



Coach Thuersten Winklaar challenges firefighters, Montero, Shauwn, Pauletta and Iven Photo: Julie Morgan

Bonaire's firefighters meet the challenge

"The role of a firefighter in today's society – be it urban, rural, natural environment, volunteer, career, industrial, defense force, aviation, motor sport, or other is one of dedication, commitment and sacrifice - no matter what country we reside and work in. In the fire service we fight together against one common enemy - fire - no matter what country we come from, what uniform we wear or what language we speak."

– Lieutenant JJ Edmondson,
 Founder of International Firefighters' Day,
 May 4, 1999

May 4, International Firefighters Day (IFD) has been observed worldwide since 1999 as a day to recognize and honor firefighters who have served and sometimes died in the line of duty. This is as true for BKCNC, Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department, as it is for every forces in every country including Australia where the day originated.

While most of Bonaire was commemorating Remembrance Day on May 4, the BKCNC (Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius fire departments) were additionally observing IFD with a short parade of firetrucks through their island's barios. St. Eustatius committed to an entire week to honor firefighters and Bonaire engaged in a firefighter challenge on May 6.

Over the three islands, the BKCNC consists of 95 firefighters. Bonaire has 46, three women and 43 men. Each individual goes through months of diverse instruction and vigorous training. In fact, training is ongoing throughout a firefighter career.

Prior to 10-10-10, firefighters traveled off island for training. Gravey Anthonij, firefighter for over 24 years and Bonaire's Chief of Operations, trained for seven

months in Aruba, Curaçao and Holland at the beginning of his career.



BKCNC Bonaire Chief of Operations Gravey Anthonij prepares for the firefighter challenge, a part of International Firefighter Day.

Anthonij said, "Today our own people are trained to be instructors and almost all training and education is done by us, with some assistance from a Dutch training institute. Our department is not only dealing with fires, but all types of accidents including automobile and dangerous goods hazard control. Our island is very special because we have to deal with rescue and firefighting of aviation accidents too"

According to Anthonij, today's firefighters learn more how a fire develops and how to deal with it.

"In the past you would just go and fight the fire. Now we can tell the stages of the fire by the color and thickness of the smoke and we avoid more accidents with our firefighters," said Anthonij.

May 6's firefighter challenge was a hard-hitting endurance obstacle course with coach Thuersten Winklaar of Challenge Gym in Antriol. The timed course involved 12 high intensity exercises. Firefighters dragged a 40 kilo dummy from station to station ending with gearing up in full firefighter clothing complete with boots and gloves. The firefighters ran the course alone and then in teams of four. Part of the course involved dealing with equipment for handling hazardous materials and setting up the water hoses from the firetrucks. Although in every exercise fellow firefighters were trying to beat the clock, they worked as a team and encouraged each other.

Bonaire's BKCNC is equipped with three firetrucks, two in Kralendijk and one in Rincon. They additionally provide support to the airport with a rescue vehicle and three fully equipped crash tenders.

Story and photos Julie Morgan

CAS islands hate COHO again

The biannual Interparliamentary Kingdom Consultation (IPKO), delayed since January because of covid, convened on Sint Maarten during May 4–6. According to the opinions expressed in *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties* the discussion “went along the traditional line: Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten are in need of money, the Netherlands wants to help, but sets conditions that Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten see as an infringement of their autonomy.” The basic disagreement continues to boil down to which countries are autonomous: those run by politicians who agree to govern responsibly; or those run by politicians who spend government funds in their own best interests?



**Sint Maarten's
President of Parliament
Grisha Heyliger-Marten**

In her opening address, Sint Maarten's President of the Parliament Grisha Heyliger-Marten, who chaired IPKO, posed a question: “Could it be that this history of ours is trying to teach us a lesson? ... Suriname leaving the Kingdom in 1975, Aruba leaving the Netherlands Antilles in 1986, and its remnants being dismantled in 2010, what does that really tell us?” She suggested that it may be time for the Caribbean countries to consider leaving the Kingdom (after having already done so, apparently). The islands she mentioned have another trait in common. Their economies are still heavily dependent on funding from the Netherlands.

The collective complaints of the islands focus on COHO (Caribbean Agency for Reform and Development). The agency was formed to monitor reforms in spending and financial accountability that the island governments agreed to implement. Those agreements were reached piecemeal with different island governments during times of financial duress—specific reforms to be undertaken in exchange for immediate equity

support loans.

On Curaçao, which has received hundreds of millions in corona loans, broad criticism of COHO has been increasing by the week. Politicians and public alike see COHO as “a Dutch invention that does little good for the Curaçao citizens.”

The opinion in *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties* is that the present dispute is mostly posturing. The *Dossier* predicts a serious COHO crisis will not come until late next year. That's when, in accordance with the COHO agreement, The Hague is scheduled to review the fluidity support funds it has paid to the islands.

The islands accepted the money as loans. But The Hague has the option of forgiving loans if it determines the targeted reforms were achieved. Next year the Netherlands government will decide which grants, to which islands, will qualify for forgiveness. Then the islands will likely want to talk about the reforms they undertook, not the autonomy they were forced to surrender.

The mood at IPKO this year was not that intense, according to the *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties*, despite the predictable rhetorical fireworks. The Caribbean delegations are confident that the revival of tourism will eliminate the need for further liquidity support. Therefore acrimony over whether loans will be forgiven can be postponed until the end of next year.

The Dutch point of view was relatively relaxed, according to the *Dossier*. “What COHO is supposed to do is already being done.” The islands are making progress toward financial reform. And, because State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen's interpersonal style is less confrontative than that of her predecessor, she's better at smoothing ruffled feathers. The *File* predicts members of parliament who attended IPKO will pass on the objections of their Caribbean colleagues to her. She will write a response, which she is then required to pass on to the Reich Council of Ministers for approval. The feelings expressed at the IPKO that just ended will fade away. *DMR* (*Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties*)

Uh . . . regarding the new tourist tax

We know three things about the new tourist tax ordinance the Island Council passed last month.

First, there is broad support on the island for taxing visitors to Bonaire \$75 per year, but strong opposition to charging them \$75 per visit, the two key stipulations of the new ordinance.

Second, the vote on the proposed new tax went badly awry when the Executive Council was unexpectedly ambushed by vehement opposition from members of the Island Council, including members from the Executive Council's coalition partners. The Executive Council proposed visitors should be taxed \$50 per person, charged once per year. A majority of the Island Council voted for \$75 charged every visit. There seems to be uncertainty about how, in terms of legislative procedures, that happened.

Third, we know the Island Council did not attempt a do-over vote on the much criticized tax at last Thursday's meeting, as many expected.

So where does the matter stand now? Depends on who you listen to.

Some believe a new vote must be taken because the council members were not sure which version of the text they were voting on.

Others say a new vote isn't needed. They believe the regulation never became law because the Island Council never took the required second vote.

One authority says a do-over would be illegal. He considers the vote legitimate and binding, and he says the new tax ordinance is the law of the land until a new ordinance is passed that corrects its defects.

He also says that a re-vote would have been possible if Council had voted to annul its first vote, but that cannot be done now.

Although no one seems to know for certain whether the tax ordinance is legal, or will be made legal, or will be amended, or will be rescinded, TCB is already announcing via media channels that, beginning July 1, 2023, visitors will be taxed \$75 every time they step off a plane on Bonaire. *DMR*



In preparation for Easter weekend, over 60 cars lined up at Curoil depot hoping to exchange their empty 20lb gas tanks. We are told that the problem has existed since February. Curoil is out of small tanks and doesn't expect to receive a shipment until September. Like 1000's of other products, the tanks, produced in China, are waiting in container ships in various ports.

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

Week of May 5 - 9, 2022

38 active cases (+1)	0 hospitalized 30 deceased
In the week of May 5, the incidence of active cases decreased - 38 versus 54 in the week of Apr. 18. One more person died of covid.	

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

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 11

Green Bikes offers sustainable transport

Going green on Bonaire just took a major step forward with the opening of Green Bikes, an electric scooter store.

No one can deny the need for transportation on the island has gotten a bit out of hand with more and more gas fueled vehicles creating a negative impact on the environment. And although the island is moving forward with more solar and wind turbines, transportation needs to become greener too.

The need was recognized when Reinier Bijens, former sustainability educator in the Netherlands, and his wife Mirjam Heijder moved to Bonaire for the second time in July 2022.

Reinier said, "The time is now and Bonaire is behind at the moment in becoming more sustainable. As a Blue Destination, we need to grow in our use of electric cars and scooters".

Reinier and Mirjam discussed the concept with new friends and residents Rob and Diana Schokker who had made the move to Bonaire last summer too. The couples decided the venture was needed on the island, and Green Bikes, Bonaire's first electric scooter rental store was born.

Green Bikes opened its doors two weeks ago and are still getting situated. Unlike the other scooters for rent, the electric bikes are quiet and don't send foul emissions into the environment.

Green Bikes has 50 scooters for rent in three different sizes: regular, medium and a larger one that looks a bit like a small Harley. Size of the bike relates to the speed and distance with a range of 45kph to 55kph. On

a full charge, the different size bikes will go approximately 45k, 60k or 100k.

The electric bikes are available for rental to anyone 18 – 80. Green Bikes hopes to appeal to locals, tourists, cruise ship guests and groups. Locals can even opt for a one to two month rental with some conditions. Charging the bikes is as easy as simply removing the battery and plug it into an outlet.

Rental cost is \$29.50 a day or \$35 for a 24 hours rental. Most gas scooters rent for \$27 per day plus the cost of fuel.

Helmets are required and available to rent for \$2 per day. Renters must supply a valid driver's license, insurance and additional theft insurance along with a deposit.

On June 1, Green Bikes is offering bike renters a north and south map tour with discount coupons from shops and restaurants along the route.

Reinier explained that this is just the first step of our concept. He said, "We hope in the future to go full circle with solar panels on our roof to charge the bikes."

Green Bikes will also be giving back to the island by donating a percentage of the rental sales to various nature and animal organizations.

Green Bikes is open six days a week Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 – 5 p.m. Reservations can be made through Facebook, Green Bike website and WhatsApp +599-795-0211. Green Bikes is located at Julio A. Abraham Boulevard 13. Look for the ad on our business page for a quick connect online. *Story and photo Julie Morgan*



Owners Reinier Bijens and Rob Schokker on electric Green Bikes.

FOR SALE New Development ONLY 5 Homes left at Yellow Mountain!



Located in Antriol (Kaya Adela/Kaya Rafaela). Lot sizes vary from 400 m2 till 612 m2 of owned land. Lay-out: 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, vaulted ceilings on the top floor, tiles throughout the home, covered carport, kitchen including electric stove, double sink and hood, fenced garden with sliding gate.

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

POLICE REPORT

The new anonymous tip line is 9310

Property crime

May 9. Items were stolen from a car parked opposite a nightlife in Rincon. Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. thieves took, among other things, a Totto black leather men's bag, a black/white LG tablet, some cards and cash.

May 7/8. In the night a white dinghy attached to a sailboat was stolen. The sailboat was docked at the Kaya J.N.E. Crane. The dinghy has a black/red Mercury motor and was attached to the sailboat with a heavy bicycle lock and padlock.

Arrests

May 8. In the evening hours a man, 37, was arrested for threats, vandalism and assault. The suspect had threatened and assaulted two men, and destroyed things at a house on Kaya Veronica.

May 8. A man, 39, was arrested for failing to comply with police demands. He was approached earlier in the evening in the Center area for noise pollution from his car. Later in the night he again caused noise nuisance in the Center area. Because he disregarded the earlier warning, his car was impounded. He was asked several times to hand over the keys but did not comply and became aggressive.

May 7. In the evening hours a commercial institution on Kaya Nikiboko Nort was searched under the BES Weapons Act. Complaints about threats with a weapon had been received. During the search, a firearm and a quantity of drugs were found and seized. Both residents of the house have been arrested, a woman, 25, and a man, 30.

Reports of firearms are taken very seriously by the police. The KPCN asks the public to report illegal weapons via 911, 715 8000 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

May 4. A woman, 33, was arrested for vandalism at a house on Kaya Filomena. The suspect was making noise at the house and destroyed several things, including a vehicle parked near the house.

Traffic accidents/violations

May 6. Around 9:55 p.m., two cars collided near Sabana Piedra Krus on the road to Rincon. The driver of one of the cars was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

May 6. At about 5:15 p.m. two scooters collided on Kaya Industria. The drivers of both scooters were taken to hospital by ambulance.

May 3. Two cars collided head on at 11:50 p.m. on Kaya Grandi. The drivers of both cars were taken to hospital by ambulance.

May 3. Close to midnight a car overturned on Kaya Internashonal coming to a stop against a wall. Firefighters freed the driver trapped in the car and the driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Traffic control

Traffic checks continue regularly. Fines have been issued for driving without valid insurance documents, a driver's license and a seat belt. Drivers were also fined for holding a phone while driving. The fines for the above violations range from \$30 to \$225.

If you drive under the influence of alcohol, you can receive a fine, a (temporary) disqualification from driving, a prison sentence or a combination of these penalties depending on the seriousness of the situation. Drunk pedestrians can receive a police report for public intoxication.

Public safety

May 6. The police station received a report that a lifeless man was found in a house in Playa Pariba. The forensic department and the medical examiner determined that the man, 28, initials G.R., did not die of natural causes. There were no indications of a crime.

May 5. The police station received a report that a lifeless man was found in a house on Kaya Comanche. The forensic department and the medical examiner determined that the man, 43, initials N.A.T., died of natural causes.

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

Are there any rules about renting my Bonaire property when I'm not using it? I want to buy but need to rent it to help pay the cost. Hank

Great question, Hank. Whether or not a property can be rented depends on the zoning and the homeowners association, if there is one. For example, you might find in zoning regulations that an entire house is permitted to be rented, but there cannot be multiple units in the house rentable separately. Other houses may be zoned differently, with a separate living area that can be rented. One condo association may have no problem with one week vacation rentals, but another one may require a minimum of 30 day rentals



L-R: Jean and Kate

or longer. Make sure to tell your real estate agent your rental plans in detail, so you can spend time seeing only those properties that fit your needs.

*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.

WEB says thank you to CEO Koolman



WEB (Water en Energiebedrijf Bonaire NV) said goodbye and thank you to CEO Alfredo Koolman in an appreciation ceremony at Marriott Bonaire on May 3. Koolman has served as director for the last nine years and is moving on to his home island of Aruba to work at WEB Aruba in the same capacity.

In his time on Bonaire Koolman pushed forward the new water plant and waste facility upgrades. He worked toward making Bonaire more sustainable through solar and wind energy. Jobs at

WEB almost doubled from 80 to nearly 160 in 2022 and he changed the logo from yellow and black to yellow and blue to better represent the island.

The thank you ceremony speeches were given by Bonaire deputy Hennyson Thielman, WEB RVC Gerald de Haan and WEB COO Gerrit Scharrenberg. Koolman was gifted a large wall plaque illustrating the many facets that make up WEB Bonaire.

. Story and photo Julie Morgan

Diver dies after surfacing

On Monday, May 9 in the afternoon at approximately 2:45 p.m., the police were notified of a diver who encountered problems at a dive site in the vicinity of the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. For unknown reasons the diver came to the shore saying he was in pain. At arrival of the ambulance the personnel tried to revive him but without result. A little later the doctor declared the death of the diver. The man was 62 years-old. KPCN extends condolences to the relatives of the deceased.

Arrest on suspicion of drug trafficking BIA

The Douane Caribisch Nederland arrested a woman at Bonaire International Airport (BIA) on May 6, 2022 on suspicion of trafficking narcotics. The suspect came from Curaçao, the case was handed over to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee, KMar) for further investigation. After investigation by the KMar investigation department, it was confirmed that the suspect was presumably carrying cocaine. The dossier will be handed over to the Public Prosecutor's Office BES (Openbaar Ministerie BES, OM-BES) after the investigation is completed.



CRUISE SHIP RATINGS

On May 4, Carnival Horizon (4716 capacity) once again visited Bonaire. The Friends of the Earth Report card for the Carnival Horizon is a 'F' for sewage treatment, water quality compliance, transparency and a 'D' for air pollution reduction.

The Bonaire Reporter May 11 - May 25, 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.

Divers speak out against kite surfers Posted on facebook and sent to Stinapa:

As a group of divers, we have a very active group on facebook named Bonaire for Divers. During our recent extended stay, we noticed more and more kites/boarders and boats coming into the “light blue” water. This is one of my posts that I put on FB. While we were there, Salty Tours came way into the light blue at Salt Pier to drop off snorkelers. They then turned tail and quickly exited the area, but came back later to pick up their guests....there were dozens of divers and snorkelers in the area. We were buzzed by a kiter with a foil at Tori's (this seems to be a fav spot for people to have close encounters). There was a kiter right in front of Sand Dollar....the list just goes on and on. Kitters have the whole island - out side the light blue, why is this not enforced? Do kitters pay their park fee? I pay my Stinapa fee every year - why are there no people out making sure divers are safe?

There are quite a few comments on this site on facebook. I can't list them all here - but a couple highlights.

1. We were told at the dive shop not to use an SDM

because some of the boats who don't like divers will use them as targets and that defeats the purpose.

2. More and more surfers are using hydrofoils on the bottom of their boards. These extend into the water 2-3 feet until the board rises off the surface. The sad thing is that we could all co-exist if they would follow the established rules.

3. I think the dive shops need to be more strict about checking for marine park payment. I was not asked to show my marine park receipt when I signed up to rent tanks. I encountered a couple STINAPA employees during our 2 month stay. No one asked to see proof of my marine park fee payment. Does anyone check the kite operators to confirm they pay their marine park fees.

Jan Culbertson

Here is the response from Stinapa who said that they do not have facebook accounts so they do not monitor this site. This is from Judith Raming Marine Park Manager

Thank you for your e-mail and for bringing this into the attention on social media.

You are asking me what STINAPA is doing about kite surfers in the light blue water outside the designated area as is stated in art. 3 sub 3 Eilandsbesluit Onderwaterpark Bonaire. I am going to be direct with you by responding that it is very difficult to enforce this for us. When we are on land the kite surfers aren't coming out of the water. When we are in the water it becomes a cat-

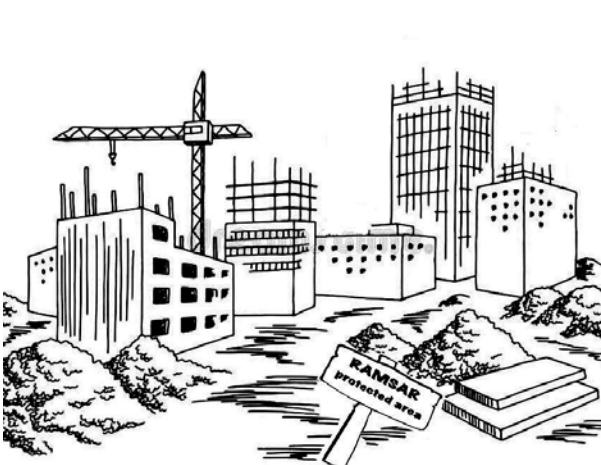
and mouse game with high speed and thus we choose not to do this.

We are aware that the designated area isn't functioning with the growth of the sport locally and tourism wise. We are aware of the dangerous situations kite surfing can give around dive sites or for example at Pink Beach where families like to swim. We are currently discussing this with our government and with the kite schools and are looking into a solution to create more space to kite surf on Bonaire. On the other hand the rangers are enforcing and are giving warnings and charges.

Vista Blue no longer is a dive site. You can visit Vista Blue when there is absolutely no wind but otherwise it is not recommendable to go swimming, snorkeling and/or diving in this area. We have changed this also on the dive signs handed out to the dive shops.

What really helps is to get reports. I know it is frustrating that this not always has a direct effect but it really helps us to change the situation and make it better. We need to be able to show that not only STINAPA is seeing the problems but others as well. You can always call and/or app our waiting/piket telephone (00599-7778444) and tell us where you are and what you see (picture is great). If you do this, the rangers will be asked to act upon the report immediately. The reports will be archived.

Again thanks for making this a topic on social media.
Judith Raming Marine Park Manager

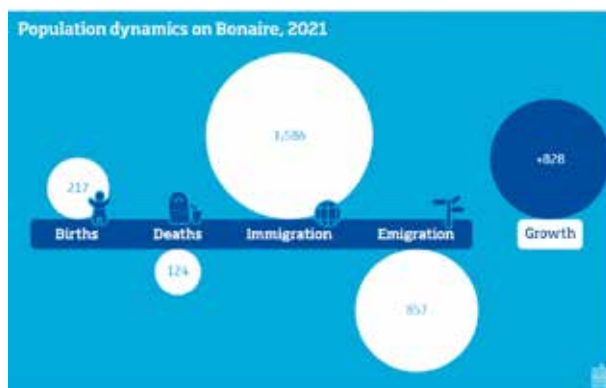


Are we on the verge of more devastation to our protected areas? Millennium Real Estate, Curaçao, is advertising a 95,240 m2 plot of land in the Lac Bay area which is clearly within the Ramsar protected area. The property has been owned by a private party for 30 years. Millennium Real Estate said the owners want to keep the land preserved as a nature area but a wooden eco-resort could be built there. The selling price is USD 7,619,200,00. Is this another Bolivia type venture?

Population of the Caribbean Netherlands up

On January 1, 2022, the population of the Caribbean Netherlands stood at 27,726. This is 921 more than one year previously. The increase is largely due to Bonaire and St Eustatius. On both islands, more people settled than departed. Natural population growth (births minus deaths) played a limited role. On Saba, the number of inhabitants remained virtually unchanged. More Dutch tourists visited Bonaire again. The new population figures on the Caribbean Netherlands have been released by Statistics Netherlands (CBS).

On January 1, 2022, Bonaire had 22,573 inhabitants, representing a year-on-year increase of 828 persons (4 percent). This was mainly due to the fact that many more people settled on the island than left (A net increase: 729), and to a lesser extent because of natural population growth (93).



More people in their 20s and early 30s settle on Bonaire

Last year, 1,586 people settled on Bonaire, while 857 people left the island resulting in a migration surplus of 729. With a positive balance of 152, migration from the

European Netherlands was higher than in 2019 (balance: 57). Especially migrants in their twenties and early thirties were more likely to settle on the island than in 2019. Most migrants came from Curaçao (226). This number is similar to 2019, but 70 lower than in 2020. The influx of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Haiti, Colombia and Peru was substantially higher in 2021 than in 2020.

More tourists under 35 visit Bonaire

More tourists with Dutch nationality visited Bonaire again for one or two overnight stays. The number of people under the age of 35 who stayed on the island for a maximum of 60 days was higher in 2021 than in 2019; on the other hand, there were fewer over-45s who visited Bonaire for a short stay in 2021 than in 2019. In total, over 44 thousand tourists with Dutch nationality came to Bonaire in 2021, similar to 2019 (45 thousand) and almost twice as many as in 2020 (24 thousand). The number of tourist arrivals on Bonaire with a stay between 60-180 days last year (800 persons) was more or less the same as in 2019. In 2020, this was slightly lower at around 700 persons.

More 15 to 24-year-olds on Bonaire for a longer stay

The group of visitors who stayed for a period of two to six months included relatively many 15 to 24-year-olds. It is likely that these were mainly students taking a gap year. This is similar to 2019, while in 2020 the number was lower due to the coronavirus pandemic. The number of 35 to 64-year-olds who stayed on the island for two to six months was slightly higher in 2020 than in 2019. Fewer over-65s visited Bonaire in 2021 compared to previous years.

FOR THE KIDS

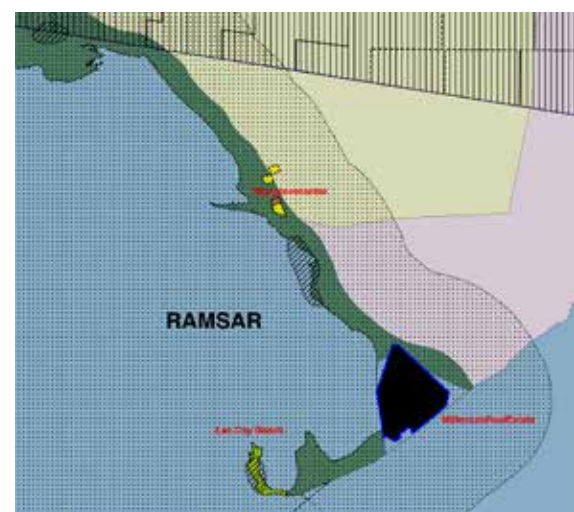
Information session Gap year Bonaire

During the gap year Bonaire, students can take the time to orientate themselves on their choice of study. Young people who have stopped their further education and have come back to Bonaire are also welcome at the Gap Year. The program encourages the students trying out different fields of study. The participants follow short courses in different fields, in order to really see which field suits them best. In addition, the program has two other important pillars, namely 'Orientation on yourself' and improving the Dutch language. Information meeting is

Saturday May 14. 10-11:30 a.m. Training Institute Bonaire (OIB), Kaya Amsterdam 25 C (next to the OMNI)

ACE Kids Club

Children between ages 6 to 11 can join ACE Kids Club to take lessons and perform in drama, music, song and dance. The cost is \$75 per month. Children aged 6-9 years meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Pre teens aged 10-11 years meet from 6:30-7:30pm. For more information phone +599 796 5677 or +599 785 9832.



Those who served honored on Remembrance Day



The title of this year's Remembrance Day celebration on May 4 was "You pass on freedom!" The theme was "Freedom in connectedness." The event began at 9:00 a.m. at Wilhelminaplein.

Speeches were delivered by: Pastor Marc Hooijschuur, RC Parish La Birgen de Coromoto; Lieutenant Governor Rijna; and Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond.

Speech of Pastor Marc Hooijschuur (synopsis)

I believe we all got a wake-up call over two months ago. Suddenly the war in Ukraine started. It is a cruel war that tells us: our freedom is very fragile. Our freedom can disappear.

That's why I think it is good that we have Remembrance Day and Freedom Day . . . days of awareness.

Today we remember those who sacrificed the most precious thing they possessed, their lives. Why? So we can live in freedom. Who among us would do that now, when asked to sacrifice your life? So your neighbor can live as a free person...

Without connectivity/connectiveness, freedom becomes a juggle. Our freedom

becomes a cold, empty space without meaning. Our freedom becomes a space of yelling, disrespect, and fake news. Connectivity/connectiveness is crucial for our freedom to survive.

My father was born during the Dutch Hunger Winter of 1944. That winter was terribly cold. And everyone was hungry because of the war. Today we thank God that we do not have a physical winter famine. But the atmosphere among our people is chilly.

We crave connectivity/connectiveness.

Speech of Lieutenant Governor Rijna (synopsis)

Today we commemorate all Dutch victims since the Second World War. Soldiers and civilians who died in war situations and in peacekeeping operations. Some were simply unlucky to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, such as the crews of the oil tankers attacked by German submarines in Caribbean waters in 1942. Many Bonaireans lost their lives as a result. Their names can be found here on the monument.

We on Bonaire have not had to fear becoming victims of war violence for 77 years, thanks to those who paid the highest price during the 1940s. Such

as Aruban Boy Ecury and Curaçaoan George Maduro who played an active roles in the resistance. Bonairean Nicholas "Cola" Debrot was in the resistance too. Many unknown Bonaireans were brave sailors who served in the merchant navy.

Today we commemorate our own dead. However, we should also reflect on the terrible war in Ukraine. The horrific events there confirm that freedom cannot be taken for granted, not even ours. That is why we commemorate today. And why we must always commemorate May 4th.

Speech of Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond (synopsis)

Our theme this year is Freedom in Solidarity. The corona pandemic made us realize how important it is to be connected. We fought the crisis together.

We seek a solidarity which is a connection without fear or anxiety, a connection where we can let our voices be heard. A

connection where there is room for difference, where diversity is not an obstacle but offers expansion and connection. Where people are not judged on their origin, color, religion, orientation or because they have a different opinion, but where they are valued because connection makes the community more beautiful.

This year will also mark the Island Council elections in 2023. The political leaders will be allowed to freely disagree with each other on all those matters that concern them and our community. I hope that they will do this with all keenness to the content of the discussion but with the corresponding respect to the people who have a different opinion. I express thereby the hope that they will unite people and overcome differences.

As we remember together all those who have given their lives, let us remember that we ourselves must continue to work together for peace and freedom for everyone. *DMR*



During the ceremony, wreaths were laid by: the Lieutenant Governor and Island Secretary of the public body Bonaire; the Kingdom Representative, Jan Helmond; the Veterans Association Bonaire and the Coast Guard; the Royal Marechaussee; the Dutch Caribbean Police Force; the Head of Tax Authorities / Customs Caribbean Netherlands; next of kin and others.. Photo: Julie Morgan

Freedom Day events stir lively discussion

Bonaireans, ranging from students to war veterans, offered different insights into the concept of freedom at two Freedom Day events organized by the May 4 and 5 Committee. The first was a discussion brunch at the Terramar Museum on May 4. People gathered for a second discussion the evening of May 5 at the SKAL Museum.

Representatives from different organizations, schools, businesses, government and groups of Bonaire had been selected to discuss freedom, democracy, war, slavery and equal rights. The moderator, Arjen de Wolf, asked the participants, "What do these terms mean to residents of Bonaire?"

The question, and the participant contributions that followed, triggered very

animated discussions. Students Amy Damasus, 9 years, and Ruviel Rodriguez, 11 years, of the Plusklas recited original poems about freedom. Afghanistan veteran Roen Trinidad related his experiences of the war. Author and educator Arthur Sealy illustrated the historical perspective of freedom on Bonaire, saying the "inner man was well taken care of with soup and a meal."

Paul Ruijs added that the Freedom Meals not only fed the conscience through food for thought but also the body. He said the committee was very pleased with the success of the initiative and will organize similar events next year. The project was made possible in part by the Vfonds (National Peace Fund.)

Story and photo, Julie Morgan



Plusklas student Amy Damasus recites her poem regarding freedom with onlookers L-R Arjen de Wolf, Roen Trinidad and Arthur Sealy.



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Planting hibiscus

Since my childhood I have always loved hibiscus plants. My grandma had hibiscus plants of different colors in her yard. I used to pick the flowers when grandma was out of my sight and play with them by putting them in my hair or in the hair of my dolls. The beautiful red, pink and yellow flowers decorated her yard as if it was a birthday party. Later, in my travels, I saw them growing in many countries, especially in tropical areas. They always remind me of home sweet home, but I never thought to plant a hibiscus in my yard. I don't know why but it looked so difficult to get a plant by a cutting that I never tried it.

A while ago, I got a cutting of a hibiscus plant with red flowers and leaves of different colors from a friend. I put it in a container with rainwater to root, wondering if it would catch. Everyday I changed the water and watched to see what would happen. First all leaves came off, but it was funny, as it produced a flower on the empty stem. After three weeks some white spots appeared on the stem in the water and roots grew out. I was very excited with hopes that it would grow. And yes, after a week, green spots appeared on the stem which were the young leaves



My hibiscus blossoms

coming out. My hibiscus plant was ready to grow. I left it in the water to grow for many weeks and then planted it in a big container with black dirt mixed with rotten leaves and goat manure. My nice hibiscus plant grew fast and I soon got new flowers every day. When the last one died, I put it on my porch where it received full sun most of the day.

One of my friends told me that you can make a nice tea from the flowers and so I looked for information about its health value. I was amazed that there were so many goodies in this tea. Now that I know tea can be made from the flowers, I am seeing the name in many food and health stores with other names like Flor di Jamaica or Sorrel.

In the Carribean it's a well known herb for tea which one can see in many yards. It's a delicious treat anytime of the day, with a beautiful bright red color and slightly sour taste. Hibiscus tea is caffeine free and has been used as an herbal remedy for better health for many years. It is especially well known in Asia and the Middle East. The pretty roselle buds can also be found in tinctures, syrups and recipes.

The hibiscus benefits

1. It cuts down cholesterol levels and lowers high blood pressure.
2. As in all red colored plants, the red hibiscus is high in antioxidants, fights off free radicals, reduces oxidative stress and damage and reduces inflammation.
3. Hibiscus tea helps to bring down body fat.
4. It is high in Vitamin C and boosts the immune system.
5. It helps to manage blood sugar.
6. Can help to prevent liver damage.
7. It is rich in polyphenols which

fight against cancer.

8. Antibacterial properties in hibiscus help soothe a sore throat.

Side effects and risks:

1. Don't drink if pregnant or breastfeeding
2. Some medication interaction
3. May decrease blood sugar in people with diabetes
4. Excessive use may cause liver damage

If you decide not to drink the tea, you can decorate your yard with this beautiful sun-loving plant which is in the family Malvaceae. The genus has several species in different types and colors and loves regular watering.

Start now, just do it.

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.



Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

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

Listening Is A Skill...

Reflection For Today

"When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new."

- Dalai Lama

Tip For Today

"Chichi, I really, really, really enjoyed our walk yesterday! What a beautiful sunset, and our conversation was so... Hellooo! Chichi, I'm talking to you!"

Swinda loves their Malecon Power Walks here in Paradise (also known as Bonaire). But, again Chichi was not paying attention at all as her best friend was sharing from her heart. However, she still replied, "Ehm, yeah, that's great, Swinda."

We all have ears, but how well do we use them?

Without the ability to listen effectively, messages can be easily misunderstood, which can lead to irritation, frustration and other undesired consequences.

Listening can be defined as the ability to accurately receive, interpret and understand messages in the communication process.

According to research, adults spend an average of 45% of their communication listening. Research also shows that we listen at about a 25% efficiency rate. So think about it, how much valuable information are you missing when listening?

Here's what Chichi (and you too) can do to enhance the skill of listening.

1. **Be present.** Give the speaker your undivided attention, focus. Eye contact is also important in face to face conversations. Show that you are listening and encourage them to continue. Don't look at your watch, fidget or play with your phone.
2. **Be curious.** Be engaging and ask relevant open ended questions. Wait until the speaker pauses. Don't interrupt or cut them off.
3. **Be empathetic.** Put yourself in the other person's shoes. Try to see things from their perspective. Genuine statements like "I understand where you're coming from" can help build a connection with the speaker. Always be respectful and polite, even when you disagree with them. Don't start a verbal boxing match.

Remember...

We often misinterpret or add our own meaning to what someone is saying. Effective listening is key to properly interpret and understand someone's message. Successful people know that effective listening is a skill. And a skill can be learned and mastered!

With a look of frustration and disappointment, Swinda noticed that Chichi wasn't listening to her, again. And this time she'd had it.

"Great news, Chichi! I found a new power walking partner. Today is our last day walking together, you and me that is. It's been fun, my dear!"

To which Chichi responded, "Ehm, yeah, that's great, Swinda. Wait, what?!"

Affirmation For Today

Today I am intentionally listening to fully understand others during conversations.

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

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

Poem for Today

Today I Will Listen

by Marva Shand-McIntosh

*Today I will listen
Without interrupting
Without prejudging
Without second-guessing
Without gazing
Without rehearsing
Without discounting
Without filtering
Without correcting
Without contradicting
Today I will just listen*

*Today I will listen
With attention
With humility
With respect
With patience
With understanding
With awe
With gladness
With empathy
With warmth
With gratitude
With reverence
Today I will just listen.*



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Treasure Diving

Years ago, off the Florida Keys, my friend Jimmy Longendyke pointed to a spot in the sand and gestured for me to wave my hand over it. When the sand settled, resting on the rocky substrate was a brass spike from a ship that had sunk more than a century before! I still have that spike, and Jimmy has quite a few more, but he never found the gold coins he was hoping to discover.

I've never found any gold coins either, although I did find a twenty-dollar bill off Klein Bonaire back in the 20th century.

Coins are only one type of treasure we can experience underwater, though. On every dive we have the opportunity to collect memory treasures such as seeing a critter we've never seen before. There are probably fewer than five individual porkfish off Bonaire, for example; have you seen any?

A treasure even more exciting than sighting a rare creature, though, is observing an unusual or rare behavior. On April 9th, 1989 (that's really the date; it's in my dive log), I did an early night dive off Klein Curacao from the Antilles Aggressor. Toward the end of that dive, we were seeing unusual numbers of sharptail eels. Also unusually, the sharptails were checking each other out, rather than giving only a passing greeting. Something noteworthy was about to happen, but unfortunately we weren't in the water when it did.

Very little is known about the spawning behaviors of reef eels, including snake eels, because the eels are shy and their spawning behaviors are subtle. However, a mere 33 years (almost to the day) after that Aggressor trip, Judi Radtke acquired additional evidence about sharptail eel gatherings. On April 24th, at about 8 at night, she came across the eight sharptails (or more) in the accompanying photo! In fifty years of diving, I've never seen even four snake eels together! The video Judi made just after the still shot showed that the smaller eels were rubbing their heads and nostrils along the largest eel (the one in the middle).

The largest of the sharptails in the photo is probably the lady, who's probably wearing a special sharptail perfume (pheromone); in the video the smaller eels actively move around her and touch her, but she moves very little. Sometime after the photo was taken, I suspect she swam up off the bottom, accompanied by the males. Each of the males would make sure to be there when she released her eggs, and each would try to fertilize them; sperm from several different males would help more fertilized eggs succeed, and contribute to the genetic diversity of the spawning. Once the eggs and sperm were released, everyone went back to their usual nighttime routines.

In razorfish the male is larger and keeps a



Several sharptail eels enjoying each other's company last month off Yellow Submarine. Photo by Judi Radtke

harem of several females. Even in razorfish, though, the males are the pushy ones about spawning. In these sharptail eels the smaller ones are definitely the pushy ones.

And this relates to treasure diving ...

Because seeing this secret part of the sharptail eels' lives is a privilege only a few human beings have shared.

What treasures have you found lately?

Have you logged your dives? You don't have to write an essay after each dive, but -- in addition to recording consecutive dive number, date, depth and time, location, and buddy -- your log is the perfect place to describe the remarkable critters or behaviors you see on the dive.

Years from now, you'll be able to relive (and verify) your memories (and win those bar bets) with your dive log's records.

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.

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Seaside Ventures renovates pier

Seaside Ventures began a major renovation of the pier located between Sand Dollar and Den Laman on May 3 with a completion date expected in mid to late June.

Howard Harrison, president of the Sand Dollar HOA, explained the major renovation is taking place for the safety of owners and guests of the two properties and the Dive Friends team. The new pier will be stronger against storms.

To safeguard marine life, STINAPA relocated any corals and sponges within the perimeter prior to construction work on the pier.

The pier is considered a long-term investment for the Seaside Ventures shareholders which are, for the most part, Sand Dollar and Den Laman owners. The work is being done by Maksor/Dutch Caribbean BV who also rebuilt piers at Captain Don's Habitat, Buddy Dive and Delphins.

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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Things people say and do.

The last few days I had a lot of visitors and participated in quite a lot of social activities. And I must admit that I liked this a lot. I had kept a lot to myself but now I seem to need company every now and then. I listen to them carefully, make notes sometimes and store every word they say in a corner of my mind and later I ponder and dream about it.

Because mostly every visitor was special. Each one of them had some form of disability, or was elderly. The two peer groups I feel I belong to.

We all have lived quite some time and are well experienced. We also exchange information and warn for things to be alert to.

We all make use of things, like walk-

ers, canes, scooter-mobiles, wheelchairs and/or take medications. And if one of us does not, our spouse or partner does.

When a house needs certain adaptations, we tell each other how to get it done and who to contact. And when things are fixed, we sometimes come and visit and admire the results. And then we compare. Because that is what people do.

Mostly every cane, walker and wheelchair we use seems the same. For a cane this does not seem to be a problem. But a walker or a wheelchair is different. Every patient is different, even if they suffer from the same illness, syndrome or other condition. We all face an additional problem. The tires of walkers and wheelchairs are always made of some kind of pressed rubber and they pulverize in our

tropical climate.

One group of peers had their bathroom adapted. A special high toilet is not installed, which is strange. Because when one has a physical handicap you cannot just sit down. You have to park your wheelchair next to the toilet and scoot over. So in fact the whole bathroom should be adapted.

Many years ago in Holland the health-security started a campaign: Tailor-made care. It meant that everyone should get care according to their personal situation. Patients now have a stark feeling that they have not been heard. Decisions are being made over their head and that is not fair.

Every adaption or decision should be made together with the patient and every decision should be "tailor-made." And money should not have to play a role.

On the other hand, there are wonderful activities offered to the elderly: every Saturday they can join in at a sentro

di bario where young and motivated sport-leaders organize "moving for the elderly." When you have no means of transportation, just give them a call and a bus will come to pick you up.

The team of Indebon offers adapted sports and assistance if needed. Every week there are teams waiting in sentro di bario of Tera Kora, Antriol, Rincon, Nort di Salina and Nikiboko. And when everyone has done their job, there is cold water, juice and a fruit-salad waiting. Even coffee if you want.

Come and join the fun.

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

International coaching week

International Coaching week is celebrated May 11 – 18. This week might be a good opportunity for people to receive free coaching sessions. Different organizations and platforms could offer them so that the general public can experience first-hand what coaching is and enjoy its benefits.

Coaching is a tool for personal growth. The expansion of consciousness is sought through a change of perspective and focus. A coach and an individual client (coachee) can work together, or there is also group coaching which consists of a group and a coach.

The coach observes, listens and presents questions while adopting a state of

total presence and no judgment. His mission is to shed light on the shady areas of the coachee's situational map. It is as if during a moonless night, coachee and coach walk together. The coachee holds the flashlight, but the coach is gently placing his hand on the coachee's, directing the focus towards those areas that have not yet received light. During the coaching session the coach asks questions to increase awareness, expand possibilities for action and add alternatives for consideration. Coaching is the art of asking questions. But, to ask the right questions, that is, questions that expand consciousness and generate possibilities, the coach needs to master the art of being present and the art of listening.

The questions clarify goals and objectives to discover what the coachee really wants. They make sure these goals are ecological and coherent with the coachee's values. What happens each day depends upon how the coachee can generate changes in his surrounding reality to achieve his objectives. The session or the process is closed with a call to action and a plan.

Coaching success is based on the strengths and talents of the coachee. During the coaching process, the client learns new resources to become the captain of his own destiny by taking responsibility for what he wants and what he must do to move towards his goals.

"Coach" is a word that can be traced back to the 1550s from the French "coche," the German "kotsche," and the Hungarian "kocsi." This "chariot" or "coach" had shock absorbers that cushioned the bumps in the road, making the passenger's trip much more pleasant and safe. The definition of coach as an in-

structor or trainer first came about around 1830. Then it was used at Oxford University for a tutor who "carried" a student through an exam. Later, around 1861, it was used in athletics. Metaphorically, coaching facilitates learning by minimizing the annoying bumps caused by holes in the road of life since it cushions those bumps.

It is important to keep in mind that coaching is not psychotherapy, although it has some points in common. While they both seek for wellbeing, personal growth and self-knowledge, coaching does not work with pathologies or personality disorders.

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

Total Lunar Eclipse

Trace Dominguez of stargazersonline writes:

"Hi sky watchers, there's a total lunar eclipse coming up, so let's help you get ready. A total eclipse is when the moon passes through the penumbra (shadow) of the earth. First through the lighter penumbra, then the darker umbra – which turns the moon a deep red."

On May 15th at Kralendijk the eclipse starts just after 9:30 p.m. (If you are off island, the website, timeanddate.com, will give you the correct local time to see when the eclipse starts in your area.)

Trace continues: "Look to the south-east. The moon will start close to the horizon, rising as the eclipse continues. The moon will be completely eclipsed in a little over three hours."

"There are two lunar eclipses in 2022, but while everyone in the continental

United States will be able to see this eclipse, that won't be the case for the next one, so if you, dear reader, are in the U.S., don't miss out.

"You'll have the best view if you can get somewhere high up – I'll be in an airplane, so hopefully I'll get quite a show; wish me luck, and keep lookin' up!"

Timeanddate provides us with an animation of the eclipse:

May's Full Moon is known as the Flower Moon after all the flowers that bloom in the Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Sometimes called a blood moon, as the Moon turns red, this total lunar eclipse of the Flower Moon will be visible from North and South America, Europe, Africa, and parts of Asia. Thanks to Trace Dominguez of stargazersonline and to timeanddate.com

To find the time of the eclipse in your location go to:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/new-york>

The animation shows what the eclipse approximately looks like in Kralendijk. Stages and times of the eclipse are outlined below. All times are local time (AST) for Kralendijk.

Time	Phase	Event	Direction	Altitude
9:32 pm Sun, May 15		Penumbral Eclipse begins The Earth's penumbra start touching the Moon's face.	 125°	 37.0°
10:27 pm Sun, May 15		Partial Eclipse begins Partial moon eclipse starts - moon is getting red.	 136°	 46.9°
11:29 pm Sun, May 15		Total Eclipse begins Total moon eclipse starts - completely red moon.	 155°	 55.0°
12:11 am Mon, May 16		Maximum Eclipse Moon is closest to the center of the shadow.	 172°	 57.7°
12:53 am Mon, May 16		Total Eclipse ends Total moon eclipse ends.	 190°	 57.3°
1:55 am Mon, May 16		Partial Eclipse ends Partial moon eclipse ends.	 212°	 51.7°
2:50 am Mon, May 16		Penumbral Eclipse ends The Earth's penumbra ends.	 226°	 43.1°

Some child benefits to be increased here, perhaps ahead of schedule

On July 1, 2023, parents of care-intensive children in the European Netherlands will begin receiving double child benefits. Initially the increase was not scheduled to take effect in the Caribbean Netherlands. But earlier this year, Minister for Poverty Policy Carola Schouten announced that the scheme in the BES Islands would be aligned with that in the European Netherlands.

Now Deputy Nina den Heyer (Bonaire) wonders why the scheme will not come into effect until the middle of next year. The House of Representatives Committee for Kingdom Relations asked State Secretary Van Huffelen to find out whether an earlier introduction is possible. *DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

Polarization threatens press freedoms in the Netherlands

Netherlands has ranked among the top ten on the World Press Freedom Index for almost 20 years. Its standing has fallen precipitously, however, from sixth place in the world in 2021 to 28th place in 2022. The journalists' association Reporters Without Borders (RSF) compiles the Freedom Index. RSF concludes that "Polarization of public opinion ... has led to an increase in verbal and physical aggression against journalists, especially photo and camera crews." It says the violence has forced self-censorship amongst journalists in the Netherlands.

The RSF attributes the decrease in press freedoms to a rise in polarization during the coronavirus pandemic and the growing rancor regarding immigration. The as-

sassination of Peter R de Vries last summer contributed as well.

The RSF gives Netherlands high marks, however, for cubing political censorship. It says that "press freedom is actively protected by the state and the government ... and there are very few limits on the dissemination of information and opinion." *DMR (EXPATINFO)*

Daniel Crestian sworn in as Island Council member

Mr Daniel Crestian joined the Island Council as a member for the DP-faction on April 28. He replaced Mr Michael Pieters. Pieters resigned from the DP faction.

Fundashon Mariadal now making its own oxygen

At times during the pandemic, Bonaire's health care workers faced the threat that the island's oxygen supply would be depleted. Seriously infected covid victims need to be put on ventilation, that is, be given oxygen, to survive, and the island's oxygen supply is also vulnerable to the vagaries of international shipping, including potential delays during the hurricane season. Now, however, Fundashon Mariadal can manufacture oxygen for the island's medical needs. Mariadal is the only hospital in Dutch territory that has its own oxygen factory. *DMR*

Help available for parents whose child benefits were cut off

Parents now living on Bonaire may have had their child benefits unfairly cut off in the Netherlands during the scandal that brought down the previous Dutch government. They are eligible for family, financial, work, income, housing, and healthcare support. The Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland (B/CN) is actively seeking them out.

The Uitvoeringsorganisatie Herstel Toeslagen (UHT) will provide the help. Parents are eligible if:

- they received childcare benefits when they lived in the Netherlands;
- their childcare benefits were terminated between 2005 and 2019 and the parent does not know why.

Parents already known to UHT will be contacted personally this month. Eligible parents who have not yet been in touch with the UHT about this matter should contact UHT themselves. In order to be helped, the parent will have to give B/CN permission to provide UHT with personal information. *DMR*

Dutch help Ukrainian refugees

The Netherlands has created a website for the Ukrainians who are taking refuge in the country. It provides information on healthcare services available to the refugees, such as tuberculosis, COVID-19, cancer screening, vaccinations for children and newborn screening. The information is published in English, Ukrainian and Russian. *DMR*

Radiothon raises thousands

The Radiothon held April 27 collected over \$6,200 with, most likely, more to come according to Marik-ijne Kats, Director of Fundraising, Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk. Bonaire's Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary service clubs teamed up with Mega Hit FM / Voz di Bonaire to raise money for families who are having a harder time making ends meet.

The service clubs got to spend some of that money May 7. On Saturday, Kiwanis gave out 50 baby boxes to families with children of 0-3 years, and held a small fair for them to pick out free clothes. In addition, the club made 14 single mothers with children aged 2 to 4 happy with a big box full of food and a family activity.

If you missed the Radiothon, you can still contribute by making a money transfer, using the bank account:

MCB 416.401.06 (Maduro and Curiel, Bonaire)

Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk, Bonaire
Please use Radiothon as the description

Together we can



Chamber of Commerce readjusts rates downward

The Chamber of Commerce (KVK) received considerable negative feedback on the new annual contribution members were required to pay as of January 1. In response, the Chamber has reconsidered its decision and had reduced its annual fees, retroactive to 1 January 2022.

Members will be invoiced for their 2022 contribution this month. Organizations that have already paid the annual contribution, or that have newly registered during 2022, will receive a refund of any excess paid.

The rates for the annual contribution for 2022 are now:

Legal Structure	Multiplier for annual contribution	Annual contribution amount for 2022
Sole Proprietorship	1	\$ 60
Associations, Foundations and Private Fund Foundations	2	\$ 120
General Partnerships and Partnerships	2	\$ 120
Limited Partnerships	3	\$ 180
Cooperative Societies and Mutual Insurance Associations	3	\$ 180
Small NVs and BVs with only one official registered in the Commercial Register	3	\$ 180
Large NVs and BVs with more than one officer registered in the Commercial Register	5	\$ 300
Companies and legal entities established under the laws of another country	5	\$ 300

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/)
UNCHR Refugee Agency (donate.unrefugees.org.uk/)
UNICEF USA (unicefusa.org)
World Vision (worldvision.org)
Mercy Corps (mercycorps.org)
Giro 555 (giro555.nl)


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.



SUNDAY JUNE 5TH 2022

19TH EDITION

WALKATHON

T-SHIRT PICK UP DATE: 3RD & 4TH JUNE

TIME: 17:00 — 19:00 FRIDAY

TIME: 10:00 — 16:00 SATURDAY

PLACE: EL MUNDO

Join us to help raise funds for Special Olympics Bonaire.
Let's walk to make a difference.

START AT:
"The white slave huts"
5 am finish at
Pasadia Karino Rincon

INCLUDED:
T-shirt, water, fruits
And at the finish a
small breakfast

CONTACT PERSONS:
Pamela +(599) 795-4043
Rolanda +(599) 9 525-7080
Earon +(599) 796-0909

Sign up for the Walkathon

We are very proud and elated for the return of the annual Special Olympics Bonaire Walkathon. For the last 19 years locals and island visitors have laced up their shoes and traversed 30 kilometers (18.64 Miles) on foot or bicycle to support the Bonaire Special Olympics Walkathon. The last Walkathon in 2020 saw over 600 participants. This year promises to attract even more. With the Walkathon just over three weeks away, Sunday June 5th, there is still plenty of time to sign up and support this Special Olympics Bonaire fundraiser. The Walkathon route begins at the white slave huts and finishes at FKDP, Kaya Encarnacion R. Sintiago in Rincon. Participants will meet at the Kralendijk Municipal Stadium for free transportation to the starting point. The first bus departs at 4 a.m. and the last bus is at 4:30 a.m. for the 5 a.m. start. A bus at the finish, will be in place to return participants and bicycles to Kralendijk stadium. Tickets for this year's walkathon are only \$15 and that includes a goodie bag with a cap, t-shirt and water bottle. Drinks and snacks will be stationed along the route for participants.

INTERESTED IN BONAIRE'S GEOLOGY?

Everyone who loves Bonaire has questions about the island's geology. How was the island formed and when? What is the composition of the island's topographical structures? Is Bonaire a volcanic island? All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by André Nahr. The class will be held on Tuesday 7, Thursday 9 and Saturday 11 in June. Sessions 1 and 2 are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and session 3 brings everything together in a fun field trip on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand examples of Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested, but there is no heavy hiking. The class is taught in English and will be held at DCNA, Kaya Nikiboko Zuid 56. Cost is \$105.00 p.p. payable in cash at the first session. Please sign up at geology.andrenahr@gmail.com, but don't wait too long, only 15 spots are available. Don't miss the opportunity to learn Bonaire's fascinating geology.

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. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. For persons older than 18 years a membership costs \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and nonfiction 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.

Sunday, May 14	Information session Gap year Bonaire. 10-11:30 a.m. Location: Training Institute Bonaire (OIB), Kaya Amsterdam 25 C 717 1141 email info.oibonaire@gmail.com . See page 5. Global Big Day. Watch birds on May 14, "You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world." https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-2022
Night May 15-16	Total Lunar Eclipse. See page.10.
Saturday, May 21	Government's fitness program for seniors (55+) and people with disabilities 9:30 - 11 a.m. at Nikiboko, Noord Saliña and Rincón For information and transport phone 715-5311 or 785-4374 Email: moveshondenbario@bonairegov.com
May 19-June 2	Bonaire Culinair 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. For more information visit: https://bonaire-culinair.com
Thursday, May 26	Ascension Day. Public holiday. Offices & services closed.
Saturday, May 28	Bario Festival Nikiboko 5 - 10 p.m. Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products
Sunday, June 5	Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-A-Thon Begins 5 a.m. at the White Slave Huts. Ends at Pasadia Karino Rincon. Tickets \$15. Includes: T-Shirt, water, fruit, and a small breakfast at finish line.
Saturday, June 11	Taste of Bonaire 2022 (Talent Edition) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
June 14 - 17	Bonaire Rum Week. Opening party, followed by an island-wide cocktail competition, 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

Tentative cruise ship schedule May					
DAY & DATE:	DD/MM	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Wednesday	11-05	<i>Mariner of the Seas</i>	0800-2000	3114	RCCL/CEL
Thursday	12-05	<i>Celebrity Equinox</i>	0700-1600	2885	RCCL/CEL
Tuesday	17-05	<i>Explorer OTS</i>	0800-1800	3114	RCCL/CEL

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)

Blue Marine Foundation launches partnership with Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

The UK-based charity Blue Marine Foundation has made an initial grant of \$90,000 to marine parks on six Dutch Caribbean islands. The award will fund projects including coral protection and training youth marine rangers. The marine conservation parks on six islands will each receive a grant of \$15,000. The funding is the first step in a longer-term partnership to support the islands and help secure sustainable financing through the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) Trust fund.

The individual projects and their local partners are:

- **Aruba:** monitoring water quality in its Marine Protected Area (MPA) and wetlands, in conjunction with Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA)
- **Bonaire:** assessing losses of stony corals (Acroporids e.g. staghorn and elkhorn coral), and their potential future recovery, in conjunction with Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA Bonaire)
- **Curaçao:** establishing a bus transport marine education program and youth marine ranger program, in conjunction with Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI)
- **Saba:** provision of a climate control room for the new marine field station, in conjunction with the Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF).



Coral reefs in the Dutch Caribbean- Photo credit: Naturepics: Y.+T. Kühnast- all rights reserved

- **Sint Eustatius:** assessing the health of coral, the abundance of fish life and the diversity of reefs, in conjunction with St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA)
- **St Maarten:** monitoring marine habitats, in conjunction with Nature Foundation St. Maarten (NFSXM)

Blue Marine Foundation – www.bluemarinefoundation.com

Blue Marine Foundation is dedicated to restoring the ocean to health by tackling overfishing, one of the world's biggest environmental problems. This dynamic charity is working all over the world to protect huge areas of ocean and restore marine biodiversity. In the coming decade Blue Marine aims to see at least 30 per cent of the ocean protected, and the

other 70 per cent sustainably managed.

Blue Marine's Senior Project Manager Jude Brown commented: "Having recently visited two of the islands, I witnessed first-hand how special this region is. Diving the waters off Saba I saw huge Tarpon swimming amongst shoals of blue tang, and hawksbill turtles feeding on the seagrass beds. I also witnessed the challenges these islands are facing from coral disease to issues with coastal development. It is an exciting opportunity to work in the Dutch Caribbean, bringing expertise and funding from Blue Marine to join with the wealth of knowledge already on the islands, to work together to protect the important marine life around these islands."

Protecting the islands

To improve ocean governance, Blue Marine uses a combination of top-down intervention and bottom-up project delivery to help local communities at the front line of conservation. It will work together with the DCNA to help marine-park organizations protect the unique and threatened biodiversity of the Dutch Caribbean.

The new partnership is an important development in the successful management of marine conservation parks in the Dutch Caribbean. The UK-based charity has established a small-grants fund to provide rapid access to support for critical conservation projects run by marine parks.

Unique ecosystems on the islands are vulnerable to threats such as feral livestock causing sedimentation on reefs, and invasive species, including lionfish and coral diseases. They are also at risk from overfishing, climate change, coastal development, erosion and the build-up of harmful algae caused by waste water.

The islands of the Dutch Caribbean are also home to important "blue carbon" habitats - ocean ecosystems such as seagrasses, mangroves and other marine plants that suck up and lock away carbon from the earth's atmosphere. Seagrass is so efficient at this it can capture and store carbon dioxide up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests. The management and protection of these blue carbon habitats is vital in the fight against climate change. (DCNA)



On April 28, Daniel Crestian was sworn in to become a member of Bonaire's Island Council. Bonaire's Island Council L-R: Jacintho FE Ellis, Elvis J Tjin Asjoe, Din Domacasse, Rolanda M Hellburg-Makaai, Edison E. Rijna, Daniel Crestian, Esther J Bernabela, Norbert F Silberie, Desiree E Coffie, Clark CA Abraham Shuzelle Pieter (Island Clerk).

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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



Brandy



Tiger

Dear people,

I would like you to meet Mister Brandy, a 2.5 year old male.

First impression of Brandy is quite impressive. He will bark at you and try to scare you away, but it's all just an act. When you have the time to get to know each other you'll find he is a very sweet and loyal dog. Brandy would be great in a family with older kids. He would be a great 'only dog' or if you have a younger female dog then Brandy will be a great match.

And if you are a single woman, then Brandy is the one that will keep you safe and be your best friend. He would be the perfect guard and a great buddy to have a movie night with.

If you are interested in meeting Brandy, he'd love to meet you.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Meet little Tiger, also known as Prince Charming. This little man of 5 months old is as sweet as can be. If you enter the cat palace, Tiger will come to you to greet you. He loves people and other cats.

And his fur is so soft that you don't want to stop petting him!

When he was a little kitten, somebody found him in her garden, with no mom cat around anywhere. He was lucky the kind person brought him to the shelter where Tiger got all his vaccinations, medication and will soon be castrated.

Tiger is ready to go to his new and final home. Are you the one that can give this pretty sweet boy the loving home he needs and deserves? Please come and meet Tiger at the Animal Shelter Bonaire. Story Monique Degenaar,

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



L-R: Jane Disko Sanne Attevelt Monique Degenaar Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof

Helping you give up those plastic bags

Six organizations will be giving away 1200 organic cotton sacks to people still using plastic bags for fruits and vegetables at supermarkets on Bonaire. Volunteers are welcome to help with the preparation and distribution.

Of course, you don't have to wait for the free ones but can buy yours today.

The gifting organizations (whose logos are on the bags) are:

Wild conscience • Mas Riba Bonaire
CARIBSS • Sea Turtle Club of Bonaire
Koralie • Mangrove info & kayak center



Parrots and People!

by Daria Taiakina and Caroline Walta

The continuing story of Pinda and Popje

Free-flying released Lora "Pinda" is in love with the flight handicapped resident "Popje"! IN case you're curious, their names mean "peanut" in Papiamentu and "female bird" in Dutch. In the last few days, another pair of loras spent time around Popjes' enclosure. First, we thought they were just foraging the surrounding trees. But then we noticed that one of the loras made Pinda agitated. Any time Pinda left the aviary after a visit with Popje, he immediately rushed to the trees just to chase this specific lora. Later we discovered that the other bird was ringed!

Who is who?

We can keep track of the birds we rehabilitate and release by ringing them. The ring goes around the leg like a small bracelet, and each one has a unique number on it. This way we can determine exactly "who is who" when released birds come to visit. Now the challenge was to read the ring number of the lora Pinda chased. We used some fresh apple slices to attract the bird to get close to a camera and get close-up photos of the ring. After a few tries, we successfully captured the ring number and checked our database. We found out the visiting bird is a rehabilitated lora named "Oskar"... and he is a former mate of Popje!

Pinda is NOT amused at seeing his wife chatting to her ex. With loud calls and bold body language he makes it very clear: "Oskar, you left and now Popje is mine!" This love story is becoming quite the drama. We will have another update in future issues of *The Bonaire Reporter*,



Oskar, the ex, arrives

keep an eye out to learn how this love story develops!

We are very hopeful that Pinda and Popje will have a happy ending that results in healthy lora chicks. There have been several happy love stories among the resident parrots at Echo over the years. Bruce and Pink are two loras that have bred in the aviary in the past and now also have a nest box set up to encourage them to breed again. With luck, Echo will have a few healthy baby loras this summer!

With that, we hope every mother, feathered or not had a very happy Mothers Day! The love of a mother nourishes our souls, it is selfless and kind and patient. We honor every mother for all she gives to make this world beautiful.

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.

Rincon day



The first Rincon Day since Covid-19 hit the island in 2020 was everything the organizers and participants expected. Great food, great drinks, great music, great parades, great dancing and smiles everywhere you looked. An estimated 2000 people visited Rincon, the oldest town in the Dutch Caribbean, for the celebration on April 30. To enjoy a bit of the celebration through photos visit *The Bonaire Reporter's* Facebook page.

Photo Julie Morgan

Future scientists visit Bonaire

Sixteen future scientists from Lawrence University, in Appleton, Wis, have plunged into a 14 day underwater field trip on Bonaire. Staying at Sand Dollar, the undergraduate students are led by Professor of Biological Sciences Bart T. De Stasio and Associate Professor of Biology Brian Piasecki. Lawrence University has included the Marine Term trip every two years since 1980. The usual destination has been Grand Cayman but due to a cancellation in 2020 due to covid and covid restrictions this year, the trip was moved to Bonaire.

The students are relatively new divers with eight of the students enjoying their first ocean dives. Many completed their open water training in the lakes and quarries of Wisconsin.

In preparation for the trip, the students took a required practical identification exam from the REEF ID books learning 60 reef fish, 28, corals and 60 invertebrates followed by a must pass exam.

They are employing the REEF roving diver survey collecting data on every fish they see. The dives are further being recorded on a video transect by the professors and some students are shooting GoPros to record their sightings.



Sitting on Wall (Left to Right): Bart De Stasio, Elizabeth Liebau, Julia Ammons, Alyssa Kucharski, Haley Siculan, Marya Wydra, Helen Threlkeld, Claude Mazullo, Cesca Ledesma, Joe Brouder, Emma Nord, Brian Piasecki.

Front Row (Left to Right): Reese Lavajo, Mira Johnson, Lauren Askenazy, Samuel Driver, Eleanor Meng, Adrian Chou. Photo Julie Morgan

De Stasio said, "On return, we will do a video analysis to identify what's on the bottom, coral, sponges, algae. And do a comparison of the different sights [as to] varied, similar and different."

The students are broken up into groups of four to explore different aspects of parts of the reef including: How long a fish stays at a cleaning station, what the fish are eating and how often.

The assignments are part of the Coral

Reef Environments class by De Stasio in which the students will earn course credit.

Professor Piasecki is hoping to obtain permission from Stinapa to perform an anemone experiment to isolate a special Vibrio bacteria pathogen and compare the data and differences with data obtained in the Caymans.

Their plan is to dive from the south side of the island up to Karpata. Law

rence University Marine Term trip is considering returning to Bonaire in 2024.

Lawrence University is an undergraduate liberal arts school with 1500 students. The biology department is the largest with nine faculty members and approximately 40-50 students graduating in marine biology every year. The students participating in this trip paid additional fees supplemented with the course budget and some scholarships. *Julie Morgan*



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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