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Duo Xtreme challenges even the best riders

Everybody's favorite Bonaire bike race, the Duo Xtreme, returned September 26 after a one year hiatus due to Covid-19.

Forty teams of local and Curação cyclists endured the difficult 54 and 73 km routes.

The Xtreme mountain bike route leads bikers along rugged paths and steep trails with few breaks on paved streets. The start was at Eden Beach and traveled south through Kralendijk then offroad on the south side of the airport. From there the cyclists endured the dirt roads to Jatu Bacu, Washikemba and Lagoen through Bolivia and then Tra'I Montana ending up on the road to Rincon. The cyclists headed west to Broertje janga road, known as 'the Hell' and the split for the Pro and Xtreme routes. The 55 km riders cycled through Sabadeco and then Seru largu descending to Hato and back to Eden Beach. The 73 km route led the cyclists to Para mira, Alta mira and back to Broertje janga to Sabadeco, Seru largu and then the finish at Eden Beach.

All teams had to return to Eden Beach finish before 12 pm. On arrival they turned in their number and were given a medal of participation and served lunch.

Cyclist Arthur Rosencia from Curaçao said, "The hardest part was in Sabadeco descending on the asphalt and then off on a trail. At every turn you think you're at the top. It's really a mental game and very difficult because of the rocks and coral. After that it's almost the finish and you come out at the round about."

Rider Nickel Blankenvoort of the Go Fast team had a flat that couldn't be repaired. With the rules of the Duo, both riders must finish to be qualified. The "broom" car, driven by Mocky Arends, picked up his bike and Nickel, so determined to complete the race, ran almost 8 km back to the finish. The Curaçao/Neth Go Fast team

came in seventh with his partner Bart van Weijsten at 4:15:22 and Nickel at 4:57:57.

Cyclist Frank Bohm and owner of De Freewieler and Xtreme sponsor finished but not his team.

Frank said, "The race was perfect. There was only one accident and nothing major. The times were very fast which was mostly due to the hot weather as the ground was very hard and very fast."



Celebrating a successful Duo Xtreme are race organizers: Ronald Schleper, Mocky Arends, Frank Bohm and Neil van Wilgen. Photo Julie Morgan

Of the 80 riders and 40 teams, seven Pro teams and two Xtreme were disqualified because at least one member did not make it back to the finish.

Last rider at the finish was Trevor Nisbeth, president of the Curação Sorsaka Bikers.

Trevor said, "The race was very challenging. I did this two years ago and was so tired I had to quit. This year I told myself, I'm not quitting and I challenged myself and made it."

The winners of the Pro were: First: Bonaire team Los Novatos - Domingos De Lima and Jarne Everts, 2:36:44; Second: Bonaire team Last Minute - Mouro Cicilia and Andre Maciel, 2:41:07; Third: Bonaire team Rid'it - Erik Grefte and Jeroen Dolleman, 2:44.00.

Xtreme winners were: First: Curacao team A-Team – Rene Klop and Casper Caps, 3:25:45; Second: Curacao team Black Panthers – Lybarsky Martis and Wilfred Camelia, 3:28:00; Third: Curacao team Candybox – Caspar Rademaker and Peter Winkel, 3:29:10; winning the cash awards of \$400, \$200 and \$100 respectively.

Sponsors for the Duo Xtreme were: Brandaris Accountancy BV, De Freewieler, Sunbelt Realty, Eden Beach Resort, Karel's Beach Bar, MegaFM, Freixenet, Napa Auto Parts, Bonaire Office Systems, Gaia Pro, Bonaire Logistics and Budget Carrental.

The complete race results can be found at the Bonaire Reporter online and more race photos on our Facebook page.

Julie Morgan

FLOTSAM and JETSAM

Tjin Asjoe says ban plastics now, fine tune later



Elvis Tjin Asjoe, leader of the MPB in the Island Council, has urged immediate action against some categories of plastics so the island can start eliminating them from the environment right now. Other categories of plastics can be banned by supplementary legislation later. Bonaire continues to be polluted daily while the

attempt to agree on a "perfect" regulation continues.

Tjin Asjoe: "In a conversation with one of the companies that imports foam trays, there was talk of one million foam trays per year, or nearly three thousand per day that end up on the Landfill site, or in nature on land or in the sea. This is without counting the foam packaging used for hot dogs, hamburgers and spreads."

Legislating returnable deposits on bottles would clear the island of both plastic and glass containers quickly, Tjin Asjoe said. Although the national government is working on a deposit requirement for the European part of the Netherlands, as a local government Bonaire should proceed on its own.

"We must start now and gradually include those single-use plastic products that are not yet included in the regulation or that are newly added." Tjin Asjoe also proposed the OLB also consult with other islands in the region that have been drafting similar regulations. They may already know things we are still trying to figure out. As long as there is no legal basis to combat the plastics problem, Bonaire will be polluted by them daily.

CRIB numbers issued for everyone

Everyone in the BES Islands between ages 0-67 now has a CRIB number. The Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland has created a CRIB number for everyone within this age group who is registered in the population administration of Bonaire, Saba or Sint Eustatius, and does not already have one. These people will automatically receive their numbers in the mail. Previously people had to come to the tax office to request and collect a CRIB number.

A CRIB number is a personal number an individual needs when contacting Belastingdienst, the Public Entity, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Studiefinanciering, and other public authorities. A CRIB number assures, for instance, that payments to or by a person will be processed correctly. So people need one when filling out their income tax return, or when providing payroll administration information to their employer. Anyone who has performed these kinds of functions already has a CRIB number on record.

People should keep their CRIB number private. It can be used to trace data to a specific individual, creating the risk of abuse of personal data and identity fraud. . DMR

Hazardous goods inspection comes to BES islands

The supervisory authority of the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) has been extended to the Caribbean Netherlands. Inspectors are currently on the islands conducting inspections and audits at various logistics companies. If they see serious violations during or after the transport of hazardous substances, they can file a criminal report. Previously, the ILT could deal with violations only through administrative law.

The ILT legislation covers the transport and handling of hazardous substances including explosives (fireworks/gas cylinders), flammable solids or liquids (gasoline/jet fuel), toxic substances (pesticides), infectious substances (blood samples/ hospital waste), radioactive substances (radionuclides for medical use), asbestos, air backs and lithium batteries. DMR

New way of taxing tourists proposed

A new proposal for collecting government revenues from tourists was announced at a press conference last week. Tourists would be taxed \$50 per person, payable only once per year. Residents of all the other Dutch Islands would be taxed \$10 per year to visit Bonaire. A special rate would be charged for children under 12.

The Room Tax and the Car Rental tax, "among other things," would be abolished. Visitors will be able to pay online and will receive a bar code as receipt. Although the Island Council has not yet approved the new tax, it is intended to tax effect on January 1, 2022.

A higher tax for cruise tourists is also being worked on. It is expected to come into effect in September 2022. DMR (Bes-

Family room installed at prison

As of October 1, detainees at the Judicial Institution Caribbean Netherlands (JICN) will be able to apply for an hour in the so-called Family Room. If approved, they and up to three family members will be able to spend the time together in a homey environment while supervised only indirectly. To qualify for the privilege of a family visit, the applicant must have spent at least six months in detention and have demonstrated constructive behaviors while incarcerated.

Under the Detention and Reintegration (D&R) policy of the JICN, the facility is designed to help detainees maintain relationships with their families, especially their children, a key step in preparing them for their return to society and in reducing the risk of recidivism. JICN personnel, by granting or withholding the privilege of family visits, will also be able to reward positive behaviors and punish negative behaviors in order to prepare a detainee for reintegration after release.

Aruban cabinet sworn in

Yvonne Laclé-Dirks, acting Governor of Aruba, swore in a new cabinet on Monday, September 20. The new Aruban coalition government, headed by Wever-Croes II, consists of six ministers from MEP and two from RAIZ. DMR

The King emphasizes unity within the Netherlands



King Willem Alexander, in his Speech from the Throne on the occasion of the installation of the new government in the Hague, affirmed the unity of the European and Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba). He also affirmed the continuing close ties between the Netherlands and Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten. He further acknowledged the government's commitment to helping all entities in the Kingdom mitigate the economic damage to the Caribbean tourist industry resulting from the covid pandemic. He stressed the need to achieve consensus, which strengthens the Kingdom as a whole. DMR; Photo: story.nl

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1. https://www.Facebook.com/TheBonaireRe-

A Garden? (Soil) How to Find Us: Read us online: https://bonairereporter.com

porter/ Available in 50 locations

Printed every two weeks Next edition: October 13, 2021

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Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curação

Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo © 2021 The Bonaire Reporter

Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

105 active 2032 total

3 hospitalized 19 deceased

82.3 % 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/

Have you tried arepas?



Have you tried arepas? Or were you like me, a bit slow coming to the arepa table, simply because I wasn't all that sure what they

An arepa is a handmade cornmeal cake or flatbread originating from Venezuela and Columbia. It is a traditional part of South American cuisine. The arepa is versatile and healthy if the topping is healthy. It is also gluten free.

I experienced my first arepa at the little restaurant called Yhanni's Arepas and I was immediately impressed. The owner is Yhanni Pinto from Venezuela.

Unlike most family members, she didn't grow up making arepas. She actually didn't even like cooking. Yhanni only learned the art of arepas after she, her then partner and kids moved to Bonaire in 2007 in search of

"We had been to all the islands and then here. We liked the quiet, the sea, the happiness of the people, the integration between the people and class integration in the schools. Everyone was kind of together - it was an integrated community in 2007. We felt welcome everywhere," said Yhanni.

While working in reservations at Buddy Dive, a man from the Venezuelan Consulate asked her if she would do a food stand for a consulate festival. Her friend convinced her to do it even though Yhanni told her, "I don't like cooking."

The next year she did the consulate event alone and even a few "Tastes of Bonaire" with some help from her son. By 2014 she was helping out a friend with a struggling

restaurant by making arepas for him once a week. Then Yhanni began working at Patrice Rannou's Bistro at Harbour Village. Patrice suggested she make her arepas as a Friday special and they were a big hit.

Yhanni explained, with the Harbour Village Marina location, sailors, divers and locals became new arepa clients and the word spread. So much so, the owner of Coco Beach asked her to sell arepas at the beach tennis tournaments and by the next year she was helping in their kitchen. The next thing she knew she was putting together a food stand to sell arepas to the cruise ship crowds on the beach. When the Coco Beach kitchen closed, Yhanni was suddenly the only food source available for all the cruise passengers frequenting the beach. But then in February 2020, the Chocogo Resort began construction resulting in the closure of the Coco Beach Bar and in March Covid -19 locked down everything but takeout food service

Yhanni still wanted to make and sell the arepas. To make that happen she and friend Pam Teitel, owner of Budget Marine, worked together to create a place to sell take-away arepas. With Pam's support, ideas, and a new concept, the first arepa restaurant on Bonaire was born.

Yhanni said, "My family still laughs about it saying, she didn't even know how to fry an egg and now she has a restaurant. But now I love it" said Yhanni.

Yhanni's serves 12 different types of arepas, They are filled with fresh ingredients like black beans, cheese, plantain, pork, avocado, chorizo, fish, shrimp and veggie combinations. She has an arepa filled with the main dish of Venezuela, the Pabellon, a combination of rice, beef, plantain, cheese and avocado. Each arepa is made fresh per order and

cooked on a grill. Yhanni says that is the secret to the great fresh taste.

Yhanni's is available for parties, catering and they can even set up for Karaoke on request. Diners can call ahead to order dining in or take away. They can drop by for a leisurely wine, beer or soda with their arepa on the patio. All arepas are served in recyclable paper containers. Yhanni's Arepas is open $Mon-Thurs\ from\ 12-7pm\ and\ Friday\ 12am$

To order, call 599-788-0035. Visit the Bonaire Reporter Foodie's Guide for a quick link to Yhanni's Facebook page. Story and photos Julie Morgan



Yhanni Pinto displays a fresh handmade arepa.

FOR SALE Kaminda Lac Vista Royal Village Bonaire









- Location : Nikiboko
- : Varies from 526 m2 to 1628 m2 Lot size
- : Woongebied II Zoning

- 4 model homes to choose from
- Own design possible, building regulations apply
- Finance options available



Lot prices start at \$60,490 US Dollar

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POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Between September 13 and 14 dive gear items were stolen from the porch of an apartment on Kaya Sirena. Mares and Aqualung diving goggles and Mares diving shoes were taken, among other things.

Between September 13 and 14 thieves forced a window to gain entry to civil affairs on Kaya Neerlandia. Cash was taken from the safe. The safe, an inner door and a window were destroyed.

September 15. Around 4 am, three masked men surprised an elderly American couple at their home in Sabadeco. The couple was threatened and the male resident was injured when struck in the head with a weapon. The thieves got away with several of the couple's belongings. Within two hours, five people were arrested for this robbery. Four arrests were made in a North Saliña home: a woman aged 40, and three men, aged 45, 28 and 19. One man, 21, was arrested in an Antriol house. Articles were seized that probably originated from one or more thefts. A firearm was also seized. The case is under investigation and more arrests are not ruled out.

Between September 18 and 19 two gray Kymco scooters were stolen. One scooter, registration number MF-2004, was parked, locked, in front of a house on Kaya Cauca. A second scooter, Agility model, registration number MF-2876, was stolen from the yard of a house at Bulevar Julio A. Abraham. It was locked with a steering wheel lock.

September 21. A theft was reported by a construction company. Some construction samples were taken from the construction site after working hours.

September 26. A house on Kaya Saturnus was burgled. Thieves took a Play Station 4 with the controllers, a wallet with various bank cards, a few white airpods and cash.

Arrested/held in custody.

September 17. A man, 22, was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES when a lunchbox was found in his car with a marijuana-like herb and cash. His car had been stopped at Julio. A. Abraham Bulevar for inspection.

September 18. Two men, aged 47 and 51, were arrested at Kaya Sonmontuno after arguing over a collision involving both of them. They were arrested for resisting police.

September 19. Around 2 am, a driver, 43, was arrested following his noncompliance with a check in the Center area. The police tried to block his pick-up driving away, but without luck. After a short chase the driver was stopped and asked several times to get out. He did not comply, and had to be removed from the pick-up. The man has been arrested for resisting, failing to comply with an order and for intentionally endangering/obstructing the public road.

September 19. A man, 44, was detained for threat with a weapon.

September 24. Searches took place in connection with two recent robberies. A house in Rincon was searched and a man, 27, detained. Some articles were seized for further investigation. The other search was at a house in Nikiboko. Investigation into this case continues.

September 25. A man, 48, was arrested at a snack bar on Kaya Hulanda for forcibly resisting an officer, failing to comply, and for insulting, threatening, and assaulting an officer a weapon.

Another man, 45, was detained on Kaya Amazona for forcibly resisting an officer failing to comply, and for insulting an officer. Three people were arrested in the Center area for public violence and assault. A man, 44, a woman, 38, and a boy, 17, were involved in a brawl.

September 26. During the night hours a man, 57, was arrested at a house on Kaya Jaqueribe for assault with a weapon. The suspect knifed his victim in the hand.

The Center Area was closed on Friday and Saturday from the entrance at the Kaya L.D. Gerharts to the entrance at the Kaya Simon Bolivar to regulate the crowds and traffic. Arrests were made after a fight and a person was ticketed for driving in a prohibited direction and without a valid driver's license.

September 27. A suspect turned himself in to the police station after being informed by family that the police were looking for him. He was arrested for violent theft.

Traffic accidents/violations

September 14. A scooter driver was killed in a collision. Around 2:15 pm, a pick-up and a scooter collided on Kaya Betico Croes near the roundabout at Sabana. The driver of the scooter lost control and collided head-on with the pick-up coming from the opposite direction. The driver of the scooter, a woman, was taken to hospital by ambulance where she died from her injuries. The woman with initials A.J.W., was born on November 20, 1976 in the United States.

September 16. A man fell off his scooter on Kaya Korona. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

September 16. Around 5:50 pm, a car and scooter collided on Kaya Karibe. Although the driver of the car said he was blinded by the sunlight, he was found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. His car was also taken and he received a warrant as he did not have a driver's license. The scooter driver was taken to hospital for medical check-up and treatment.

September 20. After a scooter was stopped for inspection because it had an old number plate, it was seized for safe-keeping until the driver could show a driver's license and insurance.

September 21. Two cars collided on Kaya Korona around 6 am. The driver of one of the cars was taken to hospital by ambulance. Oil spilled onto the road surface and was cleaned by the relevant department of the OLB.

September 22. A moped was stopped for inspection because the driver was not wearing a helmet. The moped was seized for safekeeping until the driver could show a driver's license and insurance. The driver was charged with driving without a helmet, driver's license and insurance.

September 23. A car and scooter collided on Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas around 11:30 am. The car, which was approaching from a side street, didn't see the scooter. The driver of the scooter was checked on the spot by the ambulance staff. She did not have a driver's license or insurance papers. The scooter was taken to the police station for safekeeping and the driver was charged with driving without a license and insurance.

September 23. At about 6:45 pm, the driver of a scooter was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment after falling from her scooter. When a car in front of her suddenly braked, she also had to brake suddenly, and fell when she lost control.



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

I saw a house that looked ok but it is selling "as is." Does that mean there is something wrong with it? Can I still get an inspection? Alan

Hi Alan,

"As is" indicates that the Seller is not willing to make any repairs to the house in order to sell it. There can be different reasons for this. It may mean there is an issue known to the Seller, or it may be that an off-island Seller does not know the current condition of the house. "As is" Sellers may allow an inspection at your cost prior to making an offer, but will not agree to fix anything indicated on the report.

If the sale is not "as is," and the purchase agreement is contingent upon a

home inspection, Sellers and Buyers will agree before the inspection to an amount of defect costs that would void the sale if exceeded. If the cost of defects are below this figure, the buyer is obligated to complete the sale.

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

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

September 24. Around 1:20 pm, a collision between 4 cars and 1 scooter took place at the E.E.G. bulevar. One of the cars hit the scooter for unknown reasons and then collided with three parked cars on the side of the road. The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The driver of the car, a 20-year-old woman was arrested for causing culpable bodily harm, for not having insurance, for causing danger on the road, for driving above the speed limit speed in built-up areas and for driving without a driver's license.

September 25. About midnight, a car overturned on Kaya Internashonal near the fire station. The driver was assisted at the scene by paramedics. At about 12:30 am a car crashed into a lamppost en route to Washington Park, near Rancho Don Pedro. A high voltage cable came loose and fell on the car. The driver was treated at the scene by paramedics. The WEB personnel also came to repair the high-voltage cable.

September 26. Around 6 pm a pick-up entering the main street from a side street in Sabadeco failed to give way to an oncoming car. Due to the impact of the collision, the pick-up ended up in the mondi. The fire brigade was called in to remove the vehicle from the mondi. The driver of the pickup and the three occupants of the car, includ-

ing a child, were taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. Their situation was listed as stable.

Fire

September 16. At about 2:20 pm, a report came in that an uninhabited house on Kaya Kamari that was on fire. While the fire brigade was putting out the fire, a power cable fell down and gave one of the firefighters an electric shock. The ambulance workers found the firefighter stable and able to continue his work. The detective department is investigating the cause of the fire.

September 18. A pickup caught fire in the vicinity of Tanki Maraka. The driver stated that he had just refueled the pickup before smoke started to come out of the hood while he was driving. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was injured.

September 22. An on-duty patrol patrolling the Kaya Nikiboko North saw heavy smoke coming from the north. Upon arrival at a kunuku, it turned out that garbage in a yard was on fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was at the kunuku.



WEB NV has created a memorial to Marlies van der Kouwe who died near the Hato plant the night of September 20-21, 2008. While renovating the fence around the water plant, WEB removed a dead indju (mesquite) tree from the site. It used parts of the tree trunk to make an artwork in memory of Marlies. *DMR*

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.

Let's Not Let Bachelor's Beach Become Bloozz Beach.

The beauty of Bonaire lies in its unexpected simplicity. And, this simple beauty must be preserved. Of course, access to the sea can be improved upon but the inherent beauty of Bonaire must be maintained and preserved.

Our beaches are not like Aruba or Curacao and this is what makes Bonaire special. We must embrace what we have and attract tourists looking for a more natural and rugged experience. In addition, we must preserve the local access to these beaches first and foremost. It is the mix of locals and tourists that make our beach experience so special.

So, it may not come as a surprise that I OPPOSE the current "improvement" plan for Bachelor's Beach. I am all for improving our beaches. However, I am not in favor of changing them completely in order to attract resort tourists. If tourists are looking for a sandy beach with beach chairs, palapas, food and drinks, music, and equipment rentals, I suggest they stay at a resort or get a day pass for a resort. Bonaire has plenty of options: Ocean Oasis; Sorobon; Eden Beach; Plaza; Etc.

I believe it is just too much of a coincidence that a large resort is being completed right across the street from Bachelor's Beach at the same time the "improvement" plan for Bachelor's Beach is announced. In addition, I recently read that drempels will be added to slow traffic on the road. Another "coincidence" as Blooz Resort has posted "Slow Down, Speed 40km" for months and months. It's as though they want easy access to Bachelor's Beach for their residents (a.k.a. they want to give the impression Bachelor's Beach is simply an extension of their resort). This resort is just another resort. They should not receive special treatment because they are not waterfront but are across the street from an existing beach. The optics are bad and getting worse as time goes on. If drempels are added along this very busy stretch of road they should be added equally along the road from The Bonairian south to Delphins. In addition, if safety is the real concern, sidewalks should be added, parking should be improved and lighting should be upgraded along this entire stretch of road. This would be money better spent.

Now, let's return to the "improvement" plan for Bachelor's Beach. I believe improvements should be made to Te Amo, Donkey, and Bachelor. Let's spread the money across this entire area and "beautify" what we have and make all three areas more accessible and enjoyable for locals and tourists alike. The biggest improvement we can make is to use pavers to cover the parking areas. The Te Amo parking lot is muddy and riddled with pot holes. The parking shoulder along the road at Donkey Beach is a steep drop from the road and again muddy. The Bachelor Beach parking area should also be covered with pavers. Bathrooms should be added. It would also be nice to add three additional palapas on the opposite side of the parking lot with the same concrete tables and benches. The existing palapas should be repaired and painted. I don't believe there is any need for a playground as the sea is the playground. The steps at Bachelor also need to be replaced. There is already a food truck at this beach. Perhaps provide an additional permit or two for trucks serving into the evening and weekends. I keep reading that permits will benefit "locals." I sure hope this means Bonairians. The same can be said for Donkey Beach and Te Amo. Another important addition needed at all three beaches is more trash and recycling receptacles.

When I saw the "improvement" plan for Bachelor Beach I also noticed there is no accommodation for div-

ers. I go to swim at Bachelor Beach on a regular basis and there are always divers there. Always. Again, this design seems to be targeted to Bloozz resort rather than locals or dive tourists. And, I think it's important to remember that dive tourism is still Bonaire's bread and butter. Yes, it's good to diversify but not at the expense of our key tourism demographic, our nature, and our own identity.

I'm also curious as to the exact role TCB plays in all of this? Our beaches are part of our nature. What experience does the tourism office have in developing and maintaining beaches?

I encourage locals to get out and enjoy Bachelor Beach! Show the government that this beach is for the people of Bonaire AND tourists. Don't allow our beaches to be changed for the sake of tourism. Instead, show them that our beaches can be enjoyed as is or with minor improvements. If you agree with me, speak up. Your voice will be heard!

JP Semeleer

Racism? Or just old fashioned corruption?

According to Koninkrijk.nu: "Willemstad Minister Charles Cooper (MFK) has drawn much criticism for his intended refusal to appoint a candidate of Dutch descent as the new financial director of the housing foundation Fundashon Kas Popular (FKP). . . . The minister said, among other things, that he could not imagine that there would not be a 'real Curaçao citizen' among the candidates."

(The previously approved candidate was chosen in an open procedure with several applicants. He has lived on the island for 25 years and has broad support.)

Cooper has been widely accused of racism. It's worth noting, however, that the report also said: "Various media reported over the weekend that the minister wants to wipe the appointment of the person concerned and 'wants to be able to choose' from candidates who applied for the position." The old guard on Curaçao (and a couple of other islands that could be mentioned) are still clinging to the notion that public service should be their path to riches. Cooper may just be trying to appeal to ethnic prejudice to reclaim a lost patronage opportunity. *Don M Ricks*

Who knows the soccer/football schedule?

In the two years my wife and I have lived in Bonaire we have depended on and appreciated the Reporter as a quality source of information.

I wonder about one thing I never see here — news about local soccer games.

I see the soccer stadium and understand that it is now possible for games to be played. Also I know other expats who would enjoy discovering something of the local teams.

But information is very hard to find, and the local soccer web site is very neglected.

I wonder if this is something that other readers might enjoy too if you are able to publish something about any games that are scheduled. Even if it nothing more than in the upcoming events list.

Thanks for your work and for at least considering this thought.

Thomas D Hay S/V Kairos

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information regarding local soccer (football) games at the stadium would be greatly appreciated.



Bachelor's Beach plans continue to evolve says OLB

The Public Entity Bonaire has confirmed that Bachelor's Beach (Playa Fòrn'i Kalki) will remain freely accessible to the community. The goal is to improve the facilities so families and everyone else can enjoy the beach more.

In recent months the island government has been rethinking the design in response to comments and proposals it has received. The current plan provides for more parking spaces for cars and more space for scooters and bicycles; speed bumps on the E.E.G.-Boulevard; a terrace; a barbecue area; a playground; public toilets; shelters for rainy weather; kiosks where local entrepreneurs can sell products or rent out beach equipment; and free high-speed internet provided by Telbo. According to the government, it wants to assure "the beach retains its current identity and does not become too crowded." *DMR*

OLB obtains a tug for Bonaire

Kralendijk used to have two tugboats tied beside the main pier. Then Bopec went out of business and covid restrictions further reduced ship traffic to the island. Now the port does not provide enough work to support even one permanently stationed tug. But when a tug is needed, nothing else will suffice. And as the island recovers and grows, so will the ship traffic. Accordingly, the OLB has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Kompania di Tou Kòrsou (KTK) for tugboat service on the island. The two parties are now negotiating to create a business model that will assure the island has a tug available whenever needed. *DMR*

Wingo resuming Curaçao-Bogota service

Wingo Airlines, a low cost carrier associated with Panamanian COPA Airlines, is rebooting its Bogotá-Curaçao schedule on October 6. Before the covid pandemic Wingo flew two flights per week, but it predicts the route will be popular and anticipates offering additional flights. Wingo resumed its service to Aruba almost a year ago but has postponed several attempts to revive its Curaçao connection. *DMR*(*Besreporter*).

Wage subsidies available

Plenchi di Trabou jobcentre can now subsidize the wages paid to students in apprenticeship training programs. All accredited training companies in the construction, hospitality, engineering or the green industry sectors can register. The subsidy will cover up to 50% of the Legal Minimum Wage, depending on student's age. The employer pays the balance and provides an ROA accredited apprentice trainer for the employee. loonkostensubsidie@plenchiditrabou.com.

Plenchi di Trabou has also launched a so-called 'aftercare program' for MBO Bonaire students in collaboration with FORMA and MBO Bonaire (a senior secondary vocational school). During this program, graduation candidates in the training courses Health & Social Welfare, Sport & Physical Activity and Hospitality & Engineering attend multiple interactive information sessions intended to groom them for the labor market. *DMR*



Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

After a Gulf Stream Dive

Every year before the September full moon, Goliath groupers gather to spawn off the coast of Florida, around Palm Beach. Goliath groupers are named for their size, which no other grouper in the Caribbean or Atlantic can match: imagine a grouper that's six or seven feet long (2m)!

We didn't want to imagine it, we wanted to see it, so we signed up for a Goliath grouper dive trip. On the second dive, we went to a wreck where three of the giants were hanging out together and a couple more elsewhere. Yep, we saw them!

But we didn't see them for very long, because the coast of Florida, off Palm Beach, is the closest the Gulf Stream gets to the US – so we were in a ripping current for both dives. We could swim against the current for a short while, but mostly we were flying along. The three Goliath groupers showed their energy-saving smarts by resting beside the bow of the wreck, protected from the current. Unfortunately for us, the protected area wasn't big enough for the Goliaths to share with divers, so in courtesy we tried to hold position in the current while we could, and then flew by.

What I didn't realize, until later, was that this was not a dive of leisurely looking around as we have on Bonaire, but rather one of spotting interesting things before I passed them. I did see a green moray and a lobster, but missed the turtles

What even I couldn't miss were the barrel sponges that we ... barreled ... by on the first dive. The current carried us

over a mostly flat, solid bottom, covered with stinging hydroids, small sponges, sea squirts, and the occasional palm-sized living coral. Towering over this bottom growth was the occasional, unmissable, 3' (1m) or even taller, barrel sponge. In response to the consistent strong current, the openings of all these barrels faced downcurrent, rather than toward the surface.

We don't have a lot of barrel sponges off town on Bonaire, but I've seen them on the reefs of Grand Cayman and San Salvador in the Bahamas. Their size makes them a favorite subject for photos, and also a victim for the unaware/unknowledgeable/just plain dumb divers who grab the sponge — and watch the chunk they grabbed detach from the main colony.

When broken, the barrel sponge reveals that its brown color is only on the surface. Beneath the brown layer is a white layer which apparently shouts UNPROTECTED DELICACY HERE! to every angelfish and butterflyfish around. Their eager munching can eventually threaten the existence of the entire sponge colony – which is why the dive boat had a sign reminding people not to touch or grab the barrel sponges.

On Cayman, I learned about a barrel sponge which had had a chunk pulled off when someone grabbed it. The divemaster put the chunk back in place, but it fell away, so the divemaster pinned the detached chunk into position with pieces of wire. The colony healed perfectly!

Here on Bonaire, our sponge colonies grow the way they choose rather than the way water movement dictates, and we don't have to struggle to visit them. Heh heh.

Let's remember that slogan that never made it to our license plates:

Bonaire Sponge Paradise



A fish lineup is a good indication that the current is strong - by Bonaire standards.

When we dived near the Gulf Stream, barrel sponges were the only organisms who adapted their growth to the prevailing current. This photo was taken away from the Gulf Stream, so the barrel sponge is growing straight up, but it has grown larger than everything surrounding it.



Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.

Third "Turismo na Boneiru" launched



Author and publisher Denise de Jong-Rekwest with her Turismo na Boneiru children's books

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) introduced the third book in a series of tourism books for Bonaire's school kids at Captain Don's Habitat on September 22. For the last three years TCB has promoted tourism education in Bonaire's schools by supporting the publication of the book series "Turismo na Boneiru" (Tourism on Bonaire) as a part of World Tourism Day.

"It is not only important but a responsibility of all of us to make sure that tourism is part of our education program...We depend on our future youngsters to be inspired and be part of the most dynamic industry on the island," said Miles Mercera, CEO of TCB.

The tourism books are published and authored by Denise de Jong-Rekwest with drawings and photos that reflect the colors and nature of Bonaire. Each book, only available in Bonaire's schools, is in Papiamentu and targeted for kids age 8

The first two books included an overall view and history of Bonaire's tourism. Stories include information about Captain Don Stewart and how he brought diving to the island and why it is important. The kids can read Information on cruise ships, the Regatta, Taste of Bonaire and Dia de Rincon. There is even a section on how important it is to keep Bonaire clean, "Tene Boneiru limpi" and recycling.

Tourism professions are discussed to encourage and educate the kids on how they can become a part of Bonaire's future by working in tourism.

The third book, just released, "Tourism on Bonaire, Authentic Experience" is part of TCB's community involvement plan.

According to de Jong-Rekwest, the

book is a reflection of what the island experience actually is.

"TCB requested me to come up with some authentic things, topics and experiences that a tourist would love to know about and what our school kids should know about in order to share these with the tourists visiting our island," said de Jong.

The book includes stories from some of Bonaire's elders, discusses traditional instruments and music, island food and recipes, photos of Bonaire's nature, interactive songs with QR codes and even games.

The next book in the series is still in the planning stage, but could focus on Bonaire's nicest dive spots, beaches, the island's caves and other topics of interest for both the youngsters and island

Story and photo Julie Morgan

CCS studies marine mammals in the West Indies.

This summer the Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS) studied visually and acoustically more than 2,950 marine mammals from 10 different species between the islands of Anguilla and Martinique.

CCS, a new NGO founded by Martinique marine biologists, sailed along 13 Caribbean islands for two months, collecting data on marine mammals. By its works, CCS hopes to aid cooperation between the different islands to help conserve a species that knows no borders.

The first four expeditions of the project, "Ti Whale an Nou 2021 "(Our Little Whales), recorded many firsts. They acoustically recorded orcas (Orcinus orca) in the West Indies and collected

photo-identification of this species in Martinique. Rare species like pygmy killer whales *(Feresa attenuata)* were sighted in the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary of the BES islands. The study of 18 sperm whale *(Physeter macrocephalus)* families in the Caribbean showed that the same social clans are shared between the Yarari Sanctuary and Agoa Sanctuary of the French islands.

Besides collecting scientific data, this Caribbean initiative trained local participants. In each expedition a crew of six searched for whales and dolphins. The crew towed a hydrophone system to hear marine mammals near the boat day and night. When the animals got close to the boat, the crew collected information with high-speed cameras. They photographed

the caudal (tail) fin of the sperm whales. The tail of each sperm whale is unique, just like human fingerprints, This information makes it possible to establish families and record the movements of all cetaceans in all the Antilles.

All Caribbean islands depend on the marine ecosystem for their food and income, so it is important to protect it. Cetaceans are a vital species for humans. Few people might be aware, but large whales capture four times more carbon dioxide and produce four times more oxygen than the great Amazon rainforest annually. The sperm whale is the largest predator in the world; they live in families, have cultures and speak different languages between clans. The loss of this species could imply a disaster for marine

life as we know it.

The rest of the expeditions are surely going to reveal other fascinating results on our natural heritage about which is so little known.

A network and partners

This mission is the result of the cooperation of a Caribbean network, which seems to be the best solution for the protection of migratory species that we share. It is made possible thanks to the participation of public and private partners: Corail Caraibes, World Wildlife Fund for Nature - Netherlands, EDF Group Foundation, Orange Foundation, SARA, DCNA and AWI.



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.

Remember Those Who No Longer Can...

Reflection For Today

"Alzheimer's disease is the cleverest thief because she not only steals from you, but she steals the very thing you need to remember what's been stolen." - Jarod Kintz

Tip For Today

"Why are you still wearing your blue flower lapel pin, Swinda?"

September 21st has come and gone and Chichi noticed that her best friend has been wearing her PIN throughout the month of September, not only on World Alzheimer's Day.

"That's exactly why, Chichi! People who recognize my Alzheimer Awareness pin can ask me why I still wear it and others who don't know what it is can ask me about my pin."

Every September, people from around the world focus on raising awareness of Alzheimer's disease and challenging the stigma that persists around dementia.

"These questions are excellent opportunities for me to contribute to this important cause by raising awareness and effecting change!"

"That's smart, Swinda, I love it!", Chichi replied as she was thinking on someone very near and dear to her.

"You know, Swinda, my mom's forgetfulness is going from bad to worse.", Chichi shared with a heavy heart.

"She's the best mom ever! She's done so much for her children, her friends and family and several organizations. She even received a Royal Decoration ("koninklijke onderscheiding") for her immeasurable contribution to our community here in Paradise (also known as Bonaire).

Everywhere I go people ask me "How's your mom? Still going strong

as ever? I haven't seen her for a while... please give her my best!"

What most people maybe don't know is that the person they remember no longer remembers like before. And taking care of a loved one who is forgetful can be frustrating and emotionally draining."

Be mindful of the following when confronted with such challenges...

- It's important to exercise patience
- It's important to show understanding
- It's important to respect people's dignity

Remember...

Successful people realize that forgetful people aren't intentionally being a burden or a nuisance.

They are also aware that taking care of a loved one who is forgetful is a privilege!

Through personal experience with her mother, Chichi realized that we all have a responsibility to remember those who no longer can...and do something about it.

"Swinda, I admire your dedication towards Alzheimer and dementia. Raising awareness and affecting change, not only on World Alzheimer's Day, but as an ongoing effort!

I want to contribute more to this noble cause...where can I get my Alzheimer Awareness pin?"

Affirmation For Today

Taking care of a loved one who is forgetful is a privilege. Today I am mindful of all the ways I can better take care of my loved ones who are forgetful in a loving way.

I want to start with TODAY.

What do I want to be mindful of? All the ways I can better take care of my loved ones who are forgetful.

How do I want to take care of them? In a loving way.

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."

Poem for Today

I Remember

I remember the feel of warmth on my chest.

as the sun blows me kisses of rays, giving way to tiny beads of perspiration running down my breast.

The sensation felt through my spine, with each step I take on the warm coastal sands of this beautiful land of mine.

The way your eyes speak to me when I dance to the songs in my head, suddenly turning around seeing you watching me, watching you, only to start dancing

again.

The peace felt within, sitting quietly and knowing that I am all and everything.
I remember the little things.
I remember me.

Vivian Cornet

Corporate lawyer, creative artist, artistic activist Curação

I like the fluidity I can incorporate into rhetoric, thus making the reader aware of his/her identity and I strive to achieve self-awareness with my poems.

Covid-19 round-up

Well-known and well-liked Bonairean radio journalist Zamir Ayubi has died after spending a week in intensive care being treated for covid symptoms. He was a vocal critic of the government's anti-covid measures and reported not vaccinated. His brother, Aimed Ayubi, also a well-known radio journalist, was hospitalized a few months ago after contracting the virus. Subsequently he joined the Government's communication department to launch an active campaign in support of vaccinations.

The Netherlands has so far given 1.3 billion euros to help the six Caribbean islands combat the corona crisis according to the draft National Budget for Kingdom Relations 2022.

On Bonaire the number of positive test results has spiked. Positive tests have been running under ten per day. The report for Sept 27 showed 26 positive tests; the report for Sept 28 showed 23.

KLM has been asking unvaccinated flight personnel to identify themselves to KLM Health Services. The airline can no longer assign those employees on flights to destinations that that have made vaccination mandatory. In some countries crew members who have not been vaccinated cannot even register in hotels.

Bonaire's updated list of very high risk countries still includes the United Kingdom and the United States. Canada has been added as a very high risk country.

Curação has too many infected people to relax its covid restrictions, with 31 cases in the hospital, 14 of them in

Covid, cont'd on page 12

The Bonaire Reporter Sept. 29 - Oct. 13, 2021



Marriott featured in Bonaire Culinair.



Marriott chef Eugenia Badica and server Jeanne Marie Alberto display the first ever Bonaire Culinair vegetarian entree, Tofu Wellington. Photo Julie Morgan

One of the most exciting times to dine on island is during Bonaire Culinair. The restaurant event is being held September 23 – October 7. The Reporter was again honored to enjoy a sneak peak, this time at Marriott Courtyard.

If you aren't familiar with 'Culinair," this is the bi-yearly event when Bonaire's restaurants and chefs shine even brighter than normal. Culinair introduces the diner to the quality and uniqueness of each of the 20 participating restaurants for a great price of only \$33. The chefs get to have some fun experimenting in their kitchens by concocting new appetizers, entrees and desserts resulting in a foodie's dream three course meal.

My dining partner and I were scheduled for our Culinair preview meal on the Marriott's Friday sushi night. The chef, Eugenia Badica welcomed us and explained the imported food items needed for the Culinair meal had not arrived on island. As anyone living on Bonaire for a while knows, this happens and we of course sympathized. Our Culinair meal would have to be

re-scheduled and we thought alas, we'd go away hungry. But instead, the chef offered us an extraordinary sushi dinner complete with dessert and drinks. We had both heard great comments of the Marriott's sushi night and at the end, we agreed it was all true. In addition to the tremendous sushi dinner and service, we enjoyed live music of trumpet player Victor Felipa who performs every

Our actual Culinair meal occurred a few days later and we received the same great service and more amazing cuisine. The appetizer, entrée and dessert were all vegetarian and the first ever featured during the Bonaire Culinair event.

Chef Eugenia outdid herself in her creamy pumpkin soup with almond slivers, little edible flowers, a bit of curry, baby pencil asparagus for a bit of crunch and a little surprise in the mid-

The entrée of Tofu Wellington was impressive and as a vegetarian, something I have never had before. What a unique idea. Like most Wellingtons,

The dining room. (Marriott stock photo)

puff pastry (filo dough) was wrapped around the "meat", a combination of tofu, three types of mushrooms and spinach served on a spinach mushroom sauce bed.

The third course, otherwise known as dessert, was a cheese cake made with a Rom Rincon flavored crumble crust. And on the side a sorbetto with homemade lemon sorbet flavored with vodka and Prosecco - yum.

Our Marriott Courtyard meal is a perfect example of the unique food experiences available during Bonaire Culinair. There are 19 other restaurants to enjoy during the event and unfortunately a limited amount of days remaining. Please visit https:// Bonaire-Culinair.com for the complete list of dining opportunities and make a reservation. Enjoy! Story and photos Julie Morgan



Victor Felipa entertains Marriott diners on Friday sushi nights. Photo Julie Morgan





Selibon providing waste separation at public beaches

The general purpose wheelie bins for trash are gone from Sorobon. They have been replaced by four bins in different colors for four types of waste: green for residual waste (such as food scraps), yellow for glass, blue for cardboard, and an orange bin for plastics. An iron wheelie bin has been provided for charcoal. Selibon will install waste separation bins at other beaches as well. DMR

Foodie's guide to Bonaire

online - click on the ad for more info































Still available



Still available

Did You Know? that Chubs, Blue Tangs and Angelfish

are also super important to coral reef health?

In Bonaire, we have done so much to protect and manage our coral reefs, from banning anchoring and spearfishing,

to protecting corals, sharks and many more species of plants and animals. However, as coral health declines worldwide and algae is on the rise, reversing this trend has become more and more urgent. We know that parrotfish are essential to reef health because they eat the algae that otherwise would overgrow and kill our corals. In efforts to safeguard these key species, our government protected all parrotfish in 2010 as well as many other overfished or key reef species.

Recently, I read a paper from a former CIEE Bonaire intern (Dell et al., 2020), who is now a research scientist at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute, that looked into which fish species are eating macroalgae on Caribbean reefs. Our reefs have turf algae, the fuzzy, short stuff that grows on everything that is not alive, and macroalgae, algae that can grow quite tall and 'leafy'. She and her co-authors found that only one species of parrotfish, the Redband parrotfish, ate the macroalgae. Two other species, Blue Tang and Bermuda Chubs were also feeding on the macroalgae. Who knew that Chubs could be one of the main 'protectors of the reef'?



Bermuda Chubs also feed on the macroalgae. Photo taken from snorkeling-report.com

Another study (Cissel et al., 2019) found that parrotfish, surgeonfish, and ANGELFISH are eating cyanobacteria off of our reefs. Cyanobacteria, formerly known as blue-green algae, is on the rise on our reefs and can overgrow and kill corals. The green, fuzzy, slimy stuff that was covering the benthos down south near the salt pier two years ago up until recently was cyanobacteria. You can also see it as wispy black or red filaments/mats spreading over dead and live coral, especially on recently dead or diseased coral. There are many species of cyanobacteria and scientists believe that poor water quality and/or a warming climate may facilitate its growth.

Learning that not just parrotfish, but many reef fish species are responsible for keeping macroalgae and cyanobacteria in check should make us re-think how we protect and manage our fish populations. Either we need to protect more species of reef fish or we need more fish protected areas.

Dell, Claire LA, et al. "Few herbivore species consume dominant macroalgae on a Caribbean coral reef." *Frontiers in Marine Science* 7 (2020): 676.

Cissell, Ethan C., Joshua C. Manning, and Sophie J. McCoy. "Consumption of benthic cyanobacterial mats on a Caribbean coral reef." *Scientific reports 9.1* (2019): 1-7

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

Ask a Geek: Tech News from Bonaire and Abroad. by Brian Niessen

Internet on the island just got faster. Telbo is now offering a 500 mbit down and 20 mbit up connection special for \$90 a month if you are in their Fiber Optic service area. To check if it is available in your area, check www.telbo.net/ftth/

"To boldly go where no (older) man has gone before."

- Captain Kirk from Star Trek fame (aka William Shatner) will be the oldest human in space at 90 years old when he goes up on the Blue Origins rocket next month. I know this isn't a tech article, but Star Trek was single-handedly responsible for many inventions we use today - Doesn't the old Motorola Flip Phone look a lot like the Star Trek Communicator? And remember all the tablet computers they used back in the 1960's on the show? Oh, and it was also very progressive in its time - generally accepted as the first inter-racial kiss on television occurring between Captain Kirk and Lieutenant Uhura. (As another trivia question, who were the first married TV couple to sleep in the same bed on screen? -See answer below.)

How safe is your VPN? Did you know that the VPN program/router you use has 100% access to every file and transmission from your computer. ExpressVPN hired an ex-mercenary hacker for the United Arab Emirates as Chief Technology Officer. I am not saying that they are stealing your data, but I definitely wouldn't hire a bank robber to protect my bank, would you?

Bitcoin and all other cryptocurrencies banned in China. China's central bank said on Friday all cryptocurrency-related transactions are illegal in the country and they must be banned, citing concerns around national security and "safety of people's assets." This is after China was a controlling factor in the rise in popularity of Bitcoin. Makes ya wonder... Pump and Dump at a world level.

Meanwhile, El Salvador totally mucks up their adoption of Bitcoin as a legal currency.

El Salvador's experiment with Bitcoin — the biggest test of the token's real-world usefulness — had a rocky start because of technical glitches to the official digital wallet that later appeared to be resolved. Chivo launched just after midnight on Sept. 7. The system started failing at 3:00 AM Server capacity was increased, and app installations were not re-enabled until 11:30 AM. Transactions failed throughout the day; customer service lines were jammed; Chivo ATMs ran out of cash. Shortly after 10:00 AM, the price of Bitcoin crashed by \$10,000 in three minutes causing the government to buy 500 Bitcoin (Over US\$25 million) to try and prop up the market... But hey, you can now buy lunch at McDonalds using Bitcoin, although it could be cold by the time you have finished paying for it.

Lithuania Says "Throw Away Chinese Phones Due To Censorship Concerns." Lithuania's Defense Ministry recommended that consumers avoid buying Chinese mobile phones and advised people to throw away the ones they have now after a government report found the devices had built-in censorship capabilities to detect and censor terms such as "Free Tibet", "Long live Taiwan independence" or "democracy movement". Who knows what else is in them?

We lost a good source of computer products. For those of you who enjoyed the selection of computer 'geeky stuff' that Marco imported and sold at Bondigro, those days are (temporarily) over. Marco has moved on and there is nobody manning the 'guy' counter at the moment. They do have a few things left for sale, but you need to ask for someone to find the keys and get it for you. Their loss is Bonaire Automation's gain, as they have a good selection of some of the unique things like USB cases for hard drives in stock.

Batteries Go Boom! And finally, General Motors urged some owners of Chevrolet Bolt electric cars to park and store the vehicles at least 50 feet away from other cars and not to park them in your garage to reduce the risk that a spontaneous fire could spread.

Fred and Wilma Flintstone

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

A delegation of sports leaders from Indebon, Integrale Wijkontwikkeling (I.W.O) and Jong Bonaire traveled to the Netherlands. There they will follow training courses to stimulate sports in the neighborhoods and to inspire participants. In addition to the courses and training, the delegation will visit and participate in various sports activities. The delegation will return to Bonaire at the end of September.



World Tourism Day observed



Thank you gifts were presented to all World Tourism Day keynote speakers. Pictured: TCB Miles Mercera with Miss Tourism Bonaire 2021 Sunniva Manuel.

Bonaire joined the celebration of World Tourism Day, September 27, with the first Annual Bonaire Tourism Summit at the Courtyard by Marriott.

"Tourism and Inclusive Growth" was the theme of the worldwide event organized by Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association (BONHATA).

Commissioner Hennyson Thielman, TCB's CEO Miles Mercera and BONHATA's CEO Veroesjka de Windt opened the summit to a standing room only crowd of tourism stakeholders. All expressed that inclusiveness and collaboration are key to Bonaire's new vision.

Keynote speaker futurist and social entrepreneur Igor Beuker told the crowd that being imaginative and striving toward social innovation is the way to a new future. He said Bonaire should rethink the old marketing strategy and break down the old systems and rebuild them from the ground up.

"We need sustainable programs. Sustainability could be the new profit, "said Beuker, "Everyone wants innovation but no one wants to change."

He explained that Bonaire needs to decide on concise ideas about where it wants to go and be in 30 years time. For example, if you want cruise ships, can you explain why and how that will look in the future. If you want high-rise hotels and casinos, is that a heritage you can really be proud of?

Beuker told the crowd the technology is there so you can do it all if you make

"I think if you lay a foundation now for a micro grid for sustainable growth of sun, wind or solar power, it could be a reality in the next 20 years. Other islands are renovating with new sustainable energy and it even supplies new jobs. If we grow from 100,000, 200, 000, 300,000 tourists a year, is it sustainable?" said

The speaker gave the audience food for thought, even suggesting if physical tourism was necessary and instead sharing Bonaire's underwater world and nature through film and virtual experiences to lessen the impact of the tourism foot-

TCB's Miles Mercera noted that evervone in the room was invested in Bonaire. The trend was for the island to be as authentic as possible. He said that we

don't want to be the McDonalds of the Caribbean

He stressed it was important to get the public and private sectors working together.

"How do we set ourselves apart? How do we position our island? How do we stand out from the sea of sameness?" said Mercera.

Bonaire must ensure it has the right branding to move forward. Instead of marketing Bonaire as a destination, it should be a Blue Society.

In the question and answer session, Alvin Obersi said, "I love the fact that we are a Blue Society not a destination. When you land here, we have tranquility, and that everyone helps you. You can't find this anywhere else. We are on the edge of losing it if we don't get the community involved."

Other speakers included route expert and air service consultant for Bonaire, Howard Mann, hospitality expert Rene Paalman and president of Diamond PR, Jody Diamond.

In the afternoon the tourism stakeholders were able to provide their input for the 2022 marketing initiative in Interactive breakout sessions.

To view the events of the day first hand go to TCB's Facebook page for livestream video of the summit. https://www. facebook.com/TourismCorporationBonaire/. Julie Morgan, story & photo

Bonaire visitors are participating in exit survey

In molding Bonaire's new tourism plan for the future, Bonaire is taking a page from the old school of tourism with an exit survey for the island's

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is hoping to gain a better insight as to tourist satisfaction and motivation of their visit through the survey.

The survey began September 8 with two interviewers sitting down with the visitors on the busiest flying days, Wednesday and Saturday. To date there have been 60 respondents answering questions such as the purpose of their visit, basic demographics, satisfaction of their trip and how much they spent.

Miles Mercera, CEO of TCB said, "The respondents, especially the divers were really happy to do it because they wanted to express their sentiments about the island."

The visitors who do take the time for the survey have the opportunity to win a trip back to Bonaire.

The exit survey will run for a year and then the data will be evaluated and a new survey will begin.

An entry survey is also scheduled to begin in January 2022.

Julie Morgan





Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk Bonaire installed its board for the year 2021-2022. Pictured are:Community Service Director Emily Kocks, Fundraising Director Marilijne Kats, PR Director Perla Nicholson, Membership Director Mimi Dongen, Treasurer Alicia Xuan-Krijgsman, Secretary Marisol Vrolijk, Immediate Past President Ricard Nicholson, and President Derchlien Vrolijk-Dijkhoff.



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Activities, Events & Meetings



Free public presentations

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations are held 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. Oct. 22-24,2021. You can sign up your team at: https://www.48hourfilm.com/nl/bonaire/registernow. To learn more about the 2019 competition, see The Reporter's online archives for 2019: Issues 19 to 23, https://bonairereporter.com

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.

Beach Tennis Bonaire can now be found at its new location, the Kaminda Djabou (direct left from Kaya Neerlandia --behind Budget Marine). It is open daily until 10 pm. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.



Learn About Bonaire's History & Culture

André Nahr will take you on a fascinating journey through Bonaire's history and culture from the arrival of the first inhabitants 3600 years ago to today's modern times. The four presentations will be taught in English on Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 12, 14, 19 and 21 from 7-10 pm.

The class will be held in the "Buckley Room" at Captain Don's Habitat, Kaya Gob. Debrot.

Cost is \$140 per person payable at the first class. Drinks of coffee, tea and water included. To sign up please email: geology.andrenahr@gmail.com

What's Happening

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.

September 3 to October 15	Artist Dillon Rannou; Atleast in Wonderland; Terramar Museum Tues - Friday 10am - 1pm and Friday 6pm - 9pm
September 23 to October 7	Bonaire Culinair, 3rd Ed. Discover the wide variety of restaurants the island has to offer. Restaurants offer a three-course menu for \$33. Lunchrooms offer a lunch menu for \$22 and Foodtrucks offer a Special for \$11.
Sunday. October 3	Book Market, Animal Shelter Bonaire at the Shelter, Kaminda Lagoen 26. 9 am to 3 pm.
Sunday October 10	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Boka Onima. 4-6pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.

Sept. & Oct. Cruise Ships

DAY & DATE:MM/DD CRUISESHIP TIME PIER CAP					CAPA	ACITY & LINE
Thursday	9-23	Celebrity Equinox	0800-2000	S.pier	2850	Celebrity
Thursday	10-14	Celebrity Equinox	0800-2000	S.pier	2850	Celebrity
Tuesday	10-26	Celebrity Equinox	0700-1600	S.pier	2850	Celebrity
Wednesday	10-27	Emerald Princess	0700-1700	N.pier	3114	PCL

TCB tells us that the cruise ship schedule can change very quickly due to changing restrictions and circumstances. Therefore, the information above is subject to change.

Direct flights United States - Bonaire Current to Nov. 20, 2021 Nov. 24 to Dec. 15, 2021 **Delta from** Dec. 18, 2021 to Jan. 4, 2022 Jan. 4 to April 9, 2022 One weekly Saturday flight Two weekly flights: Wednesday & Daily flights except Tuesday Four weekly flights: Monday, Atlanta, Georgia Saturday Wednesday, Friday & Saturday American from Current to Nov. 20, 2021 Nov.8. to Dec 15, 2021 -Dec 16, 2021 to Jan 3, 2022 Miami, Florida Two weekly flights: Wednesday & Three weekly flights: Monday, Daily flights Saturday Wednesday, Saturday United from Houston, Texas & Beginning Nov. 6, 2021 Newark, New Jersey Saturday flights from both Houston and Newark. Return flight on Sunday

TCB tells us that the additional flights are already online and can be booked for the upcoming months.

Coral Spawning

Coral spawning is fascinating. In some types of coral, each individual releases either sperm (in a cloud) or eggs, many of which fertilize each other as they rise to the water's surface or after they get there. Other types of coral release already fertilized eggs, which also rise to the water's surface. The successful fertilized eggs will become larval coral animals, settle in good locations, and develop into new coral colonies.

What's fascinating about this is that many different species of coral spawn at the same time, or at overlapping times, so that during the peak of a spawning event, the water is filled with coral reproductive stuff. And, since these events take place after dark, the stuff is illuminated by our lights – it's like being weightless in the Milky Way...

Twenty-five years ago we'd say, "Okay, it's a week after the September full moon, the corals will be spawning!" and dive that night, hoping we'd picked the right hour. Now things are simpler,

or at least more precise: there are actually online coral spawning schedules for our area! On the STINAPA website, and also CARMABI's site, you can find out predicted spawning times by coral species, day, hour, and how likely the predictions are correct.

Most of the September spawnings will be over by the time this issue of the Reporter comes out, but a few corals may spawn in October, and CARMABI also lists spawning dates and times for other critters, such as Christmas tree worms and sea cucumbers. Plus, the CARMABI site makes it plain that more info is needed, so they'd like to know what you observe.

In addition, the weather is perfect for night diving. So pick a time, any time (one of the joys of diving Bonaire), and explore the reef after dark. You might not see any coral "action" at all – or your dive might even give you the chance to add to the body of knowledge about coral spawning. *Dee Scarr*

Covid-19 round-up cont. from page 7

intensive care. Infections among young people 13-18 are becoming a major concern. The unvaccinated make up the overwhelming majority of cases in all age groups.

The US health authorities still list Aruba as a high risk country, despite the sharp decrease in the number of infections in recent weeks. Americans are advised not to travel to the island at all, and to be fully vaccinated if they do.

According to the RIVM report (Dutch CDC) for the week of 16-22 September regarding Bonaire:

- Positive SARS-CoV-2 test results dropped sharply from 276 people per 100,000 inhabitants to 168 people per 100,000 inhabitants.
- The percentage of people tested who tested positive dropped from 11.7% to 9.1%.

- Two new clusters were identified in the education sector and among in-
- There were four COVID-related hospital admissions, of which three were in the Special Care unit.
- The island reported one COVID-related death in the week of 16-22. The person was fully vaccinated but was older than 85 and had underlying conditions
- The Health Department knows the vaccination status of roughly 90% the people on Bonaire who were infected since March 2021. Of those, 93% were not vaccinated, 1.7% were partially vaccinated, and 4.8% were fully vaccinated.
- As of late September, 48% of young people aged 12-17 had received at least one vaccine. *DMR*



Making Bonaire Accessible by Ria Evers-Dokter

To age gracefully

Growing old

is a privilege and not many get that chance. But, it does come with a price...

It seems to be a process that appears suddenly. You look into a mirror or you see a picture somebody else took and it hits you.

And if you are honest with yourself, you already knew it, because you are not that fast anymore, you need more time than usual to get ready and insecurity seems to have crept into your mind.

Your skin seems to wrinkle by the day and your sleeping pattern has changed a lot. Where did those brown spots come from?

It feels as if you may need hip and knee-replacement very soon and having sex seems a thing long forgotten.

When walking, you are feeling very insecure and you keep forgetting where you placed things. If you have an alcoholic beverage, it seems that the first sip goes right to your brain and stays there forever.

We cannot change getting older, but we can slow the process.

We can change our lifestyle, our eating habits and try to stay active for as long as possible.

We also need people in our lives. We cannot exist without people surrounding us. But often the loved ones and friends pass away before us and we are left behind. We feel lonely and alone. It seems that the ones still there also stay in their own homes and are not very socially active anymore.

This is bad behavior and it's bad for everybody. One should have as many people around to talk to, to be of help to and, most important, have fun with.

Because falling is a big issue, you could form a group of peers and have a therapist come and give instructions on how to fall and how to behave when one falls. When you love swimming and being in the water, you can join a group that enjoys water-aerobics for the elderly. You may even find a friend that takes you swimming on a regular basis.

When singing is your thing, join a choir or start your own singing group and perform for your peers and others.

If you like to cook, start a cooking club and have get-togethers on a regular basis to cook with and for each other.

Avid readers can begin a book-club. Or if you own too many books, begin a mini-library at your garden-gate. (take one book and bring another back).

When you have no means of transportation, you can seek help at the Zorg & Welzijn group. They provide help and transportation for shopping, etc. They also offer help for you to keep your house clean.

If you would like to have a special person visit you on regular basis, contact Hofi Kultural. They run an awesome buddy-program.

Hofi Kultural also offers music lessons for the elderly. You can learn to play the kwarta, the sinfonia, the guitar or just sing along. They also have a very active hand-crafting group.

Get out of your house and join the fun.



Creating optimal health by Irene da Cunda Costa

Bringing scuba diving to a new level (part 1)

There is a moment when we realize that mind body techniques and diving come together. This will not only allow you to enjoy more of your bottom time, it will also improve your air consumption and most important, it will turn diving into a transcendental experience.

I will start by sharing a few tips that cover six different areas: relaxation, the importance of exhalation, awareness, pulmonary capacity and strength, CO2 tolerance, bodily needs and mindset.

1. Relaxation. This is the foundation of air consumption. The more you relax the longer the tank will last. You can use any relaxation technique. The most popular ones are the autogenic relaxation from Schultz and the progressive relaxation from Jacobson. It doesn't matter which one you practice; mastery will be achieved by the consistent repetition of the technique, so choose one that fits you and just do it. An important tip is to choose a word or short sentence and repeat it when you are in the relaxation state. You will use it as a trigger whenever you want to elicit the relaxation response.

- 2. The importance of exhalation. If you did the open water course you must be familiar with the fact that the dead space in your airways is increased by the volume of the second stage of your regulator or your snorkel. This can contribute to the buildup of carbon dioxide in your system, increasing your breath rate. To avoid this, breathe slowly and focus your attention on your exhalation to make sure you get rid of the used air and make room for fresh air.
- **3. Awareness.** Remember: once you are below the surface, you are already where you want to be. Unless you are on a special mission, when you are scuba diving for recreational purposes you don't really need to go anywhere and you should be able to enjoy your dive from the very first minute. Take your time to enjoy the temperature of the water, the weightlessness sensation, the sound of your bubbles and don't rush. Leave the haste and the stress for above the surface.
- **4. Pulmonary capacity and strength.** There is a series of stretching exercises specifically targeting the muscles involved in the breathing cycle. It involves stretching

the neck, the pectoral muscles, the muscles between the ribs and the hamstrings. This will create more room for your lungs. You can also achieve this through the practice of yoga. To strength train, just work on thoroughly cleaning your BCD blowing air into it orally instead of using the LP inflator.

- **5. CO2 tolerance.** Improving your CO2 tolerance will improve your overall fitness. To do this, first test your tolerance by timing the length of one exhalation. Try a few times and make an average. Then practice the Wim Hoff method for a week. You will find loads of information on the Internet about this. Then test yourself again. You will be surprised by the results. Pranayama techniques that involve breath holding will also improve your CO2 tolerance
- **6. Bodily needs**. Don't forget a good night of sleep, proper nutrition and good hydration.
- **7. Mindset.** This one is a bit similar to point three. Leave your worries at the surface. Practice contemplative diving. Surrender to the awe that the closeness to nature brings you. Be aware of the subtle changes your breathing introduces to your buoyancy. Glide with each strike of your fins. Enjoy, enjoy and enjoy.

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.



Bonaire's sky park

October Meteor Shower



The Draconid meteor shower, is first of the two meteor showers in the month of October. It usually peaks around October 8-9. The second, the Orionids, usually peaks around October 21.

The website, timeanddate.com, provides star watchers with a sky map and table to help them find the radiant (shower origin) from specific locations around the world. The table is updated daily when the meteor showers are active and shows the position of the radiant in the sky for the upcoming night.

Timeanddate's advice to sky watchers:

- Find a secluded viewing spot, away from city lights. Your eyes may take 15 to 20 minutes to get used to the dark.
- Once you have found your viewing spot, lie down on the ground and look up in the direction of the radiant. The table will give you the azimuth (direction, based on true north) and altitude (height in degrees over horizon).

Named after the constellation, Draco the Dragon, the

Draconids are created when the Earth passes through the dust debris left by comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner. The comet takes about 6.6 years to make a single revolution around the Sun

For the complete article go to: https://www.timeand-date.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/draconid.html

Draconids meteor shower for Kralendijk (night between October 8 & October 9

Time	Azimuth/Direction	Altitude	
Fri 6:00 pm	345° \	46.0°	
Fri 7:00 pm	335° \	41.0°	
Fri 8:00 pm	329° 1	34.0°	
Fri 9:00 pm	325° <	25.9°	
Fri 10:00 pm	323° 🔨	17.2°	
Fri 11:00 pm	324° ്	8.4°	
Sat 12:00 midnight	326° <	0.3°	

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Chester

Pets of the Week

Dear dog friends, My name is Chester. I'm a very healthy, chubby boy about 4 years old. I have been at the Shelter for over two years. I have seen so many friends get adopted and I think now it's my turn! I'm really good with other dogs, male or female, is no problem for me. Cats are also nice but I like their treats better! My hobbies are sleeping, giving hugs and eating snacks. To keep my body in shape I do love a nice walk. Would you like to meet me and come hug me? Then what are you waiting for...come see me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda lagun 26A or you can also call and ask for me at 701-4989 or 717-4989, also available on WhatsApp, Facebook messenger and by email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Hi, my name is Uzay. I'm a sweet little boy about 7 months old. Actually, I think I am really handsome with my white whiskers and eyebrows. I even have a little white moustache! But most importantly, I've been at the Shelter for 23 weeks and while I do like my friends here I think it's time to move on and find a family of my own. So...are you looking for a sweet, handsome and playful furry friend? You can stop looking because here I am!

I had all my vaccinations and I'm healthy, already neutered and ready to go!!! You can meet me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun, 26, Mon. - Fri. 10 am -1 pm and 2 - 4 pm, Sat. 10 am -3 pm nonstop.

Hope to see you soon!

Story and photo: Monique Degenaar.



Uzay

"DMR's" A Wyoming Kid gets good reviews



A Wyoming Kid: Memoirs from the 1940s and 50s, by Reporter writer Don M Ricks, is being praised as "a good read" by reviewers. It's available on Amazon, either paperback or ebook. Here is what some of them have said about the book:

"Quick read, easy read, charming stories from the quintessential raconteur who writes for the ear and for the eye. Long enough to vicariously transport the reader to the Wyoming of decades past, yet short enough to leave the reader begging for more."

"This delightful book is a collection of brief, personal vignettes of the author's young life and times in Wyoming in the middle of the last century. There is a great deal of wisdom, common sense and humor here. The stories convey the adventures of a hardy young man with a gift for story telling. He shares the events with an undertone of kindness and wonder."

"A Wyoming Kid: Memoirs of Growing up in the 40s and 50s is a breath of fresh mountain air. No twisted plots, ambiguous meanings, who-done-its, or political diatribes. Instead, the memoir takes us back to a time when life was simpler and so were our dramas. We can laugh (or recoil in horror) at the dilemma of having a mouse drown in the precious butter churn, at why a matronly aunt shot a goat between the eyes. Butch Cassidy even makes a play in Ricks' memories. Ricks and Cassidy both worked for the EA Ranch! Ricks explains the back story of the nationally ranked 1956 University of Wyoming football team, of which he was a member, when it went undefeated and "Ricks from Riverton" became a catch-phrase. Ricks loses his youth in the back country of Wyoming, learning life lessons from other toughened family members, and remarkably pushing forward for an advanced education. A good read for certain, and a glimpse into a time when life was less complicated but honest."

"Started reading this book last night. As I was afraid, it kept me up later than I would have liked on a work night. It is a great read."

"Ricks is an evocative writer with a talent for the short form. Grouped in themes, he collects his memories around topics like being a small child in rural Wyoming, playing on the undefeated University of Wyoming football team, being a Park Ranger in the Grand Tetons, and his raconteur father's experiences in WWII. This is a treasure of stories, contextualized in 20th century Wyoming history. If you are looking for something that you can read straight through, or dip into here and there, but be transported either way, definitely pick this up."



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

9 A.M.-3 P.M.

KAMINDA LAGUN 26

Shelter News

Celebrate World Animal Day Oct. 3

Animal Shelter Bonaire invites everyone to celebrate World Animal Day at a special Book Fair/Flea Market on Sunday, October 3, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26. More than 6,000 titles of all genres will be available as well as special editions and books for kids and lots of brand of new books.

We will also have a big variety of items from our Pakus di Pruga (flea market store). Local vendors will also be present with fun things to buy: Sunsmiles Bonaire, By Des, Sylvia's Cadeau, Homemade Dog Treats from

Dog Partner Bonaire, and more.

Food stands with delicious Dominican and Suriname food and great beverages of all kinds from Sugar Thief Bonaire. There will be face painting by Yolanda for kids and the day will be fun for the whole family. You will also have the opportunity to "speed date" with all our irresistible dogs and cats looking for their "fur-ever" homes. Please join us for a fun-filled family event. For more information call or WhatsApp 701-4989.

. Jane Disko

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Preparing the right soil for the right plants

Sometimes you buy a nice looking, vital plant, but as soon as you put it in your garden, it loses its leaves and dies. There can be many reasons for this and one is the wrong soil. It makes a huge difference what soil you have in your yard and what kind of plants you plant there.

In general there are four types of soil: clay soil, sand, calcium rich soil and highly acidic soil (low PH). High PH soil is low acidic, like compost or black soil. It is nutrient rich and fertile.

To obtain a good fertile ground, one has to make a mix of the different types of soil. On Bonaire we have red dirt, black compost soil, some manure from a goat habitat, dead leaves, charcoal ash and the rest is from vegetables and fruits.

Using only black dirt from the stores is not good enough because after a few months it loses its fertility and gets very thin from watering the plants many times. But a mix of the compost soil with red dirt and the above mentioned stuff, you get a better nutrient rich dirt for your garden. Its not good to only use red dirt because sensitive roots cannot grow in the sticky heavy clay.

A man named Alfie, sells ready mix black dirt for a reasonable price at \$30 cu, if you pick it up yourself. You can reach him at 786-5558. I use his rich good-mixed black dirt for my garden. I keep 2 cu of it in the yard so whenever I need dirt it is there instead of waiting every time for compost imported soil. I make the beds with Alfie's soil to prepare for planting the young plants. I form small gutters between the beds so water can stay there and penetrate slowly.

Do you want to know which plants are a good fit for your soil? Look around your neighborhood and see

what is growing. Remember that plants you buy in garden centers are often treated with all kinds of anti insect and anti sickness spays so they look good there. But once home the plant will begin to have trouble after a short while without all that pampering. Instead, make cuttings from plants in your neighborhood or take seeds and try them out in your garden. This cost nothing and success is guaranteed.

Use natural protection for your plants such as tea made from neem tree leaves. Use empty paint buckets over young plants (open on both sides) because lizards cannot climb over the smooth plastic surface. If you look for an easy going garden, look for seeds of wild flowers and wild vegetables, These are strong plants and need less care. But also keep these plants under control because otherwise they will take over your whole garden.

It's also nice to have an herb garden beside your kitchen door. While cooking you can easily pick some fresh herbs for the menu. Make friends with other gardeners (neighbors, family, colleagues, friends) and "shop" there for plants and information. The local trees, local plants and local flowers can survive the climate here better and also the sicknesses and insects on Bonaire.

Don't leave too much space among plants because in open spaces grass and other unwanted plants get the chance to grow too. A green garden is nice with a green fence. Plant plants against a concrete wall or wire fence. Some favorites are oleander, faya lobi, bougainvillea, pomegranate bush, passion flora vine, trimmed wayaca trees and so on.

Birds, butterflies and bees will be thankful for your green garden and you will enjoy them being there. Ground covers are good for keeping grass away. It greens the garden surface, keeps it cool and there is



A mix of different types of soil

more stuff for compost.

Last but not least, use as much as possible of all the herbs, fruits and vegetables from your garden and throw less away. Don't think the better looking stuff of the grocery stores are better than what you have in your garden. Even when they are smaller, ugly looking or damaged by birds, your sustainable unsprayed vegetables and fruits grown in a healthy soil, ripened by nature and the sun, planted with love and care are way more rich in everything than whatever green is imported in Bonaire. Enjoy goodies from your garden.

Just do it.



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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