



From a high point on Bonaire you can almost see forever.
 Photos by Julie Morgan

Love your Mother

If you could save your Mother's life by making a few simple changes and habits, would you do it?

On April 22, 1970 the biggest environmental movement began known as Earth Day and also International Mother Earth Day. Since that first monumental event, Earth Day has been celebrated in 193 countries. An estimated one billion people are expected to take part in some kind of Earth Day celebration this year alone to "Love their Mother."

Earth Day began back in 1970 to protest environmental destruction after the effects of a horrific oil spill off the coast of California. That was just the beginning of the evidence of the Earth's plight. Today we are experiencing far worse with the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, oceans of plastic, air pollution and the loss of countless earth and ocean species.

The most current research tells us we may only have until 2030 before it is too late to fix the problems. Others tell us it can be stopped or at least slowed by becoming more sustainable.

The theme for Earth Day 2022 is "Invest in our Planet". We need to act boldly, innovate broadly and implement equitably.

According to environmentalists, concentrating on a few specific goals could go a long way in making a big difference. Bonaire is well on its way with many of the steps to reduce the effects of climate change but there is always more each one

of us can do.

Limiting fossil fuels and replacing them with renewable energy is a major step to stopping climate change. Bonaire has had wind turbines and solar panels for several years. Thanks to some hefty funding from the Netherlands, the island is now on track for a solar meadow and additional wind turbines to make the island more sustainable. Electric cars and hybrids are more prevalent on the island but charging stations are needed. This will slow the warming of the planet and acidification of the ocean plus give us cleaner air.

Going green by producing our own food is a cheaper way to eat healthy, oxygenates the air and limits expensive imports to the island from gas fueled airplanes and ships.

Bonaire is already on its way here too. This was illustrated by the huge success of LVV Open Day on April 2 with an approximate 2000 people in attendance interested in growing their own food. Having a garden is a cheaper way to eat healthy and cuts down on the amount of imports to the island from fuel charged airplanes and ships.

Working hard to keep the wild populations we still have by encouraging nature wherever we can. Bonaire's STINAPA, Echo, Mangrove Maniac's and Tera Bara's reforestation programs are working to grow and sustain our dry forests that provide homes for our wild bird and bat populations. The more green there is, the cleaner the air. And plants help prevent

land erosion into the sea.

Managing our oceans by creating no-fish zones will restore the health of the ocean. Bonaire has had a no spear fishing policy since the 1960's. There are 'no fishing zones', no snorkel fishing and certain species are prohibited to catch.

Bonaire has not organized a big Earth Day celebration but there are several 'earth saving' events occurring around the big environmental day.

On Earth Day, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is launching "the Bonaire Bond", a pledge of commitment to respect



The wind, Bonaire's ever present sustainable resource, fuels these wind turbines.

the environment and wildlife. Visitors and locals can sign the pledge at www.BonaireBond.com.

Dive Friends is holding their quarterly clean-up on April 23. To sign up and learn more visit Dive Friends on Facebook and see page 17.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) will have a fishing line cleanup at the north pier on April 24. To register send an email to STCB@bonaireturtles.org.

On June 1, Bonaire begins its campaign for Bonaire Plastic Free – the ban on single use plastic.

Bonaire's Junior Rangers are scheduled for a post-Earth Day cleanup in the Rincon area.

Several ways to celebrate "Earth Day" and "Love your Mother" every day:

- Volunteer with an environmental organization
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Be car free- walk or bike
- Grow something
- Pick up trash
- Be plastic free
- Go vegetarian for a day

Nature determines our survival. We need to live in balance with the earth's natural systems and work toward sustainable practices. (Save our Planet)

By Julie Morgan

BES medical transfers questioned following Statia death

Recently a person, identified only as “a patient with a non-Dutch nationality,” died while being airlifted from St. Eustatius for emergency care elsewhere. The event has brought into sharp focus long-standing discontent among Statians and Sabans regarding the quality of medical care they receive as the smaller members of the BES Islands.

Under the BES agreement, Fundashon Mariadal on Bonaire is the primary hospital for the Caribbean Netherlands. The Queen Beatrix Medical Center (QBMC) on Statia is equipped to provide initial care, then if necessary, patients with more serious conditions are supposed to be flown to Bonaire for treatment.

The critical issue, according to Statians, is that when a doctor at QBMC decides a patient should be transferred to Fundashon Mariadal or another hospital elsewhere, a third party on Statia must approve the action. And, Statians say, the necessary approvals are too often delayed or even denied. They reported cases where patients had to go through immense red tape, or had to wait months or years to receive care which, in some cases, came too late.

St. Eustatius does not have its own General Health Insurance Office (ZVK). Those responsibilities have been delegated to Zorg en Jeugd Caribisch Nederland (ZJCN)—that is, Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands. Statians complain that ZJCN is

a small agency on the island that has no one qualified to make medical decisions.



Deputy Secretary-General Abigail Norville of VWS

Deputy Secretary-General Abigail Norville of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) paid a working visit to Saba and St. Eustatius with a delegation during April 3rd through the 6th. The medical transfer problem and medical care generally on the islands were main topics of discussion, as were ways in which a Public Entity and VWS could cooperate in addressing domestic violence, child abuse, and the development of sports facilities.

Mrs. Norville said: “I have seen that people on the islands are very involved and resourceful. During my visit, I was also able to discuss the difficult challenges, such as the process of medical referrals. It moves me that the people of St. Eustatius feel that the ZJCN office is not their office. I appreciate that people have been open and transparent.”

DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)

Dutch should cancel Curaçao's covid debt, former prime minister says

Daniel Hodge, former prime minister of Curaçao (2012-2013), has encouraged the Pisas cabinet to politically convince The Hague that Curaçao should be given the same financial aid as Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Specifically, Hodge believes the Netherlands should forgive the covid support loans it granted Curaçao, an accumulated debt so far of 448 million euros.

In related news, the Curaçao government has once again declared it wants to renegotiate the “autonomy-undermining” COHO law it agreed to. The COHO law requires the governments of the CAS islands to achieve specified financial reforms in order to qualify for financial assistance from The Hague.

The Curaçao economy has been hit hard by the corona pandemic and now by the jump in crude oil prices. During the pandemic, the Netherlands helped Curaçao's insistently autonomous government with large donations of humanitarian aid as well as liquidity support loans. The interest free loans do not have to be repaid until the end of 2023. Hodge was speaking in his role as current chairman of the Curaçao Business Association (VBC) when he proposed the loans be forgiven.

In further related news, the Kingdom Council of Ministers of

the Netherlands has concluded that the liquidity support loans paid to Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten have “probably” been effective, although it could find no reliable data that supports that conclusion. Nevertheless, the Kingdom Council of Ministers decided to extend the Financial Supervision Act by three years. So far the CAS countries have received more than 1 billion euros in interest free loans from the Netherlands.



Alexandra Van Huffelen, State Secretary for Kingdom Relations

Kingdom Relations Van Huffelen, recipient of the letter demanding renegotiation of COHO, has said the matter can be discussed during her visit to the CAS islands in May and June. The Netherlands has not been receptive to Caribbean administrators who want to renegotiate agreements that the administrators have previously agreed to. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

not the cost of eggs but a shortage. The stock has been disappearing quickly from supermarket shelves. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Public condom machines installed

The Public Health Department has installed nine colorful condom vending machines, labeled “Kondon Kuné,” in public locations. The condom vending machines can be found at: Sentro Médiko Sùit, Antriol Doctor's Clinic, Sentro di Bario Nort Salinja, Sentro di Bario Amboina, Donkey Beach / Te Amo Beach, Carwash Damrik, Karels Beach Bar, Cozy Place and Toko Magdarena.

The machines offer a single brand of condoms in four types: Super Sensitive, Legend XL, ONE Pleasure Plus, and Super Studs. The condoms, which meet the European quality standard, cost 50 cents each. The machines accept only quarters.

The Public Health Department hopes that the condom machines will reduce STDs, HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies, especially among teenagers. *DMR*

This Issue's Stories

Earthday 2022	1
Grandi	3
Wine Barrel donates to Foodbank	4
Ukraine donor sites	5
Kids' Music Week	6
STCB tags sea turtles	7
Two new Curaçao parks planned	
TimBo Funrace	8
Gymnastics competition	9
Antriol Barrio Festival	9
Rijksmuseum student photo contest	9
Lottery donates to S.V. Athene	9
New covid strategy; Intensive care upgrade	12
Book review: Paradise Cove	13
Junior Rangers	13
TCB reports numbers and activities	15
Quarterly clean-up dive coming up	17
Easter camping allowed	17
Open day at LVV	20

The Reporter Online Updates brings you news that arrives after we go to print

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam: ZVK medical transfers;	
Curaçao covid debt; BOPEC; Eggs \$1 more;	
Condom machines	2
Fuel prices; OLB dog workforce;	
Fiscal fraud	12
Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Police Report	4
Ask Kate & Jean (Appraisals)	4
Letters/Opinions (Bolivia)	5
Reef Glimpses: (Survival quiz)	6
(Quiz answers)	8
A Garden? (LVV Open Day)	7
Foodies' Dining Guide	11
Cruise ship ratings (World Residential)	12
Make Bonaire Accessible (Changes)	14
Optimal Health (World Health Day)	14
Sky (Earthshine; Ecliptic; Conjunctions)	14
What's Happening (Meet the glass artist;	
History course; Culinaire & Rum Week;	
Air flights; Cruise ship schedule	16
Business Directory	18
Shelter (Hiring for two positions)	19
Pets of the Week (Axel cat; Nikita dog)	19
Parrots & People: Pinda & Popje	19

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

Week of April 4 - 11, 2022

217 active cases + 54	2 hospitalized 29 deceased (+1)
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In the week of April 4, the incidence of infections increased - 217 versus 163 active cases in the week of Mar. 28. One person died.

Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

Government explains BOPEC's unexpected restoration

During mid-March the tanker ‘Altair’ loaded 220,000 barrels of fuel oil at BOPEC and sailed for Rotterdam, even though in May 2019 the Rijkswaterstaat (RWS) and the Environment and Transport Inspectorate (Inspectie leefomgeving en Transport, ILT) had declared the BOPEC fuel handling facilities unsafe for use because of serious overdue maintenance. A government press release has provided an explanation:

“Since March 2021, improvement measures and repairs to one jetty and other installations have been carried out by the trustee together with BOPEC's staff. As a result, RWS has again permitted the use of this jetty from the 2nd of March 2022, subject to conditions.” *DMR*

Eggs cost a dollar more now

Punta Blanca Farms and Bienaventura Farms, the two egg producers on the island, have increased the price of eggs by a dollar, to \$3.20 per dozen. For five years the price has held at \$2.20 even as production costs steadily increased. Consumer's real concern is

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 12



A "martini" appetizer

Grandi – creative kitchen and great wine

into culinary works of art. There is no menu except in the chef's imagination. Courses are customized depending on diet limitations.

"The first thing we say to the customer is always, 'Is there something you really can't eat,' said Manouk. "And then, are you ready for one more, until they are exploding and ready for dessert, tea, coffee or a liqueur."

Each course may be paired with a wine from the full repertoire of Italian wine from Grandi's wine room.

Only the freshest ingredients are purchased to make up the mini meals. The vendors even notify Grandi when a special item becomes available for the designer type appetizer sized courses.

Manouk said, "We work with a no waste policy. We don't like to throw anything away. What do we have in the fridge and what can we make? We have a really creative kitchen."

A starter example is a shrimp salad with apple gel, pickled onion, marinated tomatoes on pulled wild rice with fried capers and a dressing of basil and avocado.

There is nothing typical about the entrees other than they could be seafood, fish, meat or vegetables prepared in a Grandi creative style. Vegetarian courses are available but not vegan.

Desserts are the perfect example of the chef's creativity. The Espresso Mar-

tini is a combination of dark chocolate gelato, white chocolate mousse, dulce de leche, mocha powder topped with a foam made of Kahlua and vodka.

Grandi serves wine, Italian beer, non-alcoholic Heineken, all types of coffee, espresso, cappuccino, and lattes. Diners can visit the wine room and select a bottle to take home with a nice 30% discount.

Grandi is situated in the former location of La Terrazza where Manouk worked for 3.5 years doing everything from waiting tables to marketing. When La Terrazza closed last year, Manouk and her partner were given the opportu-

nity to take over the restaurant and do it the way Manouk wanted. That was May 2021 and she made some big changes but kept the restaurant concept.

"My family and friends helped with the renovation. There was no roof, no cabinet or bar and no wine room. Wine is ordered and imported and I've been to every winery of the wines we sell. We also took over a few wines from the Italy of the World restaurant," said Manouk.

Grandi
continued on page 8



FOR SALE Spacious Apartment Kaya Saturnus 12 Apartment 4



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POLICE REPORT

The new anonymous tip line is 9310

Property crime

April 9. Thieves stole a backpack with contents while the owners were on the beach at the dive site Margate at E.E.G. Bulevar. The black Deuter backpack contained, among other things, a Scubapro Aladin dive computer, a black Citizen EcoDive diving watch, a toolbox with diving equipment, a Victorinox knife cash and a hotel room key.

Mar. 31/April 1. A black Kymco scooter number plate MF-329 was stolen from the parking lot of a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham.

Arrests

April 9. A man, 40, was arrested for assault after he assaulted a woman with a bunch of keys.

April 7. A man, 32, was arrested on Kaya Grandi for not being able to show an ID and for resistance and opposition to the police. The man, found asleep in his car, was suspected of being under the influence and was taken to the police station. During the search, he became aggressive. He was required to report as his request for a permit had been rejected and he had already been ordered to leave the island.

April 5. A man, 49, was arrested for insulting an official in office and for vandalism. Following a report that drugs were being sold in a house on Kaya Grandi, the suspect was searched. The man became angry and threw a rock at a parked car. He was arrested on the spot. Cash found in the home was seized.

April 5. A man, 32, was arrested for threats. He was initially stopped because he was driving a car without a license plate. When asked for his documents, he was able to show a driver's license but no valid insurance certificate. The suspect said that he had to call for this. He was ordered not to use his phone because it is illegal to use mobile phones at a gas station. A discussion ensued between the suspect and a police officer and when the suspect began making threats he was arrested.

April 4. In the afternoon a house was searched in the Sofaya district in Rincon and at a kunuku in Rincon. The searches were conducted in connection with an ongoing investigation into break-ins at tourist accommodations and theft at tourist sites. Several items were seized during the searches. Two men have been arrested so far. One of these men was later released. The investigation into this case is ongoing and multiple arrests are not ruled out.

April 2. In the night hours, the police were forced to take strict action against a suspect and several other persons in connection with a case of open violence in the Center area. During the arrest of a suspect who was involved in a fight, both the suspect and some of those present started a fight with the police and did

not heed the various demands of the police to keep their distance and cooperate. Given the various threats that were made and the dangerous situation in which the officers found themselves, officers were forced to use a service weapon to fire warning shots. Pepper spray was also used. These are always only used in the worst case because they can have a major impact. One person accidentally got pepper spray in his eye. A man, 24, was arrested for failing to comply with police demands, for failing to identify himself and for causing danger on public roads.

Mar. 31. A man, 29, was arrested for assault with a weapon. The suspect had assaulted another man with a beer bottle during a fight at a home on Kaya Regina. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Mar. 30. Two men, aged 44 and 18 were arrested. The driver was stopped because he was riding a moped without a helmet. The moped did not have a license plate. He was also unable to show a valid driver's license and insurance papers. As a result, it was decided to take the moped to the police station for safekeeping. While the moped was being towed, the driver and the other suspect began to resist and threatened to throw stones at the officers. During the arrest of the men, the resistance and threats continued, forcing the police to use pepper spray. The driver of the moped was issued a police report.

Traffic accidents/violations

April 6. In the afternoon a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Internashonal when they did not give way to each other. The driver and passenger of the scooter were wearing helmets. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

April 3. In the evening hours a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Bonaire. The driver of the scooter was driving on the one-way road Kaya Bonaire in the direction of Kaya Grandi. The driver of the car drove in the prohibited direction and collided with the scooter. The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was arrested for driving under the influence and was taken to the police station for a breath analysis. As a result, his driver's license was revoked.

Correction: The single-vehicle collision on March 23 at E.E.G. Bulevar in which a car hit a wall had a different cause than previously mentioned. An object fell on the floor of the car and got stuck under the brake pedal, making braking impossible. The driver was checked on the spot by paramedics and did not need to be taken to hospital.

Traffic control

Traffic checks continue regularly. In recent days, fines have been issued for driving without valid insurance documents, without a valid driver's license, for holding a phone while driving and for driving without a seat belt. KPCN would

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

Hi Kate, can I get an appraisal on a Bonaire property before making an offer? John

Hi John,

You could request permission from the Seller to pay for one yourself, but Bonaire property moves so quickly it is unlikely you will have time to schedule and receive it before it goes under offer to someone else. In our experience, most Sellers will not base their acceptance of the offer on an appraisal, especially in a hot market where appraisals may lag behind current market conditions.

If you are mortgaging the property through a Bonaire bank, the bank will require an appraisal prior to loan approval. There are three values on an appraisal - market price, rebuilding cost and execution value.

Market price is what the appraiser thinks the property can sell for. The rebuilding cost estimates what it would cost to rebuild the home. This figure will

like to point out that everyone must have the necessary documents mentioned above. Are you not following the rules? Then you can get a fine. The amount of a fine for the above violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.

Mar. 30. Traffic checks were held on Kaya Internashonal and Kaya Amsterdam in the afternoon. Drivers were fined for driving without: a driver's license (9), valid insurance (7), a seat belt on (44), a child seat (1). Six people were making calls while driving. The fine for driving without your seat belt on is \$110.

Public order

April 7. A diver passed away. The control room received a report about a diver in trouble at sea around 11 a.m. The diver, a tourist, had gone diving with a group of a tourists. The man had become unwell while diving. The other divers brought the man up. CPR was immediately started on the boat as the boat returned to shore, but to no avail. The medical examiner confirmed the death a



L-R: Jean and Kate

be used by your insurance agent to help determine how much insurance you will need.

The execution value is the amount that the home is estimated to sell for at auction, if the house is put in default for non-payment of mortgage, taxes, etc. The mortgage bank generally loans 70% of the purchase price and the buyer contributes 30%, so the bank is looking for an execution value that protects their investment.

*Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team
Re/Max Bonaire*

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

little later. The man with initials J.H.F.G. was born on September 1, 1952.

Mar. 30. Two men drowned on this day.

The police station received a report at around 12:25 p.m. that a fisherman found a diver in distress in the sea near Saliña. The victim was brought to the side where the paramedics immediately proceeded with resuscitation, but to no avail. The deceased had been diving with two friends. The man with initials W.C.M.T. was born on January 27, 1954.

A little later, about 1 p.m., another drowning was reported. A man was snorkeling with a friend at Klein Bonaire. The friend suddenly panicked and the man tried to take him to the coast. A passing boat stopped to offer assistance. CPR began on the boat. This was taken over by the ambulance personnel on arrival at the coast, but to no avail. The KMar and the Coast Guard supported KPCN during this case. The man with initials A.M.J. was born on August 10, 1976.



Renee Zeijen (L), treasurer of Bonaire's Food Bank (Voedselbank), receives a check for \$7,500 from Anne Spikjer (R) at the grand opening of Wine Barrel on April 2. More than 400 families visit the food bank weekly.

The Bonaire Reporter Apr. 13 - Apr. 27, 2022

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.

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia

OPEN LETTER

Nina den Heyer; Daisy Coffie; Clark Abraham

Dear Nina, Daisy and Clark,

Recently we were able to take note of the ‘Woning-bouwonderzoek Bonaire – Plantage Bolivia’, written by ‘Bureau Stedelijke Planning’ (Bureau Urban Planning) located in Amsterdam and Gouda on behalf of Bonaire Properties BV (BP, read: the Broomhaar couple). The report dates from September 2021 and was only recently provided to R&O for the purpose of drawing up the new spatial development plan.

We are sending you this letter because after reading the report, it initially gives a solid and credible impression, but closer examination reveals a clear change of course compared to previous plans with serious social and infrastructural consequences.

In this letter we draw attention to this change of course and its consequences to contribute to a balanced opinion formation.

The change of course relates to two things: social housing and the size of the area to be developed.

Firstly, social housing has completely disappeared from the plans. This has been replaced by a plan to have a maximum of a quarter of the housing stock consist of homes for middle incomes and the rest of homes from \$400,000 to more than a million. For the image we have to think of a neighborhood like Sabadeco, but in terms of surface area more than three times larger. A painful observation is that the choice to abandon housing for the lowest incomes has given way to profit maximization. This is made clear by a short sentence stating not to offer too many lots at the same time ‘to optimize pricing’.

Second, the report shows that the previous commitment to develop only 10% of plantation Bolivia has disappeared. The report states that BP plans to develop a total of around 700 hectares for housing, agricultural activities, eco-resorts, etc. So, 25% is being developed.

The authors further note that an important condition for the successful development of the area is the presence of roads. The construction of the roads between the many dozens of housing clusters and the access to the public road will entail enormous ecological disturbance. Dozens of bulldozers and many hundreds of flat-bed trailers carrying thousands of tons of diabase will enter the area to provide passable roads. But also outside the plantation a serious issue arises with regard to the infrastructure. The compilers of the report also disregard this issue, but the current and future administrators of Bonaire are confronted with enormous infrastructural issues due to the development of ‘the third residential core’. The residents will use the facilities in Kralendijk, such as schools, shops, restaurants, and the hospital. The opening up of the area is foreseen at Bolivia mei-meï, opposite the road to Seru Largu. As a result, road use by motorized transport will increase enormously to Kralendijk, but the infrastructure is a concern for the executive council (BC) who is responsible for it and the developer is not concerned about that.

Nature restoration, landscape and agriculture are included in the report. The report states that the returns from the development can be used for nature restoration, landscape and agriculture. Pay particular attention to the word ‘can’ here. In our view, this suggestion belongs to the category of wishful thinking, the same category in which social housing has disappeared. Moreover, there is something else going on with regard to nature management and restoration. The report shows where housing is planned: roughly in a 2.5-kilometer-wide strip from the southwest to the northeast with a length of



5.5 kilometers, exactly in the middle part of plantation Bolivia. All research reports that have appeared on Bolivia in recent decades (including Carmabi and WUR) mention the importance of the plantation as a corridor between the northwestern and the southern part of the island. The proposal from the Urban Planning Bureau does not take this into account at all. The flora and fauna corridor is completely lost.

Matters that have less, or no social consequences relate to matters such as water extraction, purification and energy. These are not matters that you have to worry about immediately, but they do make it clear that the writers are insufficiently aware of specific circumstances that apply on Bonaire.

The writers think, for example, that the water requirement can be met by collecting rainwater. This is sheer nonsense. People who use water economically use 100 liters per day. With an average occupancy of 2.08 people per home and the 950 homes in the first phase, nearly 200 thousand liters of water are needed every day. With an average annual rainfall of 500 mm on Bonaire, it is impossible to meet the water needs of the households through rainwater. The authors also mention water purification. We are curious what it will look like. We expect that the processing of wastewater will take place through septic tanks. The comment about the water purification in the area is a blank slate that makes it clear that the writers are not sufficiently familiar with the island and its possibilities and limitations.

In their view, the energy supply is not a real issue either. Energy is obtained from sun and wind. Whether this means that each individual resident will be responsible for this or that central facilities will be provided is not reported.

The assumption that the development of the project will contribute to the economic growth of the island also belongs to the category of wishful thinking. The maximized profits of the owners and project developers will most likely disappear into foreign bank accounts, most real estate agents who will mediate in the sale of the plots and homes are not of Bonairean descent, the contractors are most likely from European and American origin, the builders mostly come from South American countries and the later residents probably do their shopping in supermarkets and eat out in restaurants that are not owned by Bonairean owners. All profits made at the different levels are most likely going to disappear into foreign bank accounts.

Finally, no attention has been paid to support for the project development. The writers have spoken with three real estate agents. Their view is not free from interests. After all, they have every interest in the area being parceled out and built on, because they also see the possibilities for maximizing profit. It's great that we know

how the brokers view the development, it's a shame the compilers have not heard potential future residents. Are there even people who want to live in Bolivia? Close to the inaccessible sea on the north-north/east coast, full of wind, which regularly passes at 40 km per hour, with all the consequences for maintenance, in a ‘landscape park’ with 1,900! houses and teeming with goats, who eat to the roots every new tree planted as promised to replace a lost one.

Finish

As a result of the letter of intent concluded between the BC and BP, Executive Den Heyer noted that it is important that, in addition to the protection of nature and economic development, ‘there is also attention for the shortage of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing for our residents’ and that this is ‘fortunately included in the plan’.

As can be read, it no longer concerns affordable housing for our residents, a much larger part is developed than previously promised, the attention for nature is left to a voluntary investment and the owner focuses mainly or perhaps completely on the top end of the market. The planned development will destroy the ecological corridor north-south and Bonaire will lose an important dry tropical forest (3,000 ha).

We believe that the document describing all this should be made public so that everyone can read it and form an opinion about it.

Yours sincerely,

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia

Wilma Nijland

We stand with

UKRAINE

Support the people of Ukraine through a donation to one of these organizations or other verified charities.

With Ukraine (withukraine.org)

Voices of Children (voices.org.ua/en/)

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UNICEF USA (unicefusa.org)

World Vision (worldvision.org)

Mercy Corps (mercycorps.org)

Giro 555 (giro555.nl)

The Bonaire Reporter Apr. 13 - Apr. 27, 2022

Page 5



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Underwater Bonaire: Clothed and Comfortable

Confession time: I have become a fan of television survival shows. The fanaticism began with Bear Grylls but now includes Naked and Afraid, Dual Survival, and a few more. I began thinking about how cool it would be to have such a show take place underwater, off Bonaire.

The most important requirement for a participant, of course, would be to be able to breathe underwater and acquire hydration underwater, without equipment. Second, the candidate would have to be ready and able to actively find food and avoid predators.

Can you believe that, so far, I haven't found anyone who is able to breathe underwater without gear? However, scientists are working on a formula to enable contestants to change their breathing and hydration systems, so it shouldn't be long before the physical requirements can be filled.

Since we want to be ready when that happens, we've established a quiz about our local marine animals. If you'd like to participate in the show, here's a peek at the questions.

1. Which of the following are common on Bonaire?

- a. blue whale
- b. blue crab
- c. blue chromis
- d. blue shark
- e. all or none of them

2. Which of the following creatures actively defends a territory from divers and other marine animals?

- a. yellowtail hamlets
- b. yellowtail damselfish
- c. yellowtail snappers
- d. yellowtail jacks
- e. all or none of them

3. Which of the following is safe for a human to eat?

- a. touch-me-not sponge
- b. purple tube sponge
- c. bandtail pufferfish
- d. octopus
- e. all or none of them

4. Which of the following is poisonous for people to eat?

- a. sponge
- b. sharpnose pufferfish
- c. lionfish
- d. queen conch
- e. all or none of them

5. Which of the following is poisonous for people to eat?

- a. parrotfish
- b. black widow crab
- c. longlure frogfish
- d. squid
- e. all or none of them

6. Which of the following carry sponges or attach them for camouflage?

- a. island frogfish
- b. sponge lobster
- c. sponge nudibranch
- d. sponge crab
- e. all or none of them

7. Which of the following creatures would prefer to avoid confrontation (swim away or hide) than use another defense?

- a. chain moray
- b. reef octopus
- c. smallmouth grunt
- d. porcupinefish
- e. all or none of them



Spotted moray: This view of a spotted moray shows the teeth that are so effective in holding prey or defending the moray.

8. Which of the following is venomous (injects a toxin)?

- a. sharptailed eel
- b. sharpnose pufferfish
- c. lionfish
- d. queen conch
- e. all or none of them

9. Which of the following is venomous?

- a. star coral
- b. southern sting ray
- c. scorpionfish
- d. giant anemone
- e. all or none of them

10. Which of the following creatures defends itself with claws?

- a. stone crab
- b. spiny lobster
- c. hermit crab
- d. mantis shrimp
- e. all or none of them

11. Which of the following creatures might defend itself with a beak?

- a. laughing gull

- b. pygmy octopus
- c. reef squid
- d. rainbow parrotfish
- e. all or none of them

12. Which of the following creatures defends itself by biting?

- a. tarpon
- b. spotted eagle ray
- c. nurse shark
- d. goldentail moray
- e. all or none of them

13. No matter how tempting it is, don't grab which of these creatures?!

- a. fire worm
- b. fire coral
- c. longspined urchin
- d. fire blenny
- e. all or none of them

In honor of Earth Day, and with thanks to all the television survival shows, we hope you earn the 100% to qualify for Underwater Bonaire: Clothed and Comfortable.

Answers are located on page 8.



Music week held for kids

Art Culture Education Foundation (ACE) celebrated their one-year anniversary with the kick off of children's music week at Parke Libertad on April 3.

The afternoon began with music from the Kunuku Boys followed by ACE foundation president Segni Bernardini speaking. The president urged the parents to encourage their children to listen to children's songs and not adult music which often leads them to grow up too fast.

Several different age groups sang and danced and presented the musical work AMIS-TAD (friendship).

Music workshops were held throughout the week at Kristu Bon Wardador with a closing ceremony of awards and music at SKAL on April 8.

During children's music week, The Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (FwNB) donated \$2,500 to ACE Kids Club. ACE Kids Club offers children the opportunity of successful participation in the arts through dance, drama, singing, visual arts and multimedia.

STCB tags sea turtles

This month, STCB, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, is conducting 'capture-mark-recapture' research on Bonaire's west coast. Three mornings a week, staff and volunteers visit sea turtle 'hotspots' along the west coast to collect important data on Bonaire's resident sea turtle population. So far this month, STCB has captured 13 sea turtles, including 12 green and one hawksbill turtle. When turtles are captured, they are measured, weighed and tagged, and photos are taken of the turtle's head and carapace for photo ID purposes. This research, which is also conducted in Lac Bay, provides valuable data over time to help determine growth rates of sea turtles and estimate abundance, movement patterns and the health status of Bonaire's resident turtles.

When you see a turtle with a tag on its front flipper, it's a sign that important information is being gathered. Research is a foundation of effective conservation, and each year STCB staff carefully capture, tag, weigh and measure approximately 250 turtles. Since 2003, STCB has tagged well over 3,500 green and hawksbill turtles.

STCB will hold their next FLP (Fishing Line Cleanup) dive April 24 at the North Pier. We will provide more information on joining the cleanup on the Reporter Facebook page soon. *Kaj Schut*



This little turtle 30.2 cm (11.9 inches) or dinner plate size was a part of the capture-mark-recapture data collection research.

Two new parks planned for Curaçao

The Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI) recently highlighted achievements for Curaçao during the last Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) Board Meeting. A new marine park was declared at East Point and two other new nature parks are planned.

The new Curaçao Rif Mangrove Park will open soon. A boardwalk and watch tower will be built, giving unprecedented access to these mangroves. Future plans include a visitor's center. Another upcoming park is National Park Rif St. Marie- Hermanus, located in a Ramsar area.

In November 2020, the Curaçao Marine Park was officially opened. On March 7th, 2022, they had their first patrol with their new boat, Yaru. The Proteus Underwater Research Station will be located in the park which will allow scientists to live and conduct research directly from the ocean floor. *DCNA*



Photo: CARMABI - Curaçao Marine Park Team. Left to right standing: Joël Dominguez (ranger), Paul Stokkermans (CARMABI Directeur), Kevin Philbert (ranger). Left to right squatted: Roland de Cuba (ranger), Duvan Rios Ospina (Head Department Mariene Parken)



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

A roof top iguana and LVV activities

The iguana saga continues

I really get frustrated by an iguana living on and in my roof. Not only is the roof noise very disturbing, but he poops in the gutter and he eats all my plants. My good-looking young string bean plants, bittergourd, beans, pepper plants; he eats them all. I could just cry. What a terrible animal to have in a garden. Last Sunday a friend came up to my place to capture him with a homemade iguana catcher he said works. But you need to find the iguana and he was nowhere to be seen. So we waited in the yard armed with the 'weapon' and our eyes focused on the roof and stairs. But the iguana didn't show and after an hour my friend left. And then, you know what? The iguana appeared. How is it possible that he knew we were there to catch him? We will try it again. One thing we were able to do was trim the trees that were close to the roof so now he can't climb from the trees to the roof.

LVV garden plots and open house

Last week I was at a meeting of gardeners at LVV.

A lot of the gardeners have a plot there and more lots are available. There is also very nice topsoil mixed with compost, ready to use for gardening. Water is available at LVV too. Anybody can have a garden plot there by paying a small amount. The whole gardening plot area is surrounded by a wire fence and from underneath it's surrounded by a very smooth white plastic so the iguanas can't enter into the plots. And it works. There are already vegetables growing on the plots: okra, tomato, cucumber, corn, pumpkin and small trees like papaya and different melon plants. What a great idea to offer gardening plots to the community and people like it. There is a waiting list.

Last weekend LVV held Open Day with a nice ur-



LVV brings gardeners together

ban market where kunukeros sold fresh fruit, vegetables and plants. Of course, there was also homemade food and drinks; more even than on the last LVV day. The LVV garden where visitors could walk around was full of good stuff. I was jealous. Beautiful good looking leaf vegetables: tajeblad (butter leaf) and dagoblad (water

spinach or water bindweed), kalalu (callaloo). Also peppers, celery, okra, eggplant and way more. I don't know the official Latin names of these plants, only the local names. Onnie, operator of the market at Selibon, had a lot of nice tasting tomatoes, tomato plants and celery plants from his kunuku for sale. I was amazed. Many times I have tried growing tomatoes and in the beginning they were nice and fat, but after a while the young plants became dry and all the leaves turned brown.

Whatever I tried; in the shade or in the sun, less water, or buckets of water, in an open space or out of the wind, manure and black dirt, I even talked to them, nothing worked. So I wondered what Onnie's secret is. But there is nothing he does that I haven't tried. So I have to accept that tomatoes just don't get along with me. So I ate the tomatoes from Onnie's garden and they were delicious. I was also amazed by the kunukero with bags full of papayas both ripe and green. The green ones are meant to make a typical local dish, green papaya soba that is stewed with salted meat or fish. I had a ripe papaya, which I finished the same day because it was melting on my tongue. What a delicious taste it was, totally different from imported, which have been picked green before the flavor has developed.

And of course, it was nice to meet so many other friends and gardeners to share information and ideas and have fun stories about gardening. LVV open days are a very nice way to bring urban agriculture back into our community. A market brings people together and brings life back to our cultural food and local vegetables.

Do the work to prepare for the next planting season. Just do it now.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



Quiz answers

Underwater Bonaire: Clothed and Comfortable

1. C, blue chromis. There's always a possibility a blue shark might find us, maybe.

2. B, those dam...selfish.

3. E, none of them would be safe for a person to eat. The spicules, which give sponge colonies their shape and texture, also wreck our insides. With all the other fish available, leaving the puffers alone is wise. That leaves octopus, which is physically safe to eat; however, on Bonaire the octopus-eater would have to deal with the octopus-lovers, not necessarily safe.

4. B, see the last two Bonaire Reporter issues.

5. E, none of them. A real survival situation would be the only reason I might go for something called a black widow crab; in fact, though, no crab has that name.

6. D, the sponge crab. Imagine a sponge-carrying frogfish!

7. E, all of them would prefer to avoid confrontation.

8. C, lionfish. Shame on you if you don't know they're venomous!

9. E, all of them. When your love for the star coral overwhelms you, remember it's protected by stingers as well as by law.

10. A, C, and D. The spiny lobster's claws aren't built for defense.

11. A, B, and C. The rainbow parrotfish wouldn't bite for defense, but don't stick your finger into a parrotfish's mouth anyway.

12. C, the nurse shark would bite for defense. If you don't believe that, ask me about the divers I watched in Florida. D, the moray would bite for defense if it was surprised or cornered, but would prefer



Two sharp-tailed eels: Sharp-tailed eels rarely interact with other animals, including other sharp-tailed eels.

to retreat.

13. A and C. The urchin's spines and fireworm's bristles are obviously nasty. The fire blenny is imaginary.

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books,

Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses." The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge through touchthesea.com.

Grandi continued from page 3

Some favorite reds are Barolo, Babascesco and Brunello. Whites include Nilla Sandi, Prosecco, DOCG and just about everything you can name as long as it is Italian.

A private dining room for meetings complete with audio-video equipment is available for up to 10 people.

Courses for dinner are \$12 each with an additional \$5 for wine pairing. Grandi features lunch specials posted at the entry. Grandi is located at 7 Kaya Grandi and is open Monday-Friday from 12-10 p.m. Lunch is served till 5 p.m. Dinner reservations are required. Call +599-786-7777. Visit Restaurant Grandi on Facebook.

Photos and story Julie Morgan



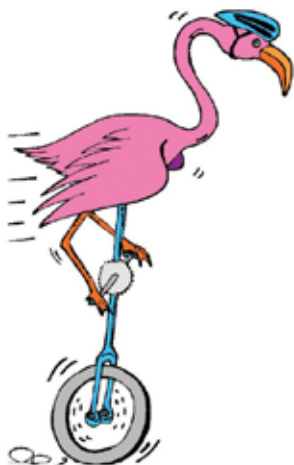
Owner and manager of Grandi,
Manouk Calkhoven, in wine room

Route Timbo Funrace



It's time for Bonaire cyclists to gear up for another TimBo Funrace. The back country race will be held Sunday, April 24, 8 a.m. in Yatu Bacu. Two categories are available: Fun 4.7 km. 5x and Elite 11km, 3x. Helmets are required for all riders. Cost is \$10 and includes sports drinks and water. The race is sponsored by TimBo Repair. For more information contact De Freewieler at Kaya Grandi #61 or visit the Bonaire Xtreme Facebook page.

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First gymnastics competition held

Dance & More Bonaire organized the first ever gymnastics competition on Bonaire on April 2 and it was a huge success. The competition was professionally handled with four judges, an audience including the media and, of course, an award ceremony.

A total of 19 children took part in the competition. Award medals were handed out to the first, second and third place winners and runners-up of each segment during the awards ceremony.

It was exhilarating, although in the beginning, the children were very nervous. As the competition progressed everyone

performed with excellence and confidence until the award ceremony when some of the nerves returned.

The winners of the various segments were Zoë van de Ven, Mayra Noiij, Isa Huisman and Jonatan Wout.

Dance & More looks forward to organizing more competitions in the future.

Anyone who would like to join us for gymnastics or dancing, please contact us at danceandmorebonaire@gmail.com, call +599-782-6725 or visit us at our studio at Kaya Neerlandia 21C.



TCB looks back at a successful Bario Festival



Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and Wedoe (an outdoor activity organizer) held its first Bario Festival Saturday, April 2nd, 2022 at the Plaza Chiku Goe-loe.

The Antriol Bario Festival was judged a success. The event was well visited by both locals and visitors. Stands sold local dishes, drinks and pastries. The evening was filled with music and young talent. The group Formashon Musikal Krioyo added a musical touch to the evening with special guest star Luis Moka.

TCB thanks all the partners who cooperated with the first Bario Festival, in particular the Wedoe organization, MCB, Selibon and TUI.

Mark your calendars for the next Bario Festival May 7th, in Rincon.

Rijksmuseum invites students to enter photo contest

The Rijksmuseum invites secondary and vocational students from all over the Kingdom to enter their Document Nederland Junior photo competition. Students can submit up to five photos for a chance to win two masterclasses and a place in the museum.

Students must submit their photo series accompanied by a short description before Monday, June 6, 2022.

The theme is: A second life: how do you recycle? The contest organizers explain,

“Separating waste, repairing or reusing things. Consciously or unconsciously, our things get a second life. We all deal with sustainability in a different way.... How does your environment deal with items that could use a second life? ... We ask you to be critical about this. For example, how does your municipality deal with recycling? Is that the best way? How do you think we can best deal with our discarded items and waste?”

The makers of the ten best series (5 vo / 5 mbo) will be selected by a jury of experts and by the public via scholieren.com

The 10 nominees will be invited to two masterclasses under the guidance of photographer Sharelly Emanuelson and experts from the Rijksmuseum. The result will be an exhibition in the Rijksmuseum. The two final winners will spend a day with photographer Sharelly Emanuelson. In addition, the winner from secondary education will receive a photo assignment from scholieren.com and the winner of MBO will receive an internship assignment from the Rijksmuseum.

For more information go to

www.rijksmuseum.nl



The Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (FWNB) has donated \$5,000 to S.V. Athene as part of its 30th anniversary celebration this year. In 1992 the Government established Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (Bonaire Lottery). Its mission: to provide revenues from lottery games to support Bonaire's community through sport, education, culture and charities.

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Fuel prices are increasing, of course

On April 8, 2022 the price of gasoline increased by 6 cents per liter. The increase would have been 22 cents had the government not reduced the excise tax on gasoline by 16 cents. Worse is yet to come. International fuel prices are expected to continue climb steadily. The Executive Council has returned to updating the price of fuel on Bonaire every month in order to keep abreast of the active market.

For the present, gasoline will cost \$1.49 per liter. Diesel, which is not affected by the excise duty reduction, will go up by \$.28, to \$1.28. The price of gas, or propane, will increase too. Large gas cylinders will cost \$68.28, up \$7.57. Small cylinders will cost \$14.30 cents, up \$1.58. *DMR*

Component Explanation	Rate March 11 (USD/litre) Gasoline	Rate April 8 (USD/litre) Gasoline
Purchase price for Curoil	0,6324	0,8482
Margin Curoil for storage/transshipment costs Curaçao to Bonaire	0,0391	0,0391
Curoil costs for transport Curaçao-Bonaire	0,0647	0,0647
Fuel supply guarantee: Provision for operational costs of the Curaçao refinery	0,0285	0,0285
Fuel supply guarantee2: Provision for operational costs of the Curaçao refinery	0,0500	0,0500
Purchase price BON: Sum of the above	0,8147	1,0305
Margin Curoil for fuel distribution on Bonaire	0,0950	0,0950
Excise	0,3186	0,1586
ABB	0,0983	0,1027
Margin OTB: Payment to public company OTB, Oil Trading Bonaire	0,0335	0,0335
Correction factor to settle differences between estimate and actual purchase price	0,0000	0,0000
Wholesale price: Sum of above components	1,3600	1,4204
Dealer margin for petrol stations for sale of fuels	0,0691	0,0691
Retail price: Sum of the above components	1,43	1,49

OLB to tackle stray dog problems

The OLB has formed a working group charged with turning the Animal Welfare Action Plan 2021-2025 into an implementation agenda. Biting incidents are increasing, and stray dogs continue to be a long-term nuisance. An existing ordinance already creates a legal obligation for owners to keep their dogs on their own property. But enforcement alone is not sufficient. A broad, integrated approach that includes awareness building is needed to get stray dogs off the street. People need to learn how to care for their dogs and take responsibility for dog behaviors.

The Animal Welfare Action Plan 2021-2025 was drawn up after consultation with the animal aid organizations, the veterinarians, and the dog trainer. It focuses on owner responsibility and fencing, animal care and education, and sterilization and registration. Now those policies will be converted into an implementation agenda by a working group consisting of employees of Supervision

and Enforcement, Bureau Deputy Thielman, Lieutenant Governor, Corps Police Caribbean Netherlands, the Public Prosecution Service, and Communication.

An awareness-raising campaign will feature a mascot named Wufi and the slogan “Bo Kachò, bo responsabilidat.” Wufi was inspired by an abused dog who now lives a good dog life with a new family. *DMR*

Cooperation planned for fighting fiscal fraud

A delegation of the Fiscal Information and Investigation Service (FIOD) visited Bonaire on March 24. The delegation consisted of: general director FIOD Niels Obbink, director intelligence and international cooperation Edo Edens and team leader international Helma Citroen.

In meetings with Island Governor Edison Rijna, the director of the Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland Anneke van den Breemer and the deputy chief of KPCN Ronald Zwartter, and several KPCN colleagues, the visitors explored

options for strengthening KPCN and the Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland in tackling money laundering and tax fraud and in allowing them to collaborate more closely and intensively.

All participating parties agreed that more intensive cooperation on these topics is of great importance. Governor Edison Rijna said, “Good supervision is important for stopping malafide practices and maintaining a healthy business climate.”

Ronald Zwartter stated, “Extra financial knowledge is indispensable for tackling financial economic crime and in doing so all partners are welcome.”

On behalf of the FIOD, Niels Obbink stated, “By joining forces and becoming active in the Caribbean Netherlands with FIOD employees, we strengthen the connection within the Kingdom. As a result we act more effectively, together with all our partners, against tax and financial fraud and tackle the undermining.” *DMR*

The Dutch islands transition to a new covid strategy

The Special Care unit at Bonaire's Fundashon Mariadal Hospital will be upgraded to an Intensive Care unit as the BES Islands, like the other Dutch Islands, institute a new anti-covid strategy. As the islands open up, as restrictions disappear, and as covid infections become accepted as an inevitable new reality, the islands are switching from prevention to firefighting. Public health agencies will no longer attempt to contain the virus, but to mitigate outbreaks. Treatment facilities are being strengthened at certain locations, and procedures are being instituted to move medical personnel to locations where they are needed. *DMR*

Help the single parents and kids, ombudsmen say

The national government and the public entities of the BES islands must immediately begin to work together on a structural and long-term plan for reducing poverty in the Caribbean Netherlands, especially for single parents and their children, reports National ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen. Children's ombudsman Margrite Kalverboer agrees.

The ombudsmen say the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations must assure that single parents and their children in the islands receive prompt, well-planned government help to improve their situation. They must be able to build a stable future for themselves and for their children. The ombudsmen also feel single parents in the European Netherlands get more help than those in the islands, and their social minimum better reflects the real cost of living.

The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has a direct role to play, according to the ombudsmen. A simple approach will not succeed. Too many ministries and government organizations are involved. Nevertheless, poverty must be reduced in the Caribbean Netherlands.

“It is so important that single parents in the Caribbean Netherlands are not only helped with more money,” van Zutphen said. “They and their children are entitled to a rapid improvement of the facilities. This is only possible with better cooperation between the various authorities and organizations both in the European and Caribbean Netherlands.”

Poverty has major consequences for the upbringing of children, especially if their parents are single. In conversations with parents and children and from previous research, it appears that single parents have insufficient space to give their children care, love and attention. The parents are under pressure and are stressed by their financial problems. They are also generally away from home to work as well, so the children have little structure, fewer rules, insufficient attention.

DMR (government news release)

CRUISE SHIP RATING

The World, Residences of the Sea, the largest residential cruise ship made port in Bonaire April 9. It was not listed on our normal schedule. The luxury ship has 165 privately owned cabins costing up to a qualified \$8 million. The ship carries approximately 150-200 passengers with a crew of 250. The World was the first of its size to burn marine diesel, not heavy bunker fuel which is banned in some ports. It has an advanced wastewater system in compliance with International Maritime Organization requirements regarding ship pollution. We were unable to locate any environmental upgrades after 2016. There is no environmental rating.



Goodwin writes second book in mystery series set on Bonaire

by Alan Zale

Bonaire is known as Diver’s Paradise and, in most cases, that is true. Except when something unexpectedly washes up on shore.

That is exactly the case in Paradise Cove, Davin “Dave” Goodwin’s second book in his Roscoe Conklin Mystery series, set in Bonaire.

Known as “R”, Roscoe Conklin is a retired Rockford, Illinois police officer and the main character in the book. R, taking his pension and life savings, moves to Bonaire because of its lifestyle, where he buys a mom and pop dive shop called Yellow Rock Resort.

R thought he left all his police work behind him but realizes once again, much like in the first book, Diver’s Paradise, he cannot seem to escape it.

The last thing R thought he would be doing is getting involved in another murder investigation. When the remains of his office manager nephew mysteriously wash up on Bonaire’s shores, he gets pulled in once again. He has to find answers to what happened for Erika, his office manager, who is like a big sister to him.

Goodwin, is big reader of crime and mystery novels and Paradise Cove is exactly that. The book is filled with in-



Davin “Dave” Goodwin . Photo Alan Zale

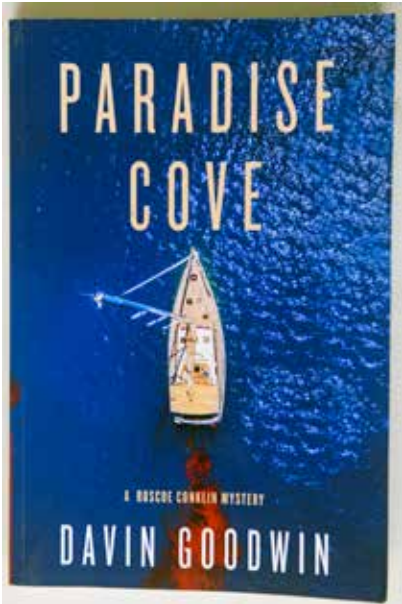
trigue, money laundering, infidelity, and, of course, a few murders.

“The island (Bonaire) is kind of a character in the book and has a lot in common with R,” says Goodwin. They are both laid back and have a “one day at a time” attitude.

Readers familiar with Bonaire will recognize many local references. Vinny’s is obviously Karel’s beach bar and the gro-

cery store is Van den Tweel. Many local street names appear throughout the book and the hospital is also mentioned.

“The book is a fun beach read because it incorporates romance, humor and diving,” according to Goodwin who adds, “Paradise Cove is a much better accomplishment than the first book. I wasn’t sure I could do a second book and I did. I’m real happy with it.”



Junior Rangers build nature-minded kids

More than 100 Bonaire kids have successfully graduated from STINAPA’s free, seven-year education Junior Ranger program since it formally began in 2010. Following completion many have gone on to pursue successful earth/ocean conscious careers. This influential program has produced dive instructors, policemen, Bonaire Marine Park rangers, a tech welding diver, an environmental lawyer. Another graduate is completing a masters degree in oceanography.

Each one of the graduated Junior Rangers gained knowledge and awareness about the importance of caring and respecting the environment. The program molded their ideas and lives forever.

The Junior Rangers began as an idea adopted by STINAPA director Elsmarie Beukenboom (2000-2012) from the World Wildlife Foundation Netherlands. It began as a trial program in 2007 but then restarted in 2009 under Desiree Croes, now STINAPA’s nature and education coordinator.

With the help of local volunteers and dive shops, the program has been deemed a success since it first recruited students from Jong Bonaire. The program welcomes all Bonaire youth from ages 13 – 21.

Junior Rangers is set up to motivate Bonaire’s youth to learn about nature and the island’s unique environmental problems through hands-on experience with local conservation groups. Along the way they develop leadership, a sense of responsibility and perhaps even a sense of adventure. The program is in English

as it is a common language for everyone.

Croes explained that most often the applicants are kids who already love nature and really want to join. But many others sign-up because they want to learn to dive for free. They don’t realize the first year will be learning about nature and the diving comes later after passing the education hurdles.

The program is organized in ranks and the kids advance to a different level as courses and tasks are completed. In a supervised atmosphere, the students learn the basics about Bonaire’s environment. They must prove their commitment to the program through various courses: Mother Earth-basic geology, biology and ecology; what is nature and the environment; history of the national parks; fish, coral, plant and bird ID courses; endangered species and snorkeling with fish identification.

The kids are greatly interested in the new science program given under STINAPA educator assistant Monique Grol. The educational science lab for the kids is growing step by step and is now outfitted with microscopes.

After successfully completing various courses, the students can move on to take their first open water diving course. And from there, they can take specialties and courses all the way to divemaster at age 18 if desired.

Croes said, “Parents play a very important role...Most want their kids to be a part of it and be successful. The students have staying power if the parents



Junior Rangers at Coastal cleanup. Photo Desiree Croes



A Junior Ranger participates in Reef Renewal. Photo Monique Grol

Junior Rangers, continued on page 17



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Changes

These days I have had the chance to do a lot thinking, because I realize that my world is changing slowly.

When Anthony was still with me, we had a life that had order, stability and regularity. And we had many friends coming over. He loved that very much. It was important to him, since he could hardly go anywhere.

The visits grew fewer and fewer as the months passed. Friends were unsure if they should come over or not. Anthony did not understand that. His world was also changing, because his situation altered. He had more epileptic episodes and wanted to stay in bed more but still loved the visits a lot. I would sit with the

friends on the porch, close by the open bedroom door so he could see and hear us. When the people left, he got so very sad and cried, as he did not want them to leave. It was heartbreaking. When the visitors began to stay away, he would ask for them, calling their name and making an asking gesture and a crying noise.

I would tell him that they had things to do, to work, or other reasons that kept them away. But Anthony could not understand that anymore.

But then sometimes very good, old friends came to visit from Holland and he was over the moon. He kept smiling and trying to say their names. He did not want them to leave.

We were happy to be able to make calls

on his tablet. He could hear and see the friends and talk back. Asking me to tell them certain things. Oh, those were happy occasions.

I am very happy that before he passed away, he saw a few family members. He could not talk anymore or make gestures, but he cried with happiness.

It was two years ago that I had to say goodbye to him and let him go. It was time. He was ready and showed me this. I am alone now and have had a very, very hard time coping. I have not come to terms with his not being here anymore. I still have all his clothes in his closet. The time to let go of them is here, but it is hard, because I do not want to throw them away and I do not want to sell them.

It is not only me missing him. Our cat Kitty still wants to sleep in his wheelchair or on a bag with his clothes.

I started to make little changes in the house. Take paintings of Anthony's be-

loved Korsou and Otrobanda from the walls. And the room changed immediately. So I have realized that these changes are also a challenge.

The only changes I am very much into are those that make Bonaire more accessible. That has always been very important for us. And I would love to help this be realized. I became a board-member of MiVaBo and am very glad I did. Together we try to make the necessary changes happen because we watch out for each other.

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

Our planet, our health

In 1948, the World Health Assembly proclaimed April 7 as World Health Day. And since April 7, 1950, a theme is chosen annually based on the needs and suggestions made by the member states. This year the motto is "Our planet, our health".

The interconnection between the planet and our health is undeniable. What do each of us do to protect our planet and our health? What are the daily actions that we take or the ones we can adopt? What are the habits that we can incorporate in our daily routines?

Bonaire is a privileged place. The island enjoys mildly warm weather all year round without oppressive extremes. A caressing breeze refreshes the spirit and allows the practice of various sports. We are surrounded by crystal clear waters that provide food, entertainment and employment.

How can we take advantage of all these blessings for the benefit of our health and the planet?

Starting with the design of the house, we can design a thermally efficient living space considering the surrounding conditions of light, heat, shade and wind. The following points of prevailing wind direction and sun trajectory must be considered. Openings should face the prevailing wind and be located crosswise to create a draft. In Bonaire this is very easy because the wind comes mostly from the east or slightly southeast. Since the air cools quickly before it enters the house, it is convenient for it to flow through a shady place, which can be a porch with a roof or an area of vegetation that generates shade. To avoid the heat of the late afternoon sun, walls facing west should either be kept out of the sun by building an overhang, placing a shade

cloth, making a double wall, or creating a thick barrier of vegetation to cool the air. The first benefit of thermal efficiency is energy savings, which on one hand means economic savings for the user, but also saving global resource for the planet. Another benefit comes from the fact that the use of air conditioning does not contribute to health, since it generates an artificially cold and dry environment. It irritates the airways, so the less you need it, the better for your respiratory system.

Another benefit of living on this wonderful island is the huge range of physical activities that can be done outdoors for free or at a very low cost. We can take walks along the boulevard, ascend to Seru Largu, swim, jog, sail, windsurf, snorkel, trek, cycle or climb. The benefit of carrying out these activities outdoors with reasonable exposure to the sun adds the consequential benefit of vitamin D production and calcium fixation in the bones.

Another privilege that we do not always consider is the consumption of local products, such as excellent quality animal proteins from goat, local fish and iguana. Some producers also offer free-

range chicken and local pork. All animals are raised in humanitarian conditions which is very different from those obtained through breeding in overcrowded operations. Local meat proteins produce less negative impact on the environment, they are fresher and of a better quality. And as they do not need to be transported, they generate a minimal carbon footprint. Not to mention the privilege of being able to access highly traceable and excellent quality goat milk products such as those offered by Aletta in her kunuku.

In summary, each personal situation and each place on the planet calls for different actions to achieve communion between personal health and environmental health. Let's celebrate April 7 as Health Day and April 22 as Earth Day and celebrate every day with the motto "Our planet, our health."

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



Bonaire's sky park

April is
Global Astronomy Month

April is a great time to see earthshine.

You already know the moon doesn't shine; it's reflecting light from the sun, but when things line up just right, reflected light from earth illuminates the moon. It's called earthshine, and it makes the moon look like a beautiful orb suspended in the sky!

Albedo is the measure that describes the amount of light reflected by celestial bodies. Morning-star Venus reflects 75% of the light that hits its toxic clouds; the moon? Only 12%!

Earth's landscape produces different albedos. Snow's albedo is 84% while forest's are only 14%. On average, earth albedo is about 30%.

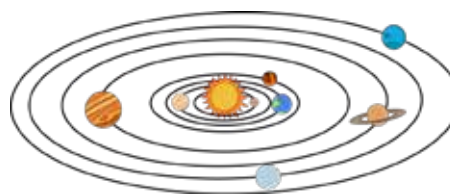
Go see the moon bathed in earthlight and keep lookin' up!

Huge Planetary Conjunction 2022, April 18 - April 24

A fun conjunction is nearly upon us. Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Venus and the Moon will all dance around each other in the morning sky. First hit the skies starting on April 24th around 6 a.m. facing southeast to find a conjunction of the moon and Saturn. Then on the 25th the Moon will encounter Mars. Spectacular. Then on the 26th the moon meets up with Venus. Then on the 27th Jupiter joins the planet party in a Jupiter Moon conjunction. And you will probably get some good earthshine on those last two nights too. Finally we will have a Venus Jupiter conjunction on the 30th. They will be so close and bright. Whew. What a planet party. As they are all preceding the sun

don't be too fashionably late to this planet part.

How to easily find the ecliptic



Our solar system is more or less like a spinning pancake. The sun is in the middle and the planets and celestial bodies are all along a flat plane or disc. We can see this in the sky as the ecliptic -an imaginary line around the planet, stretching from Pisces in the Spring Equinox to Virgo in the Autumnal Equinox. This astronomical pathway is where a lot of exciting stuff happens in

the sky and it is easy to see right now. Hit the skies around 5:30 a.m. and look for planets. Venus, Mars and Saturn are visible. About an hour later Jupiter joins the party. Draw a line through them and you've found the solar system's orbital plane.

If you know where the ecliptic is, you can predict where the sun, planets and moon will be on any given day.

Thanks to Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline.

Image Credit: nittygrittyscience.com



TCB says the numbers show Bonaire tourism is almost back

Bonaire is well on track for a 100% tourism recovery by the end of 2022, according to a TCB press conference. The numbers follow.

Bonaire welcomed 111 thousand air arrivals in 2021. That was a healthy 70% of the 2019 arrivals.

In 2022 the average visitor traveling from the Netherlands booked their trip to Bonaire 49 days in advance. In 2021 their average lead time was 69 days. Overall, Dutch visitors stayed on the island an average of 17.6 nights. Over half of the Dutch stayed an average of 14 nights.

U.S. visitors are booking, on average, 188 days in advance, compared to 130 days in 2021. They stay an overall average of 10.1 nights, while 67% stay between 4-7 nights.

In the first quarter of the year the average occupancy rate at tourist accommodations was 82%, with an average daily rate of \$231. The average occupancy rate in the first quarter of 2021 was approximately 27%, at an average daily rate of \$170. Since July 2021 the sector has worked continuously. There has not been a “slow season.”

Bonaire International Airport experienced significant growth in the number of passengers in the second half of 2021. In the first half of 2021, BIA processed more than 34,000 arriving and 34,000 departing passengers. In the second half, this number was almost 95,000 arriving passengers with a total of 93,000 departing passengers. Air Belgium will open a new route from Brussels this year.

In January, 2022, 23 cruise ships docked at Bonaire, followed by 27 in February and 21 in March. Seventeen



Günther Flanegin, Harbormaster Photo by Julie Morgan

cruise arrivals are scheduled for April, 9 for May and 8 for June.

Besides the approval of a new entry tax, the focus of the public entity of Bonaire for the coming year will be on finding a good balance between tourism and the well-being of the community. Hennyson Thielman, commissioner of Economic Affairs, said, “Over the past year, Bonaire has unexpectedly become incredibly popular with visitors and investors. As a result, the labor

market is overstretched with labor influx from abroad and our residents are struggling to find affordable housing. OLB will also take measures in securing proper education and training possibilities for our people on all levels and to stimulate residents in finding a job in the tourism industry, but also making our culture, history and nature part of the educational programs, with the goal to safeguard our identity and sustainable future.”
DMR

TCB big bang press event covers a lot of ground

A recent TCB press event and accompanying press release celebrated Bonaire’s steady post-covid recovery as a popular tourist destination. The sources also provided a wide ranging review of TCB’s energetic presence in the tourism development market as well as assorted island news related to tourism. Some highlights follow.

Jody Diamond, of Diamond Marketing, has launched numerous campaigns designed to reposition Bonaire in the tourism market. She has created 16 new branding logos that incorporate flamingos, sun, and conch shells.

In the North American market, TCB campaigns have produced 382 “clips” (items about Bonaire) in various media outlets, reaching an estimated 372.4 million consumers. In the European market, 125 clips reached 221.8 million consumers. Bonaire has been recognized in several major publications and TCB has hosted media events in Atlanta, Toronto, and New York City.

At home, TCB personnel have been busy hosting visits from press, social media influencers, and promotion partners such as PADI. TCB has also supported local promotional events.

BONHATA reported that 2022 occupancy rates and room rates are much improved since 2021. But it also said the surge in visitors has strained the island’s capacity to serve them. Hospitality workers were already in short supply before the pandemic and tourist accommodations are even more pressed now to fill staff positions. The costs of doing business have also gone from high to higher during the same period.

A spokesperson for BONHATA mentioned the issue of unfair competition from unregistered accommodations and car rental agencies who are not remitting the visitor tax. A tourism tax of \$50 and a cruise ship tax to \$10—to be collected on arrival—were supposed to go into effect in January. But the island council has not yet passed them.

Flamingo International Airport has several improvements coming, according to the TCB event. Covered

walkways will be provided for passengers. Ground power units will be used to decrease noise from idling planes. Electrical powered aircraft are going to be put into service for inter-island flights.

The government’s Tourism Plan, written in 2017, set a target of 250,000 visitors by 2027. The island seems well on its way to meeting that goal. The 2017 Tour-

ism Plan declares three other goals as well: attracting a smaller number of higher spending visitors, protecting nature, especially the reefs, and conserving Bonaire’s local culture. Those goals were not highlighted during the TCB press event, but government spokespersons continue to be mention them. DMR



Günther Flanegin, Harbormaster; Onno de Jong COO BIA; Veroesjka de Windt, CEO BONHATA; Miles Mercera, CEO TCB; deputy Hennyson Thielman. Photo by Julie Morgan


Activities, Events & Meetings

12 steps meeting: Every Wednesday evening 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Address: Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (in the yellow building)


Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction 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 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. You are welcome, whatever level you play. Contact us via phone 796 2819 or email peejeesee@gmail.com. See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.



Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program gives a presentation at Yellow Submarine every Monday 7:30 p.m.



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations are held at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m.



MEET THE ARTIST
Josie Martinez Mangle
Friday
April 22
7PM - 9PM
MoltenWolf Glass Shop
Kaya J.N.E. Craane
Terramar 8



Earth Day 2022 Theme
Invest In Our Planet
For more details
www.earthreminder.com



Let's go back in time and explore Bonaire's History and Culture

André Nahr is offering a fascinating, not to be missed 'journey' into the history and culture of Bonaire. The classes will be taught in English over four days, from April 26 through May 5.

We will explore Bonaire's History from the arrival of the first inhabitants 3600 years ago to the arrival of the Spanish in 1499, the first Europeans, to the Dutch more than 100 years later. The classes will include the arrival of African slaves in 1640, abolition of slavery in 1863, the British periods in the early 1800's up to the post WWII period and the start of Bonaire's modern times. The history will be combined with the cultural aspects, addressing language, holidays, musical instruments, food, clothing, flora & fauna and much more. For thousands of years, the Caribbean Sea has connected the different people and their cultures from the mainland countries of the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean islands. This international historical melting pot eventually formed the Bonairean culture that still lives on today....

Dates: Tuesday, April 26, Thursday, April 28, Tuesday, May 3, Thursday, May 5 - 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Cost is \$140 per person, to be paid in cash at the first class, coffee & tea included.
Course will be held at DCNA, Kaya Nikiboko Zuid # 56
To sign up for this fascinating event email geology.andrenahr@gmail.com
Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about our beautiful island!

Coming May & June

Bonaire Culinaire will take place from May 19 to June 2, 2022. During these 15 days, participating restaurants, lunchrooms and foodtrucks will offer diners a three-course dinner for \$33; a two-course lunch for \$22 and a foodtruck special for \$11.
To sign up as a venue, email: contact@Bonaire-Culinaire.com.
For more information visit: <https://bonaire-culinaire.com>

Bonaire Rum Week will be held for the first time June 14 to 17, 2022. The festival will begin with an opening party, followed by an island-wide cocktail competition featuring Bonaire's best bartenders, a rum-soaked lunch, a juicy rum Happy Hour; a multi-course culinary experience combined with rum, followed by a rum-and-cigar combination event.
For the most up-to-date information, schedule, events and partners, visit:
www.bonaierumweek.com

What's Happening

Bonaire Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. Weekly schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>

Bonaire Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Gramel 715 5344, Members can also find books online outside opening hours. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and informative books can be found on www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9-4

Washington Slagbaai: Open every day. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.)

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): Pakus is back open, regular hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays. Masks required indoors, social distancing.

Thursday - Monday April 14 - 18	Forsa King of the Caribbean. At Sorobon around The Frans Paradise. In addition to the competitions for the professionals, competitions and activities will also be organized for up-and-coming talent.
Friday, April 15	Good Friday. Public holiday. Offices and services closed. International Bible Church is organizing a prayer walk on Good Friday, April 15, at Rooi de le muchi on Nikboku North at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 17	Easter. Public holiday. Offices and services closed. Easter sunrise service at Seru Largu on Easter Sunday, April 17 at 6:15 a.m. sponsored by International Bible Church (IBC). The service will be followed by a potluck breakfast at IBC at 7:30 a.m
Monday, April 18	Easter Monday. Public holiday. Offices and services closed.
Friday, April 22	Meet the Artist: Josie Martinez Mangle. 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, April 23	Quarterly Clean-up Dive. Dive Friends. +599 780-2572 https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/clean-up-dives/
Sunday, April 24	Fishing line Clean-up at North Pier. For more information on joining the cleanup see <i>The Reporter</i> or STCB's Facebook pages. TimBo Funrace. 8 a.m. in Yatu Bacu. Fun 4.7 km. 5x and Elite 11km, 3x. See page 8.
Wednesday April 27	King's Day. Public holiday. National day. Offices and services closed.
Saturday April 30	Rincon Day. Regional holiday
Monday, May 2	Labour Day. Public holiday. Offices and services closed.

Tentative cruise ship scheduleApril 2022					
DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PASSENGERS	LINE
Wednesday	04-13	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	0700-1700	3100	Princess
Wednesday	04-20	<i>Horizon</i>	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA
Friday	04-22	<i>NCL Dawn</i>	0600-1230	2340	NCL
Friday	04-22	<i>Explorer OTS</i>	0800-1700	3114	RCCL/CEL
Tuesday	26-02	<i>Grandeur OTS</i>	1200-2100	1992	RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	27-04	<i>Magic</i>	0800-1600	3690	Carnival USA

International Flights to Bonaire	
Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM connects daily through Aruba arriving Bonaire 20:50. Departure 22:05 TUI Fly direct flights will start in March 2022. Now connecting Sat through Aruba and M. W. Th. F. Sun. through Curaçao. Times vary in afternoon and evening.
Brussels (BRU) Starting Nov. 4	Air Belgium starting in November will fly twice weekly F. Sun. Arrive Bonaire 15:05. Return departure 16:05. The triangle flight makes Bonaire the first stop from Brussels then carries on to Curaçao: BRU-BON-CUR-BRU
Atlanta (ATL)	Delta Four weekly flights: M. W. F. Sat. Arriving 14:44. Return departure 16:09 From April 10th through June Delta will fly twice weekly: Tues. Sat.
Miami (MIA)	American During March and April American will be offering daily flights to Bonaire from Miami, Florida. Arriving 14:30. Departure 15:37.
Houston (IAH) & New York (EWR)	United Sat. from Houston arrive 15:53 depart 14:40. Sat from New York Newark Liberty International arrive 15:53 depart Sun. 06:03.
Toronto (YYZ & YTZ)	Pearson International (YYZ) Seven routes with one connection via: Aruba; Miami; Punta Cana; Atlanta; Curaçao, New York; Huston. Billy Bishop (YTZ) One route with one connection via New York (EWR)

COMING UP

The quarterly clean up dive @ Dive Friends Bonaire

It has been a while, but the quarterly clean up dive is back again on April 23. It is always a pleasure to organize this event and see how many divers show up to help us out. During our last regular, pre-COVID Clean Up Dive we had more than 100 participants!

Because of covid, our last clean up dive was a little different than normal. A day before the clean up dive, Bonaire changed from risk level 1 to risk level 2. We had to change plans really quickly and let all the volunteers come in groups, check in at a set time and keep the recommended distance from each other. Unfortunately we also had to cancel the BBQ and raffle which are fun things for everyone after a clean up dive.

The Clean Up Dive was held at Cha Cha Cha Beach so we used our Dive Friends Bonaire at DIVE INN location as headquarters. At the time, it had been a while since the last cruise ship docked at Bonaire, so we were very curious to find out how much debris we were going to find. The first divers went in the water at 9:30 a.m., so our crew started setting up at 7:30 a.m. When the first divers arrived, we started the dive briefing and mentioned all our sponsors and cleaners who make the

Quarterly Clean Up Dive possible.

The first group reported a significant difference in the amount of trash on the reef. This was due to the fact that barely any cruise ships had visited in 18 months and it was difficult for the divers to find trash (yay!). They found glass bottles, fishing line and fireworks. On previous Clean Up Dives at Cha Cha Cha Beach, we found more sunglasses, sun hats, plastic cups, life jackets and even fire extinguishers.

We can safely say that only 15% of the amount of trash was found compared to previous Clean up Dives. As mentioned before, we had to cancel the BBQ and raffle. We had planned to enjoy the BBQ together and then raffle the prizes that were sponsored by a.o. Scubapro, REEF, Tropical Nature. Instead, we aired a live raffle on Facebook the next day.

This last dive was a successful day! Let's go for an even better day on Saturday, April 23. Hope to see you then.

Dana van de Wiel



Camping on the beach and in nature allowed again during Easter

Camping is allowed again during Easter after being banned for two years due to the covid pandemic. Camping is allowed from April 13 to April 20, 2022. Anyone planning to go camping must adhere to a number of specific rules.

First of all, the campers must report to Selibon. Indicate where you will be camping and with how many people. As a service to the registered campers, Selibon will come by daily to collect the rubbish. A list of registered campers is also required for safety. If something happens, the emergency services quickly know how many people are present on the beach and who belongs to which group.

The campers must adhere to the following rules:

- Camping is only allowed from April 13 to April 20, 2022.
- Register in advance with Selibon.
- Do not throw waste on the ground, throw all waste in the wheelie bin.
- Make use of the available Klikos.
- Use a fire pit or grill. Do not light charcoal in the sand.
- Dispose of charcoal residues in the wheelie bins provided for this purpose.



- It is prohibited to cut or prune plants in the area where you camp.
- Dogs are not allowed on the beach.
- Vehicles are not allowed on the beach.
- It is forbidden to fish while swimming (fishing with diving goggles).
- It is forbidden to fish for parrotfish (parrotfish – gutu) and to catch lobsters and carcasses.
- It is not allowed to build on an existing construction.
- Anyone using materials or items to set up camp is responsible for not leaving anything behind when breaking camp again (e.g. pallets).

• Take into account others who also want to use the beach, such as tourists. Give them the space to enjoy the area as well.

• It is not allowed to play music between 3 and 6 in the morning.

• No music may be played or made on Sorobon to prevent nuisance for the animals. This is a RAMSAR area.

• Camping is not allowed on Klein Bonaire.

Campers are advised to take precautions for their own safety. Bring a first-aid kit and a fire extinguisher.

Selibon has placed wheelie bins along the beaches. These have different colors to collect the waste separately. Campers must also separate their waste and dispose of it in the correct bins.

The tradition of camping was not possible for two years due to the covid pandemic. Covid is not gone. Many people still get infected. To prevent contamination, everyone is asked to take into account the Covid basic rules while camping (including keep your distance, wash hands regularly). After all, camping should be a pleasant moment for all.

Junior Rangers, continued from page 13

back them up. They really want the diving. Some come from families that could never afford to offer the things they are learning. But there are some local parents who don't want them to learn to dive and discourage their joining. We have had some students come back at 18 years old and rejoin the program and learn to dive."

The Junior Rangers is an after-school program and operates only during the normal school year. There are no summer activities. Eight organized activities are planned during a month and the students must attend at least four to remain active. There are exceptions made if needed and, of course, schoolwork is always the first priority.

Activities are directed by the education coordinator. Some of the activities include working with Reef Renewal, Mangrove Maniacs, Echo parrot count, reforestation projects, sargassum cleanup and litter cleanups.

"Friendship in this program is beautiful. Best buddies are made from kids that come from the barrios to others that live in high end areas like Sabadeco. The program is open to everyone – everyone is equal. They are all friends with a no class type attitude," said Croes.

To date there are 30 active Junior Rangers but the number has gone up to 50 in previous years. Applications to become a Junior Ranger are accepted once a year with a deadline of May 30. Parents and kids can attend a presentation and receive a manual if interested. For more information visit STINAPA Bonaire Junior Ranger on Facebook; <http://www.stinapa.org/nee/index.html> or email nme@stinapa.org.

Story and photos, Julie Morgan




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Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment, also via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Hello all.

My name is Nikita and I'm a very happy 1-year-old girl.

I love to run and play. I'm an active girl but in a good way.

I have lots of energy and a lot of love to give. I will be good in a house with kids or with other dogs.

I like cats. But I like to play and run after them so they won't be very happy with me.

I like a lot of cuddles and hugs, and a bath is also nice.

If you think I can be your girl, then come and meet me.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Nikita

Take a look at this handsome boy, Axel.

He's a sweet young boy of 11 months old. He was brought to the shelter together with his four brothers and sister when he was four weeks old. All are adopted except this one. Axel is a laid back companion, not demanding. Give him some time so he knows he can trust you and you will have the best friend for life.

Look at the great face markings, you won't find many cats looking like him!

Axel has had all his vaccinations, is tested negative for FIV/L, is castrated and will be chipped the moment you take this boy into your heart and adopt him.

Story and photo Monique Degenaar

Axel

Parrots and People!

by The Echo Team

"For Earth Day 2022, we need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. ...Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods." — earthday.org



I wanted to start with this quote because it sums up the all-encompassing and urgent nature of Earth Day 2022 (pun intended). Echo volunteers are working hard to protect the local ecosystem, the endangered species that depend on it, and more broadly — our environment and livelihoods. We are restoring the dry forests to provide a healthy environment for both parrots and people. As a rehabilitation center for the Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrots (Loras), we often rehabilitate and release birds that are healthy and ready to go back into the wild.

If you've read our article in Bonaire Reporter issue March 30, you'll remember that one of the rehabilitated parrots we released, Pinda, has found love! He chose one of Echo's resident Lora ladies, which we named Popje. She has an injured wing and cannot fly, but that doesn't stop Pinda from spending time with her and courting her. They spend time preening each other, sharing food, and chatting. In hopes that this happy couple would breed and grow the local Lora population, we put a nest box inside the aviary. We've also added wood shavings as nesting material for them to use. Now we find them spending time in the nest box!

Pinda and Popje are not shy about

showing their love, we've been able to observe them and catch photos of their kisses and cuddling in the nest box. With a bird kiss, the male offers the female some food from bill to bill. This is his way of showing her, "I am good at finding food for our future babies and I am willing to share my meal with you and our family."

The breeding season of Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrots begins around May. So Pinda and Popje still have time to get to know each other. If all goes well, eggs are laid at the end of May or beginning of June. The parents will incubate the eggs for 26 to 28 days before they hatch. A baby Lora depends on the care of both parents for about 70 to 100 days.

You can already see the first signs of the breeding season. Birds are turning up the volume of their song to defend their territory and to attract a mate. On this Earth Day, take the time to cherish the beauty of the season of love, and volunteer or donate to help us protect this precious part of Bonaire's nature!

To learn more about Echo, parrots, people and plants, please check out our website www.echobonaire.org and join our Facebook page for the latest updates.



LOOKING FOR A JOB WITH MEANING? Get paid to help save lives! Animal Shelter Bonaire is hiring for TWO positions

ANIMAL CARE GIVER (Level 2)

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat./21 hours (½ days only, mornings)

ANIMAL CARE GIVER (Level 2)

Tues., Thurs., Fri. Sun./27 hours) (3 full days, one ½ day)

Salaries based on qualifications.

Requirements:

- Love of animals
- Physically able
- Good people skills and basic computer skills
- Speak, read and write basic English (Papiamentu a big plus)
- Resident of Bonaire with valid sedula
- Willing to learn about animal care and administration
- Able to work one weekend day per week

Responsibilities include:

- Weekly health checks of animals; management of medications, vaccinations, treatments, etc.
- Maintain animal intake procedures
- Supervise volunteers
- Cleaning and care of kennels with other staff and volunteers
- Computer entries and notations for shelter management system
- Create profiles and photos of animals

If you are interested please email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com with your C.V. for an interview appointment. DO NOT RESPOND VIA FACEBOOK OR MESSENGER.

Crowds enjoy themselves at LVV Open Day

LVV Open Day on April 2 attracted both locals and guests. With approximately 2000 people in attendance, the crowd was one of the biggest to ever visit, according to LVV director Maurice Adriaens.

LVV stands for Landbouw Veeteelt and Visserij or Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishing department. LVV guests

walked through the green house, purchased plants, enjoyed local food and inspected the animal husbandry area. Workshops were held on goat tagging, making compost, hydroponic gardening and plant care. Guests were shuttled out to the fields to see the new hay baling equipment in action. There was even a bouncy house for the kids.



Vendor explains how to grow dragon fruit.



Kids had great fun feeding the goats.

On site at LVV, the island's first aquaponics greenhouse, Bonaire DailyFresh offered tours. Though not in operation yet, Bonaire DailyFresh leased the first plot offered on LVV property and is forecasting a completion date in July.

People who want to grow their own food to lower mounting food costs and to get healthier can call on LVV for support. For more information about how to get growing, contact LVV at their location on Kaminda Lagun or visit their Facebook page.



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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