



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

OLB contingency plans for fuel emergencies
 First trash bin installation ahead
 Breast cancer screening



Photos and story Julie Morgan

Karnaval is fun for every age

Bonaire’s Karnaval crosses all age barriers. Everyone is included and involved in some way from the very young to the elderly. The beautiful colorful costumes, the music and dancing seem to get better and better every year.

The extravagant costumes rival pretty much anything you will see at the famous Rio de Janeiro’s Carnival or New Orleans Mardi Gras. This years costumes included themes from Africa, Egypt, angels, India, cats and even baby sharks, doo, doo, doo...

The Karnaval season began in early February with the traditional Tumba festivals, jump-ups and a jump-in. The first parades began on the 15th and 16th with the traditional children’s Karnaval first in Rincon and then Kralendijk. Up next was the ‘elderly’ and ‘teen-er’ parades on the 21st. The Rincon Grand Karnaval was held on the 22nd and the Grand Karnaval was the 23rd. Anyone who missed the children’s parade was given a second chance to see it with the Youth Farewell Karnaval parade and the burning of Momito at Kralendijk stadium. The final festivities were on “Fat Tuesday” with the Old Mask Parade and the Burning of King Momo at the stadium at midnight marking the beginning of Lent.



Egyptian themed Kas di Kuido happy to be a part of karnaval.



Kids from the Farewell Karnaval lit up the night

20 million euros more for the Caribbean Netherlands



The €20 million was approved on the proposal of Minister Carola Schouten (Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) and Minister Raymond Knops (Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations).

The Council of Ministers has approved an additional 20 million euros for Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire on the advice of Minister Carola Schouten (Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) and Minister Raymond Knops (Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations). The investment comes on top of the 30 million euros already made available from the Regio Envelop.

Minister Schouten: "The Dutch Caribbean is already well on the way to increasing broad prosperity. Last September I visited Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire. There I was at the start of one of the projects from the previous round, the hydroponics farm on Saba and I saw the erosion problem on Sint Eustatius with my own eyes, which is being tackled with money from the Regio Envelop."

With the additional investment, five projects on Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire will receive a boost. One project focuses on combating the further decline of coral reef. A coral recovery plan has been drawn up to improve coastal water quality, plant coral and restore natural vegetation.

A second project aims to strengthen the labor market on Bonaire. Bonaire's job center will be a one-stop shop for information about jobs and employment for job seekers, workers and employers. The project will also create sheltered workplaces to help those working with a disability.

A third project will strengthen childcare by providing good housing. The government is therefore making eight million euros available for projects to improve childcare facilities and extracurricular facilities on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

Project four works to align the education with the labor market on Saba and Sint Eustatius. And Project five works to strengthen the governance of Sint Eustatius.

Bonaire and I&W sign a port facilities agreement



With the signing of a cooperation agreement, the Executive Council and the Ministry of I&W take the next step in improving the port infrastructure and managing the port. Photo Nico van der Ven

On February 12, 2020 the public entity Bonaire and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management signed an agreement to further professionalize the Island's port management. The covenant also brings Bonaire closer a new cargo port.

The cooperation confirms the importance of ensuring adequate and safe handling of shipping traffic. "Bonaire is completely dependent on an adequate port infrastructure and capacity for the safe and smooth handling of shipping," the covenant states. "For the safe, smooth and sustainable handling of shipping traffic to and from Bonaire it is necessary that the nauti-

cal organization is further professionalized and that the infrastructure on Bonaire is adequately and future-proof."

In conversation with the minister, Deputy Tjin Asjoe spoke of a future where container ships would sail directly to Bonaire, thusly reducing the transport costs of imported goods. Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna pointed out that separating cargo and cruise ships would increase shipping safety. Also, if in the future, containers were handled outside Kralendijk, the freight traffic that transports containers would no longer tie up traffic in the center.

Work on Chachacha pier begins



Bonaire's government hopes to complete renovation of the Nelson Petrus "Nello" Craane pier, the fishing pier and the Chachacha pier before the start of the next cruise season.

On Thursday, February 20 the demolition of the Chachacha pier started. All wooden parts must be completely removed so that precise measurements can be taken for the new steel structure. In April the

new pier will be shipped from the Netherlands to Bonaire. It will be installed in May, to be finished in June, according harbor master Günther Flanegin.

For the safety of swimmers and divers, the new Chachacha pier will be equipped with a steel handrail and stairs. The work has been made possible in part by a contribution from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. (Photo: OLB).

Aruba is again taking medical referrals

On February 2, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital (HOH) in Aruba notified the Health Insurance Office Caribbean Netherlands (ZVK) that the hospital is once again able to receive patients from abroad for elective and emergency operations.

The ZVK, in consultation with Fundashon Mariadal, has drawn up a contingency plan to minimize the list of patients waiting for surgery in Aruba. Priority will be given to patients who were already on Aruba, or about to leave for Aruba for medical care at the time of the malfunctioning of the HOH.

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How to Find Us:

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Available in 80 locations

Printed every two weeks

Next edition: March 11, 2020

News Deadline: March 9, 2020

Contributor's Deadline: March 6, 2020

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, Dean Regas & James Albury, Kate Butler, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Laurie Smith, Jane Madden-Disko, Travis Sullins, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Julianka Clarenda., Jos Ruis, Don M. Ricks, Pam Teitel,

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline,

Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo

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Facing a potential fuel crisis, government takes preemptive measures

The Public Body Bonaire (OLB) is taking proactive steps to assure Bonaire does not go dark and dry on April Fool's Day. The U.S. Treasury Department license that permits the island to buy Venezuelan fuel oil stored at Bopec for power generation and water distillation expires on March 31. Perhaps the OFAC license will be renewed, but no assurances have been extended. When Governor Rijna raised the issue with U.S. Ambassador Hoekstra during his recent trip to the European Netherlands, "the ambassador emphasized the good relations between his country and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and was happy to think back to the introductory visit he made to Bonaire last year."

OLB is determined there will be no interruption of the Island's fuel supply.

It hopes the license is renewed and business continues as usual. However, the fuel steering group, led by Lieutenant Governor Rijna, is putting in place two alternatives in case the heavy fuel oil (HVO) tap at Bopec gets turned off.

Emergency plan A. OLB has purchased two fuel barges to receive oil shipments of HVO. The barges will be tied to the existing airport BIA fuel pier, and a transshipment facility will be built for pumping the oil into tanker trucks. The trucks would transport it directly to the new Contour Global power plant adjacent to Bopec.

Emergency plan B. Contour Global would fire its generators with diesel fuel purchased from Curoil. Curoil has been asked to assure the supply and storage of diesel in quantities sufficient for the



Emergency Plan A: The BIA fuel pier at the airport. The red line shows the existing arrangement for transporting jet fuel from the receiving pier to storage tanks. A similar facility will be built for bringing ashore heavy oil, which then would be trucked directly to Contour Global.



Emergency Plan A: The route for transporting the heavy fuel oil (HFO) to Contour Global. The trucks would make three trips per a day, week days only. Weekend traffic on the island would not be affected.



The government announced the two emergency plans at a press conference February 20, 2020.

power plant.

With these two plans in place, Bonaire will no longer be dependent on meeting its critical fuel needs by buying PDVSA oil stored at BOPEC. The new terminal to be built at Karpata will provide a long term, structural way to assure Bonaire is supplied with fuel for generating electricity and distilling drinking water. *D.M.R. Photo Julie Morgan*

A list of questions asked and the OLB answers is posted on The Reporter's Facebook page.

FOR SALE Crown Terrace 15 Your Bonaire Dream Home



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—Letters and Opinions—

OPINION Submitted to *The Bonaire Reporter*
Don M. Ricks, Ph.D.

Algae Farming? What Happened to Consultative Government on Bonaire?

Bonaireans are familiar with receiving surprise announcements from the government, then having to rise up in opposition to assure their concerns are heard. They had to stop the destruction of mangroves at Lac by blocking a new resort that was already under construction. They had to prevent the wild area above Karpata, the island's favorite shore dive site, from being ripped out and replaced by an upscale, sewage spewing, housing development that would include a water guzzling golf course. And, thanks to public pressure, Klein Bonaire will never be turned into a resort island.

Nowadays we understand Bonaire has Consultative Government instead. Yet we've been told the government entity is moving at full speed toward the creation of an algae farm a few meters from the ocean at Barcadera. The equipment is already in transit from the Netherlands. There has been no public consultation. Serious consultation is needed, immediately.

Algae farming is infamous for being potentially destructive of the marine environment, especially the reefs. The government should be talking with Bonaireans regarding what it knows about those dangers.

According to information we were given, the first objective of the project is to allow a professor at a Dutch university, who can grow algae in a lab, to find out whether he can grow that algae in a real-life environment. A decision hasn't been made yet regarding a practical use for the algae. The government should talk with us about why a project with such vaguely conceived commercial goals justifies the potential risk to Bonaire's economic base.

Further, we're told, the project will provide Bonaire with a foothold in high tech developments. Apparently the government didn't consult with third-party scientists either. One of the hottest new sciences is Synthetic Biology (you can look it up on the Net). Relatively simple technologies like algae farming belong to Synthetic Biology's past, not its future.

I asked a leading expert in the field for his opinion regarding what the government has told us about the algae project. For years he's been helping companies market products that were created via Synthetic Biology. He has advanced degrees in both Biology and Business. According to him, the whole point of such a project would be first to decide on the target product to be produced, then decide what algae to try to grow. Don't invest in learning how to grow a species of algae, then try to find a use for it.

He offered other observations. "Standard ponds are old outdated technology that has been shown to be cost effective only to make high value products like carotenoids (colors). Forget fuels." "Microalgae have been grown in outdoor ponds for a long time . . . check out astaxanthin production methods."

"This is very old technology. The only new part would be if the algae were genetically engineered to make high value products. But you don't want engineered algae freely released into the environment." "There is no infrastructure on Bonaire to support it. Better to go after existing technology and take advantage of Bonaire's ample sunlight."

This expert source asked that his name not be used for business reasons. His personal connection with Bonaire goes back three decades and he still visits the island several times a year.

Editor's Note: As a courtesy, an advance copy of this opinion piece was sent to the Public Entity Bonaire and Minister Schouten in the Netherlands. Both responded constructively.

OPINION Submitted to *The Bonaire Reporter*
Don M. Ricks, Ph.D.

Government divided on cruise ships? Not really.

In a wide ranging interview in the Netherlands, Governor Edison Rijna complained that a "tsunami of monster cruise ships" is degrading Bonaire's natural and cultural uniqueness, the very attraction that draws passengers to the island. Deputy Tjin Asjoe responded, in a news release, that "Bonaire is developing as a Blue Destination. . . . Blue Destination means a balanced growth of Bonaire, taking into account our nature and culture. This growth is all about raising the standard of living of people living on Bonaire."

Later Governor Edison Rijna said, "I spoke from my heart." Deputy Tjin Asjoe, on the other hand, spoke from his head. And both spoke truth. Bonaire, like the rest of the world, faces a crisis. The earth's population has tripled in the last 50 years. Most of us were born into a more livable world that is gone forever.

Can we energize the political will to rescue the best of what remains? Locally, at least, we may be able to

retard the damage. As Governor Rijna points out, there is now an unprecedented "political decisiveness on Bonaire." He cited the Blue Destination program as an example. At the same time, those who are determined to save the environment have to accept the reality that the earth now has to provide a living for more than 7.5 million people.

There are no easy answers. There may be no answers at all. But as individuals we do have one clear choice. We can try to protect what remains of the natural ecology. Or we can stand back and watch it disappear.

During his interview Governor Rijna also acknowledged the long term damage done by free ranging goats. (See the story in this issue of *The Reporter*, 1902 • 1956 • 2019. Three historic studies yield same results, but worse.) "We must slaughter them," he said. "The donkeys too, you can make delicious sausage from them." Deputy Tjin Asjoe did not comment.

*Editor's Note: The complete texts of Governor Rijna's interview in *Trouw* and Deputy Tjin Asjoe's response can be found on *The Bonaire Reporter's* facebook page.*

Ask a Geek: Buying Bitcoin on Bonaire? by Brian Niessen

An associate of mine came to me the other day with a problem... "I need to buy two bitcoins today, can you help?"

"Sure, it's easy." I said... that was before a four hour ordeal.

First, we tried to set up an account on a crypto currency wallet/exchange. After many tries resulting in "Sorry, we don't recognize Bonaire as a country. Please try Curaçao or Netherlands Antilles" - Oh, that's so 2009ish.

We finally did manage to find one that advertised "No account needed, just a VISA or MasterCard and the address to send the bitcoin to". We were elated. That's going to be easy... Famous last words!

So we started the process. "Sorry, your card was declined." so he called his bank and they put him through to the Fraud Department who said "Someone in a place called Crawling-digick, Bonaire was using your card to buy \$20,000 online." "Yes, that was me." he replied, and after about 30 minutes of questions and answers, the fraud department said "OK, try it again."

So we did... this time "Sorry, your card was declined." So he called back and this time was told "Oh, that's over your limit." so he spent another 30 minutes answering questions to get his limit raised. When done, they said "OK, try it now" and we did and same response. Luckily he kept them on the line. He asked "Why didn't it go through?" and the answer "Your limit is only \$6,200" and he said "But I told you I needed \$20,000 over 30 minutes ago" and the response "Sorry, that's all you are authorized to receive. Try using your debit card instead."

So... we did that, and got a "Go back to Fraud Department" and then "Go back to limit department" and after another hour on the phone we tried it again. (Did I mention the long distance charges back to the USA from Bonaire for all of this?)

This time, the system accepted the card and the transaction, and then popped up with a request for a copy of his passport (After they had already blocked the \$20,000 on his card, so you can't cancel it now, right?)

He uploaded a picture of his passport and "Please wait... Do not close this window or leave this page." which is worrisome because we know how good the internet is on Bonaire. Finally "OK, thank you. Now can you upload a photo of you holding your card beside your face, and make sure we can see all the numbers and expiry and name."

"Argh..." was his response (Well, a bit stronger, but we can't print that.) So I took a photo of him doing this, and we uploaded it and waited impatiently...

"Please fill out this form with all of your information..." (So much for not creating an account.) and more waiting... until he received an email "Please take a video of you holding your card beside your face and reciting the following script" which basically said the company is not responsible for anything, it's all your own fault if you lose the money or the bitcoin, and have a nice day.

So, we did that... and finally, after about four hours of patiently waiting, and dealing with useless, yet polite, customer service chat, the transaction went through.

That folks, is why Crypto-Currency is not going to replace the good old money and credit card system that everyone knows, loves, and works - at least not in the near future and definitely not on Bonaire.

Law Enforcement

Police Report for Feb. 3 - 19, 2020

Property Crimes

In the morning hours of Feb. 6 thieves stole an iPad, a gold-colored ring, a telephone, a laptop and cash etc. from an apartment on Kaya Papa Cornes.

Between 10am and 1pm Feb. 12 thieves have stole a television, an Xbox and a number of new ceiling lights from a house on the Kaya Kokolishi.

Between 6 - 8pm Feb. 12 a burglary was reported in a house on Kaya Jupiter. Thieves stole a blue / black Eastpak backpack, a shoulder bag with contents, two Samsung mobile phones, model Galaxy S9 and a diver watch from the Aqualung brand.

On Feb. 13 a report was made of the theft of a goat on the Kaminda di Lac.

Between Feb. 14, around 11pm and Saturday, Feb. 15, around 9:30pm, thieves stole black Toga goggles and Cressi pink goggles from a balcony of a home on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham.

Between Friday Feb. 14 around 8pm and Saturday Feb. 15. around 2pm a black Kymco scooter with registration number MF-2128 was stolen. The scooter stood in front of an entertainment venue on the Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. The scooter was locked by means of a steering lock and a chain lock.

Between Feb. 15 8pm and Sunday 16 Feb. 16 7:30am, thieves stole a gray bicycle that was chained and locked to a lamppost in front of a house on the Kaya Herman J. Pop.

Between 8am and 8pm Feb. 18, thieves entered through a window at the front of the house on Kaminda Gurubu and, among other things, took a small amount of money with them.

Dive sites/ tourist spots

On Feb. 4, at a beach restaurant at the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, thieves took a GoPro Hero5 underwater camera with cover while the owner was snorkeling.

On Feb 6, in the early afternoon hours a blue kite surfboard of the brand Nobile, model 555 was stolen from a kiteboard rack at the kitesurf spot at the Bulevar EEG.

Also on Feb 6, theft was reported from a car parked at the Altamira viewing point on the Kaminda Karpata. Between 12:45 and 13:00, thieves took two backpacks with contents including a black video camera from the Sony brand, model AX 53, a silver-colored iPhone 6, a black Drone Parrot Anafi brand and cash.

Between about 10 am and noon of Feb.

10, thieves took a backpack while the owner was snorkeling off a beach on the Bulevar E.E.G.

Also on Feb. 10, two women selling drinks and snacks at Gotomer to passing tourists were surprised by an unknown man with a covered face. He pulled a bag of proceeds from the hands of one of the women and ran away.

Between 2 – 3:40 pm Feb. 13, thieves removed a backpack with contents from a locked car parked at the Wayaka dive site in Washington Park.

On Feb. 15 thieves removed a bag with contents from an unlocked pick-up parked at the Weber's Joy dive site. Included in the bag were Hollis diving mask, MJ Sport sunglasses, various bank cards and cash.

In the afternoon of Feb. 18, thieves took bags with contents from the box of a pick-up while the owners were looking at the caves at Onima.

Traffic

On Feb. 4, between 5:15 and 6:50 pm, a traffic check was carried out on the Kaya Korona. The check focused on the possession of a valid driver's license, insurance and license plates. 50 drivers stopped during the check, eight of whom received a ticket.

On Feb. 12 and 13, traffic controls were held on Kaya Korona. On Feb. 12 a total of 18 vehicles were checked. One driver was reported for driving without a valid driver's license. On Feb. 13, 96 vehicles were checked. Twelve drivers received an official report for driving without a valid driver's license and valid insurance papers. The controls were conducted by the aspiring apprentices.

Around 8:30pm a car and a scooter collided on the Kaya L.M. Pourier. The car wanted to drive onto the road from a parking lot, but did not see the oncoming scooter. The scooter's driver sustained injuries to his right shin and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Feb. 17, between 6:- 6:30pm, a general traffic check was held at Kaya Korona, in connection with new traffic regulations that will come into effect on March 1, 2020. 89 vehicles were checked. The drivers were made aware of the points that will be checked from March 1st, and were given a card with the violation and the amount of its fine. Furthermore, five tickets were given for, among other things, driving without a valid driver's license and valid insurance papers.

Around 6pm on Feb. 17, a scooter and a car collided at the intersection of Kaya Ir. R. Stadius van Eps and Bulevar E.E.G. The scooter arrived on the Bulevar E.E.G. from the south. The car came from the op-



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Question: My question is about moving to Bonaire. We've vacationed there for many years, and are thinking of moving there, but we wonder how it is different living there. Anything you miss or regret? Is it easy to make friends? Chris

Hi Chris,
We and most of our friends regret not moving here sooner! We love living on this beautiful island with some of the kindest people we've ever known. On a small island, we see each other everywhere, so it's easy to make friends and set up impromptu visits. Since most expats don't have family here, friends celebrate holidays together, drive each other to the airport and gather frequently for meals. Our Bonaire friends feel like family to us.

What do we miss? I polled our group and as expected, we mostly miss immediate gratification. No Amazon 2 day deliveries, sometimes a store here is out of an item we want, we may not be able to see a movie as soon as it is released (although we did get the latest Star Wars movie here before the US release.)

However, the longer we live here, the less we miss these things and the more we relax into our island life. If you decide to join us, we look forward to meeting you! *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

posite direction and wanted to turn left to the Kaya Ir. R. Stadius from Eps and did not see the scooter. The scooter driver had injuries to his arm, head and leg and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Last weekend the children's carnival parade in Rincon and in Playa went smoothly. After the carnival parade on Sunday, however, a moped was seized for road-racing. Speeding is a danger for both road users and / or bystanders, but also for those who do it. KPCN wants to emphasize that action will be taken if "fevering" is detected.

Disturbances & Arrests

On Saturday, Feb. 1, around 1:00 AM, when two police officers were off duty at a nightlife venue located at Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, they were aggressively approached by a few people who made threats and threw bottles. One of the agents fired warning shots with his service weapon. No one was hurt.

On Feb. 3, a man, 24, and a man, 31, were held for this case. The same day two other men, aged 31 and 42, were arrested for violation of the Weapons Act BES and for theft of goats.

In the evening hours of Feb 17, a man, 52, was arrested at a house on the Kaya Pueblo for making threats with a weapon.

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, a house search took place in a house on Kaminda Gurubu under the Opium Act BES. During the search, a quantity of cash and drugs were seized. Three men, aged 61, 19 and 20 were arrested for violation of the Opium Act BES. A man, 42, was held because his official duration of stay had expired.

In the early evening hours Feb. 12, a man, 19, was arrested for insulting a civil

servant when he was stopped for a traffic control. The arrested man's car was taken to the police station and taken into custody.

Natural death

In the morning hours of Feb. 10, the police station was notified of the discovery of a lifeless person in the room of a tourist accommodation on the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. A 67-year-old man with initials C.A.R.jr from the United States died of natural death.

Fire

On Feb. 16, around 3:30am, the police station was notified that a white pickup was on fire near the field of the Old Papa Cornes school, on the Kaya Korona. The cause of the fire is unknown. The fire department arrived and extinguished the fire. No one was injured.

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

See more Reporter photos on



MCB Bonaire required to improve collection of personal data

Following an investigation by the BES Personal Data Protection Supervision Commission (CBP BES), Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire has agreed to stop collecting excessive personal information from its customers.

The CBP BES received complaints from citizens about MCB Bonaire's comprehensive package of questions which the bank sent to its clients. According to several clients, anything other than complete cooperation would entail the risk of their bank account being blocked.

The CBP BES was created to assure compliance with the BES Personal Data Protection Act. The Act is intended to assure that personal information is collected properly, for legitimate purposes, in legitimate amounts, and safeguarded securely. The MCB investigation was the first the CBP BES conducted. It will continue to monitor whether other organizations and individuals comply with the Act.

Information regarding the Act can be obtained from Roëlla Pourier of the secretarial office: roella.pourier@rijksdienstn.com, telephone +599 7159114. D.M.R.

Wanted

Wanted - small dog/cat friendly 2+ bedroom home or kunuku for medium term rent starting April 1 or sooner. Email: kunuku@bonairelife.com

Business News

Flamingo Fitness is stretching its muscles to include yoga into the fitness and crossfit programs. The fitness gym by the sea welcomes yogi Ruby Schwager to the competent fitness professional staff.

The sessions are one hour long three days a week: Sunday 10-11am; Tuesday 5 -6 pm and Thursday 8:30-9:30 pm.

The focus is on Ashtanga and Rocket yoga.

For the remainder of February the classes are free for members of Flamingo Fitness and Crossfit. In March the price will be \$8 per class.

Emergency phone number for STINAPA

As of February 1st 2020, STINAPA Bonaire is available by phone after office hours

Office hours for STINAPA Bonaire are Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

After 4pm, in case of emergency regarding infringements in the Bonaire National Marine Park, please call 777-8444.

Washington Slagbaai Park is open from Monday to Sunday, 8am to 5pm and reachable by phone 788-9015.

Police present 2019 crime and traffic statistics

February 19th, 2020, the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) presented its annual overview of crime and traffic statistics. KPCN's annual report compared 2019 figures with those for 2018 and 2017.

Violent crime:

The total number of violent crimes on Bonaire shows a decrease of 12% in 2019. Mistreatments have fallen by 28%.

Violent crimes totaled 250 cases in 2019, almost the same as in 2017. In the intervening year, 2018, violent crime had increased to 284 cases. A total of 14 robberies (stealing from a person using force) were registered in 2019. In 2018, six robberies were reported in the neighborhoods. In 2019, after extra targeted patrols were introduced in the neighborhoods, only one home robbery was registered.

Crimes against property:

In 2019 the number of property crimes on Bonaire shows a small decrease of 3% compared to 2018. Compared to 2017, the decrease is almost 20%. The category of 'Theft other' shows a decrease of 33%. Theft of motor vehicles (car / bus / trucks) decreased by 57%.

In contrast to the generally downward trend in property crimes, thefts from dive sites show a sharp rise since 2018. In 2019 theft from cars at dive sites increased by 31 incidents, and theft from dive sites (other than from cars) increased by 23 cases. In 2019 a total of 68 cases of theft from dive sites was reported; in 2018 the total was 14; while in 2017, 75 cases were reported

Traffic accidents:

Police traffic figures show that 1258 vehicular collisions were reported. That is an increase of 17% compared to 2018 and 38% compared to 2017. In 2019 there was only one road traffic fatality compared to four fatalities in 2018, and five in 2017.

The annual report for 2019 was presented by: Steven Senior, Chief Investigation Officer, Edwin van der Giessen, Chief Police Officer, Ronald Zwartter, Plv. Chief of Police.

Violent crimes	2019	2018	2017
Robbery at or in the home	1	6	3
Robbery at or in company / com. setting	6	4	8
Street robbery	7	10	11
Mistreatment	68	94	89
Mistreatment with a weapon	14	16	7
Threats	94	91	83
Domestic violence	48	47	34
Murder/manslaughter	0	1	4
Murder / homicide attempt	3	5	2
Public violence	1	0	1
Human trafficking	0	0	0
Morals	8	10	9
Total violent crimes	250	284	251

Crimes against property	2019	2018	2017
Home burglary (completed)	100	89	155
Burglary tourist accommodation (completed)	41	39	37
Business Burglary (completed)	47	48	51
Theft other (completed)	118	176	157
Motor Theft Auto / Bus / Trucks (completed)	8	19	25
Motor Theft Scooter / motor / quad (completed)	24	22	26
Theft from car at dive site (completed)	44	13	61
Theft from dive site other than car	24	1	14
Theft from / vehicle other (completed)	92	86	116
Theft from tourist accommodation (completed)	3	4	2
corrupt behavior in a position of trust,	8	8	4
Destruction	91	112	100
Total Property Crimes	600	617	748

Traffic	2019	2018	2017
Collision with vehicular damage	1071	898	777
Collision with injury	186	169	150
Collision with mortality	1	4	5
Total Traffic	1258	1071	932

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



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Did you receive a letter in the mail that could save your life?

Since October, 825 women (age 50-75) have been sent an invitation to participate in a pilot program for breast cancer screening. So far, 325 of those women have responded and given a mammogram and follow up care. Bonaire is the first to test this pilot program in the BES islands.

The idea is to detect this horrible disease before it can impact your life and the life of your family.

Health care specialist and RN Shahaira Sala-Libier is in charge of the program for the department of Public Health of OLB, Fundashon Mariadal and ZVK. She has been with the program since it began in June and it is pretty much a “one woman show.”

The breast cancer pilot program is running from October 2019 to April 2020. During this time everything is documented to determine how best the program needs to run in the future. Respondents are questioned and answers are evaluated as to how they were treated, results of the tests and the follow up process.

The whole process is pretty straightforward for the participant: the invitation arrives by mail, they call for an appointment at a time that is “best for them”, the x-rays/mammogram is taken and the re-

sults are reviewed. At that time, Shahaira notifies the participant with the diagnosis personally. In the Netherlands, Aruba and Curaçao you are notified by mail, not by a person.

“We are using the best machine for early detection. A mammogram sees something so small that a self exam can’t detect,” said Shahaira, “A minimum of four pictures [x-rays] are taken: the regular breast tissue, screening behind, beside and under the breast. This is different than what your regular doctor does.”

The outcome of the test could go one of three ways: negative, insufficient information or abnormal. Results for the test take approximately two weeks.

An insufficient or abnormal test could be something as simple as a cyst that is filled with water, fat or nothing. Two of the pilot participants experienced this. A second look is needed and an appointment is made for another mammogram, Echo (ultrasound) or biopsy with a doctor.

If the results are positive and further care is needed, arrangements are made for treatment in either Columbia or Holland one to one-and-a half months after the diagnosis.



Mrs. Shahaira Sala-Libier is one-woman show behind the breast cancer screening project. Photo Julie Morgan

Shahaira is striving for a much more efficient time schedule. She hopes to get to a point where women are tested, then the doctor or she calls on Monday and a treatment plan is in place on Friday. The patient then begins the treatment in less than a month.

Women with a history of breast cancer in their families are encouraged to take advantage of this pilot breast-screening program. Genetics can play a big part in whether someone tests positive for breast cancer.

“If you receive a letter please respond. If you don’t want to participate then that opens a spot for someone else,” said Shahaira, “if you weren’t contacted then call

me and set up an appointment.” (599-781-0476)

According to Shahaira, there are no breast cancer statistics for Bonaire due to lack of data. It will take five to 10 years to accumulate this information. But Aruba and Curaçao’s 10 year breast screening program data shows that one in eight women were diagnosed with breast cancer.

Throughout the world, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women. But the numbers are decreasing every year due to early screening, increased awareness and better treatments. *Julie Morgan*

More photos of Karnaval 2020 can be found on our Facebook page!



Walking the walk for Special Olympics



Come Join Us at the Special Olympics Bonaire Walkathon on March 8. L-R: Anne-Marie Mercera, board president; Arlene Engelhart, national director; Grace Winkler Digicel PR.; Pamela Beukenboom, board member; Jacqueline Bernabela, board secretary and front, Earon Rosaria, head coach.

For the last 18 years locals and island guests have laced up their shoes and traveled 30 kilometers (18.64 Miles) on foot or bikes to support the Bonaire Special Olympics Walkathon. Last year over 600 participated and this year promises to attract a similar number.

The Walkathon is less than two weeks away, March 8, so there is still plenty of time to sign up and step up to support Special Olympics Bonaire.

The Walkathon route begins at the slave huts and finishes at Pasda Karino in Rincon. Participants meet at the stadium for free transportation to the start. The first bus departs at 4am and the last bus is at 4:30am. The Walkathon begins at 5am. A bus will be waiting at the finish to return participants and their bikes to the stadium.

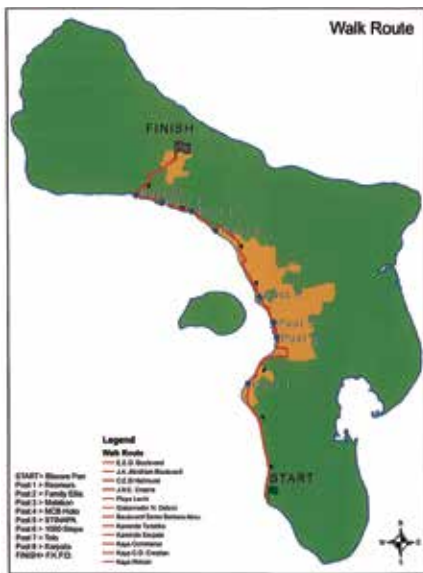
Along the route there are water post with fruit and pan dushi.

Organizers urge everyone to be mindful and not pollute our roads with water bottles, but leave them at the various water stops.

Flags are posted on the entire route so you won't get lost and you can ask for or get assistance on the trek. The Red Cross,

Walkathon board members and volunteers will be stationed along the way to keep everyone safe.

The Walkathon is one of several activities that generate funds for the non-profit Special Olympics. In addition to the fundraisers, the organization relies heavily on its sponsors. One of the biggest supporters for the last 11 years is Digicel, that believes strongly in this cause.



Other sponsors are Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire and Guardian Group. This year Kentucky Fried Chicken signed on to help. Other companies assisting Special Olympics Bonaire are: MCB, Cecilia Motors, Playa Trading and Bonaire Lions Club.

Anyone interested in assisting Special Olympics Bonaire is welcome and can do so by calling.

Special Olympics is an international movement that prepares adults and children with intellectual disabilities to compete in various sports. All funds realized through the walk are to prepare the athletes and pay traveling expenses when they compete internationally. One of the major international competitions is the Special Olympics World Games that is held every four years worldwide. In 2019, the 12 Bonaire athletes who traveled to compete in Abu Dhabi brought home 15 medals, of which two were gold. The next Special Olympics World Games will be in Germany 2023.

Tickets for the Walkathon are only \$15 and that includes a bag, t-shirt, water bottle and cap. All participants receive water, fruit, a small breakfast and soup at the end of the route. To purchase a ticket call 795-4043, 781-0196 or 787-1571. Tickets will also be available at El Mundo restaurant on Friday, March 6, 5 – 7pm and Saturday, March 7, 10am – 4pm. *Photo and story by Julie Morgan.*

Fire fought on Kaya Industria

From 3:25 to 5:15am February 20, Bonaire's firefighters brought a major fire under control on Kaya Industria. Due to the fire brigade's rapid response, the fire was limited to four interconnected sheds. No casualties were reported.

The sheds burned completely. The heat collapsed their metal construction, causing their roof to partially collapse. Before the fire brigade could safely enter the building, a crane had to be brought in to remove its large structural parts, so the fire fighting was continued into the afternoon.

The four sheds were occupied by various companies, including a garage. The fire department predicted smoke and odor downwind of the fire in the area of Playa Pariba, especially due to the burning car tires.

BES Kadaster law to be made consistent with European Netherlands

The House of Representatives is considering a Land Registry Act BES (Kadasterwet BES) that would make land registry practices in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) consistent with Kadaster in the Netherlands. The purpose of the law is to guarantee the continuity and quality of the land registers on the islands and to improve legal certainty.

The law would establish uniform and transparent working methods for users in the islands—owners, notaries, real estate agents, banks, project developers. The bill also provides for consultation with the islands, concerning the setting of rates, for example.

Kadaster Netherlands has supported the land registers (kadasters) on the islands since 2011 with digitization and automation. After the law comes into force, Kadaster will continue with the modernization in close consultation with the executive councils. *D.M.R.*



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First trash bin installation ahead

The best of the best selected by Facebook. The actual winners will be announced on March 6th.

Over 180 photos were submitted to A Plastic Free Bonaire's, (APFB) "Help Keep Bonaire Beautiful Contest". The Facebook public selected 20 of the most popular. From those 20, a panel of five judges selected eight photos to enhance the waterfront trash/recycle containers.

Everyone is invited to attend the unveiling and installation of the first APFB trash bin on Friday March 6th, 6 pm at the Town Pier, (North Pier). At this time

the photographers and the eight winning photos of the contest will be revealed. And the Grand Prize winner will be announced and presented a gift certificate for their image.




This project would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of various organizations and businesses. Thank you to Selibon and our partners Sunbelt Realty, Kooyman and Dive Friends in making

this happen. We received donations from WEB and El Mundo Restaurant and endorsements from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Clean Coast Bonaire, Boneiru Duradero, Mega FM and The Bonaire Reporter.

This is a community project developed by A Plastic Free Bonaire designed to enhance Kralendijk's waterfront and keep our reefs and oceans cleaner.



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Sign up for Bon Doet and get happy

For the 10th year in a row, BON DOET, the largest volunteer event on Bonaire will be held March 13 and 14th. This special weekend is a collaboration between NGO Platform Bonaire and Orange Fonds. BON DOET emphasizes how important it is for the Bonaire community to actively engage citizens and make a difference in more than 180 NGOs.

Volunteers can sign up to do various jobs from working in the mangroves with the Mangrove Maniacs to help clean up a playground.

In 2019 over 1500 volunteers participated at 75 jobs from 61 different foundations and associations.

BON DOET is on a mission to help improve the general idea of volunteering and community service by showing how fun and creative it can really be. Volunteers are the heart and soul of community organizations. And, it is proven that volunteering makes you happy and gives you a sense of purpose.

Social organizations and volunteers with any questions can contact NGO Platform at: ngo-bonaire@gmail.com or visit Facebook: www.facebook.com/bondoetnostaon.

NGO Platform Bonaire is located at Kaya Amsterdam 23 (unit 2). Call 717-2366



photo Julie Morgan 2019

Daan Zeegers joins STCB



L-R Mabel Nava, consultant; Daan Zeegers, new field coordinator; Tonnie, Ossie and Jefferson of Kiteboarding Bonaire and Kaj Schutt, STCB manager.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STBC) welcomes Daan Zeegers of the Netherlands as the new field coordinator. He comes to the team with experience as one of the 50-60 STBC volunteers. Daan's primary responsibilities will include carrying out the complete scope of fieldwork activities and day to day operations of STCB. Specific tasks include the coordination of the nest monitoring pro-

gram, in-water surveys and netting surveys. He will respond to reports of turtle related problems (eg. stranding) and coordinating and executing our cleanups.

He joins the team of manager Kaj Schut, consultant Mabel Nava and field specialist Gielmon "Funchi" Egbregts.

STBC is excited of the possibilities that Daan will bring to the team.



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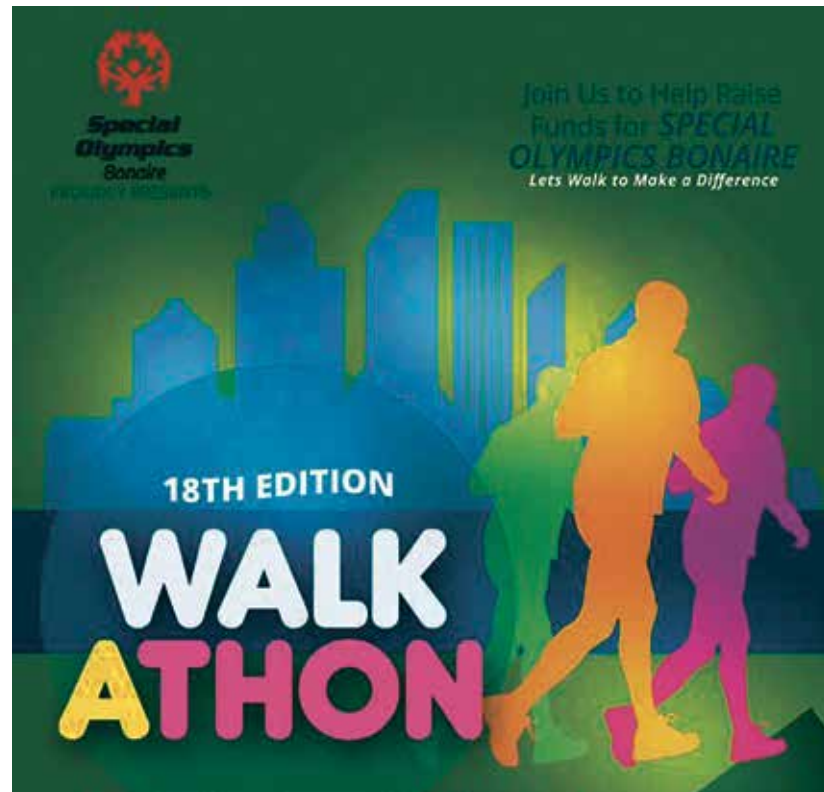
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**13&14
MARCH
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NGO Platform Bonaire

BON DOET 2020 Photoshoot
Do you like to take pictures?
Volunteer to take pictures of
BON DOET 2020 jobs

Friday • 08:00 - 17:00
Kralendijk, Playa

Needs 2 volunteers

Fundashon Echo

Dos Pos Conservation Centrum
Echo wants to repair their green
house and also the lora house at
their conservation.

Friday • 08:00 - 12:00
Kunuku Dos Pos 24, Kaminda
Goto, Rincon

Needs 25 volunteers

Reef Renewal Bonaire

Coral Nursery Maintenance
Learn about the Bonairean corals
and help restore our reefs.

Friday • 09:00 - 13:00
Saturday 09:00 - 13:00

Needs 2 volunteers

STINAPA Bonaire

Mangrove project
In Lac bay the Mangrove Maniacs,
a group of volunteers, are working
very hard to keep the mangrove
forest healthy.

Friday • 08:00 - 11:00
Lac Cai

Needs 10 volunteers

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire

Clean-up at Washikemba
STCB organizes a beach clean-up
at Washikemba; one of Bonaire's
nesting beaches.

Friday • 08:00 - 12:00
Washikembas

Needs 20 volunteers

We Dare To Care Foundation

Cleaning and maintenance
playground and park
Garden maintenance and paints.

Friday • 08:00 - 13:00
Kaya Sur Bartola 6, Playa

Needs 10 volunteers

An initiative of Oranje Fonds,
NGO Platform Bonaire & Public Entity Bonaire
Visit www.bondoet.com



Reef Glimpses

Flounder Friendship

The first fish I ever became friends with was a peacock flounder.

In 1982, I saw a big flounder resting on the bottom, down current of me. I put a piece of fish into the water with the goal of it drifting right up to the flounder, who was facing into the current. I judged the current perfectly; the food drifted toward the flounder and he gobbled it down. When I released a second piece of food, he darted forward to grab it. I held the last piece about a foot off the bottom (20 cm?) – and he swam up and took it out of my hand!

“This will never happen again,” I thought, but of course I looked out for a big flounder the next time I dived there, and finally I found one. Unfortunately for me, this flounder was way under a coral ledge and facing down current, away from the opening. Worst possible scenario. With a mental shrug I offered a piece of food to his tail. As if he were waiting for me, he swiveled around and grabbed the food from my hand.

It turned out, he was waiting for me! We named him “Oliver Twist” because he always wanted more. That was the only time I had to look for Oliver. He would announce his presence by swimming up off the bottom, right across my path. If I missed him the first time, he’d repeat the performance until we stopped and visited with him.

What a great opportunity for my buddies and me to have an up-close, in-person view of a sideways fish.

Um, sideways?

As a baby, a flounder is vertically-oriented and thin, like surgeonfish or angelfish. By the time it reaches adulthood, however, the young flounder is lying on its side: its underside eye has moved to the other side of its face; its underside itself stays pale while the upper side is capable of remarkable color changes. The flounder’s sand-side pectoral fin stays small but the other one, especially on the males, grows long. In fact, displaying his elongated pectoral fin is one way that the gentleman flounder flirts with lady flounders.

I remembered this yesterday, when I saw a large male peacock flounder, looking intently ahead. I followed his gaze and saw another, smaller, female peacock flounder. While I watched, the male turned dark and the edges of his body became purple; with his long pectoral fin raised, he swam off the rock in an exaggerated way, directly across the visual field of the female. She did nothing. He swam by again, pectoral fin raised, body in waves. He was trying so hard to be noticed, but she swam away (disguising a yawn?) She did swim away slowly, making it easy for him to follow, which he did.

I did not follow -- I was thinking. Had Oliver Twist’s attraction to me been more than just the free meal? Had he shown that, even with fish, the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach?

We can only wonder.
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



Close-up photo of Oliver’s face. His eyes can swivel, giving him a 360-degree field of vision, but not so much directly above him. The peacock flounder’s eyes are set quite wide apart, and it grows bigger than the other types of flounder we have here.



Oliver coming up off the bottom for a snack. I don’t like gloves, but bare hands reflect light in a way photographers hated, so gloves were used for photos. I’m relieved to see that Oliver’s coloration is not at all the extreme coloration of a courting flounder!

(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

Nuenen, the Netherlands

The Bonaire Reporter needs your ideas, stories and/or photos to celebrate April Fool’s Day in our March 25 issue.

Send your submissions to:
info@bonairereporter.com
or
BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com



Peter Legierse and his wife, Coby, full-time Bonaire residents, visited Nuenen, the Netherlands. The village they lived before the emigration to Bonaire.

Peter is photographed with *The Reporter* along the statue of Vincent van Gogh in a characteristic pose walking to a place for painting.

In the other photograph Peter is reading *The Reporter* on the chair from which Vincent painted his famous painting ‘de Aardappeleters’ (1885) during his stay in Nuenen (1883-1885). This painting was shaped in a 3D-statue some years ago and is situated in the same park close to the statue of Vincent.



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.



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 4

On mourning.....

For more than ten years I have been the primary caregiver of my husband. And after he passed away and all the caring was done, there were no regrets whatsoever. We have done it together, for better or for worse and in sickness and in health. And I am very glad we were able to do so.

I made him a promise: he would never have to go to a hospital near the end. He could always be at cared for home. The home care nurses that took care of him came to our home and I am forever grateful for that.

When I needed rest, Kas Flamboyan was a safe haven and I could rest well, because I knew he loved to go there and was well taken care of.

And now the worst part has come.

Give it "a place", or so they say. My sadness and mourning need a place. I ask myself. I feel that sadness will never end. It might change, lessen a bit, bite some more on other occasions, but it will always be there.

"You need to 'process' the loss", is another thing I hear a lot. I know people mean well and especially now don't want to hurt me. But my mourning does not feel like it needs to be processed. Because every day is a different day and every day I miss my loved one a bit more, a bit less.

Now every time I go somewhere I tell the people I am with where I am going, what I am going to do and how long it will take. I have been doing so for more than ten years. It was part of my life. And suddenly I don't need to anymore.

I don't have to hurry to get home, because he is not there anymore. Now I understand the lyrics of that song even better, "A house is not a home, when you're not there".

The special bed and wheelchair have been taken away. I could not stand those anymore. These devices have dominated our life so long. A reminder my husband had such a long time of imprisonment of the body and made accessibility a big thing.

I just washed a load of clothing and bed linen. Now his smell is disappearing and I hate it.

February 1st my great love let go of my hand and slipped away. Away, where there is no more pain, no more handicap, no more suffering.

"Fly away, away, be as free as the wind blows...you are finally free".

And I always knew we had great friends. But now I know better; they are the best friends in the world. They help me, take me out, come over for a talk and a hug, go shopping for me and with me, spoil me and are there for me.

A friend of mine, who spoke at the cremation, said that I have always been fighting for accessibility. And she is right. And I will continue to do so because accessibility is an important thing. Maybe I will fight even more fiercely, because I know what I lost. *Ria Evers-Dokter.*

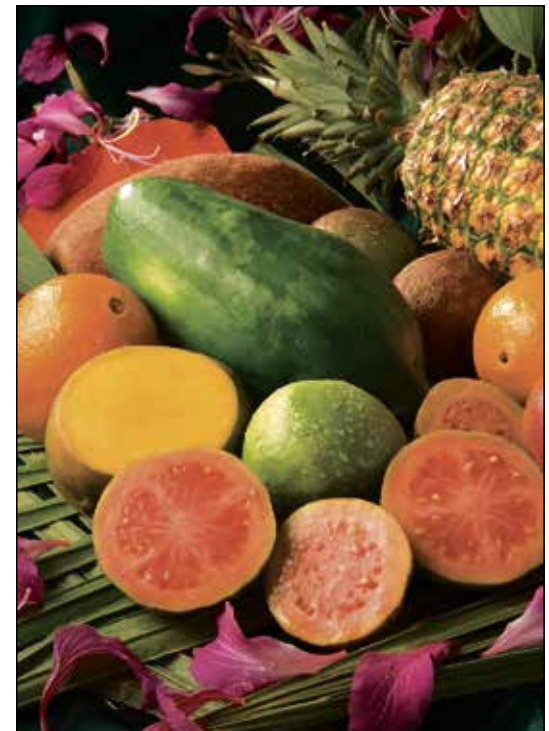


A Garden? Just Do It!

Try these remedies for illness



Cacao fights low blood pressure.



Find remedies in your garden or in the market

We have all been sick away from home at least once in a lifetime of traveling, and for sure, more than one time when living on Bonaire. So I have learned overtime to help myself with herbs as first aid remedies when I get sick during my travels. Of course not heavy illness but sicknesses like colds and cough, headache, diarrhea, constipation, wounds, ear pain, toothache, stomach pain, stiff back. It's good to know what to do when traveling with kids or elderly people when such things suddenly come up.

So here is a list of herbal remedies. In foreign countries you might find them in supermarkets, groceries, yards, in the wild and homeopathic shops. Or you can travel with the herbs from home when you know that you are sensitive to certain travel sicknesses.

Ginger- headache, cold and cough, stomach pain, constipation, throwing up and nausea; sea, flying or driving sickness; throat pain, blood and liver toxicity, balance disorders or mountain sickness.

Lemon cold and cough, blood toxin, nausea. This is also good against bad smell of sweat. Rub on the body.

Lemon grass- tea from it fights colds and fever.

Peppermint, basilicum, dragon- fights nausea.

Salt- throat infection; make tea and rinse five times a day with this liquid and spit out. Don't swallow.

Chamomile- to calm throat when coughing, to calm eyes when tired, irritated and/or infected and good to sleep. Make tea to use for sleep and tea drops for the eyes.

Lavender- for a good sleep, a bath calms tired body.

Passionflower - to calm nerves for example during tests.

Cloves- calms toothache and fights bad mouth and breath. Chew cloves slowly for toothache and bad smell.

Onion - a cut onion beside your bed during a cold keeps the breath system open during sleep and fights inflammation.

Garlic- to fight high blood pressure; everyday eat five parts of fresh garlic; good to fight skin irritation like eczema. Put thin sliced garlic on infected skin and cover with bandage replace everyday.

Aloe Vera - to heal open wounds, sun burns, skin irritation; good as hair and face mask; calms stomach and intestines, fights constipation and good for a weak body.

Tamarind- fights against constipation, a good blood cleaner, thirst quencher juice in hot climates and high in vitamin C.

Watermelon, cantaloupe and cucumber- fight high blood pressure and good thirst-quenchers.

Cacao and pure chocolate- good for low blood pressure.

Dates- constipation and has a lot of fiber.

Guava (guayaba)- very good against diarrhea.

Blue and red berries - high antioxidants, good for a weak body and to build up strength in a body.

Calendula- to heal open wounds and skin irritation.

Salt (in water) and sea water- to clean wounds and to rinse throat infection and good for low blood pressure.

Coconut water- thirst-quencher and fights nausea.

Coconut oil - good for dry hair, dry skin and fights high cholesterol. Coconut has a lot of fiber and fights hunger. Also good to use as a massage oil for stiff painful back.

Boiled green plantain in skin - fights diarrhea and throwing up.

Neem tree seed oil- against skin irritation and wounds caused by bacteria and fungus.

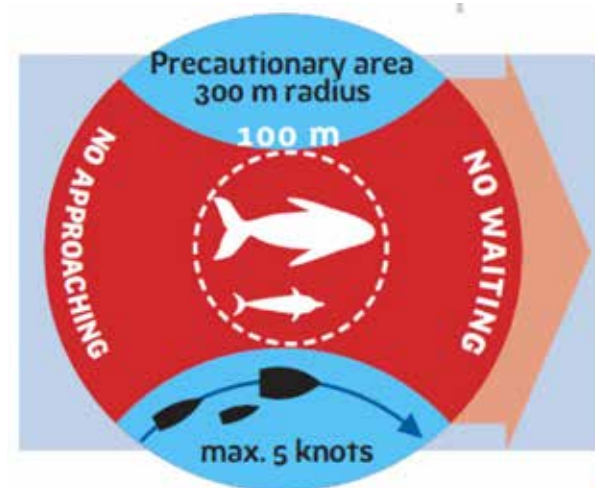
Pineapple, papaya, mango - full of minerals, vitamins and fiber; good against constipation.

Green cabbage- for ear pain. Take a whole leaf, put it against the ear and tie a cotton cloth around the head to keep the leaf on the ear.

So, I think with this information you can travel around the world with less health complications. Of course it's good to have them in your yard and garden too. Start with your green drugstore in your garden, just do it now.

Angliet, Nature lover.

Did You Know? that many countries have guidelines and laws in place that help protect marine mammals from well-meaning people and boats?



Although all marine mammals are protected under local laws and Bonaire's waters are part of the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary, specific regulations concerning how to approach and interact with marine mammals are lacking.

Although some of my fondest memories are of swim-

ming near dolphins, most official marine mammal guidelines do not allow swimming with marine mammals unless it is for official (permitted) scientific purposes (studying behavior). In Bonaire, since they are protected species, bothering them in any way – chasing or touching them, is considered a violation of the law. So, what is OK? How can we observe these magnificent animals without causing them distress or harm?

Here are some recommendations from marine mammal management plans in the Caribbean. If you are swimming or snorkeling and dolphins approach you, this is not a problem. Just don't chase them or try to touch them. If you're operating a boat, here are some basic guidelines that some countries have adopted to make sure boaters don't harm or harass marine mammals:

- 1) Never come within 100 meters of marine mammals while under power.
- 2) Don't approach them head-on (in their path).
- 3) Don't approach from behind.
- 4) Once you are within 300 meters, approach parallel to the direction of the marine mammals and don't go

faster than 5 knots (ie – go slow!) and put your motor in neutral if they come within 100 meters of your boat.

- 5) Avoid sudden changes in speed or direction.
- 6) Do not surround marine mammals (if there are several boats).
- 7) Do not observe them for more than 30 minutes.
- 8) Leave them alone if they show signs of agitation or distress.
- 9) Do not touch or feed marine mammals.

If you have the good fortune to see marine mammals, please report your sightings to Observation.org (observado.nl) and upload photos if possible. With this information, we may be able to identify the species AND, if the photo is good enough, we might be able to identify the individual animal. For dolphins, a clear photo of the dorsal fin is needed. For whales, a clear photo of the underside of the fluke (tail) is needed. If you ever come upon an injured or dead marine mammal, please notify STINAPA – 717-8444/786-8444.

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

Bonbini travels. East, west, home's best.



Bonbini enroute to Antarctica.

My first stop was Buenos Aires, 32 degrees centigrade; it felt like home on Bonaire. Unaware of things to come. I thought Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego in the very southern tip of Argentina were windy and cold. I continued my travel on board a ship. Looking at the ocean from above rather than from below the surface gave me totally different perspectives.

The Falkland Islands stopover presented my first opportunity to meet penguins. Fur seals, elephant seals and even more penguins awaited me, after a choppy and stormy voyage, on the island of South Georgia. What a great and unspoiled place. If climate change would stop all of you could enjoy its glaciers for years to come.

Further down, towards Antarctica, I passed majestic floating mountains of ice, orca's and curious whales. How strange and beautiful a world that is. Mainland Antarctica was not as cold as I had expected. At +15 degrees centigrade it almost felt like I was home in Bonaire. Was I experiencing global warming first hand?

However, the snow beneath my feet felt truly cold. No, despite all its beauty this was not the world for me. Buenos Aires temperatures on the way back further increased my desires to return home. Bonaire, expect me in April! East, west, home's best. *Jos Ruis*

Jos Ruis (Zutphen) and wife Tanja Blekkink are artists and co-owners of Art Gallery Diesselweerd in Zutphen, Netherlands. Jos' turtle sculptures are (20-25 cm) molded and then resin casted with an individual glass fused turtle shell. Each piece is unique. His sculptures are often combinations of stone or bronze with other materials such as glass, Perspex, metal foils. He also creates digital paintings and recently started experimenting with glass casting and fusion art.



Bonbini was the inspiration for a series of glass and resin sculptures that are 20 x 25 cm.

My name is Bonbini and I am a Bonairian sea turtle and I love to travel. Since having been airlifted to the Netherlands in early 2019, I have looked forward to more adventures.

At the end of 2019 that occasion arose. Would I like to wonder around in the very south of South-America and sail across to Antarctica? Of course, who could resist such an opportunity?

KPCN installs new equipment for traffic control

The 2019 traffic statistics showed an increase of 17% compared to 2018 and 38% compared to 2017. With the implementation of the Road Traffic Regulation on March 1, 2020, the police (KPCN) hope to improve the traffic situation on Bonaire.

During 2019 the police ran traffic controls and publicity campaigns to warn the driving public of the new traffic rules.

The priorities emphasized were: (NOT driving while under the influence; NOT holding a mobile communication device while driving; USING a child seat in the car, USING seat belts, and USING helmets on a motorcycle, scooter or moped.



Two new instruments for determining drunk driving will be implemented by KPCN, Bonaire's police department, beginning March 1. Police vehicles will be equipped with the new breathalyzer to test suspected inebriated drivers. (Pictured above is officer EC van der Giessen.)

Drivers who 'blow' above the limit will be arrested and submitted to further tests at the police department.



Drivers with overly dark-tinted windows on their vehicles could be subject to a stop by the police department beginning March 1.

Overly dark windows are a hazard as they cut down on the vision of both the driver and other vehicles. The too dark windows prohibit clear vision especially if it is dark or raining. Vehicles with windows over 70 percent tint will be subject to a fine if they do not alter the tint and provide proof after two weeks of the offense. (Pictured is officer J Wanga)

What's Happening

2020 Cruise Ships (TCB)

Saturday, February 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon.
Saturday, March 7	Taste of Bonaire Ban Topa Edition (Let's meet!), 6pm-11pm, Wilhelmina Park. Sample local and international food from fine restaurants, meet Bonaire's artisans, buy local souvenirs, enjoy live music and dancing.
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 see page 8.
Sunday, March 8	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Te Amo Beach. 4pm. Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.
Fri. March 13 Sat. March 14	Bon Doet Volunteer weekend. See page 10.

DAY & DATE:MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Wednesday 02-26	Explorer of the Seas	0800-1800	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Thursday 12-27	Norwegian Epic	0700-1800	S. pier	4266	NGCL
Friday 12-28	Koningsdam	0800-1800	S. pier	3375	Holland America
Saturday 12-29	Balmoral Crew center gives alternative date of March 01	0800-1800	N.pier	1340	Fred Olsen
from Crew Center.com					
Sunday 03-01	Balmoral TCB gives alternative date of Feb. 29	0800-1800		1400	Fred Olsen
	03-01	MS Sirena		803	Oceania Cruises
Monday 03-02	Ms Riviera	0700-1500		1300	Oceania
	03-02	Crown Princess		3800	PCL
Tuesday 03-03	Britannia			4250	P&O
	03-03	Monarch		2772	Pullmantur
Wednesday 03-04	Adventure Of The Seas	0800-1700		3840	RCCL
Thursday 03-05	Norwegian Epic	0700-1300		4200	NGCL
Monday 03-09	Aida Perla	0800-1800		3286	Aida Cruises
	03-09	Reflection		3000	Celebrity
Tuesday 03-10	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900		2894	TUI
Wednesday 03-11	Silhouette	0700-1600		3000	Celebrity
Thursday 03-12	Freedom of the Seas	0800-1700		4900	RCCL

Regular events

“Reef Renewal Bonaire.” A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email info@reefnewalbonaire.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 Koeke for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

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

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

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

Saturdays

- **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)** Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.
- **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers' Market)** At Kriabon the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.
- **Monthly Cultural Event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei** - Every last Saturday of the month. See the calendar above.
- **Marshe Rincon Krioyo** 1st & last Saturdays. Street market in Rincon, crafts, local food, sweets, noon—6pm.

- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989.
- **Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire)** Last Saturday of the month. Donate foods & household items 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.
- **Petanque—Jeu de Boules,** 2:30-6pm, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 786-0150.

Museums & exhibits

- **Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free. *Coral Restoration exhibit.* 717-0423, 780-4327
- **Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. *Salute to the Sailors exhibit*—Free
- **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thurs.-Sun. Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 Donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.
- **Washington-Slagbaai National Park**

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

- **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of WWII American soldiers' camp. Self-guided tour. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to on the right. Entrance just a short distance. Free entry.
- **Yana's Fine Art Museum** at Lagoen Hill 19- Call:599 785-5002. Free entry. Also exhibited at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.
- **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Wednesday through Saturday, and cruise-ship days, 9am-3pm. Free.

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



Sleep problems? What to do.

by Astrid van Schaik

Do you have trouble falling asleep, do you wake up at night or too early in the morning, or combinations of these? Do you sleep too often, too long or too short? Are you unable to sleep without sleep medication?

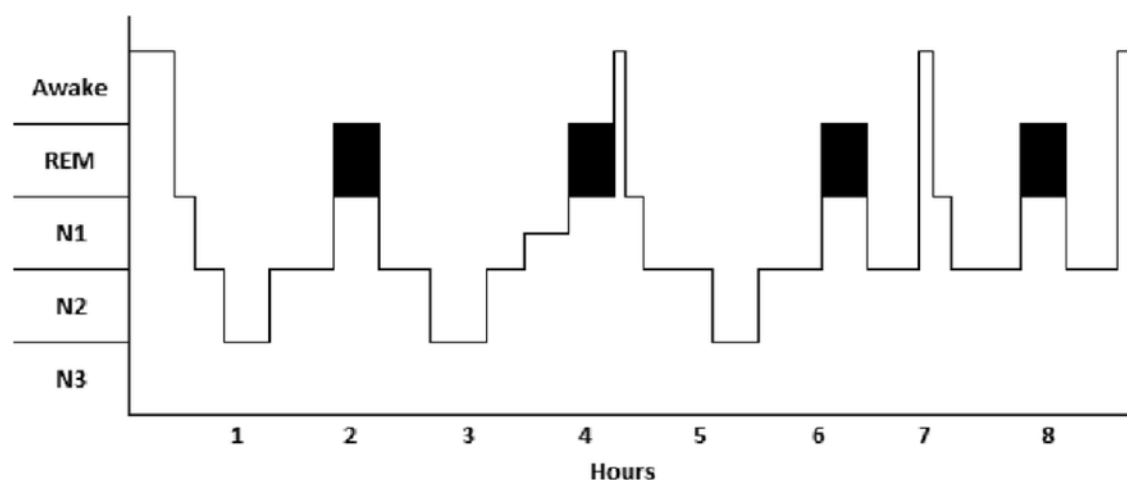
Sleep deprivation is a 24-hour problem. The day influences the night and a bad night influences your day. Your feelings, thoughts, actions, and environment influence your sleep. Chronic insomnia has consequences for your physical and mental health. Scientific research proves that insomnia leads to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer, breast cancer, chronic pain, anxiety, depression and (traffic) accidents.

Sleep Therapy. Because sleep problems can have multiple causes, sleep therapy needs to focus on the biological, psychological and social factors in your life. Sleep therapy focuses on sleep problems like insomnia, hypersomnia and biorhythm problems. It can also provide aftercare for apnea, restless legs and parasomnias.

A sleep therapist is a professional in achieving positive behavioral change in order to improve the duration, quality and time of your sleep. It is important to look at your 24-hour schedule, in order to break through the vicious circles of bad sleep. You can learn to sleep better using different methods:

- Self-efficacy:** breathing and relaxation exercises (self-regulation) to fully relax mentally and physically and thus to put the sleep center in the deep brain to sleep;

- Theoretical:** insights into sleep behavior, nutrition



The sleeping needs of every person varies. Nobody sleeps exactly according to “the book.” But recent scientific studies indicate that for adults, roughly seven to eight hours of sleep is healthy, containing four or five ‘sleep cycles’ of approximately 1.5 hours per night. A healthy night’s sleep looks like this:

Awake: it is normal to wake up briefly during the night.

REM sleep: this is the dream sleep where your eyes move fast, the brain, heart and breath activity are high and the muscles are completely relaxed. REM sleep is

important for mental recovery;

N1 lightest sleep: where you can easily wake up, your body and mind are starting to relax;

N2 light sleep: it is harder for you to wake up, your brain activity slows down but you still have short moments of activity;

N3 deep sleep: slow brain waves, brain, heart and breath activity are at the lowest level, waking up is hard and disorientation occurs. Deep sleep is important for physical recovery.

and physical activity (psycho-education and sleep hygiene advice);

- Technical:** sleep restriction (reducing the time in bed) and stimulus control (the bed is only for sleeping and making love);

- Practical:** improving your self-awareness, learning to feel, relax and focus and learning to turn off your thinking; (mindfulness);

- Assertiveness Training** (saying no, setting limits) and time management;

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy:** learning to think and act positively or neutrally by being solution-oriented and finding a healthy way to deal with problems (coping

style);

- Adopting a solution- and goal-oriented approach** instead of a problem-oriented approach.

Sleep problems, you can beat them!

Astrid van Schaik has worked since 2014 in physical therapy as a Cesar Kinetics (oefentherapeut Cesar) and Sleep therapist. In September 2019 she started her practice on Bonaire at Kaya Korona 47, Bonaire Basics. Her specialities include: muscle, joint and posture complaints, back, neck and foot complaints and sleep. Appointments via +599 7859511. www.physicaltherapy-bonaire.com



BONAIRE SKY PARK Leap Years... Magnitude...

2020 is a leap year, so we add a day to the calendar — why? Astronomy of course!

You grew up learning the year as three-hundred sixty five days, but it’s actually three-hundred sixty five point two five days. If we didn’t adjust with leap year, eventually the calendar wouldn’t align with the seasons or the stars. So we add a day every four years. It’s not perfect so we skip some leap years in centuries divisible by 400 but hey, nothing’s perfect.

The sky on leap day will have amazing astronomical objects in the southwestern sky. Our old friend Orion the Hunter and Taurus the Bull, the dazzling Pleiades star cluster with a beautiful crescent moon and a super bright planet, Venus.

Thanks to this extra day the stars and the seasons are where they’re supposed to be when you keep looking up!

#

We contain magnitudes. The deep darkness of our sky is filled with incredible, colorful stars, the same tapestry looked at by ancient humans. More than two-thousand years ago the Greek astronomer Hipparchus was the first to start to categorize the stars by their brightness — he called this magnitude.

The idea was to start a catalog of the stars we can see and give each a score — a magnitude. The brightest stars in the sky, you know, Sirius, Vega, Bellatrix -- these were first magnitude, the next brightest stars were classified second magnitude and so on and so forth all the way to the faintest stars getting a sixth magnitude classification. Note that the magnitude line is backwards; the larger numbers are dimmer stars. Even professional astronomers mess up sometimes.

Of course, this was in 150 BCE! Hipparchus didn’t have photography to help him get specific measurements; he only had his eyes. So, in 1856 Norman Robert Pogson revised the magnitudes to be a ratio of brightness of 2.512.

And each step up or down in ‘m’ is 2.5 times dimmer or brighter than before. Because the measure is now based on a ratio instead of eyeballs, a magnitude differ-

ence of five is exactly 100 times brighter or dimmer in magnitude.

Once again, Vega is magnitude of zero, and everything else is dimmer or brighter than Vega. The naked eye can discern stars as faint as sixth magnitude, anything more, and we’ll need binoculars or a telescope. Really bright things have negative magnitudes, like planets, the moon, and even the sun.

If you leave eyeballs out of it, sensitive photography and telescopes can see things at thirty-one magnitudes and fainter. This is 10 billion times dimmer than your naked eye can see. It’s amazing, actually.

So now, when you look up a star, you can check its magnitude, and with practice will know how bright you can expect that star to be in the sky!

Magnitude is a very valuable tool for astronomers in the attempt to taxonomize and categorize stars into groups, but it’s also helpful for you when you’re looking at star guides! Now you can use one number to know if you’re actually able to see that star in the sky while you keep looking’ up!

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

Shelter News

Lost and found



Animal Shelter Bonaire. The numbers will be entered into a database at the Shelter, with Dierenhulp and with the veterinarians. If your pet is found, the Shelter, Dierenbescherming, Dierenhulp or the veterinarians can scan your pet for the chip number and locate you quickly. Be sure to update your address with these organizations if you move.

Second, join the Facebook group Pet Alert Bonaire. This well moderated page is the best way to reach the most people with information that your pet is lost or that you have found a lost pet. Pet Alert Bonaire has a huge success rate in reuniting pets with their owners. If you do not use Facebook, you can ask a friend to post for you.

Third, contact Animal Shelter Bonaire to see if someone has brought in your lost pet or to report that your pet is missing.

Fourth, be sure you have proof of ownership of your pet. When reclaiming a lost pet, Animal Shelter Bonaire, the veterinarians and other animal welfare organizations may require proof that you are indeed the owner of the animal. Be sure you have photo identification for yourself and one or more of the following when you go to reclaim your animal: vaccination/health booklet from your veterinarian, proof of chip number, family photos of you and your pet, veterinarian bills. *Jane Madden-Disko*

Pets can go missing for a variety of reasons but there are specific steps you can take to help find them quickly. Losing a pet is an upsetting experience for you and your pet. Following these simple tips can help with the reunification process.

First, even before your pet goes missing, you should microchip your pet. This can be done at either one of the veterinarians on the island. Once microchipped, be sure to register the chip number along with your name, phone number and address at both veterinarians and at

Three studies, 1902 • 1956 • 2019, yield same results, only worse



A Land Use Survey of the Island of Bonaire, published in 1956, cited studies going back to 1902 that reported the island had been seriously damaged by poor land use practices. The 1956 study concluded, “The depletion has continued until the present day, mainly on account of charcoal burning, the cutting of firewood on private lands, the grazing and browsing of great numbers of semi-wild goats, sheep and donkeys, and inadequate agricultural techniques.”

A newly published study, which is based on a 2019 resurvey of test plots that were studied 20 years ago, confirms the damage has continued since the 1956 study. It also blames free roaming goats and donkeys. It adds another threat as well: unwise urban development.

The study offers three clear findings. First, wild lands damaged by over grazing can only deteriorate further if the over grazing continues. Second, where previously over grazed areas have been protected, “grasses, sedges and herbs, as well as juvenile shrubs and trees” have begun to recover quickly. And third, such recovery is absolutely dependent on the presence in the immediate vicinity of mature shrubs and trees that can reseed the protected area.

The study goes on to point out that the remaining populations of Bonaire’s endangered wooden species, which are few and fragmented, “are mainly seen on the middle and high limestone terraces, in areas that are seriously threatened by urban development plans.”

The 2019 study is, Evaluation of vegetation development on the Dutch Caribbean islands, by John Janssen (Wageningen Environmental Research), Joop Schaminée (Wageningen Environmental Research), Erik Houtepen, (Carmabi-Curaçao), John de Freitas (Carmabi -Curaçao). The 1956 study was, Photo-Geological Observations and Land Capability & Land Use Survey of the Island of Bonaire, by J. H. Westerman and J. I. S. Zonneveld. *D.M.R.*

Pet of the Week: Allie



years old. I was brought to the shelter when I was a two month old baby. Back then I was not loved, and after almost two years at the shelter the only love I know is from my Shelter humans.

The humans here gave me a nickname, “Smiley”, because they say I smile a lot. I’m not sure what that is but I just like to do it and enjoy all the attention it brings me! I don’t know much about life beyond this shelter, so I will need some extra love and patience. I really think it is time for me to find a real home, a nice pillow to sleep on and my own family so I can finally bond and feel complete. I do like other dogs and I love to play and roll in the mud when it rains. I also enjoy sitting in a water bucket!

Recently, I discovered that I really like to go for walks. At first I was afraid of the leash, it was all so new for me, but after a while I was used to it and was having the time of my life! Are you willing to be my new family and take me out for walks and discover the island and the world with me? We can be companions for life...are you coming to meet me? I promise to not be shy and maybe even smile for you! Come visit me at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9am-12 pm and 3-5 pm and on Saturday from 9am-3pm non stop, or call the Animal Shelter at 7014989 or 7174989.

Story and photo by Sanne Attevelt

Dear fur friends,

I would like to introduce myself, even though it’s a little scary, but my shelter humans give me the confidence to do it anyhow. So here we go! My name is Allie and I am a healthy sterilized girl a little over two



L-R: Sanne Attevelt



Travis Sullins



Laurie Smith



Jane Madden-Disko

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<https://bonairereporter.com>

At Your Service-pg 18.
 this issue's featured advertiser

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Next Cleanup March 8th,
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3/31



Kaminda Lagoen 39
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- o Multiple outdoor lounge areas. Total house: 230 m²
- o Just minutes from town and beaches
- o 2 bedrooms/ 1 bathroom / Long Lease 625 m²
- o Open living and kitchen area perfectly situated to capture the cooling tradewinds

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Saramacca 3
US\$875,000.- buyers costs



Amboina, Kaya Salsa 6

Highlights:

- 2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
- air conditioning in living room
- spacious family home with covered terrace
- ceramic floor tiles
- landscaped garden with palm trees and plants
- 5 minutes to the center of Kralendijk
- freehold land (registered 4-E-2548)
- total ground area: 8,073 / 750 sq.ft./m2
- total living area: 3,165 / 294 sq.ft./m2

Asking price
US\$ 280,000 Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

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