

FREE

BONAIRE The REPORTER



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Ginny Knight of Montana, almost sinks a putt as PGA pro Florus Josten and fellow player Patti Guthrie of Oregon observe. Photo: Julie Morgan

Let's play some golf

Yes, Bonaire has an 18 hole golf course called Piedra So where anyone can play, and there is even a golf pro.

For years, people heard that a golf course was to be built on Bonaire. People pictured green fairways and manicured greens that would require a ridiculous amount of Bonaire's precious water. The idea seemed ludicrous, for after all, Bonaire is a 'desert' island and water is costly.

Piedra So (only stone) is not new. The course was established in 2003 and the land is owned by Punto Blanca, the chicken farm. You won't find lush green fairways as you look out from the clubhouse because Bonaire's golf course is a links course. Links courses are all natural where players can be one with nature. How perfect is that for Bonaire? In a links course, golfers play to the contours of the land, which is most likely firm and sandy ground. The first links course was the very first golf course, the famous St. Andrew's in Scotland. The word links comes from the Scots, meaning coastal sand dunes.

For years Piedra So has been pretty much unknown to most residents and visitors but that is changing. On March

2, 2020, just before the island locked down due to Covid 19, Piedra So took an upswing by acquiring its own Professional Golf Association (PGA) golf pro, Florus Josten.

Piedra So had a small following of about 33 members back in 2014 when Florus discovered it by accident. He and his wife were out mountain biking on their last day of their Bonaire holiday.

"I saw flags and a fairway and thought I was seeing things," said Florus.

After returning home to the Netherlands, Floris emailed the club about playing on his next Bonaire trip. And in 2019 he connected with then golf club president Theo van der Veen who told Florus to come and run the club and do whatever he liked to make it work.

And he did just that. When Florus

and his wife made the move to Bonaire on March 3, 2020 they brought sets of clubs, balls, gloves, bags, trolleys and even some things to sell. He now rents gear, teaches, holds clinics, and tournaments. The membership has grown to almost 100 members.

The Jostens arrived just prior to Bonaire's Covid-19 closures and most would assume it was bad timing or bad luck. But Florus said it was actually lucky, as people were looking for things to do, and when you are playing golf it is easy to keep a 1.5 meter distance apart.

"The most important thing to me was to allow people to play," said Floris, "I do a beginner or intro course, lessons and clinics. People come for two hours, driving, putting and chipping. It is teaching in the widest sense of the word. Golf is a mind game, so I also teach the game concept."

Florus spent two years in school training to teach the sport before turning pro in 2000. He has played 150 courses either teaching or competing throughout Europe, Asia and Africa.

Member Guillermo Toth, who plays



Florus Josten shows how it's done at Bonaire's Piedra So golf course. Photo: Julie Morgan

Let's play some golf,
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Curaçao politicians cut own salaries, then raise them

Curaçao ministers and members of parliament reduced their remuneration by 25% in order to meet financial reform requirements they had agreed to in exchange for continuing liquidity support from the Netherlands. Then, by manipulating provisions in legislation passed ten years ago, they promoted themselves to a higher government pay grade. The net result is a 21,733 guilders per year increase in the value of the employment package of each minister.

One effect would be substantially increased retirement benefits for Prime Minister Rhuggenaath, who is leaving office soon. A few years ago, when the Dutch first raised the issue of government financial reforms, the ministers voluntarily cut the wages of the garbage workers.

State Secretary Raymond Knops has announced that liquidity support for Curaçao has been terminated.

In related Curaçao news, the Ministry of Justice and General Affairs has revealed that former prime minister Gilmar 'Pik' Pisas, Rhuggenaath's intended replacement, hired 64 officials during his first term of office in 2017 without following the rules. Forty other officials were unfairly promoted or given additional bonuses.

A judge has ruled that the government of Curaçao may not simply cut the budget of the Curaçao Medical Center (CMC) to comply with the financial reform agreement with the Netherlands. The Minister of Health and the Environment wanted to cut 17 million guilders from CMC's 200 million guilder budget to cover the 12.5% salary reduction civil servants face under the financial reform agreement. A year and a half after opening, Curaçao's new hospital has accumulated debts that approximate 72 million guilders. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

The tourists are coming

Tourist bookings to the Caribbean for June through August are already over 80% of their pre-pandemic volume, while international air traffic generally is still running only 23% of pre-covid levels. The Caribbean is viewed as a region that has coped well with the virus and has less uncertain and less complicated travel restrictions.

With business flying still lagging, KLM has become more aggressive in the tourist market. It has renamed KLM Package Deals. It is now called KLM Holidays. It still sells package holidays on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, but it also allows customers to put together their own packages. They can choose their flight and hotel accommodation, and between car rental and airport transfer.

Beginning July 1, TUI will offer thirteen flights a week to the Dutch islands, a new record. Six of those flights will land on Bonaire, either on the flight from Schiphol or on the turn around flight departing from other islands. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

First cruise ship returns to Dutch Islands

The Celebrity Millennium has made a circuit of the Dutch islands in the Caribbean (excluding BES) the first cruise ship to visit these waters in over a year. Sailing from St. Maarten on a seven-day cruise, she visited Barbados, Aruba, and Curaçao, then returned to St. Maarten to take on another load of passengers for a repeat trip. All 650 crew members were fully vaccinated, as were over 95% of the 600 adult passengers.

Celebrity Edge, another Royal Caribbean Group ship, is scheduled later this month to be the first major cruise ship to sail from the United States since the covid shutdown. It will depart from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on June 26, with all crew and all passengers over the age of 16 re-

quired to show proof they have been fully vaccinated before boarding. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida has signed an executive order threatening Celebrity and other cruise lines with a \$5,000 fine for every passenger and crew member required to be vaccinated.

Two passengers who shared a room on the Celebrity Millennium tested positive for the corona virus while the ship was docked in Curaçao. They were quarantined on board and showed no symptoms. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu and CNN)*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7

Jobs created for island cleanup



Selibon Director Rudsel Leito and Deputy Hennyson Thielman signed the agreement for the "Krea Trabou" project on June 9.

The Public Entity Bonaire has earmarked \$500,000 for the creation of 39 direct jobs for a felling crew and a maintenance crew to refurbish, paint, install benches, and prune plants at many public places all over the island. The workers will be employed through Plenchi di Trabou to ensure that people who have lost their former jobs are hired. Selibon will monitor the projects to assure the work is done well, then report to the island government as projects are completed. *DMR*

Covid-19 round-up

Unused covid vaccine may expire and be thrown away in the islands while people are dying in the European Netherlands, where under-55s are still waiting for vaccine. Suriname is desperate for vaccine while people on some islands, especially St. Maarten and St. Eustatius, are still trying to decide. The Dutch made an early decision to send enough vaccine to vaccinate everyone in the Dutch Caribbean before the hurricane season started. Now they are still waiting for their own needs to be met.

People will have to pay for their injections after July 1 on Sint Maarten, the island government says. The vaccination rate there is only 35%.

St. Eustatius decided to move the goal posts. The government announced it will open the island to visitors when its vaccination rate reaches 50%. They need 219 more people to get there.

On Bonaire and Curaçao 75% of the 18 and older population have received at least their first vaccination. The issue is ancient history on Saba, where 90% of the inhabitants were vaccinated the first week.

Hestia and BonLab say they can test 250 passengers in half an hour at Flamingo International. They have teamed up to provide antigen testing for people arriving from high risk

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Covid-19 on Bonaire totals as of June 15, 2021

8 active	9141 tested
1588 positive	0 hospitalized
7552 negative	17 deceased

For up to date covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> FB

First stone set in ceremony for new Habitat units



Architectural concept of plan for Habitat's new accommodations

Captain's Don's Habitat introduced their expansion project amidst a gathering of officials and stakeholders in an event on June 3. The atmosphere was celebratory with speeches, champagne toasts, snacks and laying of the first stone for the new expansion. Everyone wore a Habitat branded hardhat for the inspection of the new construction.

The resort is beginning a new era of diving freedom with 45 new accommodations including one, two and three bedroom units. The new facilities will replace eight of the original cottages built some 46 years ago. But one of the old cottages (although completely renovated), will be saved for guests who want to relive their old memories of the early days.

The new rooms will be located in a beautiful garden with a luxurious swimming pool.

In addition to the expansion/ upgrade of rooms, Hab-



Captain Don Habitat stakeholders, investors, management and Bonaire government officials including Lieut. Gov. Edison Rijna celebrate the setting of the first stone of the resort's upgrade Photo Julie Morgan

itat is expanding the heart and soul of the resort - the dive operation. Two, new high volume nitrox systems and fill station will be built along with an automated self-service drive through tank station underlining Captain Don's concept of 'diving freedom'.

Other plans in the works are a new boat, water boilers on solar energy and a covered parking space with solar

panels for economy and conservation.

Manager Claire Sealy said, "In memory of Captain Don, Habitat wants to continue Don's vision to create a resort that is as environmentally friendly as possible."

Resort construction is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2022. *Story and photos Julie Morgan*

Visit the Reporter Facebook page for event photos

FOR SALE Cottage 205 Caribbean Club Bonaire



- Location : Barkadera / Hilltop
- Lot size : 63 m2 / 678 sq. ft.
- 1 bedroom / 1 bathroom / fully furnished

- Close to several dives sites
- Resort facilities: restaurant, bar, dive shop and swimming pool

3D tour



Asking price \$98,500 US Dollar

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f http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire



Customs intercepts drugs at Bonaire airport

On Monday, May 31, during a regular check on incoming passengers at Bonaire airport of a Win air flight from Sint Maarten with destination Saba/St. Eustatius, customs found 530 grams of cannabis on a 51 year old male passenger. When checking his hand luggage, a vacuum-packed package of cannabis was found. The cannabis was seized and the suspect was arrested. After his arrest, the suspect and the cannabis was handed over to the KPCN for further investigation.

BCN (Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland / Tax Authorities)



New law allows alternative schools to be set up

As of June 1, a new law, More Room for New Schools, allows anyone to set up a school conforming to their religion or philosophy of life. This new law will modernize the rules for primary and secondary schools. The Ministry of Education Culture and Science will be in charge of monitoring the quality of education and will determine the necessary funding. DUO (Education Executive Agency) will be responsible for the funding of the new schools. The law would allow the establishment of special education schools or branches of an existing secondary school. Information regarding setting up a new school are on the OCW website <https://english.rijksdienstcn.com/education-culture-science>.



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

I know home staging is very important when selling a house in other countries, is it important when I sell my house on Bonaire? What if I have renters in the house?
Brad

Hi Brad,

As a credentialed home stager, I always stage our listings when possible, since a staged home generally sells more quickly and for more money than one that is not staged. If your home is rented to tenants, it is not always possible to do this. In that case, we have a checklist to give to the renters with simple and quick things they can do before a showing to make the house look better. Is your house primarily for full time living, a vacation rental or an investment property? Someone buying a vacation home responds to a staged property that

helps them envision being there on vacation. An investor tends to look at the numbers, not the feel of a property. If you let me know what kind of property you have, I'm happy to make suggestions based on your specific situation.

All the best,
Kate Butler and Jean Searce
Re/Max Bonaire

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at kate@bonairehomes.com.

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

June 1-2. Thieves took cash from a home on Kaya Aruaco.

June 6. Cash was taken from a hotel room on the Kaya Saturnus.

June 8. Between 7 am and 12:30 pm items including a heart-shaped urn, a safe with contents, four passports, two bank cards, a credit card, a logbook and the spare key to a car were stolen from a home on Kaya Oro.

Theft at dive sites. Several reports of theft at dive sites have been received in recent days. KPCN advises not leaving valuable items in the car when visiting dive sites.

Arrested/held in custody.

May 31. A man, 27, was arrested for theft of a car.

June 4. During a search in a house in Amboina a man, 26, was arrested for threats and vandalism.

June 2. A man, 39, was arrested for the assault of two people.

Drugs

June 5-6. A man, 31, was arrested at a beach on the E.E.G. Bulevar for violating the Opium Act BES. During the check of the vehicle, several bags containing marijuana-like herb, cocaine-like powder and hash-like herb were seized. A phone and cash were later seized.

June 7. A student at the secondary

school at the Kaya Frater Odulfinus was found with a marijuana-like herb. The 16-year-old boy was taken to the police station where he was spoken to sternly before being allowed to go home. The marijuana-like herb was destroyed.

June 11. The police searched two houses in connection with the Opium Act BES. Opium was seized from a house in Antriol and a man, 57, and a man, 22, were detained. In a home in Lagun a man, 51, was arrested and opium was seized.

Traffic accidents/violations

June 5. A collision with a car took place at the T-junction of Kaya Industria and Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

June 8. A collision took place on Bulevar E.E.G. at around 11:20 pm in the vicinity of the airport. The driver proba-

bly hit a donkey. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Traffic control

June 3-6. During traffic checks at various locations drivers have received fines ranging from \$30 to \$225 for: unable to show valid insurance (3); unable to show valid driver's license (2); driving without a seat belt (6).

Fire

May 31. Neighbors saw smoke coming from a window of a home on Kaya Jolanda. Officers who arrived at the scene took the liberty to extinguish the fire themselves through the window. The fire brigade, who arrived on the spot afterwards, entered the house to gain more insight into the situation. The residents were not at home during the fire.

Police partners complete first FINEC course

The Dutch Caribbean Police Force, in collaboration with the Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean and with financial support from the Public Prosecution Service, has developed a three year course in Financial Economic Crime (FINEC). The course is attended by police colleagues and partners from the Caribbean Netherlands, as well as Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten.

This FINEC course will be given every year in all Caribbean countries for the next three years. Its aims: to form a broad network against financial crime, and to promote knowledge and cooperation between the partners.

The Dutch Caribbean Police Force has also set up a separate FINEC unit with task holders to strengthen financial investigation. *KPCN communications*



The photo above shows the students of various chain partners after completing the FINEC course. (KPCN, KMar, MCB, Harbor Master, Supervision and Enforcement Directorate, Public Prosecution Service, Tax Authorities CN and the National Criminal Investigation Department, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), ICUC.)

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

Parking for the People

Parking has been in short supply for years. Now, as the island experiences rapid development of neighborhoods and resorts, it is obvious parking needs to be an integral part of growth planning and management.

In recent weeks, island ministers have voiced their growing frustration with the lack of convenient parking. That is, convenient parking for themselves. Going so far as to request private reserved spaces. They point to Douane's reserved parking as an example. I wonder if these same ministers are empathetic to everyone's frustration with the complete lack of ample/sufficient parking? They do, after all, represent the people of Bonaire. As a resident of Bonaire, I fully support the idea of reserved parking if, and only if, these same ministers commit time, money, and resources to adding parking downtown for everyone.

I took the initiative to count actual parking spaces available to the public in the downtown area from Kaya Bonaire south to ChaChaCha, then east one block, north to TCB, and then east again two blocks, finishing north in line with Kaya Bonaire. Now, I have to emphasize actual spaces. I am not including parking in lots of abandoned buildings, on sidewalks, etc. just actual designated parking spaces. There are also some private or designated parking lots in this area. Again, these are not included in my count. I counted a total of 450 parking spaces. I'm happy to add another 100 for a margin of error, giving us a total of 550 parking spaces. I was surprised. Sounds like a lot.

From Kaya Playa Lechi south to Kaya Bonaire along the waterfront, I would mention the disappearance of parking available along the road. House after house, resort after resort has blocked off this area. Some use rocks, others choose a more decorative approach like planters, but the result is the same—elimination of parking. Not just parking for the general public, but also parking for their visitors and guests. I would hazard a guess that these same resorts then do not have ample parking for their own guests.

The other side of this equation is demand. In addition to calculating available parking spaces, I have also compiled a general list of businesses in this same area. I counted 40 restaurants; 62 retail spaces; and 21 larger government offices and businesses (i.e. Telbo, Digicel, UTS, Post Office, Art Hotel Bonaire, Central Hotel, MCB, Banco di Caribe, etc.). My survey is not scientific but the results are eye-opening and should be investigated further. There are about 125 businesses in this small area. Now, keep in mind parking is required for the guests of these businesses but also for the employees. Now, 550 parking spaces doesn't really seem like a lot.

An obvious solution would be to create a real parking lot/parking structure at the location of the razed prison.

Many point to the stadium parking lot as an option but, in reality, it is used to stage shipping containers.

While we are on the subject of parking, I must mention the increasingly dangerous situation in Belnem. With the completion of Grand Windsock and the expansion of The Beach restaurant, there is an increase in pedestrians along this main road. With cars parked along the side of the road (sometimes jutting into the road itself), inadequate lighting, no sidewalks, and increased traffic of all kinds (cars, scooters, motorcycles, golf carts, big trucks, and people walking on the road itself), this is a recipe for disaster. The Bloooz Resort is also worth a mention. This resort has forty-six units. My question---where is all the parking? During the

construction phase, they have used Bachelor Beach parking as though it is there for their convenience. I'm just wondering---what is the parking allotment required for new businesses such as The Beach or Bloooz Resort? Or, is it just a free-for-all?

As we reopen to tourists, we can expect a lot more vehicles vying for the same finite number of parking spaces. The time to act is now. Let's look at the big picture, plan for the future, and work together to make Bonaire a convenient, accessible, and safe place to visit. Let's make sure our tourists don't struggle to find parking and become frustrated with their experience like our ministers. Parking is part of our tourists' overall experience. We can and must do better! We must provide Parking for the People!

J.P. Semeleer

Big fines for family visitors leaving Statia

Despite a time of Covid, big fines of up to USD 1200 are being levied by the Immigration & Naturalisation Service (IND) on airport departing visitors from St. Eustatius who have overstayed their statutory three months period.

Last week, one such passenger, Chris Russell who is a pensioner and married to a Statian was told that he had exceeded his stay by 99 days and was duly fined US 800 - without a receipt.

"Throughout the world, millions of people have been displaced by travel restrictions or border closures because of the pandemic," Russell maintains. "That is why most governments including the Netherlands have negotiated a relaxation of visa regulations with nearly all countries to assist foreign and Dutch nationals that are stranded. However, this level of common sense and understanding has not reached the IND that operates out of Bonaire and controls the BES islands."

"My original return flight to Europe was cancelled and as a result of Brexit, I could not return to The Netherlands where I live because of a travel ban for non-EU nationals. So I was stuck between the Golden Rock and a hard place!"

"Last Monday, the IND office at the F.D.R. airport was a mess. Because her immigration colleague was late, the agent had to control the incoming arrivals before she could deal with departures. This when Winair - despite broken promises to the Dutch Government - operates only a few flights a week."

"With a smiling face, the agent ignored my situation, disbelieved me and kept me prisoner until the last moment whilst the plane was waiting on the tarmac."

When it became evident that Mr. Russell would be stuck on the island, he was assured by the Statia IND office on the Cottageweg that he would simply have to explain his circumstance at the airport and he would be granted freedom to pass. He was also informed that some 200 other visitors to Statia have also been displaced and are unable to return home.

"It beggars belief that the IND that is run by the Ministry of Justice should be represented by a badge in such an unjust way," Russell explains. "The Historical Gem is a wonderful Island with wonderful people. Such attitude and conduct does not assist the local tourist economy or anybody."

Chris Russell

Summer In Bonaire

Summer by the sea and
It's so beautiful to stop
And see watching the
Children smiling so bright
Having fun in the warm
Summer sunlight feeling the warmth
On my face and Bonaire is just
A beautiful sunny place and the
Taste the sweetest fruits and I'm
Watching the butterflies flow
Oh how I love the summer days
Smiling so bright kissing my beautiful wife
And all of the songs we sung where so
Beautiful and bright in the warm
Summer sunlight and it's truly
Beautiful to see the little birds singing
To me it's summer time and I'll remember this
summer's day
And all of my memories will never fade away
Oh how I love summer time in beautiful
Bonaire every day.

David P Carroll.

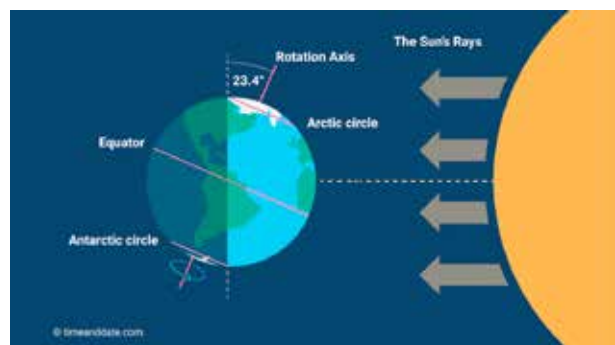
David P Carroll hails from Dublin, Ireland and is spending the summer in Bonaire visiting his aunt until September.



Bonaire's sky park

June solstice

thanks to Vigdis Hocken and Aparna Kher
time and date.com



The June solstice is the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere and the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere.

The date varies between June 20 and June 22, depending on the year, and the local time zone. June Solstice in Kralendijk, Bonaire is on Sunday, June 20, 2021 at 11:32 pm AST.

Hocken and Kher explain: "A solstice happens when the sun's zenith is at its furthest point from the equator. On the June solstice, it reaches its northernmost point and the Earth's North Pole tilts directly towards the sun, at about 23.4 degrees.

"It's also known as the northern solstice because it occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere.

"'Solstice' (Latin: 'solstitium') means sun-stopping. The point on the horizon where the sun appears to rise and set, stops and reverses direction after this day. On the solstice, the sun does not rise precisely in the east, but rises to the north of east and sets to the north of west, meaning it's visible in the sky for a longer period of time.

"Although the June solstice marks the first day of astronomical summer, it's more common to use meteorological definitions of seasons, making the solstice midsummer or midwinter."

For more facts about the June solstice see the complete article by Vigdis Hocken and Aparna Kher <https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/june-solstice.html>



The first direct flights from the United States returned June 5 to Bonaire after a 15 month hiatus due to Covid 19. Both American Airlines and Delta airlines

A large crowd welcomed the U.S. travelers bringing smiles to everyone.

Many of the passengers on board the two flights were regular Bonaire visitors and residents who have been trying to return to their favorite island for the last year. There were a few reunions of old friends and family members finally making it back 'home'. And one couple was making their final move to the island.

A blue boat with a black suitcase, a green turtle, and a pink flamingo on the deck.

Visit the Reporter Facebook page for more photos



Stefan said his goal is to create a community of like minded Crossfit athletes. He not only teaches Crossfit but weightlifting, gymnastics and has an open gym. Stefan currently has 80 active members and the gym has only been open since Oct 2020. Crossfit Palms is open six days a week, 6-11am and 4-8pm and closed on Sundays. For more information visit www.crossfitpalms.com or call 786-5182.



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New property tax assessments coming

Bonaireans will pay higher 2021 property taxes, effective 2022. Though new property evaluations have not yet been completed, the resultant tax will be in effect for this year. In mid-January, 2022, tax notices will be mailed for 2021 taxes at the reassessed rate. Property tax is levied on owners of immovable property such as a second home or a business premises. Residences occupied by the owner are exempt from property tax and are subject to land tax instead. Reassessment occurs every four years. *DMR*

Fishermen to have safer place for boats

The OLB (Public Entity Bonaire) intends to build a safe haven and work area for fishermen at Port Bonaire and at the Courtyard by Marriott. A pier, a mooring, and a slipway will be installed, as well as facilities for clean drinking water, electricity, and surveillance cameras. Piskabon will be contracted to provide maintenance and care.

The Island Council voted unanimously to have the Executive Council instruct the R&D directorate to write a development plan for the Te Amo Beach area and ensure, through the department of finance, the reallocation of financial resources in order to pay for facilities for fishermen. Facilities at Sorobon will be upgraded as well. *DMR*

Parents can apply now for cost of school supplies

Parents who qualify can apply now for an SZW allowance to help with the cost of school supplies when school starts this fall. Supplies such as uniforms, shoes and stationery are covered. Families on Bonaire with one child in secondary education and a net income up to \$1,250 per month may qualify for support. Families with more than one child attending secondary school may qualify at a higher income. Parents can apply through the RCN-unit at SZW. *DMR*

New facilities away from the beach

A new sports facility for the use of Bonaire Overheidsgebouwen, Beach Tennis Bonaire and Volleyball Association Bonaire will be constructed behind Sentro Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas on Kaya Amsterdam. Sports groups no longer can use Sunset Beach because of the new construction there. The facility will be called Beach Park Bonaire. *DMR*

Want to buy a bank?

The Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten (CBCS) has put Banco di Caribe on the market. According to the CBCS, the bank's shares are being sold to improve the financial position of the parent company Ennia. The bankrupt insurance company has been under the management of the Central Bank of Curaçao since 2018. The company's deficit is greater than Banco di Caribe's equity.

The Banco di Caribe itself says it is operating profitably and assures its customers that they do not have to be concerned about their accounts. *DMR (Koninkrijk)*

Community centers to be upgraded

As part of the integral neighborhood development project of the Society and Care Directorate, Bonaire's community centers will be upgraded. The Nikiboko community center will be renovated, and maintenance programs will be established for Amboina, Tera Kora, and the Antriol/Family Justice Center.

The goal is to improve the quality of life of local residents and restore social cohesion by restoring the community centers as meeting places where young and old come together to learn and have fun, taking courses in self-motivation, dance, art, culture, music, and so on. Strong social cohesion in the neighborhoods provides residents the opportunity to live together comfortably and have equal opportunities for prosperity and well-being. *DMR*

Summer edition of Bon Bini features sustainability



The new edition of Bon Bini Bonaire, a bi-annual government publication, can be downloaded via

<https://bonairegov.com/bestuur-organisatie/bon-bini-magazine>

Titled 'Focus on sustainability,' the issue includes articles on a new wetland at LVV, Sabal palm park, the ban on single-use plastic, local production of vegetables, fruit, meat and fish and the promotion of electric transport. Articles also address infrastructure and labor issues, crime prevention, political priorities and the transition from mass to quality tourism.



New ship lands at new dock

Hermano Mirlo, Don Andres's new cargo ship, was welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna as the first vessel to dock at the renovated port of Nello Craane. Don Andres now has three ships bringing cargo to Bonaire. *DMR*

Discussion in Parliament secures Bonaire's interim fuel supply

In April, when the House of Representatives was considering whether to approve the establishment of Bonaire Fuel Terminals BV (BFT), the legislation seemed in danger of not passing. But after further explanation by Minister Bas van 't Wout (Economic Affairs and Climate), a large majority of Parliament gave the green light. Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna was caught off guard by the resistance but pleased the crisis had passed. "The doomsday scenario has unnecessarily come into view among our residents that the production of electricity and drinking water would be endangered and that petrol and kerosene would no longer be available."

Some parliamentarians were reluctant to underwrite Bonaire's continued dependence on fossil fuels. They feel the island should be moving towards sustainable resources. The Lieutenant Governor assured the representatives that the island government and the people of Bonaire would like nothing more than to say goodbye to fossil fuels as soon as possible. "As part of our ambition to become a Blue Destination, we strive for the maximum use of renewable energy. However, the reality is that we cannot do without oil at the moment." The creation of BFT is a response to an immediate need, not a long term plan.

Rijna also responded to some members' belief that BFT should be a private venture. Initially, the intention was to leave the construction and operation of the fuel facilities to the market. But because a low return is expected, continuity cannot be guaranteed in the longer term. EZK will own one hundred percent of the shares of the company, and maintenance,

management and distribution will be outsourced.

Rijna mentioned incentive schemes in the European Netherlands to encourage private individuals and companies to become more sustainable. He suggested the House declare them applicable in the Caribbean Netherlands too. "We really want to promote the use of electric cars, but the government subsidy schemes do not apply to Bonaire. Also our water and energy company WEB would like to invest in sustainability and has plans for this. Unfortunately, that too comes up against an invisible border between the European and the Caribbean Netherlands. If the House removes this, we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels all the sooner."

The discussion in the House and the Minister produced a positive result. An overwhelming majority approved a motion submitted by Raoul Boucke and Jorien Wuite (both D66). "The House, after hearing the deliberation, concluded that the Netherlands has committed itself to the Climate Agreement; whereas the Caribbean Netherlands can also do its part and benefit from investments in sustainable energy; requests the government to draw up a roadmap with the (BES) islands with associated financial resources on how the Caribbean Netherlands can take steps towards a climate-neutral energy supply, taking into account the possibilities of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, and will proceed to the order of the day." *DMR (OLB's Bon Bini Magazine summer edition June 2021)*

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Did You Know? *that something exciting is happening with Bonaire's staghorn corals?*



Northernmost staghorn thicket at Thousand Steps. Photo by Roxanne-Liana Francisca, STINAPA Biologist

From the geological record we know that acroporas had been the dominant reef builders since before the last ice age until the 1980s. For over 250,000 years they were the most abundant species on the shallow fore reef (0 - 6m) and mid reef zones (6 - 25m). And for good reason, they are incredibly fast growers with some species growing up to 15cm per year. That is five to 10 times faster and higher than other reef building coral species! And, as a branching species, acroporas also contribute to the habitat complexity, the 3D structure of the reef, much more than the boulder and brain corals. They provide many reef dwellers

with the nooks and crannies where they can lay their eggs and hide from predators. Losing our acropora populations profoundly changed the way our reefs look and function.

Since elkhorn and staghorn were listed by the IUCN as critically endangered, there have been many coral restoration efforts focussing on these species. This is partly because natural recovery was almost never observed. Forty years after the initial rapid decline we still have less than 3% of the elkhorn coral we had in the 1960s and 1970s. Of course some programs were more successful than others at restoring acroporas and some

locations are just better suited for restoration than others. One such success story is Bonaire; you just need to snorkel at some of the sites, like Tori's reef or Jeff Davis, where Reef Renewal Bonaire has been outplanting fragments grown in their own nurseries. Where there was once a mostly bare sandy bottom you now know have massive stands, called thickets, of staghorn coral.

But we also need to credit Mother Nature. There are non-restoration sites where staghorn stands are also thriving. At the dive and snorkel site Thousand Steps the corals are growing so well that they have started overgrowing some of the boulder and pillar corals in the area. While a little natural competition is never bad, some species do need a little bit of artificial help to keep up. Our marine park rangers are of course happy to lend a helping hand by strategically relocating some staghorn fragments to sandy areas where they can continue to grow without shading out other vulnerable species like the pillar coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*). So, the next time you go for a dive or snorkel at Thousand Steps, don't forget to visit the acropora stands and marvel at the abundance of life reminiscent of what Bonaire's shallow reefs used to look like.

Roxanne-Liana Francisca, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People with Nature.



Elly Albers feeds three hungry young flamingos at Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab. Photo Julie Morgan

Flamingos need our help

Bonaire's young flamingos are at risk again this year and no one is really sure why. Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab, headed up by Elly Albers, has been the saving grace for Bonaire's flamingo population for the last few years. Two years ago, the rehab took in and cared for over 500 infants and juveniles that were lost, dehydrated, malnourished and too weak to fly. In addition, many birds were found dead or dying along the roads after being hit by speeding cars or stressed by over zealous tourists getting too close to the timid and shy birds. Elly and her volunteers nursed many back to health and after recovery were released back into the wild. But for many help was too late and they died.

The arrival of sargassum threatening the nesting and feeding grounds seemed to be the source of many of the problems but no one really knew for sure. Even a team of specialists from the Netherlands could not diagnose the problem so the answer is still unknown although there are suppositions.

After a year of reprisal in 2020 with only a few young birds needing help it appeared the flamingo problem might be under control until just a few weeks ago.

Suddenly, increasing numbers of young flamingos are being found and brought to the rehab.

According to Elly, last year the sargassum came in when the birds were ready to fly. But this year the sargassum came into the breeding ground of Pekelmeer making the whole area brown.

In general flamingo adults tend to feed their chicks for three months. But, with the arrival of the sargassum, many young chicks were left to fend for themselves. The adults feed on the brine shrimp whereas the youngsters eat algae (sargassum) and that could be the source of the problem.

Many of the young birds die within 24 hours of arrival at Wild Bird. Autopsies have been done on their livers and sent to Wageningen University in the Netherlands for examination but no one seems to have the answers yet.

Elly said, "If you see an infant or juvenile flamingo along the beach road, watch its behavior for signs of distress. Sometimes they just need to rest. But if there is a problem and the bird is approachable, wrap it in a towel and call animal rescue 780-8020."

Currently 44 young birds from three weeks to four months old are receiving help. Young flamingos are found and brought in almost daily and some are in such bad shape they don't survive the night.

Food or donations are always needed to care for the birds. Anyone traveling from the U.S. wishing to help can bring the product Emerald IC Piscivore and can most likely receive a discount by mentioning it is for Wild Bird Rehab in Bonaire. Donations can be made to Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab account number 418 08 208 at the Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire). *Story and photo by Julie Morgan*



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Tootsie recovers from bleaching



In 2009, an unbleached Tootsie has plenty of room before it grows near the other chair legs.

Every stony coral colony begins when a larval coral selects a site to settle. The larval coral settles on a flat surface, usually the sea bottom or coral rock or even a dead shell. Once settled, the larva attaches, loses its ability to swim, and begins to create its stony skeleton. As the colony grows, its shape is affected by its surroundings: it can't grow into another coral head, for example.



Tootsie bleached almost completely in late 2020 but here the colony is beginning to get some algae back. Photo Julie Morgan

Tootsie is unique in my experience, in that the colony's growth is affected by nothing except for the relatively small end of the chair leg. Consequently, Tootsie is almost perfectly spherical.

I can't measure Tootsie without risking injuring polyps, but I estimate its diam-

eter as 14 - 17" (36-44 cm), quite a bit bigger than a basketball! The Coral Reef Alliance's website says, "The massive corals are the slowest growing species, adding between 5 and 25 millimeters (0.2-1 inch) per year to their length." Since the chair's appearance underwater in 1998, roughly 20 years ago, Tootsie has grown at a rate very close to maximum. That's good news!

Although Tootsie only received a name last year, I've been watching the colony for much longer than that. It has bleached more than once - including 2020 -- but, so far, has always recovered.

Bleached coral grabs our attention because it's so shockingly white. Two



By May 2021, Tootsie had no more bleached areas but is not yet all one color.

circumstances can eliminate the blinding brightness. First, the one we don't want: the coral polyps die. Within weeks or even days of the coral's death, algae begin to overgrow its skeleton and the bright whiteness is gone. The second circumstance is the one we want: the coral polyps regain their algae, and recover.

Without watching specific coral colonies, how will we know which colonies experience which consequences?

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef* (for children); in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses." The *Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the *Carib Inn* on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.

Two new birds recorded on Bonaire in 2020

In 1983, when the second edition of 'Birds of The Netherlands Antilles' by Dr. K.H. Voous was published, the number of birds recorded on Bonaire stood at 181. Since then, this number has grown steadily to 237, averaging three new birds reported every two years. This has accelerated recently, with 15 new birds confirmed in the last five years alone. Between 2016 and 2019, Peter-Paul Schets has provided annual updates to the bird species lists on Bonaire, which included a brief overview of each new species.

Report your sightings

Report your nature sightings and photos on the website DutchCaribbean.Observation.org or download the free apps (iPhone (iObs) & Android (ObsMapp)).

DCNA, Observation International and Naturalis Biodiversity Center are working together to develop an automated species identification app for your phone. Your uploaded photos are of great value to make this possible. For questions, please contact research@DCNAnature.org

Between 2016 and 2019, Peter-Paul Schets has provided annual updates to the bird species lists on Bonaire, which included a brief overview of each new species.

In 2020, two new birds were added to this list.



1. Common swift (Apus apus)

In May of 2020, local birders Spike Stapert and Steve Schnoll spotted and photographed a unique swift. With the help of several experts, including Peter-Paul Schets (reviewer for eBird-Bonaire) this individual was identified as a Common swift, common and widespread

in Europe, but rare in the Caribbean. There has only ever been one other confirmed sighting in the area, a record from Suriname dating back to 2012.

Common swifts breed throughout almost all Europe and Asia. It is a well-known summer visitor to cities in western Europe, where they arrive from their wintering ground by the end of April and leave by mid-summer. They are known to spend the winters in Africa, south of the equator. It is a strong flyer and is known to spend most of its life in flight.



2. White-winged tern (Chlidonias leucopterus)

Steve Schnoll was birding at Bonaire Sewage Works (LVV) on the early morning of June 12th 2020 when he noticed an unfamiliar small tern which was hovering over the main pond. This tern was mainly black with a black bill, red legs, mostly white wings and a white tail. This bird was later identified as a White-winged tern in breeding plumage, a first for Bonaire as well for ABC islands. It stayed for a week at the same location, enabling a few other lucky birders to observe this graceful and delicate bird.

White-winged terns are known to breed between central Europe and eastern Asia. Every spring it is seen in small numbers in The Netherlands. This species winters mainly in Africa and southeast Asia, Australia and even as far as New Zealand. Like Common swifts, this tern is a recognized vagrant to North America.

Interestingly, of the 15 new species found on Bonaire since 2016, seven were found at LVV freshwater ponds.

Written by Peter-Paul Schets. Photos by Steve Schnoll



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Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

“Why is my computer so slow?”

Unlike most appliances, computers start operating slower and slower from the moment you open the box.

Remember the first time you turned it on, it felt like a Ferrari... and now it feels like an old Pinto. Why?

There are many reasons, most of which can be resolved and bring the Ferrari feeling back! They are:

Updates to Windows/MacOS? When the computer is just out of the box, it is at its optimum configuration. Unfortunately, between the time it was put in the box at the factory, and the time you took it out of the box, there are usually many updates required. Each time an update is installed, it requires more programs to be running in the background, using more processing power and memory, thus slowing down the computer. Is there a way around it? No. (Imagine if your car needed other parts bolted onto it every week... would we accept it? Probably not, but the computer industry has no problem doing it to us.)

Bloatware? When you turned on the computer the first time, you may have noticed all kinds of programs pre-installed on it. Everything from virus checkers to word processors, games to browsers, and more. Each of these takes space, and when running, slow down the computer. In some cases, they are running in the background without you even knowing.

Updates to Programs? Every program has bugs - that is a given. But everytime a bug is fixed, another update has to be downloaded and installed, meaning the program is larger, more complicated, and slower. And again, there is no real way around it, other than downloading all of them at once at the very beginning of a factory reset.

Out of hard disk space? With every update, every file you save, and every website you visit, more and more files are stored on your hard disk. A lot of the files are basically garbage, and can be erased to make more room.

Too much garbage? This coincides with the files above. Everything you do makes more files, even if you don't intend for them to be saved. Each of these files ends up taking time to process somewhere along the way, so it slows down the computer even more.

Registry? First off, what is the registry? It is like a file folder on your computer with all kinds of information about the programs. Whenever a program needs to look up something like “What color should the screen be?” it checks the registry. Unfortunately, the registry grows and grows until it takes so long to find something, it really slows down the computer.

Virus? In a lot of cases, a virus (or multiple virii) can be competing for your computer's resources. Many of the virii now actually steal your computer's processing power to mine cryptocurrencies (of which you don't get a penny). Other virii are using your computer to send out SPAM to other people, or even creating a DDOS attack on other services as part of a large bot-net. You need to get rid of them and protect yourself from them in the future with an anti-virus program.

Anti-Virus? Yes, it's a double edged sword because to

stop a virus attack, you need an anti-virus program, which takes processing power and time away from you, the user. Every time a file is opened or a program loaded, the anti-virus program must check against 100's of thousands of known virii, and that takes time.

Lack of memory? While your hard disk stores information, the computer needs memory to actually do the processing. If you have too many programs running, or they have updated themselves to need more memory than when you first installed them, you will see and feel a slowdown. This is because the computer has to store information temporarily on the hard disk more often as it runs out of memory.

Outdated Operating System? If your operating system is too old, that can slow things down as well because it is not taking advantage of the “latest and greatest” software. An example of this is Windows XP because it is always trying to keep up with the newest websites, browsers, javascript, video players, etc and cannot so it ends up also running slower than usual or in many cases, not working at all.

Hard Disk Failure? Most low end computers use mechanical hard disks spinning at about 7,200 RPM with the head floating barely above the surface. This is like flying a 747 an inch above the ground. So imagine if there is a bump, a teeny-weeny particle of dust, or just wear and tear, how easily the hard disk can be damaged. Modern hard disks are able to ignore the damaged area and move the data, if recoverable, to a new area. But eventually, the hard disk can become so worn out or damaged that the computer spends a lot of time dealing with this problem. To you it seems like it is just sitting there doing nothing.

Old Technology? Sometimes, the computer is just too slow and old for the high speed, highly graphic, full screen video that the internet is now delivering. I have a great laptop that does everything I want, but if I try to watch a Youtube video on it anymore, it overheats immediately because it just can't handle the newest Youtube video player, effectively making it useless for surfing the web. Some of them have gotten so hot they melt the solder on the circuit boards, especially in our climate.

Overheating? Just general overheating, especially if you have pet hair that clogs up the fans. Computers are designed to run slower if they can't stay cool. Use a vacuum and clean any visible blockages.

So, now you know the problems and symptoms - How do you fix this? Not easily... It is a long-winded process, but the results in the end are worthwhile. It's usually like having a new computer again.

Remember, like anything technical, you do run the risk of a total meltdown and losing everything, so make sure you do Step #1 first before anything else!!!

Step 1: Make a “mirror” backup of your hard disk. This way, if something goes wrong along the way, you can “undo” back to where you started. This is usually done to an external USB hard disk of at least the same size as

the internal hard disk.

Step 2: Make a list of all of the programs on the computer that you want to re-install afterwards. Leave out anything you don't use anymore.

Step 3: Make a list of all logins and passwords you use for the computer. They may or may not be stored on Google or Apple's websites, you shouldn't count on it.

Step 4: Make a backup of all data files and browser settings/cookies, etc separately from the mirror backup in Step 1

Step 6: Make note of the operating system version and the key codes which confirm you bought it. You usually require these when you reinstall the operating system, else it will complain that you need to pay for it again.

Step 7: Make sure you have the disk or files to reinstall the operating system noted in Step 6

Step 8: Do a factory reset to basically erase everything on the computer. The process to do this varies by computer manufacturer, make, model and operating system.

Step 9: If a hard disk issue is suspected, check the hard disk report and run a hard disk surface test/recovery program if necessary. Depending on the outcome, either proceed, or replace with a new hard disk.

Step 10: Install the operating system on the hard disk using the method for your computer.

Step 11: Perform all operating system updates.

Step 12: Install an Anti-Virus program.

Step 13: Install all the programs noted in Step 2

Step 14: Perform all program updates.

Step 15: From the backup in Step 4, restore all of the files and browser information.

Step 16: Get on your knees and crawl around the computer chanting “Please work” three times. This is known in the Windows world as “Plug and Pray”.

Step 17: Everything worked and you are back in business, but running much faster.

Step 18: Regardless of all of this, you may have to re-enter logins and passwords to websites like banking, etc. Unfortunately, they cannot be copied from the backup as a security precaution.

These 18 steps should bring your computer back to a pretty good speed. Upgrading your memory can also help, but that's usually an expensive endeavour and requires taking the laptop or desktop apart, and some models just cannot have memory added.

Plan on about 8-24 hours to do this (Remember you can't use your computer during this time for anything else.)

In case you do not want to perform the equivalent of brain surgery on your computer, give Dr. Geek a call at 700-9094, Whatsapp +599 770-1278 or email geek@bonairetechsupport.com to schedule a Spa Day for it (And make a reservation somewhere for yourself too).

PS. I wrote the first draft of this article last night, and this morning I booted up and it has been over 30 minutes of running like frozen molasses due to a “Windows Update” happening.

If you need help with your computer you can contact me at:
geek@bonairetechsupport.com or +599 700 9094 (Phone/Whatsapp)



Every Lorenzo Mittiga photo tells a story

Lorenzo Mittiga has been publishing and winning awards for his beautiful images of ocean wildlife since 2012. But where he once called himself a nature or wildlife photographer, he has shifted his focus to conservation. In the past year he has produced images of Bonaire telling the stories of conservation efforts in the mangroves, the masbango fishermen and coral restoration. All were successfully published by magazines worldwide. They earned him some prestigious photography awards including, most recently, Ocean Geographic's 'Photographer of the Year' in photo journalism.

The road from becoming an ocean lover producing beautiful images to illustrating conservation efforts to further awareness was not a fast track, but evolved over many years of dedication and experience.

While spending time at an Italian seaside, a curious five-year-old Lorenzo took his first breaths from his father's regulator. Here he developed a love for the ocean and diving. At 14 he received his dive certification and later became an instructor. With an evolving curiosity of the ocean he earned a masters degree in marine biology. During that time

he learned to shoot underwater documentaries working alongside greats like Robert Rinaldi of Cousteau's Calypso fame. Lorenzo broke into 35mm filmmaking shooting commercials, television and Italian wildlife programs. He worked on the 2004 spoof movie about Jacques Cousteau, "The Life Aquatic" filming from the viewpoint of the dolphin.

He met his partner and now wife Elisabetta Maccari working on the set of an underwater series. They joined forces and worked as dive management and instructors at resorts in the Seychelles, Mauritius and Egypt. While shooting video for liveaboards and himself, Lorenzo began concentrating more and more on still photography. When they made the move to Bonaire to live, in 2012, he committed totally to photography and filming on assignment only for big productions.

In this photography pursuit, Lorenzo has gathered a very impressive list of awards and accommodations complimenting his imagery skills including the 12th Smithsonian International Photo Contest in 2014. But it was his winning portfolio review from National Geographic in 2019 that opened up



Photographer Lorenzo Mittiga breaks through a school of masbangos - photo by Elisabetta Maccari



Francesca Varga of Reef Renewal Bonaire tends to an Acropora cervicornis coral tree - photo by Lorenzo Mittiga

his photography focus and vision. With that portfolio win and being published 11 times in the magazine's "Your Shot" feature, he attracted the attention of then editor David Lee for a possible feature story. The National Geographic editor advised Lorenzo to represent himself as a 'visual story teller and always make a story' with his images.

Lee suggested Lorenzo stay in his own backyard for his images, not to travel anywhere, but to do everything where he was. If you shoot 660, pho-

tos select the best six that tell the story. Lee gave Lorenzo homework to select whatever subject he liked and make a story.

Lorenzo chose conservation illustrating the work of Bonaire's Reef Renewal Bonaire. With his best critic's help, Elisabetta, he narrowed his selection and submitted 12 images.

Unfortunately, the work didn't hap-

Lorenzo,
continued on page 13

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What's Happening

Washington Slagbaai: Wed-Sun. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)
STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-2. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.
Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10-1; 2-3:30. Sat. 10-2:30. phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com
Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market store): Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

June 20	Father's Day June Solstice in Kralendijk at 11:32 pm AST. First day of summer. See page 5
June 20-27	Full Mask Week. Free programs for divers interested in learning to dive with a full face mask as well as some events for snorkelers. See this page.
June 29 July 1 & 3	Andre Nahr's Geology of Bonaire course. See this page.

Clean up action for Nikiboko

During the month of June residents in Nikiboko can easily dispose of waste from their yards, gardens and neighborhood. Selibon is placing large containers at:

- Kaya Flamingo, Kaya Berlin, Kaya Prikichi and Kaya Misoa (next to the church Baranka di Restorashon)

The waste that is suitable for the containers:

- + Rough waste (like old chairs or tables, cabinets, beds and mattress)
- + Garden waste (leaves, branches, and trees)

Please note: Every week sites of the containers will be changed in the neighborhood.

Old electronic appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, television, vcrs, Ethernet boxes, etc. may contain asbestos. Please report these items for disposal directly to Selibon so they may be collected separately. Contact Selibon at 717-8159 or 701 – 8159 or email balie@selibon.com



Full face mask week at DFB

Dive Friends Bonaire (DFB) is pleased to once again be hosting the DFB Full Face Mask Week, Powered by Ocean Reef, from June 20th to June 27th. During this week we will have a full range of programs for divers interested in learning to dive with a full face mask as well as some events for snorkelers.

There will be short introductions to the Ocean Reef Integrated Dive Mask available at our Yellow Submarine location for FREE!

Spaces are limited, so please contact info@diverfriendsbonaire.com in order to reserve your spot.

Dive Friends Bonaire is offering discounts on full face masks, snorkel stuff, and free trials for full face snorkel masks equipped with the Ocean Reef Snorkie Talkie communication device.



Hurricane season is here, again

In case you weren't paying attention, hurricane season began on May 23 when tropical storm Ana formed northeast of Bermuda. Supposedly that was a week early. But this year the U.S. National Hurricane Center quietly and unofficially abandoned the traditional June 1 starting date. The NHC prepared to start issuing its routine tropical weather storm advisories on May 15. For seven consecutive years including this year, the first tropical storm has formed in May.

The forecasters don't anticipate the historic level of storm activity reported in 2020, which had 30 named storms and broke records. NOAA scientists predict a "busier than average" year with a likely range of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher – about 63 kph). Six to 10 of these could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher – about 120 kph), including three to five major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher – about 180 kph).

So this season shouldn't be as busy as last year. But as acting NOAA administrator Ben Friedman, said, it takes only one storm to devastate a community.



The public body Bonaire warns that people must be self-reliant if a disaster such as a hurricane strikes. Emergency services cannot be everywhere at once. People must keep themselves informed and plan ahead with family, relatives and neighbors. The website www.bonairegov.com has a disaster response button. The button leads to tips on what to do in emergencies, a copy of a brochure in four languages, and the application Disasterprep, with links on how to download the app on the different brands of mobile phones. DMR (NOAA)

Interested in Bonaire's geology?



This week, Andre Nahr is presenting a never before taught course on Bonaire's geology. Many people were interested in the three day class but size was limited to 13 participants and many more applied. Due to the popularity of the class, Andre is offering the three day class again June 29, July 1 and a field trip on July 3.

Everyone who loves the island always has questions about Bonaire's geology. How was the island formed and when? What is the actual composition of the island's topographical structures?

Session one and two are scheduled for Tuesday, June 29 and Thursday, July 1 from 7pm -9pm at the Opleidings instituut Bonaire, Kaya Amsterdam (next to Omni).

Session three (the field trip) is on Saturday, July 3 from 9am to 1 pm.

The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand about Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested but there is no heavy hiking.

The class is taught in English and to gain the most from this fascinating adventure, a maximum of 13 individuals can sign up. Carpooling is a good idea to limit the number of vehicles. Snacks and drinks will be provided for all three class sessions.

Cost for the class is \$95 payable in cash at the class or by bank transfer: Banco di Caribe, Account 32178901; c/o Andre Nahr; Kaya Wassenaar 8.

For more information call 786-2227 or sign up by email – geology.andrenahr@gmail.com.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Bonaire's fascinating geology.

Make a quick connection

Have you tried out the new linked business ads on the online Reporter's "At Your Service" business directory? (page 14)

Most every ad has a direct link to the advertiser's Facebook, email or website.

With this new addition, readers who are interested in a particular service can save time by just clicking the ad to make contact or see what the business is all about.

No longer do you have to do your own search, the connection is right there. Try it! Photo Julie Morgan





Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

To work or not to work.

That is the question. Almost everybody has been brought up knowing that working or having a job is very important. When you have work, you earn your own income and you don't have to rely on anybody.

And although we have Social Security nowadays, work stays important.

Work means that you do not have to depend on others, you can do with your income whatever you want and also pay what is important.

Having a job means belonging somewhere. It teaches you that you form part of a group with rules you have to stick to and it works wonders for your pride.

Who does not feel 10 feet tall when

people say about you: "he/she works there".

For people with disabilities things work differently. First of all they have learned to depend on parents/families. They learn that they are a special group that needs special attention, go to special schools and get a different education.

Also, a lot depends on how severe the disability is, what kind of disability you have and where you live.

The Dutch system offers a lot of help, guidance and financial aid; companies that offer job opportunities for persons with disabilities, the workplace gets adapted and there is a team of counselors that offer guidance and help. There

is even a law that states companies have to employ a certain number of personnel with disabilities.

And where there is no job in a company for you, there is always the "sheltered workshop". In these workshops special training is offered, special work is being provided and a lot of attention is given to the individual.

Sheltered workshops have contracts with hotels and other companies for the individuals to fold paper towels, pack plastic cutlery, pack dog-treats, etc. There is very little time pressure, so the environment is very friendly. The staff is well-trained and experienced.

Small shops are set up where every employee has her or his specific task and together they work towards a specific goal. Wonderful examples are: candle-making, small restaurants, gardening team or a small farm.

And for the elderly and persons with a severe disability, there are "care-farms".

This is a farm where the elderly and young people with behavior problems and persons with other disabilities come to spend the day and do small or odd jobs. And if they want to take it easy, this is also possible. They can just sit, have coffee and enjoy the others work.

Every project has very easy access and transportation is provided.

Some of these projects would be wonderful to set up on Bonaire. There is room, there are buildings, there are willing people that can and want to work and help. Now tourism is picking up again, there is need for interesting projects, need for inclusion: a small restaurant, recycling and producing materials, etc. We can promote Bonaire in another way, a special way.

This way nobody needs to be left out and persons with disabilities get another chance to show what they can do.

Let's get to work!



Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

Ignite your daily success with a *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

What do you have planned for Father's Day?

Reflection For Today

"The deepest craving of human nature is the need to be appreciated." - William James

Tip For Today

"Chichi, what do you have planned for Father's Day?"

"The yard needs some attention again and I saw the perfect tools at the hardware store!", she responded enthusiastically.

Swinda looked at her best friend and shook her head. "Chichi, Father's Day is an opportunity for you to show your hubby that you appreciate him as a father, not for you to put him to work again!"

Many fathers love cool tools and gadgets, but Swinda made a valid point. Are you showing the fathers in your life enough appreciation?

Here are three suggestions to make the men in your life who are fathers, feel extra special...

1. **Acknowledge them.** Noticing their contributions and letting them know they matter, makes fathers feel extra special

2. **Encourage them.** Boosting their

self-confidence and self-esteem, makes fathers feel extra special.

3. **Empower them.** Trusting them, supporting them, and investing in them, makes fathers feel extra special.

Remember...

Showering someone with material gifts is certainly a way to show your appreciation. However, successful people find a way to show their appreciation on a deeper level.

Chichi's husband is a father, her father and her uncles are fathers and she has several friends who are father figures in lives of others. Swinda's observation made her best friend look at Father's Day from a fresh perspective. And as Chichi was about to thank her, Swinda added, "And Chichi, you don't have to wait for Father's Day to show your appreciation. Every day is an opportunity to do so!"

Affirmation For Today

I appreciate how the fathers in my life add value to me and to others. Today I am finding a way to acknowledge them, to encourage them and to empower them.

So...think, be equipped, feel empowered, and ... **Live Inspired Today!**

Malcolm Wilson is an inspirational speaker, success coach and certified John Maxwell speaker, coach and teacher. Born and raised in Bonaire, his purpose in life is to inspire, equip and empower students and adults to be successful in school, at work and in life. Success is a journey and Malcolm defines success as "Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people."

Covid-19, continued from page 2

countries who were not able to be tested within the required 24 hours.

Visitors are now allowed at the hospital and the care home.

For the Kas di Kuindo, including the department at Delfins, the visiting hours are now daily from 6 pm to 8 pm. A maximum of two visitors per client are allowed. Non-COVID patients at the hospital are allowed to receive two visitors for one hour per day, with advance appointment. Visiting hours are from 12 pm to 1 pm. Masking, social distancing, and hygienic measures are required. Patients for the outpatient clinics and the Emergency Department are now allowed to bring one accompanying person.

A spokesman from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has assured travelers that Bonaire and Curaçao are good places to visit, with few infections and most activities unrestricted. He did warn that people visiting any of the islands should keep well informed about travel restrictions and testing requirements at each end of their trip, which can change unexpectedly. Aruba and Sint Maarten still have some entertainment restrictions, he said, as does French St. Martin, where infections are rising. Saba requires a five-day quarantine, St. Eustatius a ten-day quarantine. No further measures apply on either island after the mandatory quarantine. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)

Lorenzo, continued from page 11

pen with National Geographic due to the magazine's sale to Disney and the supportive editor lost his job in the takeover.

"I learned how to make the format and write the captions that are very important to telling the story," said Lorenzo. But the experience left me something; meaning he gave me the tools for photo story skills."

From that experience, self-trained photographer Lorenzo Mittiga rebranded himself a conservation photographer producing images that tell a story about conservation and raise awareness in our world.

Lorenzo said, "Today conservation is on the mouth of everybody...brands, ac-

tivities, travel, you name it, are trending to conservation, because everybody is aware about the planet's issues."

Lorenzo's photo of turtles at the Salt Pier is the June 2021 cover shot for Scuba Diving Magazine's conservation issue. His winning photos for Ocean Geographic Photographer of the Year in photojournalism on Reef Renewal Bonaire will appear in their October 2021 issue.

For more information or to see more of his work visit www.LorenzoMittiga.com or on instagram - Lorenzo Mittiga. Story by Julie Morgan



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Pets of the Week

Coby



Salutations! My name is Coby. I am approximately two years old and have been living at the shelter for a year already. I'm a very quiet and calm cat that will not cause you any trouble and I also get along very well with other cats. Even though the Shelter Cat Palace is pretty full, you'll spot me easily among the other cats because of my beautiful snow white fur and gorgeous green eyes. It is very hard to find a handsome, completely white cat like me. That's my biggest flex (boast), I would say! Are you looking for some peaceful company? Then please come and meet me at the Shelter. I can have visitors Mon.-Fri. 10 am-1 pm and 2-3:30 pm, Sat. 10 am - 2:30 pm.

Story and photo: Thamar Cachemir

Pasha



I would like to introduce myself: my name is Pasha. I am an older lady about nine years old and still waiting to go home. I might be an older lady but I have the behavior of a pup because I take as many naps as the pups do. So every time I wake up I feel young again! I've been a shelter resident for over two years now. I think it's time I pack my bags and move out of here to a loving home of my own. What I like to do: I love long walks, and some water is also nice to wet my paws in, I love to cuddle and play, but I can also find my own way and take a long nice beauty sleep. Please come and meet me at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26A Mon.-Fri. 10 am-1 pm and 2:00-3:30 pm, Sat. 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. You can call 7174989 or call / Whatsapp 7014989. You can also contact us via Facebook messenger and by email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Story and Photo: Sanne Attevelt

Shelter News

WE ARE FULLY OPEN!!!!!!

Animal Shelter Bonaire is once again open to the public without an appointment being necessary. You are welcome to come and meet all our wonderful cats and dogs who have been waiting for a very long time to find a fur-ever home. Visiting hours are Mon.-Fri. 10 am-1 pm and 2-3:30 pm; Sat. 10 am - 2:30 pm.

You are also welcome to drop off any donation items for the Pakus di Pruga during those same hours. Your unwanted items will be someone else's treasure and all funds from Pakus benefit the animals at the Shelter. It's a win-win situation.

Pakus di Pruga second hand store is open every Saturday 8 am-4 pm Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar (opposite Brandaris Cafe).

Jane Disko



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Achieving optimal energy levels

Everyone naturally has different levels of energy and each person has a different type of energy. There are people who have explosive energy and others who have soft energy. Some have more constant levels and while others more variable. In general terms, the level of energy is an indicator of your health.

Energy levels are affected by your immune system, your hormones, your gut microbiome, your levels of stress and your ability to minimize oxidative stress. All these variables can be influenced by changing behaviors and routines.

Sleep is essential. During this period, tissues are repaired, memory is consolidated and the nervous system is cleansed of metabolic waste. Your appetite hormones are regulated and growth hormone is released; this last one keeps us fit and young. Not everyone needs the same amount of sleep. There are those who function well with seven hours, others need nine. Not only the quantity, but also the quality of sleep is important. In short, sleep deprivation directly affects the immune system, hormonal balance and increases oxidative stress. It can also be the basis of weight gain, since poor food choices are made due to lack of sleep that indirectly affect the microbiota. Also when you feel tired you tend to eat more food than necessary.

The quality of your sleep is related to your diet and diet is essential to achieve our best energy levels. We get energy through different fuels: food, water and various gases that take part in metabolism.

Nowadays we have a shopping mall of diets, ranging from rawist, vegan, frugivores, ketogenic, Paleolithic, Mediterranean, the pure carnivores and even more. We have to agree that there is no one diet that fits all. There are multiple ways to find well-being and improve the quality of life.

Between 1930 and 1940 Weston Price toured 14 isolated communities that had conserved their original

eating habits observing how world diets differ. But there are certain general guidelines that apply to all. These guidelines can be summarized by consumption of fresh, local, seasonal and unprocessed products. All of these diets are devoid of refined sugar and flour, ultra-processed products, polyunsaturated vegetable oils, colorants, and preservatives. In summary, you can explore and try different diets and check how you feel. A good idea is to keep a diary where you can record what you eat and how you feel. A good diet not only provides nutrients, but also contributes to the health of the intestinal microbiota, the key to a good immune response and optimal energy levels.

As for the growth hormone, its production can be enhanced not only through good sleep but also through high intensity exercises for a short duration and fasting.

The idea is to do short-duration exercises and then eat protein in the next 20 to 40 minutes. Endurance exercises generate oxidative stress, and in some cases it overshadows some of its benefits. Therefore, to improve energy levels, the ideal is to do short, high-intensity routines. Another way to boost growth hormone production is intermittent fasting. I will provide more information about this in a future issue.

As you can see, sleep, diet and movement are linked and they are behaviors we can alter. We have to create our own healthy routines that are easy to follow. Our will power works like a muscle and although it can be trained, it also gets exhausted. We shouldn't rely on it but instead be creative and design routines that are fun, attractive and can enhance our health.

Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

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A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Basora Kora

A while ago a friend sent me a picture of a shrub decorated in beautiful, small, purple flowers asking if I knew the plant. And yes, I had seen it but did not know much about it. He told me that the local name is Basora Kora and that locals use it for certain medical use. This plant has been growing on its own in my yard, and a few weeks ago I saw it in full bloom along the fence. It was so awesome that I stopped and made some pictures because I knew I wanted to write about it.

As I said, its local name is Basora Kora and its official name is Melochia Tomentosa, a species of the family Malvaceae. It's also known as red rope, tea bush, wolly pyramid bush, malva roxa, escobilla and many more common names. Nice to know that the name of the genus comes from the Arabic Mulukhiyah. Beautiful.

The species is native to the whole continent of the Americas and in the Caribbean. It grows in open dry soil or along roads and paths that are uncultivated. The areas are composed mainly of rocky and poor soils, lime rock and sand.

It grows easily on Bonaire and blooms abundantly with a high drought tolerance and loves the full sun. The shrub does well in any type of soil, even poorly drained, and in humid as well as arid areas, if it's not too salty.

A plant can just suddenly pop up in your yard as it propagates by seed or by a cutting.

This shrub grows up to 24 inches more or less, with fuzzy small green leaves covered on the surface with a dense tomentose of gray/white stellate hairs. The purple flowers grow year round in a tropical climate making the lush plant a must have in your yard. The Basora Kora attracts a lot of small butterflies on the flowers and pollinating insects especially bees and nectar seeking wasps.

In different countries, it has various medicinal values. In Bonaire it has been used to relieve throat inflammation, stomach disorder and stomach ache. A decoction of the leaves will stop vomiting. The plant is a cure for abdominal swelling but the root extract has been reported to be tumorigenic.

Basora Kora contains a high level of potassium, calcium and Phosphorus. In certain cultures the leaves are eaten because of its high health values.

Another species name is Melochia corchorifolia, which is essentially the same plant.

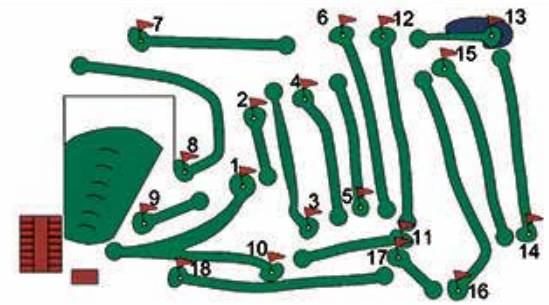
If the plant pops up in your yard, don't cut it down, as it will comfort you for weeks with its awesome bouquet of flowers.



Beautiful flowering and medicinal Basora Kora

Let's play some golf, continued from page 1

up to three times a week, said that even though it is not like most traditional courses it's a wonderful opportunity to play. People who have never played can learn and fall in love with the game and its special challenges.



Piedra So 18 hole links course is situated on the east coast of Bonaire

The front nine holes have artificial grass on the tee boxes and putting greens. The clubhouse stands behind a 200 meter plus driving range to the ocean. Piedra So's course skirts Bonaire's east coast providing a nice breeze and an amazing view. On a typical game, golfers can enjoy Bonaire's birds, lizards and even the occasional donkey or goat.

Piedra So golf is fun for everyone whether experienced or just trying it out for the day. Everyone is expected to observe the rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and a few others like "Animals have priority above players."

For more information visit the website at www.bonaire.golf or Facebook page Piedra So Golf Club. Email or call for reservations: info@piedraso.com or call 599-785-3232.

Story and photos, Julie Morgan

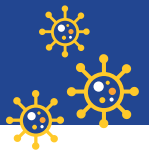


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Sports activities

Sports activities are understood to mean engaging in a sport. In the list below you can see which sports may be practiced at each risk level, provided the general risk-level measures are adhered to. Children under the age of 18 may continue to play sports regardless of the level. From level five onwards they are no longer allowed to exercise indoors.

	Risk level 1 Alert	Risk level 2 Worrisome	Risk level 3 Menacing	Risk level 4 Serious	Risk level 5 Very Serious	Risk level 6 Lockdown
Athletics	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually	✓ yes, individually
Baseball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Basketball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Beach tennis	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Beach volleyball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Billiards	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no
Bodybuilding	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Bolas	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Boxing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no	✗ no
Checkers	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Chess	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Cycling	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Dominoes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Fitness	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Free diving	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Indoor soccer	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Judo	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Karate	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Kayaking	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✓ yes, individually	✗ no
Kickboxing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Kite surfing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
MMA	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Optimist	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✓ yes, individually	✗ no
Scuba diving	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Shooting	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Soccer	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Softball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Sunfish	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✓ yes, individually	✗ no
Swimming	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Table tennis	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Tennis	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no
Volleyball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Water polo	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Windsurfing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually

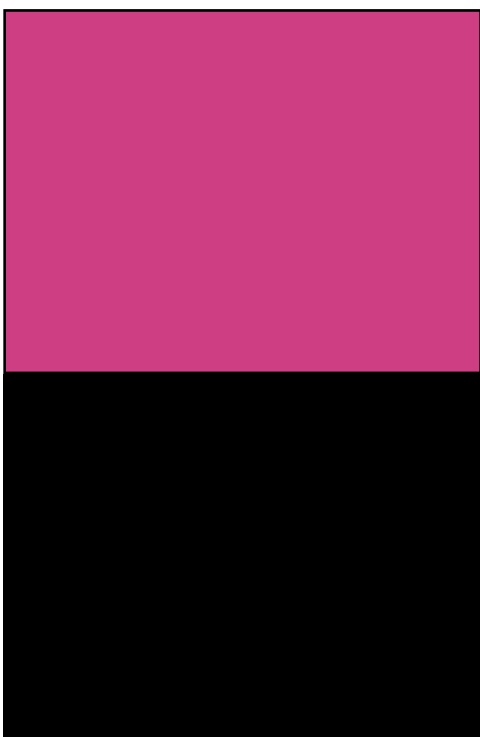


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