a breast cancer survivor of 16 years. They were joined by Rosnalda Ravnán, who beat breast cancer two years ago.

Jeaniro Balentien has had three bouts with Hodgkin's Disease, the last was twelve years ago this April. He was pushing Xander, five, in a stroller, while Joanne carried one year old Nick.

Annemieke Oudshoorn is a breast cancer survivor of nine years and she walked with Alie Karman.

Orco Bank, main sponsor for Ride for the Rose's in Curacao and "Roses" president Jursi Marshall brought the cancer support fundraiser to Bonaire five years ago and are committed to making the event better every year.

Story and Photos by Alan Zale

See more Reporter photos on





Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 2020/03

A special child.

that. She took me in her arms and explained that a special child (because that is what he was) needed a Mom in so many ways and that she did not love me less. She felt a very special love for him, he needed her the most to defend him and to fight for him. And, that I should not worry. She loved me very much, but I was a strong little girl and could defend myself very well. Oftentimes he needed her more than I did and this has always been important for me, in my work with special people.

When parents expect a baby, they secretly hope for that football player, a prima ballerina and a very healthy child. And when that baby is born and appears to be different, it is very hard at first for the parents. A special baby needs the love and support more than any other babies. Other people may pity them and think that the child is odd. The child will be laughed at, bullied and will not get the chances other children get. But the parents have this special love for these special children. They see to it that the child gets what is needed to grow up and be happy.

That is why Special Olympics is an organization I admire very much. Special Olympics was founded by a mom for her special child.

I love Paralympics just as much because all those special children get a chance to excel and show that they can.

Every child should get equal opportunities to grow up happy and healthy. And if they want to play football, ride horses, run a marathon or just have fun being physically active, this should be possible. EVERY sport can be adapted and made accessible to persons with disabilities.

I remember those opportunities so well, where I was watching special athletes compete and win a medal or even a ribbon. You should hear their parents encouraging and screaming their hearts out. One should see the tears of happiness and pride when their child gets to win. Their special children, who no one thought could achieve anything.

These special children could and can, because they were given a chance and an opportunity and they had parents who had a very special love for them.

Contact volunteers, the sports department, Special Olympics Bonaire, MiVaBo and start the fire burning! Give your special child this opportunity. *Ria Evers-Dokter.*

I remember it so well, when I was five years old and my brother was born. I was so very happy and glad. He was premature and needed to be placed in an incubator right away, where he was teaspoon-fed every half hour. After three years he finally got a diagnosis: he had a mild form of cerebral palsy. He was a very special child. His body did not function the way it should, but he had a very bright mind. He loved to be read to and he corrected us when we said something wrong. I was his babysitter. He needed a babysitter, because he knew no fear. He was always trying to do things he really could not. And then he would repeat and repeat until he mastered it. His dad has always proclaimed that this child never could be his, because "he did not make handicapped children". He never accepted my brother as his child.

I have always been a bit jealous of my brother; he always got all the attention. He always came first and I did not understand that. I confronted my Mom with this problem and asked her why she loved my brother more than she did me. Mom was shocked and very sad to hear

A Garden? Just Do It!



Dragon Fruit

Dragon fruit, is a delicious rare fruit that is becoming more and more popular on Bonaire. You can find it in many supermarkets and also in some yards like mine.



pitahaya or pitaya all refer to fruit of the genus *Hylocereus* and is nowadays cultivated in Asia, Caribbean and other sub-tropical countries. The name pitaya comes from Mexico and is originally from South America.

You can get new plants not only by cuttings but by seeds. After cleaning the seeds from the pulp of the fruit, store the seeds to dry. The best fruit for seeds is when the fruit is over ripe and unblemished. Seeds grow well in a compost or potting soil mix. The cacti usually germinate after 11 to 14 days after shallow planting. As they are cacti, prevent over-watering. These climbing plants will find something to climb on from their aerial roots and basal roots. Once the plant reaches a mature 10 pounds in weight, the plant may flower.

Pitaya flowers bloom overnight and usually wilt by the morning. They need nocturnal pollinators such as

bats and moths for fertilization. Cross-pollinating with a second plant, generally increases fruit set and quality.

Plants can flower between three and six times in a year, depending on growing conditions. Just like other cacti, if a healthy piece of the stem is broken off, it may take root in soil and become a new plant. The dragon fruit plant sets fruit zero to 50 days after flowering. Too much rain and over-watering can cause the flowers to drop and fruit to rot. Fungi, bacteria and virus can cause several diseases. If the plant can grow free it becomes a "weed bush."

Dragon fruit is delicious as a fresh fruit or mixed with other fresh fruits and is also good to flavor and color juices and alcoholic beverages. It can be used in ice cream, desserts, milkshakes, can be frozen, or you can make jams and jellies from it.

Seeds contain oil with fatty acids, linoleic acid and linolenic acid. Flowers can also be eaten or used in tea.

There is red pitaya, white pitaya and yellow pitaya. There are two types of genus. Sweet dragon fruit comes from the genus *Hylocereus*, but there is also a sour pitaya from the genus *Stenocereus*. The weight of a dragon fruit ranges from 150-1000 grams although more commonly they range from 150-600 grams and are usually ovoid or round.

Some varieties must have genetically different plants present in order to set fruit.

Of course this rare fruit has nutritional value. It contains Vitamin C, carbohydrates, protein, dietary fiber, and minerals are Calcium, sodium, iron, and antioxidants.

So is this not a perfect plant to grow on Bonaire? Dragon fruit requires little care, iguanas don't eat it, and for doing very little you can get one of the most exotic sweet fruits there is.

Just do it *Angliet, Nature lover*

I remember so well when I got my first dragon fruit plant years ago. A friend who was leaving the island asked me if I was interested in a plant. He wanted to leave it with somebody who loves plants. Of course, I wanted the plant so one day he showed up with it. Wow, it was huge. I thought he meant a small plant but this was a kind of a cactus bush. He came with it on a truck and together, we put it on the porch which was the shortest distance to put it down. I planned to move it to the backyard but it is still there on the porch after many years getting bigger and bigger.

After I had it a half year, it suddenly started blooming such beautiful flowers in the night and soon after that, the young fruits popped up. It was a new plant for me, so everything that was going on was interesting. After a while the fruits were big, beautiful red and ripe. I had about nine fruits and they were sweet as sugar. This was my first introduction to dragon fruit. I had to move the plant because now it was twice as big as when I got it. Its roots were very hard and tight on my porch wall so I was afraid one day the roots would penetrate the cement wall. So, with some help of friends I moved the huge plant to the backyard. I also made a lot of cuttings and shared with other friends. Now mine is crawling and climbing on everything it finds to climb on. It grows so easily on Bonaire. Nothing can stop it from growing. A little bit of rain, sunny, dry weather, some soil and space; that is all it needs. You will have the most delicious fruits from it.

Dragon fruit is in the family Cactaceae, just like all the other cacti on Bonaire. Dragon fruit, strawberry pear,

Did You Know? that Humpback whales sometimes visit Bonaire?

Although mostly outside of their busiest migratory routes, Bonaire sometimes gets visits by Humpback whales? Just last week, two Humpback whales were spotted near Boka Onima!

These gentle giants are found throughout the world's oceans, and the Humpbacks we see in Bonaire are from a population that breeds and calves in the Caribbean and migrates to the far North Atlantic Ocean to feed.

Bonaire's waters, along with those of Saba and St. Eustatius, are part of the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary. Protection for whales has been in existence for many years. There has been an international ban on Humpback whaling since 1966. Since then, the worldwide population has gone from an estimated 5,000 to 80,000 individuals. Conservation can make a difference! Although these large animals are protected in many countries, they are very elusive and difficult to study. Accurate estimates of populations and in-depth knowledge of their biology and behavior is still lacking. STINAPA is active with CARI'MAM, a network of marine protected area managers that are working towards improving marine mammal conservation in the Caribbean. Since marine mammals are cross-boundary species, the aim is for different countries

from the same region to work together to protect and manage these incredible and threatened animals.

One of the projects that CARI'MAM coordinates will be the deployment of 20 hydrophones throughout the Caribbean to record and analyze the sounds of marine mammals. The recordings will be analyzed by a team of scientists from the University of Toulon in France and will result in a better understanding of the diversity and seasonality of marine mammal species frequenting our islands. The information gathered may be combined with known and potential human impacts to help decision makers make more informed decisions on the preservation of marine mammals.

At a meeting last November, participants (including myself) received hydrophone training (deployment, maintenance, data management) at a CARI'MAM workshop in the Dominican Republic. Bonaire will be receiving a hydrophone soon and STINAPA will be collecting the sound recordings on a regular basis and sending them to France for analysis. If dolphins or whales pass close enough to the hydrophone, and if they are making sounds, the hydrophone will record those sounds (as well as sounds from ships). The distance that sound travels



Andrew Stevenson humpback whale 2020-01-30 at 10.32.55.

depends on the many factors, but especially important is the frequency of the sound. Low frequency sounds like whale songs will be recorded from farther distances (approximately 7 km) and high frequency sounds, like a dolphin's click or whistle, will be recorded from shorter distances (approximately 500 m). In early 2017, STINAPA Bonaire was involved in the NOAA CHAMP project that was designed specifically to listen for Humpback whales. A hydrophone was deployed off the northern part of Bonaire for six

months, December 2016 – June 2017. No Humpback sounds were detected during that period, but there were sounds from sperm whales and dolphins (and lots of ships). STINAPA's looking forward to installing the CARI'MAM hydrophone and learning more about our visiting marine mammals! We should have news-worthy results within a year, which we will certainly share with you.

Written by STINAPA Biologist Caren Eckrich. Connecting People With Nature.



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Non Ku Nos tourney

Without fanfare, the Non Ku Nos fishing tournament took place February 1 and 2 hosting 20 boats from Bonaire, Aruba and Curacao. If you didn't look out to sea, you would never have known they were here.

This catch and release tournament saw 67 strikes in two days, with seven Blue Marlin, 12 White Marlin and 24 sailfish being brought to the boat, photographed and released. Other fish do not count towards the score, but Bonaire's Flying Marlin had a long battle to catch a 70kg Tuna that will make for a great catch of the day! Pasa Largo from Curaçao took third prize breaking a tie only by reaching the score ahead of Sea Ross from



Peter Tuinman holding the 70kg tuna

Curaçao settling for fourth.

When he caught one of each type of billfish in a day, Pasa Largo also scored a Grand Slam. Alina from Aruba took second and Naira, Aruba, took home the grand prize. Makuaka from Bonaire won the Budget Marine photo contest and Alina took the prize for video. Pam Teitel.



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Participants received a rose at the finishline in the 2020 Ride for the Roses Photo Alan Zale

What's Happening

2020 Cruise Ships (Crew Center.com)

Saturday February 8	Entry Deadline Photography Contest. Photographs may be submitted to: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/APLASTICFREEBONAIRE/ or via WeTransfer to Aplasticfreebonaireinfo@gmail.com .
Sunday February 9	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey. Piedra Pretu. 4pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.
February 15-25	Carnival 2020
Saturday February 15	Children carnival parade in Rincon 3pm to 5pm.
Sunday February 16	Children carnival parade in Kralendijk 3pm to 6pm.
Friday February 21	Teener carnival parade in Kralendijk
Saturday, February 22	Gran carnival parade in Rincon 3pm to 6pm
Sunday, February 23	Gran carnival parade in Kralendijk 3pm to 7pm The largest carnival parade runs through Kralendijk
Monday, February 24	Carnival Monday Children's Parade and burning of "King Momito." The parade ends in Kralendijk followed by the symbolic burning of "King Momito" in the stadium parking lot. Starts at 5pm.
Tuesday, February 25	Grand parade and burning of "King Momo" Carnival ends on the eve of Ash Wednesday with the burning of "King Momo." Kralendijk stadium. 6/7pm to 11:30pm.
Saturday, February 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon.
Sunday, March 8	Special Olympics Walkathon. Starts at White Slave Huts 5am. Finish at Pasadia Kariño Rincon. (\$15 includes T-shirt, water, fruits & a small breakfast at finish) Pick up T-shirts at El Mundo March 6 & 7: 5-7pm Fri. 10am-4pm Sat

DAY & DATE:MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE
Wednesday	02-05	Adventure of the Seas	0700-1800	1878 RCCL
Wednesday	02-05	Silver Wind	0800-1800	2744 Silversea
Thursday	02-06	Norwegian Joy	0800-1700	4620 NCL
Friday	02-07	Koningsdam	0800-1800	Holland American
Friday	02-07	Norwegian Dawn	0800-1800	2800 NCL
Saturday	02-08	Norwegian Epic	0800-1700	4200 NCLI
Sunday	02-09	Crown Princess	0700-1400	3114 Princess Cruises
Monday	02-10	Aida Perla	0800-1800	3286 Aida Cruises
Monday	02-10	Norwegian Gem	0700-1300	2800 NCL
Tuesday	02-11	Monarch	0800-1800	2772 Pullmantur
Tuesday	02-11	Explorer of the Seas	0900-1800	3840 RCCL
Wednesday	02-12	Caribbean Princess	0800-1900	2592 Princess Cruises
Wednesday	02-12	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894 TUI
Thursday	02-13	Marella Explorer 2	0700-1300	2177 Marella Cruise
Saturday	02-15	Carnival Glory	0800-1700	3700 Carnival
Monday	02-17	Braemar	0700-1800 ?	988 Fred Olsen
Tuesday	02-18	Monarch	0800-1800	2772 Pullmantur
Wednesday	02-19	Silhouette	0700-1600	3000 CEL
Thursday	02-20	Summit	0800-1700	2449 CEL
Monday	02-24	Aida Perla	0800-1800	3286 Aida Cruises
Monday	02-24	Monarch	0900-1800	2772 Pullmantur
Tuesday	02-25	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894 TUI
Wednesday	02-26	Explorer of the Seas	0800-1800	3840 RCCL

—Regular events—

—Clubs & meetings—

—Church services—

“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@echo-bonaire.org. We need at least one day’s notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

• **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.

• **12 Step Meeting Wednesdays** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Meeting starts at 7:15pm. Info: 12stepsbonaire@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.

—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.

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

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.

Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Jane Bakx

Follow your heart; it knows the way



Yoga creates a space to be with yourself on the mat, to connect to your body and heart. We overthink and let our mind control our life. I believe, and have experienced it myself, that true happiness comes when you start to follow your heart. It is also very scary. We have to overcome those fears and choose to be happy. After 20 years of living in Amsterdam and working in advertising, I choose to follow my heart. At the age of 41, I turned my life around (and that was scary), went to live in the sunshine, followed my passion for yoga and started teaching all over the world.

When I started to practice yoga, I mainly practiced

Yang styles like Vinyasa and Ashtanga. These can be a moving meditation. With these styles you move on the breath, flowing from posture to posture: a great way to stretch and strengthen the body, while also quieting the mind. Only later I started to practice Yin Yoga and also fell in love with that style. Yin yoga is more passive. We hold the poses (mostly seated, prone and supine postures) for longer periods of time (from 1 - 5 min). The aim is to stress and therefore strengthen the connective tissues, bones and joints of the body.

On Bonaire I teach at Sorobon Beach Resort. One of my students said it is the most beautiful place he has ever practiced yoga and I agree. We have a lovely yoga deck with shade, we overlook gorgeous Lac Bay. We feel the wind on our skin and breath the healthy salty air.

My classes at Sorobon are all in the morning so I teach a dynamic morning flow. It's a Vinyasa kind of style, but I move fairly slow to make sure you have the space and time to get into and feel the benefits of the postures.

I also teach a Yin class at the Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio. To be inside for a Yin practice is actually quite nice, because it's easier to find stillness and not be distracted by the surroundings.

I also host yoga retreats and TTC's. A retreat is a great

gift to yourself. It's time to take a step away from your busy life, reconnect to yourself, and bring balance back into your life. It's shocking to see how many people come to a retreat with a burnout or grief. I am happy to be able to give people the tools during a retreat week to relax, rebalance and renew.

I hope to welcome you to one of my classes or retreats one day. Follow your heart; it knows the way.

Info:

Dynamic morning classes at Sorobon Beach Resort: Tue & Wed 8am; Thurs, Sat & Sun 9:30am; Yin yoga at Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio: Sat 6pm. Jane will be on the island until 10 March, then she is off to Europe for a while for retreats and TTC's. More info on Jane, her retreats and TTC's: www.janebakxyoga.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/janebakxyoga/

Contact: jane@janebakxyoga.com & What's app: +31 6 55 364598



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.

2019 chess champs are Emanuel Lont & Santiago Lont.

In January, the BJSC (Bonaire Chess Club) was finally able to award prizes for the 2019 chess championships. Emanuel Lont is the 2019 champion for secondary education; Santiago Lont is the 2019 champion for primary education.

Last December many youngsters in secondary education couldn't be present for the final rounds. This January the competition was completed, and afterwards there was a tournament of Blitz. The final results of the Blitz were:

1. Emanuel Lont
2. Ralph Salimin
3. Tamaris Pikeur

The primary education championship results were:

1. Santiago Lont 10 points, unbeatable champion
2. Benjamin Djamin 8 points, sub-champion
3. Amaris Djojopawiro 6 points

The secondary education championship results were:

1. Emanuel Lont 8 points, unbeatable champion
2. Ralph Salimin 6.5 points, sub-champion
3. Ian Djamin 4 points

All the prizes were funded thanks to contributions BJSC members.

Congratulations to all the winners in the different tournaments and categories.



Pictured here with their coach, Serapio Pop, are the chess champions and prize winners for 2019. Top left: Santiago Lont & Benjamin Djamin. Top right: Emanuel Lont & Ralph Salimin. Pictured below are four members of the BJSC concentrating on their play, and the coach congratulating another winner.



BONAIRE SKY PARK *Orion from a new perspective*

Orion is the unmistakable king of the winter constellations. He's only visible during the winter, because he's located on the other side of the sun the rest of the year! In winter, we see the constellation Orion in the south at night, and during the day the constellation Scorpius is in the sky with the Sun. In summer, we see the opposite (we see Scorpius at night and Orion is in the sky during the day.)

Orion is most visible in the evening sky from January to March. With a new moon he should be easy to spot. If you face southeast any night around 7:30pm: There he is! Orion in all his belted glory. Look for the three

stars in a row signifying his belt, plus two shoulder stars and two leg stars.

But, the interesting thing about any of our constellations, is they only really exist from our perspective. If you sailed far from our solar system, eventually our constellations would distort and become unrecognizable. All of the stars are different distances away from us so let us look at him from a different perspective. If we leave earth faster than the speed of light we can come around to the side. The shape is all changed! Even his belt stars are spread out. It's a whole new constellation from a whole new perspective.

One of the true wonders of the universe, the Orion nebula, is a constellation which is loaded with bright stars. The best way to find Orion the hunter is to look

for his belt of three stars in a row. But have you ever looked at Orion for a while and noticed the three much dimmer stars, the sword of Orion? Because right there is the Orion nebula, a great cosmic cloud where new stars are born. New stars are flaming into existence there right now! You can find four of them, called the trapezium, in a small telescope.

The Orion nebula is gigantic; spanning over 30 light years in diameter. There is enough material to produce over 10 thousand stars the size of our sun that will go on to live for billions of years, maybe spawning their own planets that will look back at us as we keep looking up.

Source: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>. Hosts: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini.

Shelter News

Looking for "specialty" volunteers

If you would like to help Animal Shelter Bonaire but aren't the cleaning/poop scooping personality, or don't want to commit to specific days/hours...we still have plenty of other areas in which you can help. Here are just a few of our volunteer opportunities:

Yard maintenance

We are looking for someone who would be willing to come once a month and trim the weeds, grass and branches around the shelter property. We have the equipment...we just need you to use it! You can choose what day and what hours as long as it is during hours when staff is present. (Monday-Friday 8 a.-1 pm and 3-5 pm, Saturday 8 am-3 pm, Sunday 8 -11 am).

Paint and repairs

There are always small paint and repair jobs to be done. From fixing leaking hoses and mending fences to touching up paint in the office, pantry, kennels and cat palace. If you are a "handyman/woman" we can use your talents. We'll provide a list of the things that need fixing and you can choose when you'd like to help, during the days and hours mentioned above.

Playground construction

We are looking for someone who can build some wooden "playground" equipment for our dogs. Things like ramps, bridges and other entertaining items for our four large kennel areas. If you think you'd like to help with this, please contact us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Snuggle and care buddies

We always welcome volunteers who just want to spend time with our cats and dogs, brushing them, washing them or just loving them. The best time for this volunteer specialty is Monday through Friday from 3-5 pm, or on Saturday from 1-3 pm.

Craftspeople

We are looking for someone that would like to make small craft items (like key chains or collar tags) that can be given out when people adopt a dog or cat or when visitors make generous donations. We have some ideas and would welcome any other suggestions as to what you can craft. If you are interested in this type of volunteer activity, please email us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com. *Jane Madden-Disko*

Pet of the Week:

Mickey

Hello animal friends of Bonaire! I am Mickey and I am a six month old mostly white with ginger kitty. I came to the shelter when I was just two months old and the nice humans here have become my family, but I am still looking for my fur-ever family to love me. I have been voted "most likely to attack your feet" by the staff here. I enjoy my afternoon hugs and getting to lick your face after you eat. I would be a perfect cat for someone who can give me love all hours of the day. Other animals do not bother me, just as long as I am getting loved! Come visit me at the Shelter and I will put on my best show for you and maybe you'll fall in love with me like the humans here



have. You can visit me at the Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 am-12 pm and 3-5 pm, Saturdays 9 am-3 pm non-stop. Or call me at 717-4989/701-4989. *Story and Photo by Travis Sullins*



Bolivia funrace attracts real riders



De Freewieler's first Funrace of 2020 welcomed 30 bikers through the wild terrain of Bolivia on January 26. Two routes were available for the bikers to choose.

Frank Bohm of De Freewieler said we had real racers. That made the race even more fun.

Finishing within seconds for first and second place times were Tom Homburg (36.38/1.23.32) and Virgillia Batista (26.39/1.23.44). Jonus Fischer

(37.24/1.26.23) and Olaf Creutzberg (27.24/1.28.00) were almost identical in their times for third and fourth place times.

The race was sponsored by the Freewieler Foundation Xtreme Sports Bonaire. Special thanks to the ladies behind the score table.

Timbo is sponsoring the next furnace at Jatu Bacu on March 29. *J.M. Photos: Arjen van Dorsten*



The Bonaire Reporter Feb. 5 - Feb. 26 2020

At Your Service-pg 15.
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Top L-R: Sanne Attevelt & Laurie Smith
Bottom: L-R: Travis Sullins & Jane Madden-Disko

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Next Cleanup Sunday,
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