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Photo: Julie Morgan

Will you take me home please?

Bonaire Animal Shelter (BAS) has 158 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens that are ready to change their address and go home. The hospitality was great at BAS, they received the best care and made a lot of new friends. But it's time to move on and start a new life and you could make this happen.

Just imagine changing the life of an animal that will also improve your own and perhaps even give you a friend for many years.

As Joaquin Phoenix says, "It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal."

There have been countless kind humans caring for and adopting the 1000's of Bonaire animals that have been saved since the animal shelter opened in 1983. The shelter began with three kind volunteers that saw the need and took the initiative to build five simple kennels on Captain Don Stewart's property. Basic medical care for the animals was provided by a Trans World Radio woman and visiting veterinarians for sterilizations. In 1986 two caring volunteers persuaded the government that more space was needed and the shelter found a new permanent home on Kaminda Lagan.

If you can imagine, the shelter was literally overflowing with 700 dogs and 100 cats in 1996. Despite a lack of space, it seemed the shelter was destined for closure due to the costs for care. The shelter manager and board chairman at the time convinced the government to help fund the shelter but more money was needed to even cover the bills. Fundraising efforts began by a local resort and frequently visiting cruise ship. And shelter volunteers sold T-shirts and some were even tie-dyed to make them super special. One of the best money-making

ers for the BAS, was a volunteer's idea for the flea market Pakus di Pruga. The land was donated by another animal lover. Pakus receipts help feed and house a lot of cats and dogs to this day. It's a great place to find some good bargains and recycle your unwanted stuff.

Through the years generous donors, visiting guests, a bi-annual auction and other fundraising efforts have supported shelter upgrades, renovations, a cat cam, food and shipping, medical supplies, a meet and greet pet area and new kennels.

Since 1997, the shelter has provided free pet sterilization for those that couldn't afford it. In 2009 the sterilization program was extended to cover any and all pets on Bonaire. But, even with free sterilization for Bonaire's cats and dogs the kittens and puppies keep coming because not everyone is taking advantage of the



A mother and child do some puppy window shopping and make a new friend. The shelter welcomes everyone to come and meet the residents.

free service. All summer the Bonaire Animal Shelter has been the drop off point for numerous puppy and kitten litters.

As of August 21, a baby boom of 28 kittens and 27 puppies are temporarily living at the shelter and they are all looking for their forever home.

But it's not just youngsters populating the shelter. There are some great adult dogs and cats taking up residence. Many were found or were given up by their owners and unfortunately several show up unsterilized or pregnant. The shelter is currently caring for 73 adult dogs and 30 adult cats. Each animal is treated for worms, vaccinations and whatever other medical issues. The initial medical cost is \$50 per animal or \$7900 for all the current shelter occupants.

In 2021, 117 dogs and 89 cats were dropped off or given up by their owners. But the good news is there have been 62 dogs and 46 cats adopted. And thankfully, five dogs and three cats have been reunited with their owners.

BAS spends approximately \$1200 month to feed the furry residents and \$150 for the feline's litter. Free island-wide sterilization cost the shelter about \$2000 per month.

The animal's daily care is provided by six dedicated staff members working for \$6.50 per hr. And the 14 adult and seven kid caring volunteers do priceless hard work on a daily basis.

Take me home please,
continued on page 11

WEB targets 80% renewable energy, soon

With a growing population and the resurgence of tourism, Bonaire is falling behind in meeting its renewable energy goals. In recent years the wind farm's contribution to the island's electrical needs has fallen to approximately 25% from 33%. But according to WEB, "within two or three years" 80% of the electricity consumed on the island could be produced by wind and solar energy. All that is needed for work to start is final approval of a \$32 million plan that "has been embraced by everyone in The Hague," is in accordance with declared intentions of Parliament, and is endorsed by the Government Entity and WEB. Bonaire could become a world leader in renewable energy.

The recently published IPCC report on climate change indicated that the effects of climate change have already passed the crisis threshold. According to WEB General Director Alfredo Koolman, "Without intervention, the sea level will continue to rise and future generations on Bonaire have to fear wet feet."

DMR

Dutch send help to Haiti earthquake victims



On August 14 a 7.2 earthquake struck Haiti. The present count shows more than 2,200 people dead, 344 still unaccounted for, and over 12,250 injured. More than 135,000 properties were damaged or destroyed, including hospitals, schools, and homes. The Dutch naval ship Zr.Ms. Holland has been loaded with food, water and relief supplies on Curaçao and is on route to Haiti. Twenty two military personnel, marines and army engineers, are on board as well. They are equipped with an NH90 helicopter, dinghies, and vehicles.

The military will mostly distribute food, medical supplies, and other emergency goods. They will also assess the extent of the damages caused by the earthquake to help with future planning. The Netherlands, the European Union, and the United Kingdom and the United States are coordinating their relief efforts for Haiti. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU are financing the deployment of the naval vessel. DMR

Slaughterhouse vandalized, gun stolen

The Slaughterhouse was broken into the night of August 10 and 11. The intruders did extensive damage to the premises and stole a percussion pistol used to stun cattle. Slaughterhouse operations have had to be suspended until the pistol can be replaced, which will take two to three weeks at least. The perpetrators have been warned that possession of the pistol violates the Firearms Act BES. They are advised to return it. DMR

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7

Sept. 2, first cruise ship docks



After a 17 month hiatus in cruise ship arrivals, Equinox of Celebrity Cruises will tie to the dock on Bonaire on Thursday, September 2, the first returning ship foreseen in the Tourism Recovery Plan. It will depart from Florida and visit the Bahamas, Aruba, Curaçao and then Bonaire. According to projections, the early ships coming to Bonaire will be operating at only 20% to 40% of passenger capacity.

Passengers and crew will not be allowed to disembark unless they meet required covid safeguards. Fully vaccinated travelers (12 years and older) must show their proof of full vaccination and a negative PCR test not older than 24 hours before departure from home port. Partially vaccinated travelers will have to show a negative PCR test, plus an antigen test not older than 24 hours before arrival to our island.

Everyone on the dock, including locals and tourists, will have to wear a face mask and maintain 1.5-meter social distance. Those traveling by bus or taxi will be required to wear a face mask too. Island residents who work for companies committed to the TCB Bonaire Friendly Safety Seal program must wear their badges within the City Center boundaries during the Cruise Season. DMR

Covid-19 round-up

To enter the United States, all air passengers two years of age and over must meet testing requirements. Regardless of vaccination status, they have to present a negative COVID-19 test or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. That includes U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Airlines must deny boarding of passengers who do not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery.

The CDC recommends that Americans do not travel internationally unless fully vaccinated, and not even then if they can avoid it. And it recommends those who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 avoid cruise ships, regardless of vaccination status. COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported on cruise ships in recent months despite various testing and vaccination requirements among cruise lines.

The U.S. is facing its fourth wave of COVID-19, driven by the delta variant. Recently the country reported 987,417 new cases and 6,037 virus-related deaths in one week. DMR (U.S. Today)

Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna has temporarily eased some restrictions for Bonaire. In mid-August the number of infections on Bonaire were stable so far and no COVID-19 patients were in the hospital.

Singing and dancing are allowed outside. A maximum of 50 people can gather for private meetings and a 100 for public meetings, with a permit from the Legal Affairs Department. Sponsors of sporting events are obliged to notify the department of their intention as well. Attendance is limited to 50% of the capacity of the venue, whether inside or outside may be used in the stadium. The closing time for catering and entertainment establishments remains the same, 24:00. These rules are in effect from August 13 through August 17.

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of August 24, 2021

21 active	1 hospitalized
1745 total	17 deceased
80.5 % have had 1st vaccination	
Bonaire is at risk level 2.	

For up to date covid news go to the online

Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> or FB

Government site is

<https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

King of Ribs



Franco Cardone's King of Ribs is more than a restaurant serving specialty ribs, BBQ and steaks. The 'King' is also the king of seafood, pasta, burgers, Mexican and even a few vegetarian entrees. One could easily say Franco aims to please. He truly loves being in the restaurant business for the last 20 years and wants to give the diner what he wants.

"I love cooking, trying new things and cooking for people. It's a big change from what I did for the Curaçao government – big change," said Franco.

Franco always dreamed to have a restaurant in his own name and in 2016 the dream became reality. In his previous

restaurant experiences, cooking was not a part of the job but he always thought the owner should know how to cook. Franco began honing his culinary skills by first cooking for his family and now he is the primary cook at King of Ribs.

"The ribs are the same as before but better," said, Franco, "I make my own BBQ sauce with secret spices. Home-made, the flavor is so much better, it was like Wow! So amazing – I was surprised, it's like magic."

The ribs are baked in the oven and then grilled to finish them. He offers two different marinades for the ribs and other meats. Diners can select between a spicy or a little sweet tasting sauce or marinade.

The tenderloin is imported from the U.S. and the pork ribs are from Brazil. He is hoping to offer beef ribs in the future as long as it is affordable for diners.

Franco received a bit of help from a visiting Texas restaurant owner on the nuances of Mexican food recipes and special salsa. The "South of the Border" food runs the full gamut from nachos, enchiladas, burritos, quesadillas and fajitas in either beef, chicken, fish, shrimp or vegetarian. And, of course, there are the regular Mexican food accompaniments of beans, guacamole, salsa made fresh daily and some killer margaritas.

Three people staff the King of Ribs and that includes Franco. He waits on the tables, bartends and prepares the vegetarian entrees, Mexican food and fresh daily tomato soup.

"I come to the table and the people say, 'The owner is making my food,' the people like that and I do too," said Franco.

A separate cook mans the grill used for the ribs and meats.

For the last eight years, Franco has kept the King of Ribs in operation working 16-17 hours a day. Even through Covid, he did take-away orders.

Franco said, "To survive in a restaurant on

Bonaire, is not easy. You have to know what you're doing and not just with covid. If you can't handle it, then you are done."

In the next month or so King of Ribs will be undergoing some renovations and restoration. Anyone familiar with the restaurant's interior will know of the wall paintings by Dutch rock'n'roller and abstract artist, Herman Brood. Franco assures the paintings will remain a part of the décor. He also plans to begin serving lunch at a later date.

King of Ribs is located in the Harbourside Mall upstairs across from Karel's. Open for dinner every evening but Wednesday from 6-9:30pm. For more information see the King of Ribs ad on page 9, "Foodies Guide to Bonaire."

Story and photos Julie Morgan



Owner Franco Cardone

FOR SALE Crown Shores 61 Large Building Lot



- Location : Sabadeco
- Lot size : 2871 m2 / 30900 sq. ft.
- Zoning : Woongebied II

- Popular upscale neighborhood
- Utilities are already in place at the road
- No building obligation

Asking price \$379,000 US Dollar

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



POLICE REPORT

Property crime

August 11. The slaughterhouse at Kaminda Lagun was burgled between Tuesday and Wednesday, August 10 and 11. Thieves took boots and a rifle.

August 13. Thieves stole the cash register and car keys of 15 rental cars between 1:20 and 1:30 am at a restaurant/bar in a tourist accommodation on Kaya Internashional.

August 14. In the early morning hours a burglary was reported at a lottery office on the Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia. Thieves forced the door and took various items and cash.

August 17. Cash was taken from a car that was parked at an apartment complex on Kaya J.N.E. Crane.

August 18. A burglary was reported in a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham. Thieves had taken the car keys from a rental car and took the car for a ride. The residents found out that there was a break-in when the police showed up at their door to say that their car had been found parked in the middle of the road on Julio A. Abraham Bulevar. The thieves stole, among other things, a silver-colored MacBook, a gray MacBook, three sets of airpods, black Apple headphones, a silver-colored KLM iPad, two Clo bags, one Ses-eun bag, two Polette glasses and one pair of Marianne glasses.

August 20. In the early morning hours, a tourist accommodation on E.E.G. was burgled. Thieves climbed up through the back of the building to enter an apartment. They took, among other things, two Apple I Watches, two Apple cords, an Apple iPad, an HP computer, a computer bag, earplugs and cash.

Arrested/held in custody.

August 14. At about 5:30 pm a car and a moped collided on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The driver of the moped was taken to hospital by ambulance.

August 16. The police station received a report that a man was caught breaking into a car parked at an apartment complex on Kaya Rotterdam. The suspect managed to get away, but an observer reported the car's color, number plate and direction of travel. After a short search, the car was spotted near Thousand Steps. The driver was checked and the car searched. The car and a loaded pistol and ammunition were seized. The man, 56, was arrested for attempted theft and violating the BES Firearms Act.

August 18. A 60-year-old man was arrested, caught red-handed at Kaya Ancela for theft.

August 20. Around 3 am two 14-year-old joy riders were arrested. Their pickup was followed after an on-duty patrol noticed it driving recklessly. After a brief chase the driver lost control in a bend and drove into the bushes. The pickup was seized and was later identified as a pickup truck stolen from a tourist accommodation on Bulevar J.A. Abraham.

Traffic accidents/violations

August 11. Two vehicles collided at the intersection of Kaya Internashional and Kaya G.F. Betico Croes. The car that wanted to turn right onto the Kaya G.F. Betico Croes did not give way to the pick-up that wanted to drive straight. The driver of the car was taken to hospital for medical treatment.

August 18. A scooter hit a car on Amboina. When the patrol arrived, the driver of the scooter had already gone to the hospital himself. The driver received a warrant because he did not have a valid driver's license or valid insurance documents. The scooter was taken to the station for safekeeping.

August 19. At approximately 9:40 pm two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Papa Cornes and Hanchi Amboina. One driver was examined by paramedics on the spot and did not require

Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Are most properties on Bonaire sold furnished?



Many properties are sold completely or partially furnished, especially if the Seller does not live on Bonaire. The cost to ship household goods from Bonaire to their home country is expensive, so the Sellers generally leave the furnishings with the sale. Personal items, artwork and wall mirrors are not usually included in the sale, so if you want these, you need to specify it in your offer and the purchase agreement. Before you sign a purchase agreement to buy the property, you will be given

an inventory list to review and sign that shows what items are included in the sale. If the Seller lives on Bonaire, they may sell the house unfurnished, and move the furnishings to their next home. You can buy household goods, furniture and appliances on the island.

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.

hospitalization. The car had significant damage to the left rear door and a broken left window.

Traffic control

August 17. During a routine check a scooter was taken into custody because the driver could not show a driver's license and insurance papers. The scooter will remain in custody until a valid proof of insurance can be presented.

Public order

Driving under the influence. If you drive under the influence of alcohol, you may receive a fine, a (temporary) suspension of your driving license, a prison sentence or a combination of these penalties. If you are involved in an accident, you will be tested for alcohol consumption.

If a pedestrian is found drunk by the police, the police can make a police report for public intoxication. In these cases, the police will rely on the outward signs of drunkenness rather than use a

breathalyzer.

August 14. A patrol was sent to the roundabout in Hato at about 9 pm following a report of a possible brawl. Two men were pulled apart by a security guard, after which they flew into each other's hair again. One of the men hit the other in the face with a rock and then ran away. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

August 14. In the afternoon, a lifeless 60-year-old man was found in a house on Kaya Neerlandia. The doctor ruled it a natural death.

August 17. In the morning hours, a lifeless 45-year-old man was found in a tourist accommodation on Kaya Inglatera. The doctor ruled it a natural death.

Fire

August 19. In the evening hours, a fire was reported in the vicinity of Kaya Patachi. The piece of land on fire also contained a house but the resident was not at home. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was injured.

The kids are going back to school



The last week in August sees the beginning of Bonaire's 2021-2022 school year. We join the public body Bonaire (OLB) in wishing the students and teaching staff all success in the new year. And we also join the OLB in wishing parents an easy time in traffic when dropping off and picking up their kids at school.

Pictured above: During their long vacation break, many school children visited the Administrative Office and the various departments of the public body Bonaire. There they received an explanation about the organization and activities of the civil service.

The Bonaire Reporter Aug. 25 - Sept. 15, 2021

Different uniforms on the street

Police officers wearing unfamiliar uniforms have turned up on Bonaire's streets. Until December 22, officers from Sint Maarten, Aruba, Curaçao, and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee will be filling in for Bonaire police participating in Dutch Caribbean Police Force MBO 4 training.

Bonaire sees 9000 visitors* June 2021

In 2020, tourism in the Caribbean Netherlands declined sharply due to the measures and flight restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Because the islands now rely on different measures to ward off COVID-19, the upturn in tourism differs per island. In June 2021, tourism on Bonaire had already reached almost 75 percent of the level of June 2019. On Saba and St. Eustatius, it was 43 percent and 33 percent, respectively, of the level of June 2019. From the start of the pandemic up to and including June 2021, not a single cruise passenger has arrived on Bonaire.

On Bonaire, tourism gradually increased from November 2020 but declined again in January 2021 and later in March due to government measures. Since April 2021, tourism has picked up again from 3.4 thousand visitors in April to 9.1 thousand visitors in June. This increase can mainly be attributed to the airlines, most of which started fly-

ing again in June 2019. Due to the travel restrictions in place in many countries, the proportion of visitors with Dutch nationality increased significantly, from around 57 percent in 2019 to 75 percent in 2021. The share of visitors with US nationality decreased sharply, from 25 percent in 2019 to 9 percent in 2021.

Explanation: *Visitors

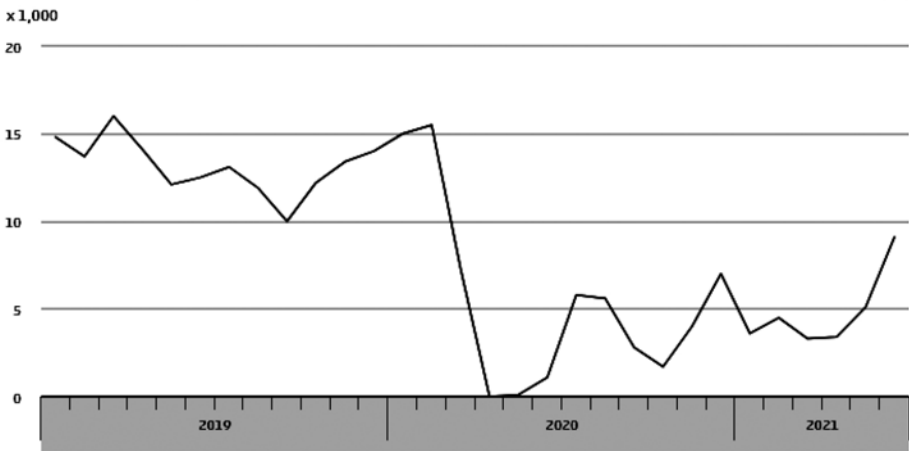
Visitors include both day-trippers and people who stay at least one night for leisure, work or other reasons.

Visitors from the islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius are considered domestic visitors and are not counted inbound tourism.

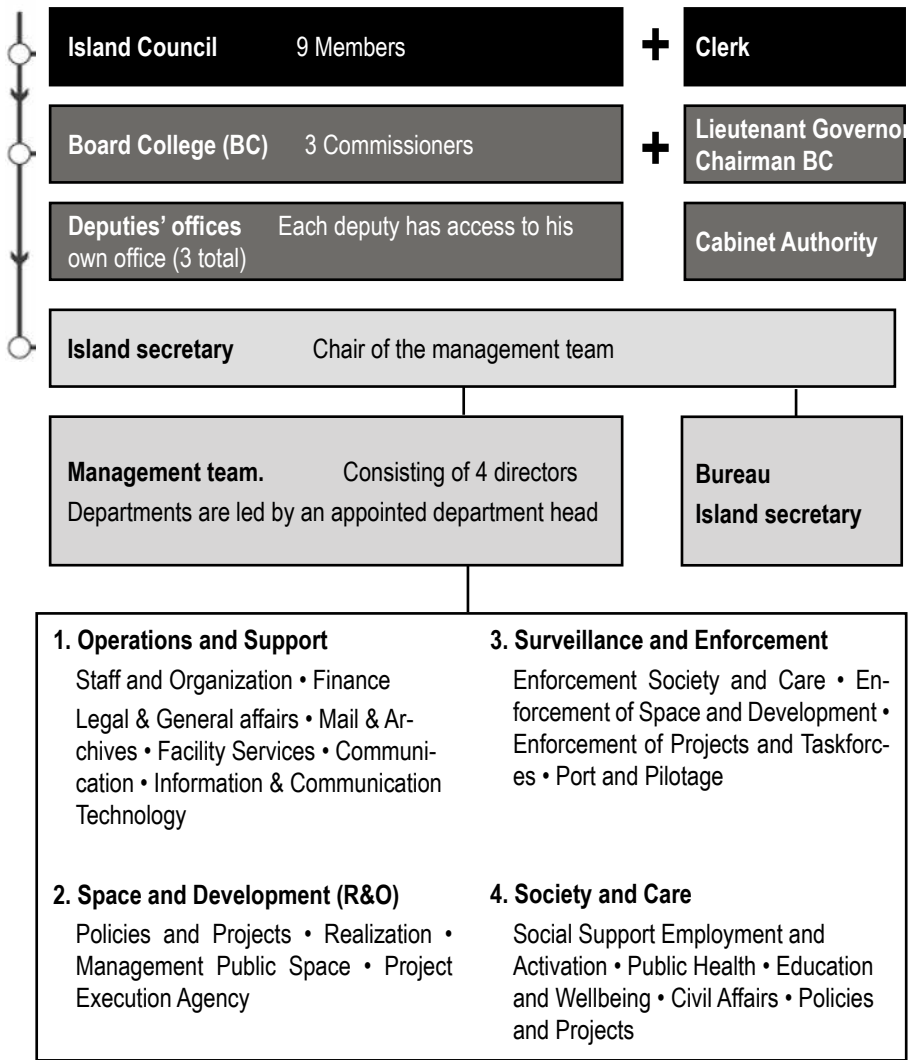
The figures on tourism in the Caribbean Netherlands are based on existing registers. Figures are rounded off to the nearest hundred.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)

Visitor arrivals by air, Bonaire



Translating OLB’s organizational chart



The island secretary is the head of the civil service. The secretary supports the Executive Council and chairs the management team. The civil organization is divided into four directorates. Each department has a director. Together with the island secretary, the directors form the management team. The most important task of the organization is to prepare and implement decisions of the Island Council and the Executive Council. About 340 employees work for the public body Bonaire.
Translated from: <https://bonairegov.com/organisatie>

Road maintenance update

In their press releases, the public entity Bonaire (OLB) reminds us that improving the roads will take time. The multi-year project is under the management of the Spatial Planning & Development Directorate (R&O).

As of July 26, 2021, R&O has begun maintenance on Kaya Hermadad and Kaya Gramel. The work will be completed in three months. Kaya Papa Cornes and Kaminda Lagun are the first roads to receive structural maintenance work such as filling holes, milling the road and applying a new asphalt and improving the subsoil.



TCB thanks Kreulen, retiring CEO of KLM Netherlands



On Friday August 20th, 2021 Harm Kreulen, CEO of KLM Netherlands was recognized as a Bonaire Ambassador by Miles Mercera, CEO of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) during a lunch in Kreulen's honor. After an impressive career spanning 36 years with KLM, Harm Kreulen will retire on October 1st, 2021. The on-island gathering was an opportunity to personally thank Mr. Kreulen for his many years of service at KLM and the Dutch airline's loyal support of Bonaire and the Dutch Caribbean. Throughout the years KLM expanded the number of flights to Bonaire, and now the island welcomes daily flights from Amsterdam.

TIME FOR A SHORT BREAK

The Reporter is skipping our Sept. 8 issue, but we will back on Sept. 15.

BOONRE The REPORTER

ADVERTISE IN THE REPORTER -- IT PAYS

PARROTS and PEOPLE

by Rayshantaly Coffie



Echo field work proves to be successful

In the last six months our field team has traversed through cactus filled areas with pointy limestone to gather information about the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrots. And as we reach the end of the breeding season with a full data set we know that each small step was worth it.

The field work is necessary because you cannot effectively conserve a species without data-driven management. As an organization we cannot make the decisions that we need to unless we know how the parrots are doing in the wild.

Luckily we were able to check off all of the objectives we had set for this breeding season.

The objective for the 2021 breeding season was to identify how many birds are currently breeding on the island, where they are breeding, determine breeding success and examine poaching activity levels.

To get these results the team invested six days a week for nest monitoring around seven different areas in the northern part of the island.

More than 90 hours were put in monitoring in the field for sitting and doing behavior observations. Next to observing from a distance, close inspection was also needed. There were 140 nest inspections and 20 cameras installed in the wild to see if we could capture any type of threats for these nests.

This year we had three nests that had four baby Lora chicks in them. For this species that is something amazing because the average number of eggs is

three. One of the Lora's nest even had five eggs and that was really impressive.

In one of the nests that Sara was monitoring was a chick that was rejected by the mom. You could see that it had not been fed for a very long time. We gave this chick the name of Lucky. So Sara took Lucky home to do fluid therapy and constant feeding for four days straight. After that it was apparent the parrot was fighting to live. So then she made the decision to put Lucky back in a nest but this time in a different nest that we were sure wasn't going to be poached. The nest was tended by a breeding pair that has a really good history of feeding the chicks. The next day Sara transferred Lucky in a nest that had one chick of the same age. And today we can say it was a success. The Mom has accepted Lucky and on August 16th both the chicks fledged!

We can proudly say that breeding season was a success!

Make a donation of wild fruit to Echo

Every Saturday from 9 to 11am you can come at Dos Pos and drop off some wild fruit like Calabas, seeds, beans and any other fruits that may be a little rotten that you can't like apple, oranges or grapes. This makes great feed for the Echo parrots

If you want to help us in another way, you can also donate to our new campaign. Go to <https://www.mightycause.com/story/Fledging-Bonaire-Future> and make a cash donation.

We would really appreciate it!
Rayshantaly Coffie

Sign up for Funrace Attention bikers.

The second funrace of 2021 is scheduled for Sunday, August 29 in Barcadera. Two alternate routes are planned. Bikers can choose to ride the Fun race (four 5-kilometer laps) or the Elite route (three 9-kilometer laps).

The start and finish of the race is on the dirt road at the north end of Sabadeco. The race starts at 8 am; the location will be open at 7 am. Frank Bohm of De Freewieler suggests that riders can see this race as a training for the Duo Xtreme in September.

The funrace is sponsored by Pink Coral iT. The registration fee is \$10. Riders can register at De Freewieler or on location. Sports drinks and water will be available.



Bonaire's Daily Fresh is building at LVV



Bonaire Daily Fresh is progressing with their construction at LVV despite all the normal building delays. And owner Bob Janssen is still smiling as he places the cover on the area that will house the fish portion of the 1200 sq meter aquaculture building. Bob estimates they will finish January 1 to coincide with his birthday. Until then Daily Fresh fresh veggies are available by ordering through the Facebook page, at the Saturday market by Selibon and Bon di Gro. Photos Julie Morgan



Warehouse is bigger



Grocery shoppers were in awe with the changes to Warehouse Bonaire at their August 19 re-opening. The store closed on August 7th leaving dedicated shoppers seeking alternative markets. When the doors finally opened again, they were met with a lot of specially priced items, an enormous frozen food aisle, a new section for home products, gardening supplies, kitchenware, extended fruit and veggie area and more. There is even a new parking lot. Photos Julie Morgan

Visit us!



Winair facing bankruptcy

Winair, the only airline providing regular flights to Saba and St. Eustatius, has gone deeply in the red because of two years of travel disruptions resulting from the covid pandemic. The Netherlands, which has a 7.95 percent share in Winair, loaned the company three million dollars last year, taking the airport building as mortgage collateral. Winair has applied for further help from the government amounting to 'several millions' of US dollars according to Cora Van Nieuwenhuizen, outgoing minister Infrastructure and Water Management.

Van Nieuwenhuizen has shown little interest in Winair's plight. For two years her department has been sitting on a proposal that the government subsidize up to 50% of the ticket price, at least for residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Van Nieuwenhuizen acknowledges that if Winair were to go bankrupt, the Netherlands would have to ensure the accessibility of the islands. Therefore her ministry is considering

whether the government should assume a larger ownership role in the operations of the airline.

The government is also waiting to see the results of a tender process it recently initiated. It hopes to find a private operator who would start a viable ferry service. *DMR (Bonaire.nu, Koninkrijk.nu)*

OLB must buy back beaches, judge rules

The government wants to develop Bachelor's Beach, Donkey Beach and Te Amo Beach to assure they are open and attractive for the general use of all residents and visitors. A judge has ruled, however, that first the OLB has to reacquire possession of those properties which are currently owned by developers. The government says it is working to meet that requirement. *DMR*



Jopie Abraham passes

Johan (Jopie) Abraham, the popular former leader of the Partido Demokratiko Boneriano (PDB) and a longtime pillar of Bonaire politics, died on August 17, 2021. His death is attributed to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Jopie was considered a pragmatic but fair politician who was responsive to the needs of the people of Bonaire. Current PDB leader Clark Abraham is Jopie's son. *DMR*

Covid Round-up, continued from page 2

The Public Health Department is encouraging unvaccinated people to join the 80% of Bonaireans who have had at least begun the vaccination process. They can call the free number 0800 0900 to make an appointment. Or they can walk in Saturday without an appointment at Sentro Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas.

Anyone who has symptoms that might signal COVID-1 should stay at home and call the toll-free number 0800 0800 to make an appointment to be tested.

Bonaire has declared Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten high-risk countries. Curaçao has not yet announced whether it will change its travel conditions for travelers from Bonaire. Aruba previously closed the bubble with Bonaire.

Vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers from the age of 12 from Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten who travel to Bonaire must take a PCR test no more than 48 hours before departure. Unvaccinated travelers aged 12 years and older must take an antigen test on arrival. If unvaccinated travelers from Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten take the PCR test a maximum of 24 hours before departure to Bonaire, they do not have to take an antigen test on arrival. For travelers of all ages, the Declaration of Health must be completed 72 – 48 hours before departure to Bonaire. www.bonairepublichealth.com or www.bonairecrisis.com.

The US health authorities, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and US State Department, have raised Aruba to the highest risk category for Covid 19 infections, level 4. Americans are advised not to travel to the island, especially if they are not fully vaccinated. The Aruban government has, belatedly, imposed restrictions on public contact.

The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) responded by insisting people can have a safe holiday on Aruba. "There are strict protocols for all companies that

work with tourists. As long as everyone adheres to the basic rules of distance, hygiene and mouth caps, the risk of becoming infected is limited," the ATA said. It pointed out that more than 50% of Arubans have been vaccinated.

In the meantime, the Aruban government has acknowledged that the fourth corona wave has hit Aruba harder than the other islands. Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes reported the hospital has admitted 83 corona patients, the highest number since the pandemic began. Nine people are in intensive care on Aruba and 14 Arubans have been flown to ICUs in Colombia. Unless the hospitals get some relief Wever-Croes said, "soon they will be so busy that they have to choose who lives and who dies."

The Aruba hospital is also being flooded with people needing treatment for alcohol abuse. One day recently the emergency department had to admit more than 100 alcohol cases while also having to take in eight corona patients within two hours.

Medical facilities on Curaçao are also being overwhelmed by the covid Delta variant. Epidemiologist Izzy Gerstenbluth and the head of the disaster management team Lesley Fer reported on the latest developments in the field of Covid-19 in Curaçao. There are 34 people in hospital, 16 of them in the Intensive Care Unit, filling it to capacity. Of the 88 people hospitalized with covid between July 22 and August 17, 82 people had not been vaccinated. Three people had been fully vaccinated, but one of them was known to have a poorly functioning immune system.

According to Gerstenbluth, it is internationally known that the Delta variant is much more contagious and that even vaccinated people can become infected. Young people can also transmit the virus to the elderly who then have to be hospitalized.

"The more people in Curaçao are vaccinated, the less chance the virus has to spread and mutate. If we achieve the highest possible vaccination coverage, we can protect our people better. There are people who think that people die after being vaccinated. That is not the case. No people on Curaçao have died from taking the vaccine. Many people have died from the virus. And that is why vaccination is important," said Gerstenbluth.

Saba, the only Dutch Caribbean country with a plus 90% adult vaccination rate, has imposed strict entrance requirements for travelers from Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. Saba has also begun vaccinating young people between 12 and 17. Recently 64 young people, or 87%, had received their first dose of Moderna vaccine.

Saba's new, stringent requirements for arriving passengers include: "Vaccinat-

ed young people returning from vacation must stay home from school. Also, they are not allowed to participate in after-school activities and other organized events for 5 days and must test on Day 5." Presumably the government has in mind the students returning to the Saba Medical School from many different places.

Air Belgium has suspended flights between Belgium and Curaçao, a service it began only a few weeks ago. The route included stops at Guadeloupe and Martinique. When the French government banned tourism travel to both islands because of a rapid increase in Covid-19 infections, the flights were no longer commercially viable. According to Air Belgium's website and booking system, flights will restart in October. However, the situation still depends on the Covid-19 infection rate on the French islands. *DMR*

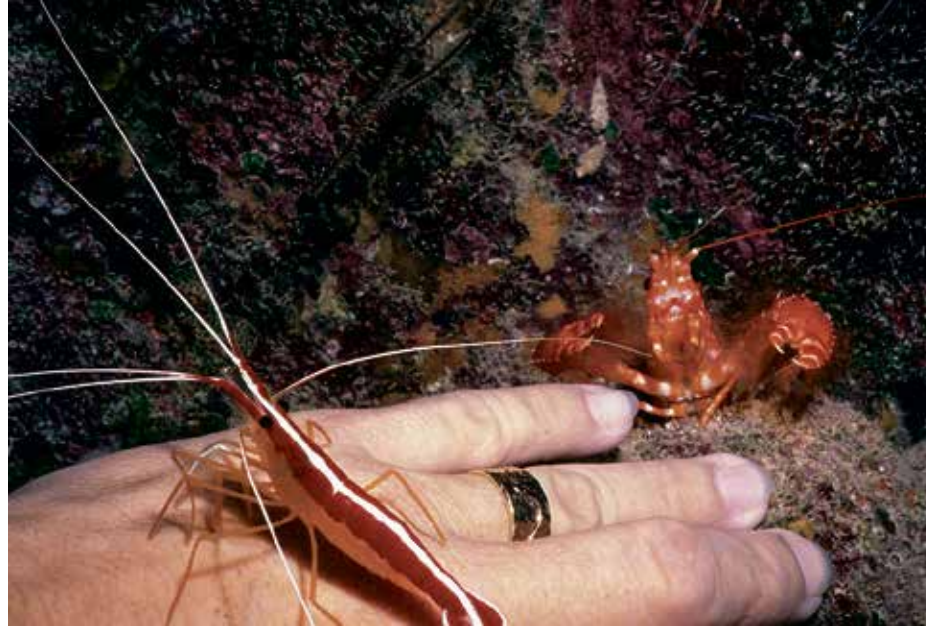


The school year started with a vaccination awareness program for young people. The delta variant of the coronavirus is spreading quickly among those between the ages of 12 and 18. Therefore the public body Bonaire is launching the new school year with a Ban Skol Bèk #BONBAKUNÁ campaign. On Thursday, August 19, the students watched the first of two videos. In the videos, school-age young people, parents, and a lung specialist talk about their experiences with COVID-19. Information meetings for young people and their parents are scheduled in August and September. The Public Health Department is pleased that so far 32% of the young people in the 12 and 18 age group on Bonaire have had at least one shot.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr



A Flaming Reef Lobster challenges a Scarlet-Striped Cleaning Shrimp for the privilege of cleaning my hand.

there in the same clinic!

There are three things we can do to prepare for that day (or any day underwater):

First, and it should be first under all circumstances, perfect your buoyancy control.

Second, learn to be perfectly still. Any movements we make underwater have about the same effect on underwater animals – especially fish -- as sound would on terrestrial animals; the more we move, as well as the more *often* we move, the less interest most creatures have in being around us.

Third: whenever you can, watch your subjects from the side, or from below, rather than from above; even if the cleaners don't seem worried by your presence above them, their clients will be.

Achieving these goals qualifies you as a true marine *Homo sapiens* (*Homo sapiens marinus*?) You are ready to be cleaned.

But are you good enough to be fought over?

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." Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touch-thesea.com.

Cleaner Competition

One of the most attention-grabbing interactions that takes place between animals is that of one critter removing parasites and other nuisances from another critter – and some of the most remarkable of those interactions take place underwater.

I've been lucky enough to see a black brotula swim casually into the mouth of a green moray, and – eventually -- casually reappear through the moray's gill opening. I've seen several types of cleaner on a single fish. I've been cleaned myself, by shrimp, gobies, and, once, a sharp-nosed puffer nibbling on the ragged edge of my diveskin.

This day stands out among them all:

I had seen a pair of my favorite cleaner shrimp, Scarlet-Striped Cleaning Shrimp, formerly known as scarlet ladies, on a ledge. I held out a hand to invite them to clean it, and, after a moment, one of them strolled over and climbed aboard. Whoopee – it always feels great to be accepted as a gen-u-wine marine animal! Even better, I had a camera with me so I could document the event. As I held the

camera with one hand and photo'd the shrimp on the other hand, I didn't notice the observer in the background – until it leaped forward, elbowed the scarlet lady off my hand, and began cleaning me itself!

Holy cowfish! Not only had I been accepted as a cleaner client, I was being fought over!

Well, okay, not exactly fought over, since the shrimp didn't try to defend its find, but still...

I'll betcha I came out of that dive with the cleanest hand on Bonaire!

The winner of that competition is called

a Flaming Reef Lobster, nicknamed flame lobster. Scarlet ladies advertise and clean in the daytime; flame lobsters don't advertise, and they're more active at night. Joining an advertising cleaner pair would give the flame lobsters new opportunities to get food.

And maybe, eventually, the flame lobsters would learn to share instead of compete. Imagine a single cleaner station with juvenile French angelfish and Spanish hogfish, cleaner gobies, Peterson's cleaner shrimp, scarlet ladies, and flame lobsters! It would be like having the dental hygienist, dermatologist, lung specialist, and ophthalmologist right

Register now for the 48 Hour Film Project



The 48 Hour Film Project returns to Bonaire this fall, (October 22 - 24, 2021) and the registration is officially OPEN!!

You can sign up your team at: <http://www.48hourfilm.com/bonaire/register> now

This year there will be new genres and the always exciting challenge of making your short film in just 48 hours.

What better way to get back to (somewhat) normal after a challenging year for everyone.

And remember: top films receive awards(!) and the Best Film will screen at Filmapalooza--and have the chance to be included in the 48HFP Showcase Screening at the Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner!

Be a part of this fantastic film community -- make films, watch films, learn from films, and connect with other filmmakers!

Don't forget to register your team so you can take advantage of the Early Bird discount, and guarantee that you have a spot in this year's competition.

Dennis Martinus

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Still available

Did You Know? *that half human, half fish legends were probably inspired by an adorable marine mammal?*



Of all the mythological creatures, mermaids remain one of the most captivating. Today the most famous mermaid is, of course, Ariel from the little mermaid featured in Disney's movie adaptation of the story written down by Hans Christian Andersen. In both versions of the story the young half fish, half human girl is infatuated with the world above the surface and is granted legs by a sea witch. In Disney's version she gets her happy ending, but the mermaid from Hans' version is not so lucky. But I won't spoil the ending as it is still a fascinating read.

Many tales about mermaids/sirens are not half as cheerful as Disney would have us believe. Mermaids have been described throughout history as seductive sea beings, often with bad intentions to sink ships and drown sailors by luring them towards the cliffs with their irresistible songs. Sometimes they are even thought responsible for natural disasters such as storms and floods.

Bonaire's very own mermaid legend, Mamparia Cutu, has part of both these depictions. It is said that some people believed she beat her drums (waves crashing onto the coast) because she wanted to warn sailors that they were approaching dangerous grounds. Others thought it to be true that Mamparia Cutu, with her golden hair and green parrotfish tail, sang to the sailors to lure them in and make their ships sink. The belief is that the people living nearby would then rush towards the shore when hearing her

voice, since it would mean a ship would soon sink and they would be able to gather the loot that would wash ashore.

But where did these diverse stories about the same mythical creature come from? Mermaid and siren stories can be traced back all the way to ancient Greek mythology more than 3000 years ago. Even before then, in the old Babylonian era, creatures that were half fish half human were depicted. Besides being drawn and mentioned many times throughout ancient history; legends, tales, folklore and even claimed 'sightings' continued to appear and be passed on by sailors and fishermen. Surely this wasn't all in their heads? Believe it or not, the beings being identified as mermaids or sirens in the past are still present. Perhaps you wouldn't guess it, but the animals that would be mistaken for mermaids by travelers who had been at sea for extended periods of time, sometimes in the sun, without enough water and vitamins, were none other than.... Manatees. The wonderfully plump grazers also known as sea cows have a mermaid like tale, rather humanoid eyes and especially their skeletons (with human like arm bones) leave room for (mis)interpretation. Even Christopher Columbus claimed to have seen mermaids after his manatee encounter, but did add they were not quite as beautiful as they were described. The manatees belong to the scientific order of Sirenia (very fitting) and still roam the waters today. Manatees live in tropical and subtropical waters, with a distribution range around Florida, West Africa



Picture of a Manatee in Florida. Taken by the Marine Mammal Commission

(coast of Senegal to Angola) and, perhaps unexpected, the Caribbean.

The West Indian manatee, also known as the Antillean manatee, is a subspecies of the American manatee. It used to be abundant in waters from the Bahamas to Brazil. Sadly enough, the Antillean manatee is facing extinction. On the IUCN red list, based on estimates of the population size, the species has been marked as endangered. The species is very hard to study since they enjoy a solitary lifestyle, so their population is very fragmented and spread out. They live in shallow waters and have no natural enemies. Large predators that would be able to devour a sea cow prefer spending their time in deeper waters. Luckily so, because with an average speed of five miles per hour, a manatee wouldn't last very long. The biggest threats to these manatees are, un-

fortunately, humans. Activities such as agriculture, farming, tourism and fishing have polluted and degraded the habitat of these chubby mermaids and can pose a physical threat to these gentle grazers. Manatees have been found trapped in fishnets, killed by collisions with boats and have been hunted in the past for their meat. Due to the low numbers of the remaining animals, it is unlikely to spot an Antillean manatee around Bonaire. Their favorite food, seagrass, is hard to find here outside of Lac and the many boats could be disruptive. If you ever do encounter the inspiration for Mamparia Cutu and her fellow sirens, be sure to give it space and let STINAPA know where you spotted it.

Serena Le Double, marine biologist. STINAPA Connecting People With Nature

Apply to Orange Funds

Orange Fund starts its search for winners Apples of Orange 2022

This year's theme is Equality of Opportunity for all young people

The Orange Fund is today starting the search for special projects that have a chance of winning an Appeltje van Oranje 2022. This year's theme is Equality of Opportunity for all young people. Opportunity inequality is an urgent problem in our society, which has become larger due to the corona crisis. This year the Oranje Fonds wants to draw attention to projects that successfully tackle this problem, because they deserve support and recognition. Organizations can register up to and including 30 September for a chance to win an Appeltje via [Oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes](https://www.oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes). Three initiatives will receive the prizes from King Willem-Alexander in May 2022.

Unfortunately, it is not self-evident that all young people have the same opportunities. The inequality between different groups of young people is increasing, according to various studies. Due to the corona crisis, the problems have increased and become more visible. Young people find themselves in extra pressure

due to the loss of education, internships, (permanent) work, income, structure and social contacts. They experience more stress at home, are affected by, for example, increased domestic violence, feel isolated and lose perspective. New groups of young people who are vulnerable are also emerging.

Invisible wall

According to a 2019 report by the Social and Cultural Planning Office on opportunities and barriers among young people, there is a threat of an 'invisible wall' between young people with and without aids. Some can take advantage of opportunities, others encounter barriers. In this way, young people with sufficient economic and social capital have more opportunities to capitalize on their opportunities. Social capital is becoming increasingly important here: people with the right network get further in life. Matters such as education and origin – where were you born, who are your parents, where do they come from and what do they do – play a role in this, as do (unconscious) prejudice, exclusion and discrimination.

Helping peers

Fortunately, there are many organizations that are committed to giving all young people equal opportunities. And the Oranje Fonds is looking for those special projects that young people use to help their peers further. To give them the recognition they deserve. Think of a buddy project that connects young people, an initiative that allows young refugees to meet peers or a project that offers support to LGBTIQ+ young people with the help of young volunteers. Tipping an organization or immediately registering an organization as a candidate can now be done via [Oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes](https://www.oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes).

The prizes

The Appeltjes van Oranje are awarded annually to three initiatives that successfully connect different groups of people or that ensure that people participate in

society again. All winners of an Appeltje van Oranje receive a bronze statue, made by Princess Beatrix, and a cash prize of 25,000 euros. Queen Máxima presents the prizes every year. In lustrum years this is done by King Willem-Alexander. This year it is the 20th time that the Appeltjes van Oranje are awarded.

Orange Fund

The Orange Fund wants no one to be alone and everyone to be able to participate in our society. That is why we strengthen and connect organizations, volunteers and donors that contribute to a connected society. We do this thanks to the support of the Nationale Postcode Loterij, the Dutch Lottery, our Friends and various other partners. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima are the protecting couple of the Orange Fund.



© Orange Fund

Pets of the Week

27 puppies & 24 kittens



Kitten supermarket

If you've been thinking about adopting a kitten or kittens now is the time. The Shelter has a veritable supermarket of kittens! You name it, we've got it! Boys, girls; long hair, short hair; short, tall; tabby, black, black and white, orange, grey, calico, white and black and every color combination in between. The 24 kittens (yes, you read it right...24!) range from 10 weeks to six months and all are loving, social and healthy.

In addition to the little ones, there are also 24 terrific adult cats that are looking for a loving home.

If a kitten is what you are looking for, and you don't have other cats, you should consider adopting two kittens or a kitten and an adult cat. Young kittens need a lot of attention and activity to help them develop into a good companion, both physically and psychologically. Having a playmate or role model keeps them occupied and entertained. If you are not at home for most of the day, a single new kitten or

cat will become lonely and bored which leads to mischievous activity like shredded curtains and furniture. In addition, just as it often happens with humans, lonely, isolated cats tend to become shy and reclusive and don't make for particularly good companions.

However, if you have your heart set on a single cat, we have several adult cats and kittens that prefer the company of humans to other cats. Just ask the shelter staff for a suggestion as to which cats would enjoy a single cat home.

If there's a certain cat or kitten you are looking for, now is the time to visit the shelter and browse the "cat supermarket." We are located at Kaminda Lagun 26 and are open from Monday-Friday 10 am - 1 pm and 2 - 3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2:30 pm. You can contact us by phone 7014989 or send a Whatsapp or a message on facebook. Our cats and kittens would love to meet you!

Story: Jane Disko; Photo: Julie Morgan

Take me home please, continued from page 1

Covid took a big bite out of the animal shelter's resources due to lack of tourism. Many of Bonaire's visitors missing their own furry friends at home love to visit the shelter and always give generously. And some even adopt and travel home with the best Bonaire souvenir they could ever have.

Restrictions for covid are limited now and the opening hours are back to normal. Everyone is welcome to visit.

it. Opening hours are Mon-Fri 10am - 1pm and 2-3:30pm and Saturday 10am-2:30pm. Or contact the shelter by phone at 701-4989 or send a Whatsapp or a message on our Facebook page.

You can judge a man's true character by the way he treats his fellow animals

– Paul McCartney

Story and photos, Julie Morgan



A partial view of Bonaire Animal Shelter campus

Dear dog lovers,

This week the dog pet of the week is our 27 puppy residents that all need to find their forever home! We have puppies in different sizes, colors, you name it we have it!

We have a fluffy litter that is ready to be adopted, they were treated for fleas and ticks and got worm medication and vaccinated before they came to the shelter. This happened with the help of Stichting Dierenhulp Bonaire, so the fluffy dogs are ready to move to new homes.

We also have a brindle litter, we call them the "tiger dogs." They also are vaccinated with worm and flea/ticket treatments and ready to go home.

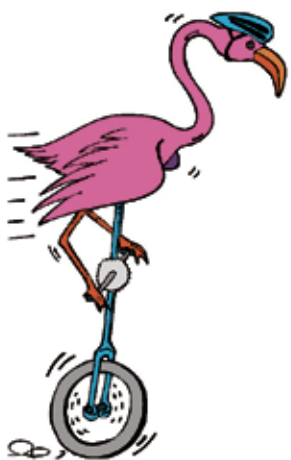
What is more important than all that is their loving and warm characters and the bond between dog and human. In the last couple months, the Shelter has taken in so many pups and we really need your help to give them a loving home. Don't wait any longer and visit the Animal shelter and adopt your fur-ever friend! We are located at Kaminda Lagun 26 and are open from Monday-Friday 10 am - 1 pm and 2 - 3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2:30 pm. You can contact us by phone 7014989 or send a Whatsapp or a message on facebook. See you soon!!

Story: Sanne Attevelt.

Photo: Julie Morgan



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Bonaire's sky park

Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn

Trace at Stargazersonline: Right now you can see Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn.

Grab some food and nerd-friends, and hit the skies around sunset and look west. If you're lucky, you'll see tiny Mercury chasing the sun below the horizon. Behind that is bright Venus. As Venus dips below the horizon look for Jupiter and Saturn up in the southeast around 9:30 pm. Four planets in one night!

All the planets' names are of Roman gods. Mercury the speedy messenger, Saturn the god of agriculture, Venus the goddess of beauty and love, and giant Jupiter was named for the king of the gods.

In ancient times, some sky-watchers believed these planets were the gods; sending us messages through their confusing movements and colors.

Today we know these lights are balls of gas, rock and dust, spinning through space. Which is more romantic? You tell me. While we both keep lookin' up.

<https://www.stargazersonline.org/scripts/>

When Is the Best Time to See Mercury?

Thanks to timeanddate.com: Because Mercury is small and lies close to the Sun, it is a challenge to observe. It can be seen with the naked eye shortly before sunrise or soon after sunset.

The best time to catch Mercury is within a week or so of its greatest elongation: this is when Mercury appears to be at its farthest distance from Sun as seen from Earth. These periods occur twice every 116 days or so (roughly every four months).

Greatest elongation west is when Mercury is farthest from the Sun in the morning sky. Greatest elongation east is when the two bodies are farthest apart in the evening sky. In between these times, Mercury's swift orbit carries it either directly behind the Sun as seen from Earth (superior conjunction), or in front of it (inferior conjunction).

Next greatest elongation east: September 14, 2021

Warning: Never point binoculars or a telescope in the direction of the Sun—it can cause permanent eye damage. Do not try to observe Mercury while any part of the Sun is above the horizon.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/planets/mercury/>

Events



Free public presentations

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Public presentations begin again this August, after 1.5 years. They will be at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8pm. For now, STCB asks people to register by email (stcb@bonaireturtles.org) because of the covid regulations.

Register for:

48Hour Film Competition. See page 8. To learn more about the 2019 competition, see our online archives for 2019: Issues 19 to 23, <https://bonairereporter.com>



What's Happening

NEW HOURS:

Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm

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.

Wednesdays

Aug **25**

Sept **8**

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) Free Public presentation 8 pm at Yellow Submarine. Please register by email (stcb@bonaireturtles.org) because of the covid regulations.

Sunday

Aug **29**

Pink Coral iT bike race Race start 8 am. \$10. At Barcadera. Fun race: 5 km. Elite race: 10 km. See page 6..

September

3 - 6

23rd Annual Flag Day Rally See this page,

September

6

Bonaire Flag Day

Bikers gather for Bonaire motorcycle rally



Bonaire Bike Rally Events

September 3rd – 6th

Thursday Sept 2

All Day - Local Bikers Registration, Bikers Pick Up and Welcome.

Friday Sept 3 Registration

Gathering at Iron Order/RentoFun, Warm-up Ride, Allain Rockney Live

Saturday Sept 4

Nomads Tribe , Sunset Ride, Bikers Arena, Musical Entertainment

Sunday Sept 5

Island Bikers Soup Mania, Bike Games and Stunts Covid-Battle Tour and Evening Ride

Monday Sept 6 – Bonaire Flag Day Ride

Breakfast at Jasmin Garden/ManAh Lunch Buffet in Rincon, Closing Ceremony

Meetings

Open meeting Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments) All welcome, regardless of primary addition or no addition at all.

Free Seniors Seminar. 9-11am Mondays. Bonaire Botanical Garden. The seminars are about getting people together to exchange ideas and points of view. Learn about healthy nutrition, exercises, mental fitness, manufacturing local products and more. To participate please call the management: +599 777 0508 or +599 770 8853.

Scientists study Statia's artificial reefs

Is there a future for artificial reefs?

Manmade structures such as seawalls, breakwaters, and jetties are increasing in frequency in marine coastal environments. Overtime, these structures are unintentionally recruiting marine life such as corals, resulting in the formation of artificial reefs. A recent study in the Caribbean has revealed how the biodiversity on these artificial structures compares to natural reefs.

Coral reefs are visually very aesthetic, but above all they play a central role in the ocean. Coral reefs support over 800,000 marine species and supply numerous ecosystem goods and services. Yet sadly, corals are threatened by a combination of global climate change and local human activities such as fishing, shipping and coastal development. Natural recovery is too slow, so active restoration efforts are crucial to prevent the loss of our coral reefs.

CORALS UNDER THREAT

One method of coral reef restoration is the construction of artificial reefs. Artificial reefs come in various forms. Some are designed and deployed specifically to enhance marine life. Others, such as shipwrecks and urban structures—including jetties, seawalls and breakwaters—recruit marine life unintentionally. With increasing coastal development, the frequency of urban structures in the marine environment is increasing, yet marine communities on urban structures receive less attention in scientific research.

Filling this gap, a team of researchers explored the biodiversity of urban structures at St. Eustatius, an island of the Caribbean Netherlands. Their findings are published in the scientific journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. The team consists of Claudia Hill from the University of Groningen and Myrsini Lymperaki from the University of Amsterdam, under the supervision of professor Bert Hoeksema, who is affiliated with Naturalis Biodiversity Center and the University of Groningen.

A NEW HOME FOR MARINE LIFE

The island of St. Eustatius, popularly known as 'Statia', is located in the eastern Caribbean and is a special municipality of the Netherlands. The island is steeped in history, having changed hands between numerous European empires and having thrived as a port of trade in the 17th and 18th century. Today St. Eustatius is much quieter, though traces of the past like remnants of ancient piers and jetties remain in the coastal water.



A boat mooring on Bonaire's waterfront has an artificial reef attracting corals, sponges and a nursery for juvenile fish and other marine life. W Photo Julie Morgan

"These ancient structures shelter a new home for marine life," tells Claudia Hill, first author of the article. "With corals and other benthos living on the remains, altogether forming an artificial reef," she continues.

ARTIFICIAL VERSUS NATURAL REEF

The research team compared the biodiversity on the artificial reef to that of a natural reef nearby. "We found a considerably higher biodiversity on the natural reef, with a wider range of species, a higher density of organisms, and different dominating species," explains Hill. "We concluded by the greatly differing communities on each reef that artificial reefs can not serve as surrogates for natural reefs." The researchers highlight, however, that the main cause for biodiversity differences lies in the deviant structural features on the reefs. The natural reef exceeds the artificial reef in microhabitats like crevices and overhangs that are beneficial to the growth of marine life.

"What I personally found most surprising, is despite

the artificial reef being centuries old, the cover and abundance of reef organisms is still not comparable to that on the natural reef. But it is important to note, that whilst the artificial reef did not host an identical community to the natural reef, it still serves as a healthy and diverse reef in its own right."

Therefore, there is still a place for artificial reefs in conservation work, as they serve to enhance the marine life of the local area.

"Artificial reefs provide a promising outlook for the future of coral reefs, yet a precautionary approach must be taken to prevent any unwanted consequences, such as the invasion of non-native species."

Text: Claudia Hill, University of Groningen, Naturalis Biodiversity Center

*Excerpt published in: DCNA (Bio)News #45
Full article: Marine Pollution Bulletin.*

"Antillean Heritage" presented to Nolly Oleana and Boi Antoin

The book "Antillean Heritage," which describes how the societies have developed on the ABC islands, has been officially handed over to the acting Lieutenant Governor of Bonaire, Reynold "Nolly" Oleana and chairman of FuHiKuBo, Franklyn "Boi" Antoin. The book is part of the 'Traveling Caribbean Heritage' project.

The book makes the reader think about the cultural heritage of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao and of the Antillean diaspora in the Netherlands. "Antillean Heritage" consists of two parts. The first part, Then and Now, examines how local cultures were viewed in the colonial

past and how those cultures gradually emancipated. The second part, Now and Beyond, focuses on questions about the challenges these cultures face today.

A common thread running through both collections is how views on cultural heritage were and are connected, and the challenges of nation building and nation branding. The book "Antillean Heritage" can be found in the public library of Bonaire at Kaya Gramel. One copy can also be found in the archive of FuHiKuBo

The book "Antillean Heritage," which is part of the "Traveling Caribbean Heritage" project, was written by a team of scientists with Caribbean Dutch and Eu-



ropean Dutch descent. In the "Traveling Caribbean Heritage" project, senior scientists and heritage specialists, together with young people, investigate how heritage documentation and thinking about heritage can contribute to the development of societies.

The "Traveling Caribbean Heritage"

project of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), is directed by prof.dr. G. Oostindie and Dr Alex van Stipriaan with coordination on Bonaire and contribution by Liliane de Geus and Stacey MacDonald. *OLB communications*

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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Life cycle proof housing and sheltered homes.

When it comes to housing, especially for the elderly, you see a lot of innovations because the biggest part of earth's population is elderly and those numbers are growing fast.

This is why appropriate housing is very important. The elderly can live at home till it is not safe anymore or no longer an option. And sometimes placing them in a home is not always the best solution.

My niece and her husband in Holland recently purchased a life cycle proof apartment. They sold their house and invested their money in such an apartment. They had talks with the architect, a consultant specialized in housing and design for the elderly, and within half a year they will be able to move in.

Nice spacey rooms, no thresholds, bathroom and half-bath with all safety-measures. Easy access from the

street to the apartment. Even the furniture is adapted and specially placed. When they grow older and/or need help and living assistance, this is all provided for. All you have to do is apply.

But, not everybody can afford this.

When we lived in Holland and my husband was severely handicapped after his strokes, we wanted to stay in our nice rental. The municipality did not approve of that. They did not want to renovate but asked us to go and live in an adjacent sheltered apartment, next to the assisted living home. This was an apartment complex. Every apartment was adapted to assisted living and care. The assisted care we got from the home was in-house and 24 hours a day.

We loved the fact that we lived there and not in the home because we had more privacy. We were much younger than the home inhabitants, so it was a very

good decision.

There was another possibility for the elderly to keep living in their own house. Next to their regular house another, smaller and completely adapted one-room tiny house was built. Children of the elderly would live in the regular house and mom and dad, or one of them, would move into the tiny house and the children provided the care, along with assisted-living care.

So these three options make life easier for the elderly. And in most cases they do not have to leave their own house.

On Bonaire we do not know these options. Fundashon Cas Bonairiano is building a lot of houses now and I would like to suggest that they build at least 10 life cycle proof houses per project and/or tiny houses. Fundashon Mariadal could also build at least 10 tiny houses. This would allow the elderly to stay in their house and still get the care they need at home. They do not have to get placement in the Kas di Kuido, but the care would still be provided for by the organization.

Housing for the elderly needs serious attention because the elderly need this attention. Their whole life they have taken care of their children and now they need to be taken good and responsible care for.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Seru largu for health and magic

Seru Largu is one of the many luxuries we can enjoy in Bonaire. It is consensual that the best way to start the day is with a good morning routine, one that fills us with energy and proactive emotions. A good start up for the day might include some physical activity, some positive emotional nourishment and nutrient dense food.

There are many options and obviously each person has to find the one that best suits. The choice reflects not only personal tastes and characteristics, it also reflects personal circumstances and possibilities.

I always like to take the evolutionary perspective to understand who we are nowadays. When we speculate about our Paleolithic ancestors, we assume that they began their daily activities at dawn with the first light. The adults, or at least some adult members of the tribe, would go out to look for food. We assume their first movements were made on an empty stomach. This would not be the case for children who were breastfed or awaited the return of adults with food. Modern life is different. The needs, the possibilities, the availabilities and the urgencies have been changing, but the evolutionary wiring does not change at the same speed at which we have modified our environment. The truth is

that now we know that starting daily activity on an empty stomach is not such a bad idea as it was touted 10 or 15 years ago. Now we know that exercising briefly and intensely on an empty stomach stimulates the production of growth hormone, which is the one that keeps us young and slim.

In Bonaire there is a perfect place to carry out the first activity of the day, that place is Seru Largu. Depending on the itinerary that you choose, it offers different levels of intensity and duration. The slope for its ascent may or may not be included as part of the routine, depending on your physical condition. There are those who go up and park their vehicles at the top and enjoy walking around observing the magnificent views that can be seen there. Others begin their itinerary shortly before the ascent of the hill, while some add a few kilometers prior to the ascent. Some people do it all walking, some jog and others run. Some go alone, some with a friend or their pets. One option is after reaching the top to do some high intensity peaks, that stimulate the production of growth hormone even more. Two or three minutes is more than enough for this, in 30-second sprints with 90 or 120-second intervals. And if we want to prolong the production of growth hormone, the ideal is within 30 minutes of

the workout to consume proteins, as carbohydrates will induce the production of insulin, which inhibits the production of growth hormone. This is an option only for those who are really committed about maintaining their fitness. As a standard procedure, remember to check with your physician if you are just starting a physical activity routine.

But there is something more important and magical that happens in Seru Largu, something that invariably illuminates the beginning of the day. It is not only the stunning views and the rising sun seen from that high horizon, but the smiles of all those walkers who routinely visit this wonderful place. Every time I walk Seru Largu I see the most beautiful smiles. What better emotional nourishment than broad and radiant smiles? There is no scientific study to prove what I will state, but I can perceive that the most beautiful and radiant smiles are shared by those who routinely visit this glorious place named Seru Largu.

So, my favorite breakfast is a nice walk, served with a stunning view, a dozen of smiles, scrambled eggs and fruits.

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.

Ask a Geek: by Brian Niessen

Losing my mind by saving a few dollars (Again) or "I ink I can!"

If you read my last article, the title will make more sense. Basically, I did something that millions of people do every day, but this time it seems to have caused some really weird things to happen...

My printer (A new HP Printer/Scanner/Fax All-In-One Unit) ran out of black ink. I decided to get a refill kit to put my own ink into the printer. It was a very simple process.

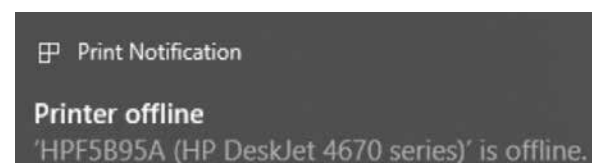
I then put the cartridge back into the printer and went to print, and it warned me that the cartridge is now counterfeit and from there, things went haywire.

First, if I print in Black/Grey, it allows me to print on both sides automatically. But if I print in color, then I

have to turn the paper over manually.

Then after a while, the option to print in color disappeared totally. I Googled, did all the things that were recommended, uninstalled, installed, and reset, etc.

I now saw an option to print in color, so when I chose it, this message appeared:



But it did print! Go figure...and I could print on both

sides automatically again. Just have to print to the printer that is offline. Who would have thought that?

So, why did this happen? I think it is due to HP "mucking" with the system. Originally, the printers would not accept a refilled ink cartridge, but then a court case in the USA forced the printer companies to allow the refilled ink in printers, but they can only warn and try to scare us.

But the fact that it does all this wonky stuff is quite funny. I bet that if I put in a new original expensive cartridge, it would all work tikiy boo!

So, refill, save money, and just be aware that you aren't going crazy.

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



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Urban Agriculture

Gardening has trends and “fashions.” I visited Germany recently and was surprised to see so many vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers in the cities growing along streets, roads and alleys. They were even in the middle of shopping and business centers, near streetlights and in the squares. This new way of gardening is called Urban Agriculture or UA. The trend has to do with sustainable agriculture and climate change.

In looking for more information, I became so interested that I wanted to share it with you. This city trend is growing every day. In fact gardening on Bonaire looks somewhat like UA.

Urban Agriculture is defined as ‘small areas’ (e.g, vacant plot gardens, verges, balconies, containers) within the city or in town for growing crops and raising small livestock or milk cows for self-consumption or sale in neighborhood markets. It can provide a source of food and income for urban dwellers. * (BIO-Economy and Agri-production, 2021)

Due to its characteristics, (spatial constraints, land uses, quality of ecosystems) this type of agriculture is multifunctional and is consistent with sustainable development through its environmental, economic and social aspects. Urban Agriculture is also involved in urban food security, regarding a society’s food and environment protection and contributes to urban ecology.

Urban Agriculture has no predefined form. It adapts to the urban context and enhances spaces and social dynamics as Urban Agriculture stakeholders are varied. They can be citizens, farmers, local communities, associations and companies. Urban Agriculture revitalizes the gardening and

market areas while creating interaction between the rural and urban populations. Because UA can be developed in so many different spaces etc. it lends itself to several types of farming: hydroponic, aquaponic, vertical farming, field crops, breeding etc.

Actually, Urban agriculture apart from its food production function, (fruits, vegetables, honey, cereals, legumes) restores biodiversity in towns by creating ecology corridors.

UA helps cities and small places reduce their ecological footprint by composting and it adds value to sewage sludge and recycling. However Urban Agriculture has its limitations in regard to pollution control.



On Bonaire, we are on a good urban gardening path. Many people have started gardens in small spaces of their yards, on their porches and in containers.

In the past gardening was broadly spread on Bonaire and it was our main food source. UA was pretty much the norm on Bonaire until grocery stores found their way into society. But urban gardening is the new trend that has returned, and hopefully it will keep on growing all over the world.

Here are pictures to show the creative ways of Urban Agriculture in limited spaces. One can go vertical or horizontal. Go recycling and look how much fun it is to garden in different ways resulting in high production. Go Urban Agriculture, just do it



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