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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Dance Sensation's 'show group' perform at Red Slave: Crystal Martis, Urlayni Beaumont, Jaynah Francees and Jeda Lee Kocks. Photo: Julie Morgan

Bonaire commemorates abolition of slavery

Slavery in the Caribbean dates back to the Transatlantic Slave Trade between 1662 and 1807. Some 3.1 million Africans were shipped to the Caribbean and many were sold through Curaçao.

By 1700 the Dutch West India Company had brought 97 slaves to Bonaire to produce salt. As the demand for salt production grew so did the number of slaves. By 1863 and the abolishment of slavery, the number had grown to 151 privately owned slaves and 607 government slaves.

The entire Dutch Caribbean, Surinam and the Netherlands commemorated the abolition of slavery on July 1, Emancipation Day. Bonaire held several awareness building events from June 27-July 3.

On June 27, Academia Papiamentu presented an official dictation of the abolition of slavery at Rincon's Mangazina de Rei.

A poetry competition with Bonaire students from Group 8 was held on June 29 at the Sports Complex Jorge Nicolaas by the library and S.K.A.L. (museum and culture).

Bob Harms led interactive presentations on July 1 at Plaza Resort with guest speakers Laurindo Andrea of the Netherlands, originally from Curaçao and historian Franklin 'Max' Elstak of Curaçao.

Andrea, a fashion designer and historian known for his cultural and social awareness exhibits, discussed the functionality of slave fashions. For example, the women's head gear helped them carry things on their heads.

Elstak led a dialogue focusing on how slavery is viewed today. People in the Netherlands sometimes refer to slavery times as the 'glory days' when the Netherlands expanded their kingdom. Elstak told the group that now is the time to reconcile past actions and face the facts that these weren't glory days at all.

A musical interlude by Boy Janga and three musicians

included a description and demonstration of the Wiri, Kuarta, and Bari, musical instruments of the slavery era.

On July 3, historian and author Boi Antoin led a bus tour sponsored by Fuhikubo in cooperation with Dance Sensations to important slave locations on Bonaire. Antoin began the tour at Wilhelmina Plein where the most relevant building is now known as Cuba Compagnie restaurant. This edifice was originally a school financed by a former woman slave.

Before moving on, Dance Sensation's show group performed a cultural dance on the stage to the song, 'These are my people' (Ta Mi Hendenan) by Jeon x Rincon Boysz.

Traveling south toward the salt pans, Antoin explained the slaves who settled in Rincon traveled for six to seven hours by a footpath along the shore to the salt pans. Every week, they marched from Rincon and camped in huts covered with foliage, only journeying home on the weekend. In 1850, the government replaced the huts with stone bunkhouses. The slaves were given a choice between a large barn like structure or small sheds where they could sleep in twos. The locations of these small stone buildings are called Red Slave and White Slave.

At Red Slave, Dance Sensation danced to a popular cultural song by Luis Moka & Foyan Boys Piscado. Antoin pointed out the various obelisks of red, orange, white and blue that were used to guide the ships to the different salt pans. The obelisks were also used as moorings at the different pans. The different locations of the salt pans are denoted by the colors red, white blue and orange of the Dutch flag.

In the slave village now known as Tera Cora, where many of the slave families lived in addition to Rincon, Antoin pointed out a small chapel. A commemorative stone from Rincon is placed there to show the link to Rincon. Many of the slaves settled in Terra Cora after

emancipation and their ancestors remain today.

Antoin also told the tour about a mangazina or storage warehouse in the Amboina barrio that supplied food for the slaves. The building is in ruins, unlike the other very important warehouse in Rincon, Mangazina di Rei.

In Nort' Salina, Antoin pointed out several old houses known as Cas di Bara. The houses were constructed of mangrove trees. They have since been covered with concrete on the outside but the interior reveals the original construction.

The final stop was at S.K.A.L. which was formerly a hospital/clinic providing medical care for the slaves.

In 1793 Haiti was the first nation worldwide to abolish slavery. European countries abolished slavery at various times, Great Britain in 1807 and then again in 1833, France in 1848 and the Netherlands followed in 1863.

In July, 2021, the NL Times published a piece saying the Dutch State should apologize for slavery by making July 1 a national holiday.

"The Netherlands must recognize that slavery and the slave trade were crimes against humanity and acknowledge that the consequences of it can still be felt through society, the committee stated according to several media reports."

In response, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte said he was unsure if the government was ready for that. Various groups are at work to convince the Dutch government that the time is now.

By Julie Morgan

Historical data sources: Dr. J. Herzog, *A Short History of Bonaire*, Jay Havisser, Boi Antoin and Emma Pratt Fuhikubo project coordinator.

Nos Zjilea salutes San Juan and San Pedro traditions



Izain Mercera and Nos Zjilea dancers and crowd

Mangazina Di Rei in Rincon held Nos Zjilea culture and educational event on June 25 for the first time since July 2020. The event for locals and tourists is a great celebration of Bonaire's history and culture. Traditional dancing, music, food, drink, handmade crafts are on display for this end of month event. And this Nos Zjilea included the traditional fire jumping of the festival of San Juan and San Pedro.

Izain Mercera, Nos Zjilea coordinator and Mangazina operational manager, led the crowd through the schedule of events. The children's orchestra and choir performed along with Chaira Borderslee leading the crowd in several songs. Winners of Arte de Pallabra entertained with their verse and the island's favorite band Tutti Frutti entertained. Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (lottery) presented a \$3000 check to Children's Educational Orchestra Bonaire.

Young dancers in traditional dress performed and, of course, Bonaire's favorite traditional dancing duo, Monique and Donny Winklaar performed and enticed mem-



Many tried to jump the fires of San Juan/San Pedro

bers of the crowd to join them.

Amid all the great food and entertainment many tried their skill at jumping the traditional fire of San Juan/San Pedro. Nos Zjilea is held the last Saturday of every month. So if you missed this one, the next event will be July 30. For more information about Mangazina Di Rei visit their Facebook page or website <https://www.mangazinadirei.org>.

Photos and story Julie Morgan
More photos on our Facebook page



Preparing bread for a stone oven

FOR SALE Oceanfront Villa Hamlet Villa 4



- Location : Hato, oceanfront
- Lot size : 574 m2 / 6178 sq. ft.
- Living area : approx. 140 m2 / 1507 sq. ft.

- 2 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms / storage
- Needs some updating

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BES financial reins to be loosened

In recent years, Bonaire and Statia have made great progress in the field of financial management. They feel that the oversight powers of the BES Financial Supervision Board have become onerous and are now hindering their financial reforms. Those objections have been heard. In the autumn, State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen (Kingdom Relations) intends to present proposals for easing the requirements in the finBES Act, which sets the rules for the financial policy of the islands. *(Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

BES island councils to be expanded

The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has agreed to gradually enlarge the Island Councils on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, beginning after the 2027 elections. Eventually Bonaire will have 19 island council members instead of the current 9, Sint Eustatius 11 up from 5, and Saba 9 up from 5. Then residents of the islands will have similar representation per person as European Netherlands. *(Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

New airport manager named



In August Mr. Maarten van der Scheer MSc BA will become manager of Bonaire International, replacing Jos Hillen, who has been interim manager since 2019. The appointment is on the recommendation of the Supervisory Board and is the result of an intensive and transparent selection process which started the end of last year with the support of Deloitte.

According to Marco van de Kreeke, chairman of the Supervisory Board, "Maarten is experienced in managing in a complex corporate environment in which many interests are involved. He has all-round airport experience, strong communication skills and is a team builder."

Your electrical rates just went up too

As of July 1, Bonaireans are paying on average \$25 more per month for electricity. Electricity prices have increased for the same reason gas prices increased. Fossil fuels are still used to produce 70% of the island's electricity, and those prices are spiraling upward.

BonLab now doing all corona testing

People with corona complaints are now being tested only at BonLab. They should call 0800 0800 for an appointment. According to the Public Health Department,

The virus is still on the island. So people should follow the ground rules: regular hand washing, coughing/sneezing into the elbow, well ventilated rooms.

Get vaccinated in the neighborhoods.

From July 1, the Kompleho Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas is no longer the site for vaccinations. People can still get vaccinations and boosters, and without appointments, but only on Thursdays and at neighborhood sites:

- Rincon - July 7 and 21, 10:00-12:30 Old house of the Schermer family, Rincon, opposite the auxiliary administration office
- Nort'i Saliña - July 7, 13:30-16:00 Sentro di bario
- Antriöl - July 14 and 28, 10:00-12:30 Plasa Chicu Goeloe
- Tera Kòrá - July 14 and 28, 13:30-16:00 Practice GP Eijsenga

Wage and social benefits to increase

The statutory minimum wage and benefits on Bonaire will have increased by 28 percent by 2025 and will equal the social minimum, according to State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen. The social assistance benefit for independent living and joint households will also increase step by step from 55% to 70% in 2025. *DMR*

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Bonaire still not in the hurricane zone

Bonaire's reputation for being safe from hurricanes is still intact, not because the most recent threat passed safely north of the island as usual, but because it passed too far south for its own good. It went ashore over Venezuela and weakened. Bonaire experienced only a good soak and a few breezy gusts. When the depression later crossed into Columbia and resumed its course over water, it strengthened into Tropical Storm Bonnie, skipped over Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and grew into a Pacific hurricane.

Sunset Beach controversy goes dark

According to ABC Online Media and its affiliate BES Reporter.nu, "fundamentally nothing has changed in the [Sunset Beach building permit] application and the specifications of both the entire structure and its components remain controversial." Architect Rene Jacos has compiled a long list of design features that he says violate Bonaire construction specifications and the official development goals of the OLB. The government remains silent on the issue.

Home owners object to rental ban

Homeowners from upscale neighborhoods have protested the OLB's ban on temporary rentals to island visitors. They say the ban will reduce accommodations available to high end tourists. They also say the ban will not free up accommodation for local renters because most can't afford the rents charged in those neighborhoods.

Plenty of airplanes, not enough crew

American, Delta, and United are likely to reduce flights to Bonaire. TUI promises to maintain its Caribbean schedule through the summer. Airlines worldwide are canceling flights and paring their schedules. The rapid recovery of world travel caught them short of flight qualified crews because of layoffs during the covid pandemic.



How visitors pay the Visitor Entry Tax

Visitors deplaning at Flamingo International can pay the Visitor Entry Tax using various credit cards, but not cash. Or they can register on the Tourism Corporation Bonaire website bonaireisland.com and pay the tax online. They will be emailed a QR code to present on arrival. PayPal and iDeal are also expected to be future options.

Dr. Jan Schröder stops taking new patients

Dr. Jan Schröder announced that because he has insufficient space at his two locations, Bonaire Medical Center and Caribbean Medical Center, he is no longer accepting new patients. The island has four other GP practices.

Together we guarantee a plastic-free Bonaire

We are proud of our island and nature and that is why the Island Council presented a proposal in 2018 to ban certain types of disposable plastic. In October 2021, the ban on disposable plastic was approved.

What does the ban on disposable plastic mean to you? It's simple!

Since June 1, you cannot sell or give away single-use plastic cutlery, tote bags, straws and stirrers. Single-use plastic means that you use it once and then throw it away. That also includes products made from bioplastics.

As of August 1, meal containers (take-out containers) made of Styrofoam are prohibited. This means that you will no longer see these products in the supermarket or receive them at restaurants and other companies.

In the next few years disposable plastic will be reduced on the island. Reducing the use of plastic not only prevents pollution but decreases the pressure on our landfill at Lagun that is almost full. Less plastic waste means less additional waste at the landfill.

Ten thousand cigarette filters

Unfortunately, a lot of waste ends up in nature from residents and tourists of all ages. Plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, drinking cups, you name it. In two years, almost ten thousand cigarette filters were found on Te Amo beach. Did you know that cigarette filters are made of plastic? Therefore, they do not break down in nature.

Misunderstanding about bioplastics

In recent years there has been a misunderstanding about ordinary plastics and bioplastics. Bioplastics consist partly of natural materials like cornstarch or sugar cane. Therefore, the claim was that bioplastics would be better for the environment but that is not true. Bioplastics have the same properties as ordinary plastic meaning they don't break down in nature and therefore cause pollution. That's why bioplastics are also banned.

Take-out culture

Bonaire has a take-out culture. Therefore, we do not immediately ban meal containers of all types of plastic. At first, the ban will apply to Styrofoam take-out containers. We want to raise awareness about plastic and let the residents get used to the new rules. Later, the Public Entity of Bonaire will look at whether this ban can apply to meal containers of all types of plastic.

Help out!

What can you do to keep the island clean? Avoid disposable products if you can and instead use reusable products. If you do use disposable products, please dispose of the waste in the proper recycling bin. Be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics.

Together we keep our island clean!

*Eva van Voskuijlen / Imarisha Hagens
Team #BonairePlasticFree Public
Entity of Bonaire*

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

We are thinking of retiring to Bonaire in a few years but want to rent out whatever we buy to tourists before we move. Should we be looking near downtown or out of town? Which area do vacation renters prefer? Amy

Hi Amy,

Since you will be living in whatever you buy eventually, I would choose the area that you like the best. There is no one best area for vacation rentals. Some renters like being walking distance to town, others prefer to be further out of town in more quiet neighborhoods. Each area has appeal to various renters. Focus on the amenities that appeal to many va-



L-R: Jean and Kate

cation renters, which may include view, access to a pool, distance from the sea, condition of bathrooms and kitchen, etc. Then, price the rent amount to reflect the amenities and condition.

*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 jean@bonairehomes.com.

Papa Cornes students clean up Donkey Beach

On July 1, students from group 6 and 7 of Papa Cornes School cleaned the entire stretch of Donkey Beach under the guidance of Clean Coast Bonaire in collaboration with A Plastic Free Bonaire and NOBO Recycling.

The Papa Cornes School reached out to Carolyn Caporusso from Clean Coast Bonaire because they want their students to learn about the impact of plastic pollution on our island. The children found lots of plastic items, such as spoons, straws and even furniture. However, the plastic item that was found most is the cigarette butt. The other most found item is the metal bottle cap (beer bottle). This leads to the conclusion that our public beaches are being polluted by beer drinking and smoking (young) adults. It is apparent that beach goers do not clean up after themselves, even though Selibon has set up multiple garbage stations at Donkey beach.

You too can help by signing a petition.

Participating in a clean-up is a fun learning experience, but kids should not be cleaning up after adults. That is why Clean Coast Bonaire, A Plastic Free Bo-



naire and NOBO are initiating a Clean Beach Petition. Goal of this petition is to push our government to make funds available for litter prevention. The first easy step could be signs at all public beaches that clearly communicate "Keep Bonaire Clean". Please follow the link here to sign:

<https://chng.it/SjW2qKtqQN>

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

June 27. A black SYM scooter with registration number MF-3220 was stolen from an entertainment venue on Kaya Grandi between midnight and 4:15 a.m. The case is under investigation.

Arrests

June 21. In the late afternoon a house was searched in Antriol under the Opium Act BES. During the search two arrests were made, a man, 46, and a woman, 26. Drugs and cash were also seized during the search. The case is under investigation. Multiple arrests are not ruled out.

Traffic accidents/violations

June 26. Around 11:50 p.m. a car hit the fence of a house on Kaya Demper. The driver and his co-driver were checked on the spot by paramedics. The driver was unable to show a valid driver's license or insurance papers and received a police report for this.

June 24. Around 11:30 p.m. two cars collided head to head on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia. The occupants of both cars, including a minor child, were checked on the spot by ambulance personnel. The driver of one of the cars received a police report because she could

not show a valid driver's license.

June 21. At about 6:45 a.m. two cars collided on Kaya Korona when an on-coming car traveling north collided with a car traveling south turning left to enter Kaya Lina. The drivers of both cars were assisted at the scene by ambulance personnel.

Phishing via Facebook

Recently, the cybercrime department of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force has received many reports about phishing via Facebook.

Phishing is an attempt to gain access to someone's Facebook account by sending them a suspicious message or link and asking them to provide personal information. If someone has gained access to your account, they can use it to send spam. You can always report strange emails to phish@fb.com. Notify the police by sending an email to cybercrime@politiekpcn.com. Emails from Facebook about your account always come from fb.com, facebook.com or facebookmail.com. You can always go to www.facebook.com or open your Facebook app to see whether FB has sent you any important messages.



International campaign launched, It's In Our Nature

The Tourism Corporation of Bonaire (TCB) has begun its internationally targeted media plan, that includes a large-scale placement in New York City's Times Square. The campaign's target, to reach eco conscious visitors across the globe.

For nearly a year TCB has been working with an agency partner, Dunn&Co., to develop a brand strategy, a new look and new feel. The campaign will take appear in various forms across the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean throughout the remainder of 2022.

ENNIA partners with Barrio Festival

TCB recently welcomed ENNIA as an official partner of TCB's Barrio Festival program. The tourism plans want to expand the benefits of tourism to the community. ENNIA believes in the commu-



nity-based tourism strategy of TCB and will foster collaborations, community involvement and sustainable growth for Dushi Bonaire.

BONAIRE BANS DISPOSABLE STYROFOAM MEAL PACKAGING FROM AUGUST 1ST, 2022

THIS BAN APPLIES TO
EVERYONE ON BONAIRE
WHO SELLS STYROFOAM
MEAL PACKAGING OR
GIVES THEM AWAY
FOR FREE.

The ban on styrofoam food packaging
applies to only packaging used for food
that you can eat immediately
and is typically consumed directly
from its packaging.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Styrofoam containers
(with and without lids)
- Styrofoam cups used for, for
example, eating or drinking soup



SAY NO TO STYROFOAM
AND TOGETHER WE
CAN MAKE BONAIRE
PLASTIC FREE!



THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC ENTITY OF BONAIRE



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Parrotfish secrets

It's tough to believe that fish as common as parrotfish can be slow-change artists, reef heroes, and the focus of a scientific blunder, but it's all true (and more).

Parrotfish provide one of the biggest challenges for fish identification, because almost every species contains at least three different appearances: juvenile, adult female, and adult male. Some are born either females or males; the born-males ("initial stage") generally spawn in groups of both males and females, usually at dusk.

In some species some females turn into extra-big, extra colorful males called "terminal males", who spawn with one female at a time. One characteristic of terminal male parrotfish spawning that's convenient for divers is that it often takes place at mid-day, allowing us to observe it easily without disturbing the fish.

The first thing you might notice is a brightly-colored parrotfish (the terminal male) up in the water column. If you kept an eye on him, you may have seen another parrotfish, not so strikingly patterned, swim up. The two circle each other, then dart upwards together. Then, suddenly, they turn and descend, leaving

a cloud of sperm and eggs behind them. The female returns to the bottom. The male stays up there until he can't attract any more females, then he also returns to the bottom.

When you see what looks like two different types of parrotfish spawning, it turns out that you've seen a terminal male and an adult female of the same species, no matter how different they look from each other.

Parrotfish of all types spend most daylight hours scraping up algae with their specialized beaks, formed from fused teeth. Once the algae is ingested, parrotfish are further customized for eating it by grinders in their throats, called pharyngeal mills, which enable the fish to digest the algae and other plant matter they eat. Their grazing cleans rock surfaces, which enables larval reef-building corals to settle where algae had been.

Parrotfish became especially important on Bonaire in 1981, when about 90% of our sea urchin population died. Without the urchins grazing on the algae, established coral colonies could have been jeopardized, and new corals would have had few places to settle. Instead, the parrotfish filled the urchin gap and kept the



Julie's photo of this queen parrotfish shows his fused teeth and large scales. Yes, "he" is correct; this is a supermale, aka terminal male, queen parrotfish.

Photo Julie Morgan

algae at bay. They're heroes to the reef and to us, and are protected in the BNMP.

A while ago, a group of scientists came to Bonaire to warn us about "rapid wasting disease" on Caribbean reefs. One day a coral would be fine, they explained, and the next day it would be white, as if its outer surface had simply wasted away. After the presentation, divemasters murmured, "I sure thought those white scrapes were made by parrotfish..."

A few months later, another group of scientists came to Bonaire to show us conclusively how rapid wasting disease was actually parrotfish bites, made by terminal males to advertise their territories. After the presentation, divemasters snickered, "I knew those white scrapes were made by parrotfish!"

One other sign of parrotfish, in addition to newly-scraped coral or rocks, is the mucus cocoon which some individuals sleep in each night. The cocoons are

said to take around an hour to secrete. They're difficult for divers to see until enough time has passed for silt to land on -- and define -- the cocoon. The cocoon serves the parrotfish as an early-warning system; when the cocoon is disturbed the parrotfish is awakened and bolts away.

Parrotfish, who are so common and seem so tranquil, are hiding more secrets than we suspect.

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.



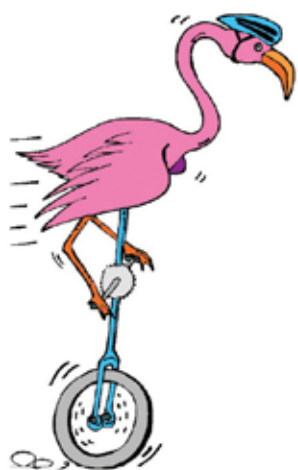
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FX funrace challenges cyclists



L-R: Roxanne de Kaper, Tom Homburg, FX Bonaire sponsor Jarne Everts and Freewieler's Frank Bohm.

FX Bonaire Funrace was held June 26. The tough course through Barcadera attracted 32 cyclists. The Elite cyclist did 9km x 4 and the Fun cyclist had it a little easier with 4km x 4.

Tom Homburg took first in the men's Elite in 1.09.33 and Roxanne de Kape

came in first in the women's Elite with 1.32.51.

Funrace winners were Jeroen Dolleman for the men with 1.00.32 and Savine Meij for the women with 1.08.10. Complete placement list will be on our online update pages of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

The Bonaire Reporter July 6 - July 20, 2022

School Backpack Give Away

Photos/story by Alan Zale



Sharzae, Sharzion, and Sharlon Josefa, (l-r rear) and Paul and Serena Rojas proudly display their new backpacks. Photo by Alan Zale

The needs of more than 600 young Bonairean students were met with the School Backpack Project.

This was the second year that Denice Boelen organized the project, and she exceeded her goal by more than 100 backpacks. Last year 439 backpacks were distributed.

Recently, some of the backpack recipients attended a fun-filled event at Eddy's Restaurant, on the grounds of Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, where they received their backpacks loaded with

school supplies. They also participated in a series of games, decorated cupcakes and had lunch provided by Eddy's Restaurant.

There are two different backpacks, depending on the age of the child. The older children's backpacks are filled with items including notebooks, a Spanish to Dutch dictionary and a calculator. The backpacks for the younger children included a water bottle, an early reading series in Papiamentu, along with other items.

The project is funded through the generosity of many donors and, for that reason, Boelen invited many of the them so they could see the results of their kindness. The donors that attended were individually honored with small gifts as a token of appreciation.

A native Bonairean, Boelen grew up in a broken home and was inspired to do this by seeing the needs of others.

Boelen said, "I know what it means to go to school lacking something. My mother would work Monday to Monday (meaning seven days a week), to put food on the table." She explained that the oldest sibling would take care of the littlest.

When Boelen turned twelve, she started going to work with her mother to clean houses.

"What I went through inspired me to help others," Boelen said, adding, "I grew up poor and I told myself my children will not grow up that way."

A lot of preparation goes into the School Backpack project. Boelen started collecting donations in April for this year's project. She also coordinates with the government to make sure there are no duplications of services and those not receiving any help get the assistance they deserve.



Scuba Magic



Ray Wickham at Salt Pier

Any diver will tell you scuba diving is a truly magical experience. But some divers have taken the magic to the next level. They not only enjoy the magic of scuba but are scuba magicians. One such scuba magician is Ray Wickham from Raleigh, N.C. and he recently made his second visit to Bonaire's magical reefs.

Becoming a scuba magician seemed like the perfect combination to Wickham because he has been studying the art of magic since he was 14.

After becoming a scuba instructor 12 years ago, he heard about PADI's newest distinctive specialty. Scuba Magician. Wickham knew the creator and fellow magician Chef Anton and called him to learn more about it. But unfortunately, Wickham is not a PADI instructor, but SDI, and the actual certification is for PADI members only.

Wickham said, "I thought I could weave the two together, scuba and magic. This is something you can do by hand signals and you don't have to talk."

He explained that it is a good way to break down barriers and get to know the students in a classroom situation. When underwater, Wickham uses rubber bands, plastic fish, balls and other props that are waterproof to do simple tricks or gags. He pulls out underwater cards connected to a lanyard and performs tricks that make a boring safety stop fun and the students want more.

"One day, I'll be here and do an underwater magic show. It's just a fun way to do the two things I love in life," said Wickham.

Three days before arriving in Bonaire, Wickham retired from his ministry of over 30 years. The perfect way to celebrate was a scuba trip with friend David Colvard who introduced him to Bonaire years ago. Wickham is an active scuba instructor in N.C. teaching the fire department and stability training to veterans dealing with PTSD or physical injuries. He is certified SDI/EDI/ERDI.

Scuba Magician is a distinctive PADI specialty that was introduced at DEMA in 2021 by creator and award-winning magician Chef Anton. The idea is to educate, entertain and engage scuba students to make the class more fun.

Julie Morgan
Page 7



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Pineapple

I was totally astonished when I passed by Smooth Operator the smoothie and juice bar a few days ago and saw two big pineapples growing in the yard of the owner, Bas.

I had never seen pineapples growing on Bonaire. Years ago when Bas started to plant the top of the pineapples I told him that I wondered if the plants would bear any fruit because of the drought here. I told him it would make a nice decoration for his juice bar, and he had a lot of pineapple tops, so he should plant them.

You can imagine how surprised I was when I saw the big sweet and juicy pineapples growing right there.

Let me tell you the next story. Bas makes wooden containers from wood pallets. He puts a mix of dirt and compost from fruit skins in the containers. But because the containers are so big, he adds a lot of whole dry coconuts from his coco trees. On top he adds more compost and black dirt and plants a few pineapple tops in each container. It is a fantastic success and you should try it too.

Here is the information about how to grow a pineapple. Cut off the top and put it in a glass of water. Remove the under leaves and put the glass in a sunny location. After two weeks little root shoots will appear. Transplant the plant in a con-



tainer in a sunny location. You can also start and grow pineapples indoors too.

How do you know if a pineapple is a good one? Smell the pineapple. Does it smell like a pineapple? Yes, good. But if it smells fermented or if it has soft spots or bruises, it is not good anymore. A whole pineapple will keep on the counter for two - three days. Once cut, it can stay in the fridge for five to seven days and in the freezer for about six months. To use a pineapple cut off the top first, cut the crown and then the bottom. Dig out the "eyes" and slice off the outer skin from top to bottom.

Pineapple works also as a meat tenderizer because it contains bromelain which down the protein and softens the meat. Fresh pineapple can make your mouth itchy or burn because our tissues are made of protein. This is normal; it is not an allergy. It may help to rub the peeled pineapple

with some salt and let it stay for five minutes and then rinse the salt off.

Pineapples are used in many delicious foods: salads, cakes, jam and marmalades, fruit punch, and beverages like Caribbean Pina Colada. Or just eat it fresh as a fruit snack.

Pineapple is a very healthy fruit with many benefits: it's full of nutrients, contains disease-fighting antioxidants, helps build up immunity and suppresses inflammation, eases symptoms of arthritis, and speeds recovery after exercise and surgery. One cup has more than 100 % of vitamin C and more than half the manganese you need per day. Pineapple is also called the "libido lifter."

A pineapple plant doesn't take too much space and can decorate your porch or roof top. I don't think iguanas like this plant because of its hard leaves and there are ways to protect it from the loras.

Pineapple comes from the Caribbean area. It was taken by American colonists to America and from there spread over the world. So bring it back; grow your own pineapple just like Bas, the smooth operator, does. 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.

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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. Adults \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. 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, July 7	Clothing Swap at Posada, Rincon. 5-8 p.m. Entrance fee \$5. See below, this page.
Sunday, July 10	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Friday, July 15	Meet the Artist, Jeff Wolf: 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Thursday, July 16	Women's Dive Day: See below, this page.
Saturday, July 30	Nos Zjilea Festival 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. Bario Festival Tera Kora - Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.

International Flights to Bonaire

Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM Daily flights connecting through Aruba TUI Daily
Brussels (BRU)	Air Belgium From October 2022 to March 2023 Sun. & Fri.
Atlanta (ATL)	Delta July: Tu. & Sat. August: Sat.
Miami (MIA)	American M. W. Sat. July and August
Houston (IAH) & New York (EWR)	United Houston: Sat. July and August: New York Newark Liberty International: Sat. July to August 13.

Tentative cruise ship schedule Summer

DAY & DATE:	DD/MM	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Wednesday	29-06	Horizon	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA
Wednesday	13-07	Mariner of the Seas	0800-2000	3115	RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	27-07	Horizon	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA
Thursday	18-08	Mariner of the Seas	0700-1400	3115	RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	24-08	Horizon	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA

Clothing Swap Party

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Women's Dive Day is July 16

Dive Friends Bonaire is celebrating Women's Dive on July 16 with a full day of fun events. The day begins at 9 a.m. with yoga and fresh juice, so bring your own mat. An organized dive will follow at 10:30. Bring your gear or make arrangements for equipment when you sign up.

Participants can join a group snorkel with gear included at 2 p.m. Dive Friends will have a raffle with some great goodies at 3:30. Finally the day ends with Nicole Pelletier's Manta Project presentation at 7:30 p.m.

The cost is only \$15 for a great day of activities in celebration of women divers. Deadline to sign up is July 14 by emailing communications@divefriends-bonaire.com. Women's Dive Day will be held at Dive Friend's Hamlet location.

Activities, Events & Meetings

12 steps meeting: Every Wednesday evening 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. As of 6 July the group will be meeting at a new location. Address: 30 Kaya Den Haag, Hato (enter through gate at right side)

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>.



Echo Conservation Tours - weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at info@echobonaire.org



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.

Mangazina de Rei walking tours will resume in September, 2022.



Creating optimal health by Irene da Cunda Costa Mandala drawing

The word mandala means circle in Sanskrit, an ancient language from India. Mandalas appeared around the first century BCE. Buddhist monks spread them while traveling the Silk Road, an ancient trade route connecting the south and east of Asia to Europe and Africa.

A mandala is usually a circular design with repetitive patterns. They can be as simple as a replication of petals or a very complex combination of forms and colors. Mandalas generally have one identifiable center point, from which emanates an array of symbols, shapes and forms – organic or geometric.

For Hinduist and Buddhist monks and practitioners, a mandala is a graphic symbol of the universe, a cosmic diagram that functions as a powerful aid to meditation and concentration. Some mandalas are made with colored sands and when finished, they are intentionally destroyed to represent the law of impermanence: nothing lasts forever; the only constant is change.

For psychologist Carl Jung, mandalas represent the collective unconscious, an archetype. "I sketched every morning in a notebook a small circular drawing, a mandala, which seemed to correspond to my inner situation at the time... Only gradually did I discover what the mandala really is.... the Self, the wholeness of the personality, which if all goes well, is harmonious." ~ C.G. Jung.

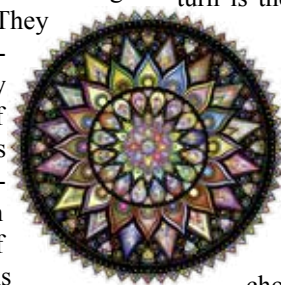
Drawing mandalas is also used in art therapy to bring mindfulness and tranquility. The circle is a powerful form that represents totality, wholeness, orig-

inal perfection and the infinite. Pythagoras called the circle "monad," the most perfect of creative forms, without beginning or end, sides or corners. In Nature we see the circle all around us. While drawing mandalas, filling the circle with repetitive patterns helps focus concentration, letting creativity flow. Carefully repeating each component of the mandala brings calmness and helps keep disturbing thoughts away. The creation of a mantra is an interactive process, each circle asks for a new pattern, which in turn is the result of the creator's mind and the existing pattern in the previous circle. A creative dialogue is produced between the mandala and the artist.

Some studies have found proof of the positive effects of drawing mandalas. One published in *Frontiers in Psychology* found that collaborative mandala drawing nurtures positive feelings and individual mandala drawing helps detox negative feelings. Research with adolescent cancer patients showed that mandala drawing was effective in reducing anxiety and depressive symptoms. An intervention regarding pre-test anxiety in college students, showed that seven out of nine participants scored significantly lower in test anxiety scores after six sessions of mandala drawing.

Apart from the psychological benefits, mandala drawing is very enjoyable, and once completed are harmonious and pleasant art pieces.

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.



Pets of the Week



It's kitten time again.....

At this moment we have a lot of kittens, all so beautiful, sweet and playful. Come and see these furry hair balls. We have them in the colour and size that you want!

They are too young to be neutered but that needs to be done when they are 6 months old. They do have their vaccinations and will be chipped the moment you say you want to adopt one or two (!) of these babies.

Please visit us and choose the kitten(s) that will be yours!

Photos/story Monique Degenaar

Shelter News

Volunteers Needed for Saturdays



Pakus di Pruga, Animal Shelter Bonaire's second hand store, is in need of some able-bodied volunteers to help on Saturdays and at future Book Fair/Flea Markets. If you are looking to help the Shelter in some way but only have weekends free, this is your perfect opportunity.

Every Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pakus di Pruga offers books, clothes and all sorts of household items like furniture, kitchen items, bedding, appliances, etc. for sale at remarkably low prices. Thanks to the many donations received from island residents, lots of new items arrive every week and must be put out for display on Saturday mornings and then unsold items returned inside at the end of the day. Often there are also scheduled "pickups" on Saturday mornings, so additional help is needed to "ride shotgun" and help load our trucks. The Pakus needs some "muscle" to help with the process.

If you have the time, energy and inclination to help we can use you! The camaraderie among the Pakus volunteers is great so there is as much fun as there is work each week. To volunteer to help, please contact Marcel at M.Kohler@JacobsArchitekten.com.

Jane Disko

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, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

UPDATES FROM ECHO

Parrots & People

by the Echo Team

Upcoming summer roost count

The yellow shouldered Amazon parrot (YSAP), also known locally as the lora, is an endangered parrot species. The largest remaining population resides right here on the island. Echo is organizing a semi-annual roost count to collect data on the lora population of Bonaire. Research into population dynamics of this important local parrot population is very important, especially now during the breeding season. It will help us better understand if population growth is healthy, stable, or if its declining, how the population is distributed on the island and how it compares to previous roost counts.

A roost site is where loras settle to sleep for the night. The volunteers position themselves at a convenient observation point near the roost site and observe the birds waking up and leaving the area in search of food as the sun rises. The birds are counted as they leave their roost site. We have over 30 roost sites and each one requires at least two volunteers to observe.

We are looking for nature enthusiasts and early risers to help Echo with the upcoming roost count on July 30. Contact us at echobonaire@gmail.com to register if you would like to help.

If you live in an area such as Antriol, Tera Cora or southern Rincon and you regularly see loras gathered in a specific spot during the morning and evening hours, please contact Echo at echobonaire@gmail.com to let us know, so we can add the exact location of the roost to the roost count.



Sheltering resident birds of Echo during storm Bonnie

The resident loras of Echo had to be sheltered in indoor cages during the storm to keep them safe from potential strong winds and flying debris in outdoor aviaries. The passing of the storm provided much needed rain for our planted native trees and the loras are happily back in their outdoor aviaries.

One of the effects of global climate change is the increase in frequency of severe weather patterns such as tropical storms and hurricanes. This means that even for the island of Bonaire, which rarely gets hit by hurricanes in force, will encounter these weather systems more frequently in the coming years. We must consider what the effect may be on local ecosystems and endangered species such as the loras (YSAP).

Photo Julie Morgan

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.

Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter



Happy birthday, Mom

Let me tell you....

About this very special person, that was born on July 3. 1922 into a family with a mom, a dad and later a brother.

She was born for adventure and wanted to travel the world. But she had to work and help her parents. The war spoiled all plans and she had to stay home.

Later she met a great guy and married him. When their baby was 8 months old, he left her for another woman. To give her child a father, she married another man, who was a widower with two children. Together they had a son.

This child, born too early, had to be put into an incubator but there wasn't one. Together with the doctor she made a big carton into an incubator, with four hot-water bottles. The milk this baby needed was pumped, because he could not drink by himself. She fed him her milk, one teaspoon every hour. Her husband told her that this child could not be his. He did not make handicapped children.

The baby was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and was not accepted in school as a pupil. She fought and pleaded until there was one young eager teacher who took him into her classroom.

She went from doctor to professors and pleaded for help. She knew the baby was not retarded, but everyone else thought so. She decided to fight on her own, for everything that this baby needed and did so until he was a grown man. And she taught her child and stepchildren to always treat children and adults with a disability like every other person. They could not help being the way they were and it wasn't their fault.

When this young man wanted to get married she told him it would not be a good idea, as most mothers would. He married anyway, but in the end she was right. This was not the woman for him. He lived with her and she saw to it that he was treated as everybody else was treated. She got him the help he needed and fought for his rights. If there was no way, she made the way herself.

Her first child was jealous every now and then and wanted as much attention as the little brother. But the Mom taught the child that when the brother got what he needed, only then the Mom could give them what they needed.

When the daughter left the house to go into the world, the mother cried but supported her, no matter what. She wanted her to have the possibilities she never had.

The daughter studied hard and got a job abroad and while doing so, she always treated persons with a disability with respect. And she has been doing so all of her working life. She always fought for their rights until the mom and brother and husband passed away. And she still does. Happy Birthday in heaven, Mom.

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.

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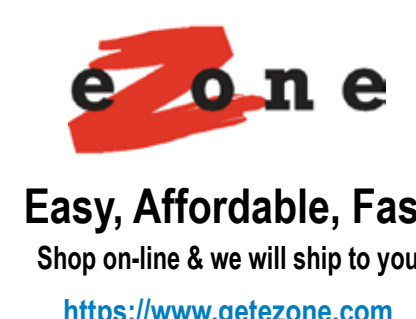
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For the love of art, freedom and authenticity, artist and teacher Tatiana Nicolaas of TXN Studios, has inspired several students from SGB to be creative. The kids, age 13 – 15, presented their work to OLB’s communication department last week. The challenge set by their instructor Tatiana was to create art of a symbolic feature of Bonaire.

Tatiana said her mission is to teach the kids not only how to make art but that being creative can be a way to make a living just like any other vocation. Pictured displaying the work are communications and OLB personnel including Favel Maduro, Imarisha Hagens, Nolly Oleana, Tatiana Nicolaas and the young artists. Photo Julie Morgan



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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