



Some long time guests of the Carib Inn join the acting manager, Bruce's niece Lynne and her partner Eric, in a first dive at Bruce's Rappel. Photos by Julie Morgan

Paying tribute to a legend

Back in the 1970's Bonaire was pretty much virgin territory underwater. Dive explorers who are now legends of Bonaire, the late Captain Don Stewart and the late Bruce Bowker would take a truck and later a boat, jump in and a new dive site was born. Rappel is one of the most famous and most loved by divers back then and today.

Bruce, 20 something at the time, initiated that first dive along with Stan Gdowski and yes, they actually rappelled down the cliff.

Bruce said, "The only reason we did it was because it was a sheer wall and we had no idea what was down there."

On October 18, 2021, STINAPA and the Bonaire Marine Park (BMP) honored Bruce, who died in May 2020, by renaming the site, Bruce's Rappel.

Twenty-five people were present for the unveiling of the new dive mooring aboard a boat from Epic Tours. The group included staff from Carib Inn, Bruce's dive hotel founded 41 years ago, a few STINAPA board members and BMP staff.

Bruce was honored for far more than rappelling down a cliff and finding a dive site. Bruce Bowker was a driving force in creating Bonaire's dive and environmental policies.

The 25 year old Bruce came to Bonaire in 1973 as Captain Don Stewart's first dive instructor for three weeks and stayed a lifetime.

"When I got here I just fell in love with the place. I absolutely loved everything about it; the people, the culture, the diving and everything was absolutely gorgeous," said Bruce.

Now run by his niece Lynne Culbreath, Bruce's be-



Bonaire Marine Park rangers unveil the new dive mooring, Bruce's Rappel. Photo Julie Morgan

loved Carib Inn probably has the record for the most return guests since first opening. Several staff members have been there for over 20 years. Recently Carib Inn announced their win of 10 awards in Scuba Diving magazines 2022 Reader's Choice Awards. (See page 11.)

Bruce was a tireless environmentalist who lived his beliefs in caring and preserving Bonaire since day one. He kept a file on the effects of mass tourism, cruise ships and sustainability. Bruce believed mass tourism was like eating the goose that laid the golden egg. He said that it virtually ruins the experience that originally drew people to Bonaire as a tourist destination.

Bruce stressed that taking care of the land that borders an ocean is all important because everything eventually finds its way to the blue.

Bruce said, "There used to be 20 toilets flushing along the ocean and now there's 4000. Nature will take in stuff up to a point unless you overwhelm it."

Back in the early 90's, Bruce initiated the first island cleanups with a couple of friends and a pickup truck, no hoopla; he just did it.

He was an original member of CURO, (Council of Underwater Resort Operators) and served on the STINAPA board. Bruce is recognized as one of the people responsible for saving Klein Bonaire from development by setting up the Foundation Preservation Klein Bonaire.

We should remember our dive legends: know who they were, and what they did. The environmental rules they made are important for all of us to keep in mind and follow.

As Bruce said, "Bonaire, be careful what you give away. Use what you've got and preserve, this is a special place."

By Julie Morgan



"The only reason we did it was because it was a sheer wall and we had no idea what was down there," said Bruce on the first dive at Rappel.

The QR codes are here

Starting sometime in November, Bonaireans will have to show a QR code or submit a negative test certificate to attend events deemed to be high risk. The QR code is digital proof that a person has been fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated citizens who want to go to an event can arrange for free testing in advance.

Fully vaccinated citizens can call 0800 0900 from Monday to Friday for an appointment to collect the code. They must bring a vaccination certificate and their passport and sedula.

The QR code can be picked up from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 2 pm at Kompleho Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas. Downloading the coronacheck app in advance is useful, though not necessary. Citizens who collect the QR code will receive a paper explaining how they can upload the code themselves in the corona check at home.

People who are not fully vaccinated can call 0800 0900 to make an appointment for either the first or second injection. Or they can drop-in without an appointment at Kompleho Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas every Saturday from 9 am – 2 pm. *DMR*

Covid-19 round-up

For a third corona jab, specialists will notify eligible patients, those with a serious immune disease. Only people with a referral letter can receive the third shot. People who still need the first or second vaccination can make an appointment by calling 0800 0800. Or on Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm they can walk-in without an appointment at the Kompleho Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas.

Among Bonaireans 18 and older, 73.3 percent are fully vaccinated. Among those 12 to 8 years, 45.1 percent are fully vaccinated. These vaccination rates are considered too low to inhibit the spread of the highly infectious Delta variant. Of all people hospitalized by the covid infection since last September, 75 percent had not been vaccinated. This is the same percentage as in other countries, such as the Netherlands.

As of October 26, Bonaire had 89 active cases of COVID-19, down from 107 on October 20. So the most recent covid surge may be passing, but the demands upon the care system remain challenging. Nine people are still hospitalized (down from 12), seven are in Bonaire's hospital, while one patient was sent to the hospital in Curaçao and another to Aruba for treatment.

Fundashon Mariadal has responded to the surge in hospital admissions due to Covid-19. To provide more beds for both regular covid treatment and intensive care, the hospital has set aside a "cohort nursing" ward where covid patients are kept strictly isolated from other patients and are nursed appropriately. All elective surgery has been temporarily discontinued. Patients in the hospital, including the maternity ward, may receive only one visitor per day, and only during 11:30 - 1:30 or 6:30 – 8:30. Medical masks (not cloth masks) are mandatory within the hospital and the botika.

Most people have contracted infections in schools, childcare, at home and at work, according to Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna. Children under 12 especially may be infecting other children, adults and the elderly in their neighborhood, though the children themselves do not get that sick.

In many schools in the Netherlands, students test themselves for the Covid-19 virus every Monday. According to GGD Doctor Loes Jaspers, the Public Health Department is thinking about using Covid self-testing in the schools here too. However, Jaspers says, "We know it's just less reliable. In addition, there is a danger that infected people will no longer report because they assume that the infection has already been established."

Citizens are becoming less willing to provide source and contact information, according to the Public Health department. And those who refuse to cooperate often insult and disrespect the Public Health employees. *DMR*

Dialogue group reports on Bonaire's legacy of slavery



Slavery is a fact of Bonaire's history that still casts a shadow. A dialogue group of Bonaireans has been charged with investigating how the island can best deal with the subject of slavery today. In preparing its recent report, the dialogue group rejected the notion that the Netherlands owes Bonaire's population an apology for past slavery. They think people of both heritages can work together to formulate a constructive context for understanding that part of the island's history.

They recommend a wall be built that displays the names of the workers brought from Africa to the island between 1643 and 1863. The wall would serve as a permanent memorial and give Bonaireans an opportunity to learn about their roots and where their surnames came from. The dialogue group further recommends the topic of slavery be introduced into the school curriculum at an early age so children can grow up knowing about the island's legacy of slavery.

The members of the Bonaire dialogue group are Ubaldo Anthony, Felix Cicilia, Steven Cicilia, Maximiliano Theodora, with Arthur Sealy the chairperson. The group recently presented its report to Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna and drafted a letter to Minister Ollongren of Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK). They are waiting for responses from both. *DMR*



While in Amsterdam TCB surprised its tourism partners in the Netherlands with a Taste of Bonaire event, Cocktail Edition, hosted by Miles Mercera, CEO of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). During a cocktail workshop by Eddy Trenidad aka Sir Eddy, owner of the Tiki & Co bar in Bonaire, partners got inspired to recreate their own cocktail. After a few shakes and laughs, guests and VIP media partners enjoyed a Caribbean dinner prepared by Caribbean Chef Justin Niessen, owner of the Mondri Caribbean Cuisine Restaurant in Amsterdam.

This Week's Stories

Bruce's Rappel	1
Covid roundup	2
Umbrella	3
Inflation & Employment	4
BMP recycled tags	5
Regatta results	8
Harbour Village road repair	8
Book Monument Bonaire	8
Chococo beach building halted	10
Sunfish worlds	12
Cadushy Rum	12
GEW - Global Entrepreneur Week	12
Children's Book Week	13
TCB notes	15
Claire Cointepas, Veterinary department	16

The Reporter online

Covid-19 breaking news and more

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam: QR codes; Slavery; TCB	
Cocktails	2
Minimum wage BES +10%; Delta Air carbon neutrality	4
Shorter showers; Corona business aid ends; Goats; Tourism recovery; Ennia sues; Flu shots	5

Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Ask Kate (Termites)	4
Police Report	4
Letters/Opinions (Contributing)	5
Meet the People in Charge	
(Hennyson Thielman, finances)	7
Did You Know (Lesser Yellowleg)	7
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Ask a Geek: (Bonaire Tech & goodbye)	10
Live Inspired (Mental Health)	10
Poem: Daily Intentionality	10
Reef Glimpses: (Explorers & Invaders)	11
What's Happening	
(Cruise ships; Direct flights)	12
Business Directory	14
Make Bonaire Accessible (Caring animals)	13
Creating Optimal Health (Celebrate death)	13
Sky Park (Algol the Demon star)	13
Pets of the Week	
(Sammie dog; Beverly cat)	15
Shelter (Reserve boarding)	15
Parrots & People (Reforest & Educate)	15
A Garden? (Khalil - dragon fruit)	16

How to Find Us:

Read us online: <https://bonairereporter.com>

●: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>

Available in 50 locations

Printed every two weeks

Next edition: November 10, 2021

Contributor's Deadline November 5, 2021

Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599)796 4055

Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com

Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher

Production: Barbara Lockwood

Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Brian Niessen, Jane Madden-Disko, Rayshantally Coffie, Don M. Ricks, Malcolm Wilson, Ann Joseph, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Irene de Cunda Costa, Sanne Attevelt, Monique Degenaar, Peter Montanus, Kerigma

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

Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo

© 2021 The Bonaire Reporter

Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of OCTOBER 26, 2021

89 active	9 hospitalized
2363 total	19 deceased
83.6 % 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/>

Umbrella is all about big cocktails and creative dining



The lounge area opens onto the patio seaside view at Umbrella restaurant.

Julian Garcia, owner of Julian's restaurant, had a dream of a restaurant where he, as chef, could be more flexible in his culinary offerings. His 'dream restaurant' would allow him to be more creative, change the menu when he liked and serve a variety of cocktails, not just beer. He pitched this idea to friend and IT professional Victor Gutierrez and after a little coaxing they formed a partnership. Both men would each bring something different to the table. The kitchen or 'back' of the house would be Julian's domain while

Victor managed the bar, marketing and day to day logistics.

The plan was set, a restaurant with a focus on a creative, changing menu and specialty cocktails.

On a trip they took to Medellin, Colombia, Julian was impressed with a restaurant that had a lot of colorful umbrellas. They both liked the look and agreed it would make a great name and theme for their restaurant, and Umbrella was born. In February 2020 the team leased a restaurant space with a seaside view

at the South Pier mall. Everything was going well and then in March, Covid-19 shut down Bonaire. But when everything else seemed to come to a screeching halt, they moved forward.

"We opened September 6, 2020, right in the middle of Covid, Opening in covid was a big risk – the biggest," said Victor.

They received no aid from the government because of their opening date. Other restaurants were sending workers home for a break during the second lockdown, but not Umbrella. They kept going.

Umbrella has been open a little over a year and has been true to its concept. The menu has changed several times and another change is planned in the coming months. Umbrella wants to focus more on local seafood, locally grown vegetables and simply, what people want.

Umbrella has a strong focus on cocktails with two bartenders on board who will make anything you want as long as the ingredients are available. The drinks have a nice price tag of only \$7, unless you order a call or 'up' liquor. Big cocktails

are their signature drinks.

Victor said, "We specialize in big groups and families. The restaurant's outside lounge, patio, inside dining and bar have a capacity for up to 125 guests (only 100 under covid rules)."

Clientele are about 80 percent residents with a healthy mix of Antilleans, Dutch, Latino and Americans.

Thursday night is 'Ladies' Night' with drinks for only \$5 for ladies, served with an appetizer plate for sharing. On Thursday and Friday a DJ adds to the atmosphere.

Umbrella, continued on page 5



Owners Victor Gutierrez and Julian Garcia behind the Umbrella bar with two signature 'big' cocktails

FOR SALE Kaya Nikkel 15 Family Home with Great Views



- Location : Nawati
- Lot size : 1032 m2 / 11108 sq. ft.
- Living area: 170 m2 / 1830 sq. ft.



- 3 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms / laundry room
- Spacious covered porch
- Roof terrace

3D tour



Asking price \$449,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
f http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire



POLICE REPORT

Found

October 19. A phone was found on a rock on the road between Karpata and the entrance to Rincon. The white iPhone is in a black cover containing some bank cards, a driver's license, health insurance card and a membership card. The owner can report to the counter of the police station with a valid identification.

Drugs

October 15. In the early morning hours police searched a house in Antriol. A man was detained under the Opium and Weapons Act BES.

October 12. Around 4:45 pm, Customs arrested a passenger suspected of smuggling narcotics at Flamingo International airport. During a regular check of passengers coming from the Netherlands, a man was found to be carrying narcotics in his luggage. He tried to flee, but was detained. The narcotics were seized and, together with the suspect, handed over to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar).

Property crime

October 19. During the night various construction tools were stolen from a car parked at a house on Kaya Aurora.

Between October 13 and 14, an orange Arke concrete mixer was stolen from a closed yard of a company on Kaya Industria Pariba.

Arrested/held in custody.

October 15. KPCN checked various snacks under the Aliens Act BES. Five people were required to report back with the relevant documents. Three other persons were transferred to JICN pending deportation to their country of origin.

October 11. In the evening hours a man was arrested at Kaya Raspa for driving under the influence. His car was impounded and his driver's license suspended.

Traffic accidents/violations

October 20. A pick-up and a scooter collided on Kaya Korona when the pick-up failed to give way to the scooter. The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the pickup was taken to the police station for a breathalyzer. He was then able to go home.

October 19. Around 2:30 pm two cars collided on E.E.G. boulevard. The driver of one of the cars was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The two occupants of the other car were treated at the scene by paramedics.

October 14. At about 6:40 am a car on Kaya L.D. Gerharts hit a bike that suddenly drove off a side street without stopping. The cyclist was treated on the spot by paramedics and was allowed to go home afterwards.

October 12. Two cars collided on Kaya Amsterdam when the car turning left did not see the oncoming car. The driver of the oncoming car was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Traffic controls

October 18. On Kaya Korona, 16 drivers were issued tickets for not using their turn signal. On Kaya Nikiboko, 29 drivers were issued tickets for not using their turn signal.

October 17. During a traffic control on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar 16 cars were checked. One ticket was issued for driving without a license.

October 14. During a morning traffic control on Kaya Amsterdam 26 vehicles were checked. Five official reports were issued, two for driving without a license and three for driving without insurance. Later, in the early evening hours on Kaya Internashonal, 18 vehicles were checked. Two drivers received an official report for driving without a valid driver's license and for driving without insurance. In recent days, official reports have also been issued for using a mobile phone while driving, driving



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Can I get a termite warranty when I buy a Bonaire house? Amir

Hi Amir,
There are pest control companies on Bonaire that provide treatment and warranties. If the Seller has treated the home and already has a warranty, inquire whether it can be transferred to you at the time of purchase. If the house has not been treated, you can pay to have it done after you buy the house. Our termites are probably different than those you may be familiar with. Called "white ants" here, they dislike the sun and build mud tunnels on walls to travel in. If you have a home inspection your inspector will look for this evidence. However, even if there is no

evidence of termites at the time of inspection, the most any Seller or Inspector can say is that they are not aware of any at this time. In this climate, white ants could appear anytime, even the day after the inspection or closing. Fortunately, there are effective preventative measures and treatment.

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.

without a seat belt, without a license plate and without a helmet. *The fines for the above violations range from \$30 to \$225.*

Fires

October 17. The fire brigade extinguished a fire in a cupboard on the balcony of a house on Kaya Sorsaka in Rincon. The cupboard contained tools and cans of paint. The residents were not at home.

October 16. Around 4:30 am the fire brigade extinguished a fire in the garden of a house on Kaminda Gurubu. The resident stated that he was awakened by loud knocking and screaming. When he went out, no one was there, but he saw that his garden was on fire. No one was injured.

October 12. The fire brigade extinguished a fire in the bush on Kaya Endeavour. No one was injured.

Public safety

October 13. A police officer was forced

to fire shots at a dog when he was attacked by the dog in the street. The dog came from the yard of a house on Kaya Hulanda. The gate was open and the dog appeared to have broken loose from his chain.

There are weekly reports of aggressive stray dogs. Some dogs kill goats and chickens; others attack drivers of bicycles / scooters. The number of incidents in which people are bitten and have to undergo medical treatment is increasing. The KPCN reminds dog owners to keep their dogs in the yard. A dog needs education and training. There are facilities for this on the island. Owners are responsible for the dog's behavior and training.

BES minimum wage to increase

Parliament has approved, by a large majority, a 10% increase in the minimum wage and benefits on Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire, effective January 1, 2022. *DMR*



Delta targets carbon neutrality asap

"Travelers should not have to choose between seeing the world and saving the world," according to Delta CEO Ed Bastian. Delta Airlines has announced it is investing more than \$30 million in verified projects that will maintain, protect and expand forests. Its immediate goal is achieve carbon neutrality by offsetting Delta's carbon emissions into the atmosphere, which amounted to 13 million metric tons in 2020. *DMR*



Inflation up, employment down

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) confirms that times are tougher on the Islands.

Inflation rate is up this year. In the third quarter of 2021, consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 4.3 percent more expensive than one year previously. Inflation still stood at 0.3 percent in the second quarter. Prices also rose on St Eustatius and Saba, 2.4 percent and 3.2 percent respectively.

In Q3 2021, prices on Bonaire rose by 1.0 percent relative to Q2. Average food prices remained fairly stable relative to the previous quarter. Electricity prices increased by 8.8 percent. Petrol was 5.7 percent and diesel over 11 percent more expensive. Prices of self-care medicines

were up by 6.7 percent. Childcare was 28 percent cheaper than in the previous quarter.

Employment was down last year. In 2020, the number of salaried jobs in the Caribbean Netherlands fell by almost 2 percent year-on-year. The number of jobs was down by 240 on Bonaire while on St Eustatius and Saba it remained virtually unchanged.

The decrease in employee jobs followed a period of sustained job growth. Between 2011 and 2019, the number of jobs in the Caribbean Netherlands increased by an average of 5 percent annually, while the population grew by 2.3 percent on average per year. From 2019 to 2020, the number of salaried jobs decreased by 1.7 percent, concurrent with

3.3 percent population growth.

An emergency package of 47 million US dollars was provided last year to cushion these effects. On Bonaire, for example, the number of tourists dropped by almost 60 percent in 2020. In relative terms, the decline in tourism was even sharper on St Eustatius and Saba, but the numbers on these islands were lower.

The strongest decline in jobs on Bonaire occurred in the accommodation and food services sector. Declines were also seen in construction, transport, information and communication, recreation and other services, and to a lesser extent in manufacturing and real estate activities. *Statistics Netherlands (CBS)*

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.

Working for the good of the Islands

Letter to the Editor,

These are my person opinions. I once had a supervisor that told me that he started false rumors within the company to learn how fast they would be repeated to him. Another supervisor told me 'If she didn't see it from her back door, it (whatever it was) didn't affect her'. Some of this is what I read in Letters to the Editor, I'm sorry to say. Whether its government, civil servants, businesses, employees, or any factor. If they agree with me then they are 'right', if they don't agree, they are 'wrong'.

"We were promised". I learned as a youngster that promises are not always kept. As adults, why are you surprised? I hear 'the islands are reliant on tourists.' All islands are dependent on outside sources. Covid-19 has certainly made this clear. Without The Netherlands support, or any other form of outside support, tourism would not be possible. Even Curacao and Aruba who chose in 2010 to go their own way, has taken Dutch monies to keep their islands from floundering. I am not Dutch but have lived here long enough to know some of the happenings. Where does the responsibility of the islands factor in? You've known local corruption, you've known hiring in government of several family members (and some unqualified), you've known local government not reaching bench marks required to receive funding from outside sources. There are numerous local political parties vying for election. How dependent are any of their representatives? The Dutch are not always to blame though they too, have their faults.

Instead of constantly criticizing, perhaps you should become involved in some of the local foundations and organizations attempting to do what is in the good for all on the island. There are many who already do. Join them.

Find a different person each and every day to compliment. See how this makes you feel. Try it.

Earline Wasser, Bonaire

Umbrella, continued from page 3

Big changes are ahead in December when Umbrella will be opening for lunch. Expect another new menu as well as some décor changes.

Umbrella offers takeaway meals and cocktails in durable serving dishes which customers are encouraged to reuse for sustainability.

There are no printed menus at Umbrella for sustainability and to keep everyone covid safe. The menu is only accessible with your phone by scanning the QR code displayed at your table. If you forgot your phone, an iPad is available for use.

The restaurant is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 5-11pm and Sunday 5-10pm. There is free reserved parking in front of the restaurant. Reservations are encouraged +599-717-3313.

For more information visit *The Reporter's* restaurant guide, page 9.



Minister suggests shorter showers and less airco for Bonaireans

"Kajsa" Ollongren, Minister of the Interior, suggested that the people of Bonaire could contribute to climate goals by taking shorter showers and using their air conditioning less. The Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) did not find her remarks constructive. Her remarks, they countered, were based on research conducted by the bureau Energie Centraal online, a method that would have probed only the lifestyles of upper income groups on the island.

In a letter to Ollongren, Deputy Nina den Heyer and Hennyson Thielman countered that a better way for the government to help Bonaire achieve climate goals would be to support the investment plans of the Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB). They accused the caretaker cabinet of sitting on a proposal for urgent investments at WEB for months.. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)

Corona support for businesses ending this month

During 19 months of the Covid-19 crisis, the central government contributed \$98 million to the BES islands to subsidize incomes and to help entrepreneurs pay their fixed operating costs. Both programs are wrapping up this month. According to the latest figures, 699 employers used subsidies from Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) to keep 3,535 employees on the job. In addition, the incomes of 1079 independent entrepreneurs were supplemented by SZW, and 585 former employees received benefits through the income support program.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate helped entrepreneurs pay their fixed costs during six successive three-month periods. Nine hundred entrepreneurs applied for the first payment, then participation steadily tapered off. The fifth (and next to last) payments went to 450 business owners. DMR

Domestic goats yes, feral goats no

State Secretary Knops is encouraging the people of the Caribbean Netherlands to drastically reduce their goat populations. Bonaire has an estimated 20,000 people and 30,000 goats. The goats eat the islands bare and leave only thorny plants. STINAPA is using teams of volunteers to reduce the goat population in Washington

BMP tags go biodegradable

For the last 30 years Bonaire has required divers to purchase a Bonaire Marine Park (BMP) tag to support their work in caring for our precious reefs. The cost started at \$10 and divers received a cool colorful 'plastic' tag to wear on their BCD. On Bonaire it automatically signaled that you had paid your dues and if you dived anywhere else it leveraged a bit of status in the dive world.

Two years ago STINAPA decided to limit the number of tags and make them a commemorative item that had to be requested. Why, because the tags were made of plastic and hey, this is Bonaire and why should we be contributing to the plastic soup?

They began looking for a solution because yes, people still wanted their BMP tag.

STINAPA director Jan van der Ploeg said, "We tried to produce locally with NOBO but they were too expensive at \$2 per tag for 50,000 tags. That just couldn't be justified or add up."

The old tags were manufactured in Korea and 'cheap'

Slagbaai Park, but on the rest of the island goats, both feral and owned, graze freely and multiply steadily.

In the meantime, LVV is successfully cultivating professional goat farming. A workshop in mid October brought a large turnout kunukeros, encouraging LVV service to plan more workshops for the future. Led by Edward Berben (former Head of L.V.V.) and Sherwin Pourier (project leader of Professional Goat Farming), the workshop included breed improvement, nutrition, and housing. Kunukeros were shown how to select the best dams for breeding to purebred bucks. The goal is to help Kunukeros produce lambs that have tender meat and can be sold for a better price. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu, gov press release)

Bonaire a front runner in tourism recovery

Among Latin American and Caribbean destinations, El Salvadore and Bonaire are restoring their tourist industries the fastest. Both show fourth quarter tourist bookings running 27% ahead of this time last year. The Dominican Republic (+11%), Belize (+8%), and Aruba (+4%) also show positive gains. The agency Forward-Keys, which keeps track of, among other things, data on ticket sales and future reservations, announced these findings. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)

Ennia sues owner for a billion

Ennia has filed a billion guilder lawsuit against the 94-year-old owner, Hushang Ansary, and other former directors, accusing them of deliberately draining the company financially. The Central Bank intervened in 2018 and placed the insurer under receivership. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)

Flu vaccinations available

With the annual flu season approaching, the Public Health Department has kicked off the annual vaccination program on Bonaire. Flu is most dangerous to people aged 60 years and older, people with a medical condition (such as diabetes, a heart, lung or kidney disease) or with lowered resistance. People can contact their family doctor for an appointment to be vaccinated. Completely different antibodies protect from the flu virus and from COVID-19, so those in vulnerable categories need to be vaccinated for both. DMR



but they were really putting the wrong message out there. STINAPA found a socially responsible company called B-Token that only works with recycled or bio-based materials. The new tags are a recycled wood based material and only 10 cents each so your contribution to Bonaire's reefs and nature will go to protection not a piece of plastic.

BMP tags are \$45 and will be available around December 15. *Julie Morgan*

BIG Things Are Coming

omni

omni FURNITURE
GALLERY

radioshack™

Our TEAM is ready to Welcome YOU

Kaya Amsterdam 25B
+599-717-7576

omni



Meet the people in charge

by Ann Joseph
Hennyson Thielman

This is my second article about Commissioner Thielman. We only talked about tourism in my first interview. Finance is an equally important part of the Commissioner's portfolio. Thus, this article.

The management of Bonaire's finances is a large part of Commissioner Hennyson Thielman's portfolio. As Commissioner, Thielman believes that his actions should be transparent and defensible. His stewardship of Bonaire's 2022 budget is a good illustration of how he has applied these beliefs.

"In prior years, the previous year's budget, with little revision, became the proposed budget for the coming year," said Thielman, "This year, however, we really looked at it, at each line item, to see if it made sense. We published [the budget] so that people could see where the revenues came from and how the money was being spent."

As the published budget reflects, most revenues come from the "Vrije uitkering" which are the freely distributed funds from the Dutch national treasury. Bonaire collects its own taxes as well. These include, among others, the road tax, the tourist tax, mooring fees, and cruise ship passenger fees.

Thielman emphasized that the taxes which Bonaire can levy are defined by law. Thus, Bonaire, itself, cannot propose new types of taxes to increase revenues. Consequently, Thielman spends considerable time thinking of ways to increase



revenues using the means that are available. Recently, he proposed changing the nature of the tourist tax. Instead of tourists paying taxes on lodging and rental cars, he proposed that they pay a flat tax of \$50.00 upon arrival. This change would ensure that Bonaire gets the money that the current room and rental car tax intend but are not always delivered. Simply put, the possibility of these taxes not being paid would be eliminated. This redesigned tourist tax will take effect on January 1, 2022.

Thielman further disclosed that, effective September 1, 2022, the cruise ships' tax for each of their passengers (head tax) will increase from the \$3.50, which is currently paid, to \$10.00. Soon, the \$10 per day mooring fees will be increased as well.

Thielman is quick to emphasize that the revenues which are generated barely cover expenses.

"Nineteen million dollars are spent on the salaries of 350 government employees including government contractors", said Thielman, "The Government's sala-

ry structure needs improvement. Parts of it are unfair. It isn't fair that people with considerably less responsibility are being paid more than people with considerably more responsibility."

Another issue with the current salary structure involves the situation where some employees with years of service, but due to their age, are not eligible for retirement benefits. Under the current salary structure these employees are paid considerably more than their colleagues. A plan is under consideration which could help resolve this issue.

"Digitizing certain operations within the Government, a program which has already begun, will further help to reduce operational expenses", stated Thielman.

As an aside, Thielman admitted being aware of the rumor that the Commissioners and Island Council had unanimously approved a pay raise for themselves. He was quick to rebut this.

"That didn't happen," said Thielman, "The Commissioners and Island Council automatically, by law, get pay increases when the population of the island grows by a certain percentage."

He also laid to rest the rumors relating to "perks." Other than the provision of a phone, there are none. Policy dictates that all government personnel, including the Commissioners, fly economy and drive their own cars.

While government salaries represent one of the largest expenses that the Government has, it has other expenses as well. Among them are substantial rents for office space. A cost cutting measure regarding this expense is planned: one office building that will house all government services. Thielman sees this plan as making sense as it would be more convenient for island residents to conduct business and would eliminate expensive rents charged by building owners.

In addition to completely paying for various services, the Government also subsidizes certain island programs and activities. These, among others, include the Tourism Corporation Board, Forma, the Center for Families and Children, Bonaire Flag Day, and Dia di Rincon.

Further, by law, the Government must keep some money aside for unexpected expenses.

"The actual amount in reserve is not fixed but is defined as 'enough to cover risks,'" said Thielman.

Whatever reserves Bonaire has, it has been able to hold onto them. The Dutch Government has paid most of the costs associated with the covid pandemic and has provided most of the funds for the current road work.

Balancing the books is hard. Thielman has the added burden of the College Financieel Toenicht ("CFT") looking over his shoulder. The CFT is an entity with the authority to oversee Bonaire's finances. Its relationship with Thielman has not been without problems. Recently, the CFT found that island actions in a certain matter had been acceptable but later changed its mind. Thielman's frustration regarding the CFT's intransigence was widely reported. Yet he remains focused. Despite this and other challenges, Thielman is keen on managing Bonaire's finances well.

Ann Joseph, a former Philadelphia lawyer, has been a Bonaire resident for over 25 years. During that time she started a smoked fish and chicken business, managed Harborside Shopping Mall and was a tour guide. Now she engages in various "projects" and this column is one of them.



Did You Know? *that a flock of lesser yellowlegs, a medium sized shorebird often seen in Bonaire's salinas, is called an incontinence of yellowlegs?*

The Lesser yellowleg (*Tringa flavipes*) is one of Bonaire's easiest winter visitors to identify. It looks exactly as its English and Latin names indicate: a medium sized brown shorebird with white speckles, a white underbelly, a slim straight bill, and long bright yellow legs. Lesser yellowlegs, or LEYE as we refer to them during bird monitoring, have an extremely broad range and can be found all the way from the Northern latitudes, breeding in Alaska and Canada, to as far South as Brazil and Argentina. While there is also a Greater Yellowlegs, a bird with yellowlegs often seen wading and feeding near the shore, these two birds are actually not that closely related; greater yellowlegs are actually a sister species to the spotted redshank, a species not found on Bonaire, and more distantly related to the LEYE's.

While the species is listed as least concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List that tracks extinction risks for various animal



and plant species, their populations seem to be decreasing rapidly. Populations of most North American shorebirds have been declining in the last few decades, but that decline seems to be affecting LEYEs even more with decreases of over 60% since the 1970s. Much of this decline can be attributed to human pressures that lesser yellowlegs face in the various habitats they inhabit. In the North, where they lay their eggs, much of their breeding habitat consisting of semi

open woodlands and meadows is being converted for agriculture, the production of oil and gas, and other manufacturing. In their wintering areas, mostly fresh and brackish wetlands, the most important threats seem to come from increasing hunting pressure through unregulated harvest and tourism.

Lesser yellowlegs will usually nest in small depressions in the ground that are close to a water source. These can be natural habitats such as meadows, but they don't shy away from using habitats that have been altered by human presence. LEYE nests have been found by mine clearings, and even in barns. Once a year they will lay three to five eggs which hatch after an incubation period of a little over 20 days. Lesser yellowleg chicks are very self sufficient from almost the moment they hatch and are able to walk and leave the nest within just a few hours. Both parents are active participants in the care of their offspring at the beginning but, before the chicks can fly, the mom

often abandons the nesting area leaving dad alone to protect the chicks until they fully fledge.

When they are foraging, lesser yellowlegs can be quite active. They will move their head from side to side, moving quickly, trying to catch snails or small insects like flies and beetles. You can also recognize them from their peculiar walk, a high stepping gait, similar to a two-legged dressage horse that is hard to miss. While they are more active during the daytime, sometimes lesser yellowlegs have been known to forage at night as well. So, the next time you head to the park or even just drive by salina Goto, keep an eye out for a bird with bright yellow legs and a funny walk. They can be quite entertaining to watch.

Roxanne-Liana Francisca STINAPA Biologist.

Connecting People With Nature.

Bonaire Regatta 2021 results



Yachts winning first place L-R: Cruising - Burfish, Cees van der Laan; Open Class - Pania, Jelle Nijman and Multihulls - Nohma, Sven Vranken. Photos Julie Morgan

Bonaire's 54th International Sailing Regatta, held October 8 – 16th, attracted the island's best sailors without the crowds; no big parties, just pure sailing. The week began with windsurfing and sunfish at Sorobon. The wind failed to cooperate for the kitesurfers so it was canceled.

On Wednesday all sailors enjoyed a bar-

beque at Regatta house before hitting the water again. Thursday, Friday and Saturday featured yachts in different categories: sunfish, optimist, windfoil and micro boats.

First place sailors were: Windsurfing new kids – Giana de Jongh; Windsurfing girls – Bobbi-Lynn de Jong; Windsurfing

boys – Terence Seraus; Windsurfing men – Nigel Hart; Windsurfing Foil – Nigel Hart.

First place Optimist winners were (B) Anna Korevaar and (C) Osdallys Maria.

Microboat winners were a major sweep in all wins and categories by the Domacasse and Anthony families. First place was awarded to: (A) Rainbow – Fitzgerald Domacasse; (B) Ta mi so – Melissa Domacasse; (C) Lina – Jermeline Domacasse.

Ten Sunfish sailors competed, including Bonaire's seven sailors at the Sunfish World Championship this week in Sarasota, Florida.

First place went to Sipke Stapert for

the 16th year in a row in both the short races and category (A). Sipke was awarded 'best performing boat participant.'

The regatta was sponsored by OLB, Bonaire Windsurf Place, STINAPA, Cactus Accounting Services, Telbo, TCB, Trans Paradise, Bonaire Kiteschool, Blue Water Creatives, Mindful Empire, Budget Marine, Budget Car Rental, Xerox, Bonaire Sailing School Assoc. Bonaire Logistics, Constant, KB, Critical Communication Caribbean and Aqua Speed. *Julie Morgan*

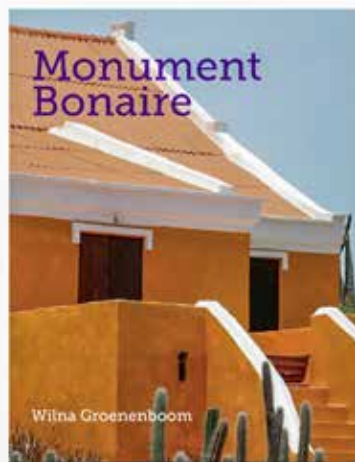
See The Reporter online (Covid Update and more) for the complete results. More photos of Regatta are posted on The Reporter Facebook page.

Raising the road by Harbour Village



The road alongside Harbor Village Marina is being raised. Instead of an asphalt layer, the new road surface will consist of clinkers. Previously this section of the road flooded with sea water during heavy rains. The work is scheduled to be completed in approximately two weeks. Photo Julie Morgan

Honoring Bonairean architectural styles



"Monument Bonaire" has been written for anyone interested in the distinctive buildings on the island. The book is mainly bilingual: Dutch and English. A small, but essential part of the book is also written in Papiamentu.

The first part of the book provides an overview of seven local architectural styles, dating back from about 200 years up to the 1970's. From the Kas di Bara and Kas di Hala to the Kas di Porchi and Kas di Hanchi. The names for the different architectural styles were introduced in 1984 by Frans Booi, the then head of the Culture and Education department of Bonaire. Examples of the different styles are illustrated with old black-and-white photos and contemporary color photos. In addition to the general description per architectural style, the author has literally and figuratively highlighted a single building representing the style. Sometimes there is even a view of the interior. *by Peter Montanus*

Modest, is how you would describe Bonaire's monuments. Until now there has not been an extensive record made of the island's characteristic and charming buildings - perhaps because of this modesty. Thanks to a voluminous book written by Wilna Groenenboom, 'Monument Bonaire', we now have a comprehensive overview of the island's architectural heritage.

Local architectural styles

This unique comprehensive reference work containing 300 pages and 640 photos, was made possible thanks to financial contributions from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied and many other sponsors.



BOAT FOR SALE

Phoenix Fishing Boat

2 X YANMAR 180 HP Engines - Bed, Toilet, 2 Bimini Tops
10 Persons - \$67,500 (negotiable)
22 Kaya Rotterdam, Hato 599-787-0063

Yhannis Arepas
Venezuelan "fresh food"
DINE- IN GARDEN
TAKE-AWAY
Mon-Thursday 2-7pm
Fri. 12am -10pm Sat-Sun Closed
+599-788-0035
Kaya Neerlandia 21-behind Budget Marine

STOKED
BURGERS
SANDWICHES
WRAPS
FRESH TUNA
SALADS
VEGETARIAN
786-6613

OSCAR Lighthouse
Open 8am-12pm
599-717-2009
www.oscarlighthouse.com-info@oscarlighthouse.com
International/French/Local/ Breakfast Lunch Dinner
Waterfront Seating - Lounge w/ Full Bar
Dinner Reservations -Dinner Guide \$\$

Breeze n' Bites
Seaside Lunch n' Dinner
Thurs-Sun 11:30-3 / 5-9 & Mon 5-9
Thursday Burger Night
Two hour Happy Hour
Next to Den Laman 599-717-3003

TURKISH FASTFOOD
KAYA GOVERNADOR N. DEBROT 66
7874100 HATO
MON/SAT 11AM/10PM
SUN 12PM/8PM
KAYA INDUSTRIA 29
7828106
MON/FRI 11AM/7PM
SAT 11AM/4PM
Takeout and seating outside
tripadvisor rating 5

Bonaire Rum Runners
restaurant & cocktailbar
Open 7 Days a Week
Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner
Great Custom Made Cocktails
Spectacular Sea View
Captain Don's Habitat +599-717-8290

South American Cuisine with a Caribbean Twist
Monday-Friday 6-10 pm
LIVE Music Tuesday & Friday
599-717-6731
Gov. Debrot 79 - Reservations - www.EddysBonaire.com

STADSCAFE HET CONSULAAT
Open for Lunch and Dinner
Tues - Sat 11am - 12am
Kaya LD Gerharts 9 599-700-5820

Beer and Burgers
Tues-Thurs 5-10pm
Kaya Simon Bolivar 21 / 599-777-2907
https://www.facebook.com/beerburgersbonaire

The King of Ribs
RIBS-STEAK-VEGGIE-SEAFOOD
Interior Seaview - Harbourside Mall
Dinner 6-9:30pm - Closed Weds
Reservations 717-4600

Umbrella RESTAURANT
www.umbrellabonaire.com
Open from 5-11PM
Happy Hours: 5-7PM

Diver's Diner
Max All You Can Eat Paella
OPEN 5:30-10 pm
Din-Tex Mex
Thurs-Burger Night
Weds-CLOSED
Fri-BBQ
Sat-Mix & Match
HAPPY HOUR 5:30-7:30
Kaya Korsou #1 +599-788-3679

Maya's Corner Cafe
DAILY FRESH FOOD
The best flavors in the flamingo!!!
Kaya Grandi 34 (parkeerplaats Belastingkantoor) (across parking lot taxoffice)
Phone: +599 7859191
mayascornercafe

Bobbejan's
717-4783
BBQ
WEEKENDS & TAKE AWAY ONLY
Friday Saturday Sunday 6-10 PM

12 Flavors of REAL Ice Cream
Made in Curacao
Shakes
Banana Split
Hotdogs
Lovers Juice
Tues-Sat 2-9pm
Sun 3-9pm
Closed Mon
701-6700
Kaya Caracas 26

Still available

BAGEL NOW OPEN
Visit us on Kaya Grandi 30 / www.bforbagel.com

Still available

Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

High-Tech on Bonaire

In this article, I want to do a bit of GOOD and BAD about high-tech on Bonaire.

GOOD - I got hooked up to the 500 mbit fiber optic internet system from Telbo and Zoom Zoom Zoom. Files download much faster (Movies, TV shows, etc). Websites load much faster. The install was quick and easy, the guys who did it were very professional and helpful.

BAD - The highest speed I can get is 300 mbit to the test server here on Bonaire at Telbo. I only get 200 mbit up to the states as tested with www.fast.com

BAD - There are few computer stores on the island that have items in stock. I was looking for a specific adapter that is worth about \$10 on Amazon, but nobody on the island has any in stock.

GOOD - Someone on Facebook had one for sale.

BAD - One of the computer stores said they have been waiting on their shipment for over two months now.

BAD - Seems like City Shop is no longer selling Windows computers and concentrating on the Apple brand.

BAD - Bondigro lost their “tech guy” and now it is difficult to even see what they have available or talk to anyone who knows the tech side of things.

GOOD - We can still order online and ship to Bonaire through various service providers and get smaller parcels here in five to ten days and larger ones in about two weeks..

GOOD - Some stores do repair computers.

BAD - It can take weeks to get the parts.

GOOD - People are teaching computer programming courses like WordPress.

BAD - The Animal Shelter needs a volunteer to help them maintain their Website using WordPress. Contact them at info@animalshelterbonaire.com if you want to help.

GOOD - We seem to be getting some Digital Nomads (people who work online) moving to Bonaire.

BAD - We need a good quiet coffee shop where they can sit and work for hours on end without being kicked out. (Make them buy a coffee an hour to get the PIN# to keep them on the WiFi).

GOOD - I am very busy with programming projects for charity fundraising to help Animal Shelters raise money for their ‘guests’ survival.

BAD - I am so busy that this will be my last article for *The Reporter*. Thank you all for your comments and questions over the years.

Chocogo halted from building beach



The new Chocogo Resort is under fire from the government’s Surveillance and Enforcement’s director Jair Tromp and Bonaire prosecutor Marius Gerritsen.

The Resort is being penalized with a fine as high as \$1.2 million after being warned about building a beach without a permit. This is a major violation but continued to build.

STINAPA director Jan van der Ploeg said, “Building an artificial beach is allowed but the correct permits, by island ordinance, are required. Everyone must adhere to the criteria.”

Van der Ploeg said, We are not against this particular resort – Everybody has to follow the rules.”

The permit is not just a requirement by the government. It sets various guidelines and criteria to follow in building a


beach.

Van der Ploeg said, “If they don’t adhere, ... the sand can bleed down onto our coral after big storms, big waves or rain.”

This is not the first time STINAPA has alerted the Surveillance and Enforcement department on coastal development in the Bonaire National Marine Park.

“The marine park rangers are special agents of the police. They are mandated to enforce the rules and regulations of the marine park.” said van der Ploeg.

Because Bonaire is having a major economic boom in construction and growth, the island’s nature is threatened. Septic systems, poor infrastructure / runoff from the roads, goats and coastal beaches are threatening the life of our reefs.

**Speaking of beaches**

Dive Friends Bonaire quarterly cleanup #4 held at the popular Te Amo Beach on October 23 was a great success. More than sixty participants including locals and visitors took part in the cleanup both above and below the water. Thanks to everyone who participated in keeping Bonaire beautiful.



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.

The Three A’s of Mental Health

Reflection For Today

“Your mental health is a priority. Your happiness is an essential. Your self-care is a necessity.” - HealthyPlace

Tip For Today

The girls were enjoying their Malecon Sunset Power Walk and Chichi asked her best friend “Swinda, what did you do with the mental health tips I gave you the other day?”

Chichi’s tips to optimize your mental health are highlighted in the Tip For Today in our previous column.

Even though mental health illness is so prevalent, it still is one of the most neglected forms of health worldwide. And the Covid-19 pandemic has caused an additional mayor impact on our mental health.

The purpose of World Mental Health Day (October 10th) and Mental Health Awareness Month (October) is to raise awareness of mental health issues, increase education on this important topic, and eliminate the stigma attached to it.

Of course, not every mental health illness is preventable, but some can be better managed or even prevented, with proper care and support.

Together with family, friends, professionals, and our community...we can make a difference!

“I’m living them, Chichi!”, Swinda answered. “Like I told you before, that is why I love our Malecon Sunset Power Walks here in Paradise (also known as Bonaire).

Chichi was left scratching her head trying to remember her words of wisdom.

“And, Chichi, your tips are not the only important ones. You should also practice the three A’s of mental health!”

Again Chichi was left scratching her head, now wondering what the three A’s of mental health are...

Here’s what Swinda shared to help her best friend (and you too) to optimize her mental health...

1. Awareness

Practice pausing and listening to your thoughts and body for indications of the state of your mental health.

2. Acceptance

Practice embracing how you are and how you feel in any given situation. Allow challenges to exist without trying to judge them or yourself. By accepting things as they are, possibilities to deal with them in a constructive way emerge.

3. Action

Practice doing things, taking (small) steps, every day, to move closer to a healthier well-being.

Remember...

Successful people know that mental health matters and they are intentional about practicing the three A’s of mental health - awareness, acceptance, and action - so they can live their best life!

Chichi was now equipped with additional tips to improve her mental health but Swinda remembered her best friend scratching her head earlier, so she offered some help...

“Chichi, in order to live these mental health tips, you have to practice, practice, practice, my dear.”

“I know, I know, Swinda...practice makes perfect, right?”

“No, Chichi, practice makes permanent!”

Affirmation For Today

My mental health matters. Today I am living my best life, practicing awareness, acceptance, and taking action, to keep myself healthy and happy.

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

Daily Intentionality

*I make myself wake up early
With one purpose only
To remind myself
That after dark, comes light.*

*I make myself up in the mirror
With one purpose only
To remind myself
That it is my smile that enhances the colors.*

*I make myself some coffee
With one purpose only
To remind myself
That taking time to smell it, is a great part of its enjoyment.*

*I consciously make myself remember
Purposefully
Intentionally
That my mental health,
My balance state of mind is important.
And more importantly: in my own hands.*

*Blessed with it and by it.
it is my responsibility
To keep healthy.*

*Because, you see,
I only have one life to live
And I intend to do so
Gratefully
Consciously
Amazed.*

Kerigma
Personal development coach Bonaire, CN

Poetry allows me to share my innermost thoughts in a relatable way, making connection with others not only possible but meaningful as well.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Explorers and Invaders



Orange cup coral, though alien, fit right into the Caribbean ecosystem: here a sharp-nose puffer sleeps safely within a clump of orange cup coral; next to the coral is also a Christmas tree worm.

What do lionfish and the photo on the Welcome to Bonaire sign at the airport have in common?

Both are from the Pacific.

And the existence of both of them here on Bonaire is due to a lack of knowledge about what animals live where in the natural world.

People would pretty much know that a

polar bear sauntering down the street in Amsterdam had not wandered in from a nearby iceberg, or that a flamingo in the Grand Canyon wasn't a resident there.

But the world of oceans is more confusing. For one thing, those who live there are pretty much out of sight and we mostly see them in photos. For another thing, many blue water animals, such as tuna, live all around the globe.

Even tropical reefs seem to host the same critters all over the world: butterflyfish, angelfish, damselfish, shrimp, anemones, corals. It takes an educated eye to distinguish a Pacific butterflyfish from a Caribbean one, and an educated mind to recognize roughly where a reef scene was photographed.

The trouble was, most people had no reason to care about who came from where, until lionfish suddenly appeared around South Florida and the Caribbean. Lionfish are native to the tropical Pacific, but they are extremely hardy and reproduce very efficiently; they spread throughout the Caribbean in only about ten years.

There are two problems with lionfish in the southern Atlantic and Caribbean: first, that local creatures don't know how to defend themselves against lionfish, and, second, that we had no local creatures who themselves prey on lionfish. Here on Bonaire, specially permitted divers have taken the role of lionfish predators since our first sighting in 2009.

Lionfish fit both of the criteria of the term "invasive": A creature is considered invasive if it is (1) an alien species (2) whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

We have another alien on Bonaire's reefs, but luckily this one doesn't cause harm so it's not labeled invasive. Did you know that orange cup coral is native to the tropical Pacific? According to Reef's Reef Coral Identification (2002), it's the only stony coral introduced to the western Atlantic!

Scientists speculate that it encrusted ships, which then came to Curacao (!) and Puerto Rico, where orange cup coral was first recorded in 1943. It's easy to picture: a ship in port for a while after travelling from the Pacific, its crew assigned to scrape growth (from the Pacific) off the hull. Since orange cup coral grows in clumps, some of the removed clumps would have survived even though they were unattached, as long as the polyps could feed. And, eventually, to spawn.

However it got here, orange cup coral has been courteous in finding attachment sites. It shares pier pilings with sponges and lives under ledges and in other shaded places, and adds a special dimension to our night dives.

In addition to our aliens, we also have some – I'll call them explorers – in our midst, including gray angelfish, porkfish, and hogfish (not Spanish hogfish).



Julie Morgan

This gray angelfish explorer checks out Julie's camera.

Although these fish are native to our southern Atlantic/Caribbean ecosystem – they're common off south Florida, for example -- they are rarely seen on Bonaire. Conversely, critters that are common here may be explorers elsewhere. In two years of guiding at San Salvador, in the Bahamas, I saw only two sharptail eels. The first was on a Skin Diver calendar, and the second was on a night dive. I came out of the water babbling, "Ooh, I saw a snake eel! It was so cool! I've only seen them in photos until tonight! It had --"

And one of the other divers said, "They're all over the place on Bonaire, Dee. Haven't you ever dived there?"

The answer was, "Not yet."

Heh heh.

So here we all are on Bonaire, enjoying our underwater old friends, our new explorers, the only Pacific coral flourishing in the Caribbean – all living together in harmony -- and the only Pacific fish flourishing in the Caribbean, not harmoniously. There was a time that knowing which animals belong to which category didn't seem to matter. Lionfish have taught us the consequences of that indifference.

So let's get those Pacific fish out of our airport Arrivals area!

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.

WE ARE OPEN

DUSHI SHOES & ACCESSORIES

Kaya Grandi #6
Monday to Saturday
9 AM - 1 PM | 2 PM - 5 PM

DUSHI STYLE & SPORTSWEAR

Kaya Gobernador N. DeBrot Shopping Mall
Monday to Saturday
9 AM - 1 PM | 2 PM - 5 PM

INFO@DIVEFRIENDSBONAIRE.COM | WWW.DIVEFRIENDSBONAIRE.COM

DE FREEWIELER

Sales & Repair:
Road, Mountain & Dutch Bikes.
Giant, Specialized, Bikkell
& Golden Lion Bikes
Parts and accessories for all brands of bikes

On Holiday - Back Nov. 4

Kaya Grandi #61 "The blue building"
Open 8:30-12:30, 14:00-17:00
Owner Operated Call 717-8545

Website: www.freewielerbonaire.com
Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com



Scuba Diving Magazine Readers Choice Awards

Carib Inn's 2022 RESORTS Results:

3rd Place (!!) – Value of Resort
Top 10- Quality of Staff
Top 10- Quality of Resort
Top 15- Best Overall

Carib inn's 2022 DIVE CENTER Results:

Top 10- Best Overall
Top 10- Quality of Facilities
Top 10- Quality of Staff
Top 10- Quality of Diving Training & Courses
Top 10- Quality of Rental Gear
Top 10- Attention to Safety

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@bonairturtles.org) because of the covid regulations.

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.

CANCELED The 2021 48hour film festival has been canceled.

GEW ahead in November

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) Bonaire is scheduled November 7 – 14 with a special pre-opening on November 6. This will be the seventh edition of this international initiative to introduce entrepreneurship to Bonaire’s young people.

The program will feature keynote speakers from the United Nations University of Peace, Bay Bars Altuntas of World Business Angels, Bonaire commissioner Hennyson Thielman and others.

The event begins November 6 with a pre-opening webinar on Design Thinking and Branding via Zoom and the day

ends with a movie on Bonaire human rights at Whilhelminaplein.

The week includes information about future of business, sports for the community, Blue Zone awards, an art completion, health and wellness and more.

The event is free to young entrepreneurs from various factions of the government and participating businesses. GEW is a virtual and local social distanced event. A limited number of places are available for non-affiliated persons. To learn more contact Amilia Pieterelli at +599-782-0911. Julie Morgan

At the Worlds: Bonaire’s sunfish sailors



Bonaire’s seven member sunfish team attending the 50th World Sunfish Championship in Sarasota, Florida enjoyed a send off from friends and family at Flamingo International Airport on October 21. The team is competing against 100 sunfish sailors from USA, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Curaçao and the Virgin Islands.

Team member Aline Brummel said, “Sunday’s practice race was with almost no wind but it was good to be on the water and a good check for boat and sail.”

First races began October 25 and will end October 29. The Reporter will publish news as we know it on our Facebook page.

(L) Sipke Stapert, winner and overall best sailor in Bonaire’s 54th Regatta is a team member for the 50th World Sunfish Championship taking place in Sarasota, Florida this week.

For connoisseurs - a limited edition rum

The Cadushy Distillery, located in Rincon, is releasing its newest limited edition rum November 1, 2021. Rom Rincón Limited Edition 2021 is a small-batch artisanal rum available only onsite at The Cadushy Distillery

Rom Rincón celebrates traditional Caribbean flavors and is handcrafted with local ingredients. In creating Rom Rincón, master distiller and CEO Eric Gietman and his team use the local Bonairean wild basil known as Yerba di hole to add depth and intrigue to its flavor.



Rom Rincón is produced in small batches and is aged in French oak barrels to create a distinct, quality rum worthy of the name of the oldest community in Bonaire.

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.

Wed. & Thurs. October 27-28	Waterpolo Tournament Parke Tului (See page 15) Wednesday & Thursday 2 to 6 pm
Fri. to Sun. October 29-31	Waterpolo Tournament The North Pier Friday & Saturday 8 am to 6 pm; Sunday 8 am to 12 noon
November 2, '21 to March 29, 2022	Online course from University of Wageningen 5 weeks 2-4 hours per week. Limited course materials for free. Full package & certificate €165. https://www.wur.nl/en/show/Tourism-and-Climate-Change-1.htm
Mon. to Thurs. November 8-11	Book week on Bonaire. The Public Library workshop for primary school students from groups 5 to 8 on how to write a poem or story.
Sun. to Sun. November 7-14	Global Entrepreneur Week. A free virtual and local social distanced event. Contact Amilia Pieterelli at +599-782-0911. See this page.
Fri. Nov. 12 Sat. Nov 13	At Chamber of Commerce: Friday Art Seminar for Bonaire’s artists & Saturday Art Exhibition . 10 am to 3 pm at KvK

Volunteer Events

Saturday November 6	Mangrove Maniacs. Mangrove outplanting (For details see: https://www.facebook.com/mangrovemaniacsbonaire)
Sunday November 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6pm Piedra Pretu. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DAY & DATE:MM/DD		CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Wednesday	10-27	Emerald Princess	0700-1700	N.pier	3114	PCL
Monday	11-01	Zaandam	0800-2300	S.pier	1432	HAL
Wednesday	11-03	Carnival Horizon	0700-1500	N.pier	3960	Carnival CL
Wednesday	11-03	Aida Sol	0800-1900	N.pier	2174	Aida Cruises
Thursday	11-04	Equinox	0800-1700	S.pier	2850	CEL
Saturday	11-06	Aida Sol	0800-1900	N.pier	2174	Aida Cruises
Tuesday	11-09	Britannia	0600-1800	S.pier	3647	Carnival UK
Wednesday	11-10	Carnival Magic	0800-1600	S.pier	3675	Carnival CL
Thursday	11-11	Nieuw Amsterdam	0800-2300	S.pier	2106	HAL
Friday	11-12	Royal Clipper	1300-1900	N.pier	227	Star Clippers Ltd
Sunday	11-14	Enchanted Princess	0700-1300	S.pier	3668	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 (TCB says, regretfully, “a lot”).

Direct flights to Bonaire

KLM -Amsterdam	Current to Dec. 15, 2021: Daily flights Dec. 15, 2021 to Jan. 14, 2022:Daily with 1 extra flight Mon. Wed. Fri. Dec. 26, 2021 extra flight Sunday
TUI -Amsterdam	Current: 4 weekly flights; Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat.
Delta - Atlanta	Current to Nov. 20, 2021:1 weekly Saturday flight Nov. 24 to Dec. 15, 2021: 2 weekly flights: Wed. & Sat. Dec. 18, 2021 to Jan. 4, 2022: Daily flights except Tuesday Jan. 4 to April 9, 2022: 4 weekly flights: Mon. Wed Fri.
American -Miami	Current to Nov. 20, 2021: 2 weekly flights: Wed. & Sat Nov.8. to Dec 15, 2021: 3 weekly flights: Mon. Wed. Sat.. Dec 16, 2021 to Jan 3, 2022: Daily flights
United - Houston, & Newark	Beginning Nov. 6, 2021 Saturday flights from both Houston and Newark. Return flight on Sunday



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

It's only an animal....or so they say...

Shortly before we went to live in Holland for a few years, my late husband surprised me with a dog. An interesting mix of Mastino Napolitano / Fila Brasileira. She was a real cool bitch and we named her Madonna.

Once in Holland we stayed at my Mom's. Madonna and Mom loved each other instantly and this would stay this way until they passed away.

I had a job, guiding parents and children with mental retardation at home. And it was touching to see that Madonna approached each child in a different way. We did not know how or why, but she knew exactly how to play, when not to, when to calm down or do nothing at all.

When the neighbor's little girl visited, Madonna played in a whole different way. She really could sense a difference and act accordingly.

When Mom went to live in a care facility, we went to see her every day. As soon as I took the leash, Ma-

donna was ready and she literally pulled me the way to the home. Here she was petted by all the elderly, gave a friendly paw and was "paid" with cookies. It was always a feast for the elderly to have a friendly dog around.

Madonna was very, very sad when Mom passed away, but she still wanted to visit the care facility.

We came back to live on Bonaire but my late husband was severely limited due to a stroke he had a few years before. He could not speak, but made very clear that he wanted a dog. I explained that this would be too much for me to handle, taking care of him and everything else.

A few weeks before Christmas a little injured cat walked crying into our yard. I picked it up and my husband showed me he wanted the cat on the table. This was very strange, because normally no animals whatsoever were allowed on the table. Although he could not speak, my husband made it clear that the cat's name

would be Kitty. And from that day on Kitty was never far from his side.

One morning Kitty came running to me. I was on the porch and Kitty ran into the bedroom. My husband was having a seizure. Kitty stayed by his side until the seizure was all over. And from that day on, Kitty was always there, calling me and staying by his bed or wheelchair when my husband had seizures.

This goes to show how true and faithful animals can be. And also how animals can help as caregivers.

In caring for the elderly and persons with limitations, animals can add so much. Just petting a cat or a dog is very satisfying and calming. Having a sense of responsibility for an animal is very stimulating.

Animals can mean so much more than one would think. They can make the world of the elderly and severely limited very happy.

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

What can we learn from these coming celebrations?

Celebrating life and death

Halloween is a traditional holiday that originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. It was believed that during Samhain the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. The barriers between the physical world and the spirit world weakened allowing more interaction between humans and entities of the Otherworld. This day marked the end of summer, the fall harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. The Celts lit bonfires, left prepared offerings outside villages and fields and wore animal and monster costumes so that spirits would not kidnap them.

Around this date, **All Souls Day** is also commemorated. All Souls Day has its origin in the 4th century, during the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Diocletian. Because there were so many deaths, it was impossible to commemorate in name each one of them, so it was decided to establish one day. It was not until May 13, 610 AD, that Pope Boniface IV established that

date to honor the Catholic martyrs. Later, in the seventh century, Pope Gregory IV moved the festival to November 1, most likely to counteract the pagan celebration of "Samhain" or Celtic New Year.

On November 2, the **Day of the Dead** (Día de los Muertos) is celebrated by Mexicans, to show their respect and love for those who have died. The influence of the Aztec empire can still be felt in different Mexican festivals and traditions. They believe in celebrating, not lamenting, the lives of the deceased. Like many other Mexican festivals and traditions, Spanish and Catholic practices influenced the Day of the Dead celebration that Mexico has come to embrace. When it comes to the Day of the Dead, the holiday is about gathering and remembering, not crying or falling into sadness. It is truly a celebration of life.

Different traditions teach us to revere death as we revere life. What would life be like without death? And yet we insist on living life and ignore this fact. Pretending that life has no end is like entering a tennis match pretending it will never end. Our intensity and enjoy-

ment would be dramatically reduced. Without an end, there is no game. Without being conscious of death, you can't be fully aware of the gift of life. We might keep planning to do great things some day in the future and that day might never come.

Bronnie Ware wrote the book: "The Top Five Regrets of the Dying." Working for many years as a palliative caregiver, she developed close relations with those who had a few weeks left to live and they shared their wisdom and final regrets. This is what she heard the most:

1. "I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me."
2. "I wish I hadn't worked so hard."
3. "I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."
4. "I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends."
5. "I wish that I had let myself be happier."

What are you waiting for? Celebrate Halloween, All Souls Day or "Día de los Muertos" by being fully aware of the fragility of existence and honoring your time on earth. You don't need to do anything crazy, just acknowledging that you or the ones you love won't be around forever. Acknowledging death will help you live a life true to yourself and kinder to your loved ones.

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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Algol, the Demon Star

Halloween is upon us and there are stars and constellations that struck terror in the hearts of our ancestors. Like Algol.

You may remember Medusa from ancient Greek mythology—a winged woman with snakes for hair. If you looked into her eyes, you would turn to stone. The Greek hero Perseus sliced off her head but the head retained its powers and he carries the severed head in the sky. Medusa's demon eye is marked by the star Algol.

Hit the darkness around 9pm and look northeast. High in the sky you should see the "W" of Cassiopeia. Draw a line through second and third stars from the bottom of Cassiopeia to find Mirfak, the brightest star

in the Perseus constellation. To its right is Algol.

Algol was connected to this legend because it changes brightness and color. It is actually three stars orbiting each other.

The star Algol in Perseus is among the most accessible variable stars for beginner sky watchers. Its visual brightness dims noticeably for about 10 hours once every 2 days, 20 hours, and 49 minutes because a dim companion star orbiting nearly edge-on to Earth crosses in front of the much brighter main star. The constellation Perseus sits to the upper left of the bright Pleiades star cluster.

Text thanks to Chris Vaughan of Starwalk.Space and Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline. Image Credit: Vito Technology, Inc.

(See Dominguez draw the sky map of Cassiopeia/ Mirfak/Algol at: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>)



Writing workshop to run during Book Week

This year Bonaire celebrates Children's Book Week from November 8 to 11. Working from the theme "Become what you want," the Public Library is running a workshop on how to write a poem or a story for primary school students from groups 5 to 8.

Segni Bernadina will teach the children to use their imaginations to reach for inspiration and to structure a story from beginning to end. Jefferson Rosalia will teach them how to articulate and present the story so that it comes alive for those who read or listen to it. They will also learn how to use body language and variation of voice and tone.

At Your Service

To advertise on this page: ad spaces are \$22 per issue for a minimum of six issues at \$132.
Or for an INTERACTIVE AD linked to your email, website or Facebook the cost is \$25 per week or \$150 for a minimum of six issues.
Contact us at bonairereporter2019@gmail.com or 796-4055 (cell/Whatsapp).

**Bruce Bowker's
CARIB
INN**



**OPEN DAILY
8am to 5pm**
Boat Diving
Great Dive Shop
SHEARWATER
JA Abraham Blvd 46
717-8819 • BB@Caribinn.com

**Yoga
Sensibile**



Eden Beach Resort
Mon. 8am & 5.30pm; Tue. Wed. Thu. 8am
Fri. & Sat. 8.30am; Private class on request
Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de
www.elisabettamaccari.com

BEST CELLARS
WINE & SPIRITS



Wines & Bubbles Liquors & Tobacco
Kaya Industrial, Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm



Bonaire Scuba
PRIVATE PADI COURSES
CUSTOM GUIDED DIVES
EQUIPMENT RENTALS
www.bonairecuba.com
+599-777-3483 (777DIVE)  

MULTISHOP
Local Arts and Crafts - Souvenirs



Handmade One of a Kind Items
locally crafted - paintings, drawings,
photography, jewelry, clothing, cards & more
Located at Hato roundabout
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm / Sat 9am-2pm
599-796-1715 

island time
vacation rentals bonaire



indulgent ocean view vacation rentals
+599 700 1660
info@islandtimebonaire.com
www.islandtimebonaire.com
www.facebook.com/islandtimerentals 

**GARAGE
RE RA**

+599 782 9730
Imports - Car Sales
Repairs - Towing
Kaya Industria 36-5

Denture Prosthetist
Full or Partial Dentures
New and Repairs
Call for an Appointment - 717-2248
E.M. Rijswijk - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
tandprothetische praktijk



For all your **MARINE & residential SEWING**
  www.phishphactory.com



CUSTOM CANVAS
cushions - covers - roofs - shades
SAIL & KITE REPAIR
repairs - alterations
and much more...
780 9124 / located at kaya Beni 6A
near the vdt supermarket / project pickup and dropoff available

ezone



Easy, Affordable, Fast
Shop on-line & we will ship to you
<https://www.getezone.com>

Pink Coral IT



Your reliable partner for:

- Managed Wi-Fi Solutions
- Structured Network Cabling
- Hikvision Security Camera's
- Apple support

Kaya Soeur Bartola 13A | Kralendijk, Bonaire
M +599 777 47 49 | info@pinkcoral-it.com

CrossFit
Flamingo



HEALTH - FITNESS - COMMUNITY
+599 795 1407

Everything for your home
www.bonairecoastalliving.com
599-700-9082
South Beach Plaza
Kaya Industria 17
Closed Sunday and Monday 



**OUTDOOR
BONAIRE**
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!



KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPELLING
ABSEIL • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING
+(599) 785-6272
hansoutdoor@hotmail.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com

**THE STOREHOUSE
MANGASINA**



Call 700-1753
www.bonaireselfstorage.com
info@bonaireselfstorage.com

HISTORIC
Stop catching our Donkeys



Bonaire
Donkey Protection League
BDPLF@hotmail.com/785-2205

The brands you want

Xprodiver
Bonaire



The service you need
Atomic Zeagle
Hollis Oceanic
BONAIRE@XPRODIVER.COM
777-7333 (REEF)

Advertise here

Frequent Daily Flights
Between Bonaire, Curaçao & Aruba
Divi Divi Air
Reservations
24 hours a day
Call (+5999 839-1515)
Or (+5999 563-1913)
Now Non-stop to AUA

DIVI DIVI AIR




**SMILING BUDDHA
YOGA STUDIO**



For those ready to invest in their
health and well-being to reawaken
their enthusiasm for self-care
(English - Dutch - Papiamentu) 
+599-787-7667 • PLAZA RESORT
SmilingBuddhaYogaBonaire@gmail.com

CLEAN COAST



Pets of the Week



Sammie

Dear families,

I would like to introduce myself as Miss Sammie. I'm 2 1/2 years old. I was brought to the shelter over one year ago, along with my pups. All my precious ba-

bies found a forever home, but I'm still waiting for my turn.

I'm a healthy and very playful lady, if you like to play rough and go out for a swim then I'm your girl.

My hobbies at the shelter are of course playtime, sleeping and playing with and peeling a coconut...which is my favorite game. Afterwards I love to have a nice refreshing bath (sitting in a big water bowl!).

If you think that I will fit in your family then please come and meet me. I will be waiting for you at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagoen 26A.

You can reach my care takers on 7174989 or 7014989 also available on WhatsApp and Facebook messenger, or send an email on animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

Story: Sanne Attevelt

Photo: Sophie Verheijden

Hey there,

Are you looking for Mrs. Sweet Cat? Well, here I am!! My name is Beverly and I'm a sterilized, healthy female. People say that I am a sweet and easygoing cat. I never cause any problems here with my fellow cats and human friends. I can live alone with you but also with other cat friends and we can even try a dog friend. Since I am almost 3 years old you can be assured that the personality I have will stay the same. I love to be petted by children once I know them. I have had all my vaccinations and will be chipped if you come to adopt me. Please come to meet me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagoen 26A. You can reach my caretakers on 7174989 or 7014989 also available on whatsapp. Visiting hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 am-1 pm and 2-4 pm Saturdays, 10 am-3 pm nonstop.

Story: Monique Degenaar

Photo: Rachella Lenten



Beverly

Shelter News

PLAN AHEAD FOR BOARDING

It's only the end of October but it's time to start planning ahead if you want to board your dog or cat during the Christmas/New Year holidays. Remember not only is it a vacation period for many, it is also Bonaire fireworks season and many people board their dogs and cats for their safety. Many reservations have already been made and we are filling up fast. Please make your reservation now! Call or Whatsapp 701-4989 or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com for availability.

When bringing your pet to board at Animal Shelter Bonaire it must be up to date with vaccinations and recently treated against fleas and ticks. Pets should also be sterilized. Arrangements can be made to have your pet sterilized for free while they are boarding with us. Also we will need the name of your vet-



erinarian in case of emergency or should your animal get sick while boarding. When boarding cats, the owners may have the option of choosing between an individual kennel for their cat, or if it's a sociable cat, joining other boarding cats in a larger communal setting. Whether it's a dog or cat, please make your plans with us now to be sure we can accommodate you.



TCB notes

❖ On Monday, September 27th, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) promoted Bonaire at TravDay, the first face-to-face travel event in the Netherlands after a long interruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic. More than 650 travel professionals attended, and many stopped at Bonaire's colorful stand, manned by Sander Langeveld, TCB liaison in the Netherlands.

❖ Last week TCB launched its first module of the Bonaire Expert Program, an interactive e-course that offers an opportunity for travel agents in

the Netherlands to test their "Bonaire Expert" knowledge and learn about the island. Once successfully completed, participants of the e-course will receive a certificate validating their status as a Bonaire expert. In the next quarter TCB will launch the Bonaire Expert program in all other markets and in four different languages.

❖ On October 19th, 2021 TCB visited different elementary schools on the island to hand out the third Tourism book titled "Tourism on Bonaire an Authentic Experience" or in Papiamentu 'Turismo na Boneiru Eksperensia Outéntiko' to the youngsters of groups 5 to 8. This is the third in the series of tourism books produced by TCB in collaboration with local author Denise de Jongh-Rekwest.

Parrots and People!

by Rayshantaly Coffie

Reforestation

Work in the field has been going great with the help of our interns. So far we have finished the reforestation monitoring at Seru largu and began focusing on areas closer to Rincon.

The Echo team has been monitoring the area at Kach'I Baka (Fontein-Onima). Originally this enclosure was completely cleared for a LVV experiment. After not being in use for some time, it was adopted and fenced by Echo in 2017. In that same year 1000 trees were introduced but fewer than 40% survived in the first year. With the lesson learned from the first trial, school kids and scouts have helped Echo to plant 500 seedlings of the most successful species. Since supplementary irrigation was done for only one year, Echo has not been active in the area lately. The first impression after the year was that the tuna cactus, creeping vines and, especially, the grass harvested during the LVV experiment have made it difficult to reforest this particular enclosure.

According to Sanne, one of the Echo reforestation monitoring interns, "At first glance it seemed like not a single tree survived, but we found almost 100 trees that were alive."

After finding the surviving trees, the team freed the trees overgrown with creepers and grass in hopes that they can survive and grow into adult trees. The common species that are still standing and have a chance are: Uña Gatu (Cat's nails), Beishi (Bodywood/Cherry), Kalbas (Calabash), Wayaka (Lignum vitae), Flaira (Belly ache bush/ Wild physic nut), and Palu di Sía (West indian birch/Tourist tree).

Echo will continue monitoring this area. We hope to have a more accurate survival rate by January 2022. This enclosure has its challenges, but Echo is

dedicated to continue habitat restoration through adaptive management. We wish to implement a more fitting methodology for water retention by 2022.

Education

This school year we are continuing with Echo's well-known Parrot Club. We have a new education and awareness coordinator, Juliano Clarendia. He was born here on Bonaire but after secondary school went to the Netherlands to continue his education.

Jul started this month with us and he's currently doing the "club di lora" for the kids of Rincon. The activities are based on Bonaire's nature and its cultural heritage.

Jul is now working on a program to make the children's knowledge and skills better while practicing nature conservation. He thinks that teaching the kids in a safe but playful way can make them more in tune to the conservation of Bonaire's natural resources so that people and nature can also become ONE.

Echo is focused on growing its current education group. All schools or after school programs interested in learning more about Echo, parrots and Bonaire's dry forest habitat, are welcome to join us. For more information on our education program email us at info@echobonaire.org





A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

We knew each other for years through the market at Kriabon and I found out that we had the same passion, gardening.

Khalil used to sell his fresh fruits and vegetables at the market as I did with my plants, syrups and chutneys. I was very happy with the fresh bitter gourd, string beans, peppers and fruits I used to buy from him. The stuff was just picked from his unspoiled soil, so tasty and healthy.

But then I didn't see him at the market until a few weeks ago when we met and of course started talking about gardening. With all the talk I decided to visit his garden last Sunday. And, I tell you what, it blew my mind away. A fully green garden, not that big, but totally planted with fruits, vegetables and flowers.

I have never seen any garden on Bonaire where every square meter is used for plants and trees that look vital and are full of fruits and flowers. Spinach leaves as big as my two hands together, pepper plants full with yellow and red peppers like a Christmas tree, bitter gourd with so many young fruits, golden apple tree with bunches of fruits, birambi tree with big fruits, sweet ripe sugar apples and most of all every type of dragon fruit plants full of fruit. His flowering plants were mostly different types of desert flower of various colors decorating his yard.

Of course I had a lot of questions and he told me his experiences. Years ago he started to find out which plants grow easily in this climate, don't need too much water, get few sicknesses and can grow in the different soils on Bonaire. Besides the Bonairean soil, he composts a lot and uses many different dry, old manures and buys dirt for certain plants. For example, the dragon fruit needs special pot ground that is light and lets water rinse quickly through the soil because the plant needs a



Khalil with his dragon fruit plants

lot of water but doesn't do well in wet soil. This special dirt costs a lot but it is needed for the dragon fruit plants for a good harvest. The flowers that open in the night need hand fertilizing so Khalil gets up in the middle of the night for this job. To produce fruit the dragon fruit needs to be with many plants to fertilize each other. Now with this little dragon fruit plantation Khalil is able to deliver fruits and other fresh stuff from his garden in different supermarkets. This is called sustainable urban agriculture. He supports the community in a small way by growing fresh food. We need more of this on Bonaire. Fresh healthy food grown here makes us less dependent on imported food and at the same time fights the climate crisis.

Khalil also has a lot of knowledge about the desert rose. He has them in different sizes, colors and shapes that are ready for the garden or bonsai style to put on a porch, in an office, to give as a gift or to start a collection, like his. On Sunday mornings one can admire Khalil's garden in Tera Cora and buy stuff or get free information about gardening. Khalil can be reached at 7867006.

Get inspired and start your dream garden, just do it now.

Island now has a veterinary department

At the beginning of September Claire Cointepas became head of the newly established Veterinary Department Bonaire. She will be responsible for rebuilding and equipping the slaughterhouse and will inspect the meat consumed on the island, included imported meat products.

Born in England, Cointepas was raised in the Netherlands. While studying Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht University, she worked as a volunteer in Madagascar and Portugal. After graduating, she worked as a veterinarian for a year in the Galapagos Islands, then came to Bonaire last February to help set up a veterinary clinic.

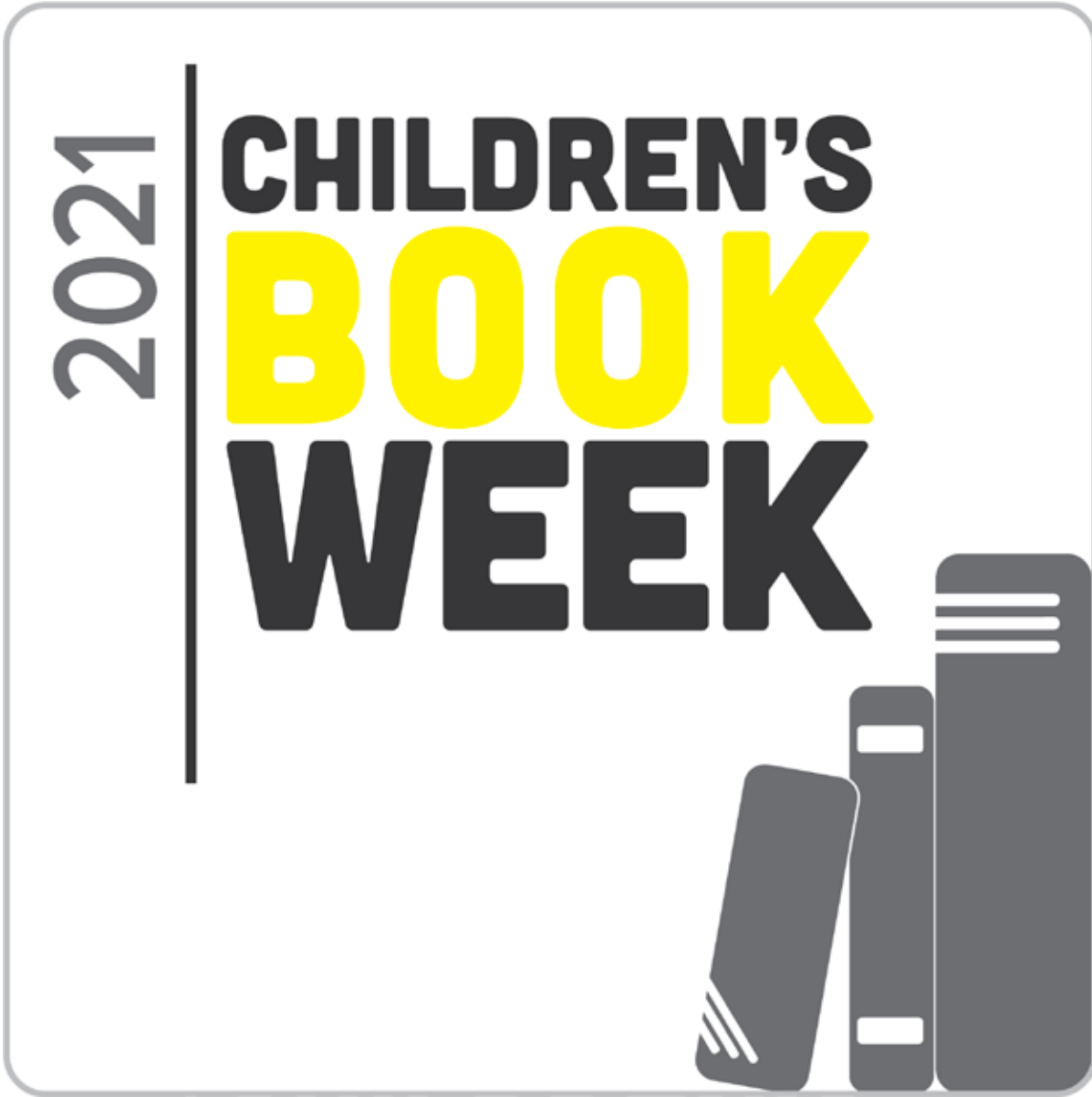
"Bonaire is small and quiet and the people are very friendly," Cointepas says. In addition to her work at the Veterinary Department Bonaire, she has two personal goals: becoming fluent in Papiamentu and breaking her personal record as a freediver, which is 60 seconds and 23 meters.
DMR



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

- For any inquiries of your Cargo(arrival / invoices / payments), please call or e-mail us at 717-8922 / info@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com and avoid visiting our offices unnecessarily.
- Kindly pay your invoices through online banking and please e-mail proof of remittance to frontdesk@rocargo.com
- Pickup & Deliveries are on appointment, for arrangements please call or e-mail us at warehouse@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com (use both e-mails)





Windsurfing new kids	3	Nishanthalie Molina
	2	Cymaika Sances
	1	Giana de Jongh
Windsurfing girls	3	Lone de Jong
	2	Anna Korevaar
	1	Bobbi-Lynn de Jong
Windsurfing boys	3	Lenny van der Sluis
	2	Storm Nicolay
	1	Terance Seraus
Windsurfing men	3	Luca Davidsson
	2	Juvannie Agostien
	1	Nigel Hart
Windsurfing FOIL	2	Lenny van der Sluis
	1	Nigel Hart
Sunfish A short races	3	Alexander Tromp
	2	Robbert Verboon
	1	Spike Stapert
Optimist B	3	Eugendick Dirksz
	2	Maryra Noij
	1	Anna Korevaar
Optimist C	3	Emmelie Schothorst
	2	Lisa Korevaar
	1	Osdallys Maria
Sunfish A	3	Gilbert Martis B77
	2	Ton Nuijten OPA
	1	Spike Stapert 1
Best Boat/Participant		Spike Stapert

Microboats A	2	Comanche	58	Genaro Anthony
	1	Rainbow	976	Fotzgerald Domacasse
Microboats B	3	RR	52	Genaro Anthony
	2	Dios ku nos	10	Jermeline Domacasse
	1	Ta mi so	xx	Melissa Domacasse
Microboats C	3	Melissa	98	Melissa Domacasse
	2	Mio	100	Genaro Anthony
	1	Lina	1	Jermeline Domacasse
Microboats D	3	Angel	73	Jermeline Domacasse
	2	Roja 2	50	Genaro Anthony
	1	Sea Birth	73	Melissa Domacasse

Yachts - Multihulls	2	Gerrit Fokke	Chocogo
	1	Sven Vranken	Nohma
Yachts - Cruising	3	Enrique Casco	Papyro
	2	Bart Schothorst	Arandir
	1	Cees van der Laan	Burfish - Blue Boat
Yachts - Open Class	3	David Stuart	Dan Martes
	2	Alejandro Gubierez	Luna / Red Mast
	1	Jelle Nijnan	Jermeline Domacasse

business directory
6 331 cm wide
4.75 high
fills space completely

business directory double
12.45 cm wide
4.75 high

Latest Movies Shown Daily

(behind the MCB bank in Hato)
Details at www.EmpireBonaire.com
Facebook - Empire Cinema
6 Kaya Katwijk 777-1122

