



Photo Julie Morgan

Sunset Beach Park is for Everyone

By law the government clearly states, the ‘beaches of the sea’ as the beaches of Bonaire are formally called, are owned by the public body Bonaire. (Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Civil Code BES)

Furthermore, it is stated a beach cannot simply be withdrawn from public view.

Yet, in the past few years the government has come under fire by the public regarding development of new hotels/resorts that absorb Bonaire’s coastal beach areas. For many years, the old Bonaire Beach Hotel (Sunset Beach Hotel) property was considered a public beach even when the hotel was in operation. Following the hotel’s demise the property was divided into four parcels of which three were sold. Two were developed into the austere Chogogo Resort and the third is destined to be Sunset Hotel Resort if the needed permits are realized. Many have wondered and worried what the future held for the remaining parcel (26,000 sq. meter) of beachfront property. Would the government honor the law of ‘beaches of the sea’?

In a ceremony before invited guests, on September 9, BHM (Bonaire Holding Maatschappij N.V.) director Adely Susana-Jansen answered the question. She announced the fate of the last beach parcel in a

speech complete with a unique and well-designed video presentation.

“The intention is and always was that the beach in front of the resorts would remain free and accessible for the Bonaire community. And this project will create the accessibility for one and all to this beach. I put emphasis on one and all,” said Jansen.

The main contractor for the park project is BWM (Bonairiaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij). According to Jansen, only local Bonaire labor will be employed for the construction.

Regarding environmental concerns for the project, BHM met with STINAPA, Reef Renewal Bonaire, Sea Turtle Conservation, ECO Bonaire, Piskabon and World Nature Funds. All were in attendance at the presentation.

An active participant in the process of decision making, Bonaire Marine Park manager Judith Raming said she approved of the project. She explained,

the sand used for the beach would be a special certified grade and the park floor would not be diabase, as it is now. Diabase is highly toxic to coral reefs due to its high nitrogen level. Nor will the park’s floor be asphalt but rather a superficial surface that allows water to pass through it.

The park plan is designed to encourage physical activity for all ages. Little islands throughout the pedestrian friendly walkways separate a fitness area, children’s playground, barbeque area, kiosks for products to be sold, palapas, toilets, restaurant/bar and a dock for fishing boats with an access ramp.

Major consideration has been given to the disabled and elderly by ensuring the walkways are easily navigated. A slope and ramp into the water will be built for safe sea entry. And, an agree-



Plan of Sunset Beach Park
<https://fb.watch/fvD1CqrmLr/>

Sunset Beach Park,
to page 10

Parliament learns from Chogogo

With three major developments looming in Bonaire's future—Ocean Oasis beach, Kings Beach resort, and Europarc—the government in the Netherlands seems determined to assure the Chogogo Resort debacle can never be used as a precedent for issuing permits for new constructions on the coast.

State Secretary Vivianne Heijnen (Infrastructure and Water Management) when writing in response to written questions from MP Van Esch (Party for the Animals) acknowledged that the authority for issuing development permits lies with the local government.

But she also insisted Bonaire needs to institute a proper licensing system with an established approval process:

- with step-by-step verification when each requirement has been met;
- that assures the participation of all parties charged with responsibility for making the decision;
- that includes checks and balances that guarantee proper procedures and transparency; and



• that provides for enforcement of the licensing conditions.
Dossier Kingdom Relations posted Heijnen's letter
https://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties-nl.translate.google.com/2022/09/05/afloop-vergunningkwestie-chogogo-bonaire-nog-ongewis/?_x_tr_sl=nl&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=sc

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations) Photo Julie Morgan

Minister of Education may be a supporter of Papiamentu as language of instruction



Minister Education
Robbert Dijkgraaf

The Minister of Education in the new Rutte IV government announced in July that, "With regard to freedom in the language of instruction, a draft amendment to the national ordinance is currently on the table. This will be completed shortly." In the terminology of recent discussions, "freedom in the language of instruction" can be interpreted as meaning local freedom from the requirement that Dutch be the primary language of instruction in the schools. On the local level, that could mean the authority to teach primary students exclusively in Papiamentu.

The Minister of Education, Robbert Dijkgraaf, is a Dutch theoretical physicist, mathematician and string theorist with an impressive reputation in academic research. His resume does not mention experience in elementary or secondary education, or in learning theory.

Recently the government approved a departure from the Dutch language requirement for post-schooling Papiamentu-only students on Bonaire who wanted to train as chefs. Opponents of Papiamentu-only instruction accepted that as a reasonable decision. They do not agree, however, that students should arrive at secondary and higher education having been exposed only to the limited body of knowledge and world view contained in the scarce instructional materials available in Papiamentu.

A program mini-conference was conducted on Bonaire on Monday, September 12, entitled: "Framework of reference and learning lines Papiamentu." In the opening presentation, Nihayra Leona explored "the position of Papiamentu in a multilingual society in general and for the education of the school subject Papiamentu in particular." She spoke of the conditions for optimal development of the mother tongue, second language and foreign language.

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

Set thermostat at 25, WEB says

People who set their thermostats lower than necessary waste money and overload the power grid during hot weather, according to WEB. If the thermostat is set at 25 C, a comfortable temperature, the room cools as quickly as at 16 C. The lower the thermostat is set, the longer the AC compressor runs, the more power it consumes, the higher the electricity bill goes, and the less comfortable people feel.

OLB submits 2023 budget

The 2023 budget submitted by the Executive Council predicts OLB revenues of 72.6 million dollars next year, 15% higher than predicted in the 2022 budget. The OLB expects to spend \$73.5 million.

The new tourist tax and the increase in the free payment account for most of the revenue growth. Tourist tax revenues are expected to be \$12.4 million, three times what the tax yielded in 2019.

Major expense categories in the budget are: poverty alleviation and support for vulnerable groups, \$3 million; constructions of two new schools, \$4.5 million; road maintenance (excluding the multi-year road program), \$2.5 million. Amounts have also been budgeted for expanding digitizing OLB services to citizens, creating the new container port, and refurbishing public spaces.

The OLB submitted the 2023 budget to the Island Council on schedule.

International court okays lower BES pensions

With one dissenting opinion, the International Court has rejected a claim filed on behalf of a resident of Saba. The claim requested the Court declare that the pensions paid by AOW in the Netherlands and in the AOV-BES should be equal. The

Court decided that paying a lower pension in the island is justified.

Fuel prices reduced again

Thanks to the OLB's monthly price adjustment that is based on world markets, the price of gasoline is now \$1.59 per liter, a reduction of \$0.12, and the price of diesel has gone down by \$0.09, to \$1.33 per liter. The price of a large cylinder of propane decreased by \$1.62 to \$59.61.

The Royals to visit next year

His Majesty the King and Her Majesty Queen Máxima will visit the Caribbean part of the Kingdom in late January and early February, 2023. They will be joined by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Orange. The party will visit Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten and the Caribbean Netherlands: Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. State Secretary Van Huffelen of Kingdom Relations and Digitalization will accompany them.

Kaya Grandi mall's upgrade starts this month

OLB says Kaya Grandi's mall will be the pride of Bonaire, an enhanced attraction for both visitors and the community, when the upcoming renovation is completed. Clinkers will replace the asphalt and the sidewalk will be tiled. Benches will be added, more trees will be planted, street lighting will be increased, and a children's play area constructed. More parking will be available at the former Brion barracks site and the sports stadium. Phase I will begin this month and phases 2 and 3 in 2023.

See the plan on our FB page or our Online Updates page.

DMR

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 4

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Our Facebook page and

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Visit us!



TCB creates a colorful splash in Playa

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), located at the corner entering Kaya Grandi's downtown/playa area, has created a great welcoming look to their building, one that truly expresses the nature of Bonaire. Eleven local artists worked to put a new face on the building. The murals are the first thing island guests will see as they drive through Kaya Grandi. Big splashes of color with images of Bonaire clearly say, 'This is Bonaire.' One side of the building even says, "It's in our nature."

TCB director Miles Mercera said, "The building mural is part of our 'product development' plan to create more authentic 'Instagrammable' moments on Bonaire that represent our culture and creative spirit."

Bonaire's tourism campaign strategy or "product development" has changed dramatically in the last couple of years with new advertising/marketing agencies taking the reins in presenting Bonaire to different markets. The new international initiative took form with media coverage in North America and European magazines, newspapers, television and social media. And part of that new initiative



Artists (L) - Zahir Ilaria (artsbyzajir) and (R) - Ghislaine Monte (Ghisarts) working on the TCB art mural.



TCB staff welcome visitors to their newly designed office building with three-sided mural. Pictured are: Marjolein Oleana; Miles Mercera; Elesier Angel; Stephanie Winklaar; Rolando Marin; Annette Emerenciana; Virgy Balentin; Joanny Trinidad; Angelo Emerenciana; Cristely Cranston; Helen Thode

was the Bonaire Bond launched on Earth Day to encourage visitors and residents to take a pledge to respect the ocean and Bonaire's nature. (<https://www.bonairebond.com/>)

The three-sided mural covers every face of the TCB building with dramatic color and images.

Elesier Angel, TCB cruise and project coordinator said, "We are so proud of the talented local team [artists] that worked hard on the project."

The project was headed up by Ghislaine Monte (Ghisarts). Artists were: Loes Hak (Aloha Bonaire), Danielle Noken (Pink Flamingo), Rosali van Dansik (Sharking Daily), Dietrich Winklaar (Art Ditmar Winklaar), Qhyzhanne Mar-

tinus (Qhyma.arts), Mckenzie (studiosauvignon), Maria Clara Arboleda (@marea.art), Nathaniel (Nata the designer), Judmar Emerenciana (mars), Nathanael Zimmerman and Zahir Ilaria (artsbyzahir).

"The building mural is part of our repositioning strategy with our new branding as shared on bonaireisland.com and the tagline "It's in our nature."

Funds were invested by TCB and the mural is a partnership between TCB and BOG (Bonaire Overheidsgebouwen) the current owner of the building.

Photos/story Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Gorgeous Villa with Pool Bona Bista A20



- Lot size: 928 m2 / 9988 sq. ft. owned land
- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage
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Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$699,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
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<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Sept. 5. Thieves broke the lock on the front door of a house on Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez and took a black Oska television and a white Honor mobile phone.

Sept. 4. Thieves gained access to a house on Kaya Opal between 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and took laptops, telephones, an iPad, a bag with contents and other goods.

Aug. 22. Between 1 – 8 a.m. thieves broke into a restaurant on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham and took, among other things, the cash drawer and a camera system.

Aug. 17/18. Thieves broke into a house on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. Jewelry, an Apple laptop, earpods, a television and a speaker were taken.

Aug. 17. Thieves forced the front door of a house in Sabadeco to enter between 6:45 and 10:45 p.m. and took, among other things, two gray Apple Macbook Pros, gold Rayban sunglasses, brown Tom Ford sunglasses and a brown Louis Vuitton shoulder bag.

Aug. 16. Between 6:45 and 8:50 p.m. thieves forced open a door to a bungalow in a tourist accommodation on the E.E.G. Bulevar. Items taken included a black/grey Lenovo laptop, a rose gold Apple iPad, several Rayban, Chanel and Tom Ford sunglasses, a black KOBO e-reader, a pink Chloe handbag and a safe containing passports and cash.

Aug. 13/14. In the night thieves went through a window of a company building on Kaya Industria and took cash from an office.

Arrests

Sept. 12. Around 2:20 a.m., an on-duty patrol approached a man, 56, who was urinating in plain sight along the road. He was very much under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested for public intoxication and taken to the police station.

Sept. 10. During the night hours, about 4 a.m., a man, 27, was arrested on Kaya Maria Carmen Hellmund-Boom for violation of the BES Weapons Act. The suspect was involved in a fight and had gone home to

get weapons (two knives).

Sept. 9. In the evening hours, a man, 21, and a man, 46, were arrested for assault with a weapon. The suspects had assaulted another man with a baseball bat. The assaulted man had to go to hospital for his injuries.

Sept. 9. Around 1:50 a.m. a man, 22, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was stopped for driving dangerously and without lights.

Sept. 6. A man, 43, was arrested at Kaminda Lagun for assault with a weapon. He had cut a woman's hand with a knife.

Sept. 3. During the night hours a woman, 29, was arrested for driving under the influence. She was involved in a collision between two cars on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The driver was treated at the scene by paramedics.

Traffic accidents/violations

Sept. 11. At about 1:30 a.m. at the intersection of Kaya Korona and Kaya Nikiboko Noord the driver of a scooter skidded and fell due to loose sand on the road. She was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The driver was wearing a helmet.

Sept. 9. Around 6:45 p.m. a concrete truck that was driving on Kaya Nikiboko South suddenly ran off the road, went through the wall of a yard of a house and came to a stop close to the entrance of the house. There were no injuries, but significant material damage.

Sept. 8. During the night hours on Kaya Caribe a scooter driver swerved to avoid a dog on the road, lost control and crashed into a wall, causing the driver and fellow passenger to fall. Both were treated on the spot by paramedics and did not require hospitalization.

Sept. 5. Around 11:15 p.m. a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Nikiboko South when the car wanted to turn left at the T-junction of the Kaya Monsigneur Nieuwindt and did not see the oncoming scooter. The driver of the car tried to deviate. The scooter driver panicked and fell off the scooter. Ambulance personnel treated the scooter driver on the spot and she did not need to be

taken to hospital.

Sept. 5. In the afternoon a car and a bicycle collided on Kaya Neerlandia. The driver was driving north on Kaya Korona. In front of the car was a cyclist who wanted to turn left. The car tried to deviate, but hit the cyclist. The cyclist was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Sept. 5. Two cars collided on the road to Rincon at about 10:25 p.m. Two people, including an adult and a child, were taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The driver of one of the cars involved was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of alcohol.

Aug. 20. A single vehicle collision took place on Kaya Internashonal around 1:15 a.m. A car overturned near the fire station. The driver was wearing a seat belt and was rescued by firefighters. He turned out to be under the influence of alcohol. The ambulance took him to hospital for a medical check-up.

Traffic control

Traffic checks continue regularly. In recent days, fines have been issued for driving without valid insurance documents, without a valid driver's license, for holding a phone while driving and for driving without a seat belt. The amount of a fine for the above violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.

Fire

Sept. 9. At about 6 p.m. the police station received a report of a house on fire in the Seru Grandi area. Firefighters managed to put out the fire, but the house was completely burned down. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Contacting the police

911 (urgent or red-handed)
717 8000 or 715 8000 (no emergency)
9310 (anonymous tip line)

FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

Ombudsman here this week only

Until September 17, Bonaireans who want to submit a complaint about government authorities can meet with either the National Ombudsman or the Ombudsman for Children during office hours and free of charge. Conversations can be conducted in Dutch, English or Papiamentu.

People with complaints about, for example, the Tax Authorities, the Public Entity, ZJCN, the police and the Public Prosecution Service can contact the team of the National Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Children free of charge at:

Youth home Young Bonaire

- Tuesday, September 13 from 9 – 11 a.m.
- Saturday, September 17 from 9 – 11 a.m.

Fundashon Cocari, Rincon

- Wednesday, 14 September from 2.30 – 5 p.m.

Complaints can be filed online or by telephone year around. The National Ombudsman website includes a complaint form; or the office can be phoned at +31 70 356 35 63.

The Ombudsman for Children can be emailed at ombudswerk@kinderombudsman.nl; or phoned +31 70 8506 995.

Both Ombudsman offices will answer calls on working days until 11 a.m. Bonairean time.

U.S. flights to Bonaire added for holiday season American Airlines via Miami

Holiday service: daily flights from December 14 through January 7.

Present service: three weekly flights on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Resumes January 9. A larger capacity Boeing 737 will replace the usual A319 during the holiday period.

Delta via Atlanta

Holiday service: five flights per week from December 17 to January 8, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Resumed service: January 9 to March 8, two weekly flights on Wednesday and Saturday.

Present service (through December 16): a weekly Saturday flight.

United Airlines via Houston

Schedule will remain the same: a weekly flight to Bonaire on Saturday with return flight on Sunday.

United Airlines via Newark

Service currently suspended. Will resume on October 29.

The additional holiday flights are already online and can be booked.

DMR

2 OKT 2022
SWIM
to
KLEIN
BONAIRE
20th Year
Jong Bonaire
Sunbelt Realty
AKKERMANS AUTO SUPPLIES B.V.
HYUNDAI BUILT TOUGH LINCOLN
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STRUPA
Jong Bonaire 2022
Guardian Group
BAB
Cargill
Food Supplier
INSCRIPTION AT JONGBONAIRE
1 SEPTEMBER 2022
TIME 10.00 - 18.00
INSCRIPTION AT EDEN BEACH
2 OCTOBER 2022
BANK COMPENSATION TIME 7.00 - 12.00
(START 7.30 AM)
THANK YOU TO ALL CHAIRMAN
PRIZE 10.00 - 15.00
(START 9.00 AM)
KIDS - \$ 10.
ADULT - \$25.

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.

The joy of airports

5 September 2022

Dear Mr. Gaylor,

I read your letter to *The Bonaire Reporter* last week, and have a few responses. First of all, I completely agree with your comment “the airport experience is always the worst experience of any trip,” but, of course, I don’t agree that it’s in Bonaire. Last year I travelled to the US with my little dog, Puff, with all her usual health certificates. At Miami International Airport the Customs Officer said, “Gee, I think there’s some new Department of Agriculture form you need for your dog.” Did he verify that thought with technology, or even a phone call? Nope, he sent me down a hall which ended in an elevator which required a key, so I had to go back and wait to be accompanied by a key-holder. Then they required me to pick up my checked luggage and bring everything to Agriculture. In Agriculture I had to put all the bags on an x-ray belt, and take them off (without help). The official there assured me that the paperwork for the pup was fine and that there had never been any other re-

quirements. Heh.

Anyone who has done much travelling will have at least one story of an annoying circumstance; isn’t that part of the joy of travel?

I’m concluding from your letter, sir, that you don’t spend a lot of time arguing before juries. Although you had some good suggestions, your comments like [the new tax procedure at the airport] “makes Bonaire look like some third world illiterate destination” are not likely to generate sympathy for your troubles. And although I’m sure we’re all fascinated to learn that you “don’t fly first class to be put at the end of any line,” that comment doesn’t endear you to anyone, either.

By the way, you could solve the problem of those pesky lines by simply flying in on your personal jet whenever you chose.

You said, “we love Bonaire and the people,” but except for that assertion, your letter showed otherwise.

Sincerely,

Dee Scarr

*Bonaire-lover since first sight,
42 years ago*

Selibon marks World Clean Up Day

Saturday, September 17, 2021 is World Clean Up Day. On this day, worldwide attention is paid to cleaning our planet. In the coming weekend, Selibon NV and Fundashon Boneiru Limpi i Bunita will place waste bins in different neighborhoods, so that every resident can contribute to a cleaner and more beautiful Bonaire. The waste bins will be placed in:

Neighborhood	Place	Streetname
1.Belnem:	Kaya Mars	Kaya Mars
2.Tera Kora:	Community center - Tera Kora	Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt
	La Sonrisa Ballpark	Kaya Nikiboko Zuid
3.Nikiboko:	At Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador	Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia 56
	Community center - Nikiboko	Kaya Pos di Amor
4.Antriol:	Square in front of old Papa Cornes school	Kaya Korona
	Intersection Kaminda Djabou/ Buni	Kaminda Djabou - Kaya Buni
5.Lagun:	Near the yellow glass container	Kaminda Lagun
6.Nort Salinja:	Soccer field Rudy Boezem	Kaya Aruaco
	Community center - Nort Salinja	Kaya Cacique
7.Republiek:	Kaya Piedra Presioso	Kaya Piedra Presioso
8.Rincon:	Intersection Kaya Trinitaria/Sofaya	Kaya Trinitaria - Kaya Sofaya
	Near stadium Antonio Trenidad	Kaya Cocorobi
9.Sabadeco	Near tennis court	Sabadeco Crown Court
10.Hato:	Kaya Leeuwaarden	Kaya Leeuwaarden
11.Playa:	Near Kadushi Apartments	Kaya Italia
	Near the shed at Kaya Neerlandia	Kaya Neerlandia

What can be deposited in these rubbish bins:

- Bulky waste (such as chair or old table, cabinets, bed, and mattress).
- Garden waste (such as leaf and branches).

Pay attention to:

- Place electronic appliances such as TV, refrigerator and washing machine next to the rubbish bin.
- If the waste bin is full, put your waste

next to the waste bin.

- Corrugated sheets and/or other material that may contain asbestos must be reported to Selibon NV for separate collection.

For more information or questions, please contact Selibon NV at:

- Telephone: 717-8159 or 701-8159
- Email: balie@selibon.com
- Facebook page: Selibon NV

Tourism numbers are looking, well, pretty good

At its quarterly press conference the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and its partners provided an overview of the island’s tourism performance during Quarter 2, plus some projections for winter 2022/2023. The Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB), BONHATA, Bonaire International Airport (BIA), and the Harbor Master contributed information as well.

All eyes are searching the data for evidence that the introduction of the new Tourist Tax on July 1 affected the number of visitors deciding to come to Bonaire. People also wonder about the rate at which Bonaire is regaining its pre-covid status as a tourist attraction and what the future of tourism on the island will be.

Many variables are complicating the picture, especially the world-wide disruption of air travel, the uncertainty still remaining regarding the covid variant dangers, and the rates at which other competing tourist destinations are reclaiming their own market shares.

So . . . Is the new Tourist Tax deterring visitors? We can’t tell. Between July and August there was, according to TCB, a “soft decline” in arrivals from 12,500 to 11,400, but August is always a slower month. A comparison of this year’s numbers with the numbers from July and August last year might have been indicative, but TCB did not provide that data. Regardless, it may take two or three years before any effects of the tax can be determined.

Thanks to data provided by BONHATA, we do know . . .

Hotel occupancy rates are down compared to last year. Last year the average occupancy during July and August was 71% and 74%. At the beginning of this year the average occupancy had increased to 82%. By April it was down to 79%. It was 64% in July and 58% in August.

On the other hand, Bonaire’s hotel rooms are making more money per room. During July and August 2021, the Average Daily Rate (ADR) for rooms was \$192. The current ADR is \$227 and the forecast for the rest of the year is \$235.

Visitor traffic from the U.S. re-

mains strong. Traffic from Netherlands has softened.

TCB’s goal is to recover 100% of Bonaire’s pre-covid tourism by the end of this year. TCB is changing the way it positions the island and the niche market it wants to attract. The new branding direction will be launched this month on a new TCB website.

The OLB’s goal is to increase the incomes of Bonaireans by raising the quality of tourism. It is investing the extra revenue generated by the entry tax in educating people to upgrade their skills, as well as to promote the island’s culture, fisheries and improving the infrastructure. According to the commissioner for economic development and tourism, Hennyson Thielman, the OLB “has made several decisions intended to guide development toward a better balance between tourism and the community’s well-being. For example, the decision to hold tourist accommodation developments and tie these to stricter rules and conditions.”

According to Maarten van der Scheer, CEO of Bonaire International Airport (BIA), Flamingo International has processed 8% more arriving and departing passengers than in the first seven months of pre-covid 2019. Flamingo Airport is making good progress on improvements that will upgrade its capacity and the passengers’ experience. The 2022 and 2023 forecasts look good, although the worldwide pilot shortage threatens to be a wild card.

Ms. Kia-San Silberie, speaking on behalf of the Harbor Master, said Bonaire’s port is working on a cruise schedule for this year and next that will conform to the new executive council policy that limits cruise ship calls to one per a day. Silberie also went into detail on the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Royal Caribbean Cruise lines that is intended to create a good match between the interests of arriving passengers and the attractions offered by the island..

DMR

Food Warning: be careful when using Calvé Peanut Sauce from the Netherlands



The public body Bonaire (OLB) warns society about the risk of pieces of rubber in two Calvé products from the Netherlands.

- Calve Peanut sauce mild barcode 871210759772
- -Calve Peanut Sauce Spicy barcode 871210759772

If you have purchased one of these products, we advise you not to use it. The Supervision and Enforcement Directorate is monitoring this situation. If you have any questions, please contact the Supervision and Enforcement Department at: 715-5300.

Goats: the good, the bad and the ugly

Story and photo
by Virginia Knight

On September 4, over 400 people gathered at the entrance to Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) to attend the Festival di Kabritu (Festival of the Goat). Bonaire cooks served up their variation of special goat stew and free tickets for the stew were given to every person walking through the gate.

Bands played, drinks were served and Bonaire's party spirit was going strong.

But there is more to the Goat Festival story than just an excuse for a party.

Jason Fransisca is one of the main WSNP rangers in charge of catching and removing the wild goats from the park. Jason walks 6km on average every day marking goat trails in the park. Many goats are removed by the rangers, but most are caught by volunteer groups. Any organized group can apply to catch goats and they can keep them. They just have to promise to keep them penned in afterwards. Since the project began two years ago, 2,100 goats have been captured and Jason believes there are 3,000-4,000 more in the park. Asked if he thinks they will eventually capture them all, he is doubtful. Jason explained, the goats are wily and smart and have learned to disappear when they hear the sound of park trucks. He thinks the smartest goats will outwit humans for a long time. However, in areas where the goats have been removed, new tree growth has begun and the park landscape is returning to its natural beauty.

An additional problem is how fast goats reproduce. One goat pair can pro-



WSNP ranger and goat wrangler, Jason Francisca

duce four kids a year. In the park they have prospered. They eat all tree seedlings and denude the landscape.

Goats were originally brought to Bonaire by the Spanish in the 1500s. For years thereafter, fearful of starvation, Bonaireans maintained the goats on the park property, even bringing them water, because they saw the goats as a backup food source if shipped food stuffs failed to arrive. Some people feel the goats should continue to live in the park for this reason.

Outside the park, LVV is trying to deal with farmer owned free range goats. LVV employee Hanna Bersma said LVV has been developing a plan for these domesticated goats. The plan includes growing goat feed on Bonaire. She hopes that if farmers can buy feed for a reasonable price, they will keep the goats penned up. Long fields of Buffalo grass and other delicious goat food is growing right now on Bonaire. WEB recycled water is used to water the plants and that keeps prices down. LVV is also giving away free goat ear tags which farmers can use to identify and keep track of their goats. And the goats look very attractive wearing these earrings.



Real Madrid football clinic, held August 15-19, allowed 45 boys and girls the opportunity to learn football (soccer) and practice the ethics of a real sports professional team. The winning participant, Joey Geenevasen-Plug displayed the best skills and ethics practice. He and winning Bonaire coach Marco Bos will be a part of the World Challenge at Real Madrid Sport City in Spain in spring 2023.

Back row. L-R: Roy Smits, Dive Friends, sponsor; Brian van den Bergh, FRM Caribbean director; Ginia Elhage-Cicilia, Banco di Caribe, sponsor; Marco Bos, winning Bonaire coach; Ashanty Toppenberg, Digicel, sponsor.

Front row. L-R: Joey Geenevasen-Plug (FRM clinic winner/ U12 MVP), Eline van der Wulp (MVP U10) and Isaac Helmholtz (MVP U14).

Brian van den Bergh, Photo thanks to Nicholas, Real Madrid



Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



I just got my property tax bills, all of them! Can you tell me why am I paying two or three different tax bills? Fred F.

Hi Fred, that's a good question.

There are three types of "property taxes" on Bonaire, and you get a different bill for each one that applies to your property.

- **Vastgoedbelasting (VGB):** This is the property tax charged on houses and land owned by non-residents or a company, or on properties that are owned by residents of Bonaire but are NOT their primary residence. In the case of residents, these are usually investment properties that a resident owns in addition to their primary home. The tax rate for VGB is normally 0.91% of the value of the property and applies to second homes, rental properties and land owned by non-residents or corporations or BV's. In addition to the tax that you pay, the government also charges you a service fee of 17.5% of

the VGB tax. These funds go to the local Dutch government, the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederlands, also called the RCN.

- **GrondBelasting (GB):** This is the property tax that is charged on property owned by residents that serves as their primary residence. The tax rate for GB is normally 0.345% of the value of the property and applies ONLY to a property that is owned by a Bonaire resident (with a sedula) and is registered as their residence at the Bevolking (Public Register Office). This money goes to the island government to pay for the local government services and salaries.

- **Erfpacht (Leased Land Fee):** This is a type of "property tax" that is charged on properties sitting on land that is leased from the island government. This fee is charged on all parcels of leased land. The amount of the fee is based on the location of the leased land and on the size of the lot. For example, the leased land fee for oceanfront land is about \$1.49 per square meter, and the leased land rate in other area is between \$0.75 and \$0.125 per square meter. This money goes to the island government to pay for the local government services.

Bob Bartikoski, Real Estate Agent.
Re/Max Bonaire

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email me at bob@bonairehomes.com or call or WhatsApp me at +5990786-7362

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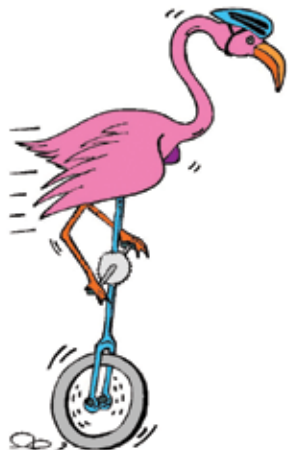
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MCB celebrates 60 years on Bonaire



L-R: Leonard Domacasse, MCB director; Miles Mercera, TCB director; Elesier, TCB cruise and project; Boi Antoin, Fuhikubo founder and director; Emma Pratt, Fuhikubo project director; Ludwig Ballantine, Fedrashon di Futbol Bonaeriano director; Chicu Capriles CEO, Maduro & Curiel's Bank; Genara Timp-Silberie, Zorg en Welzijn Groep, director. Photo Julie Morgan

MCB (Maduro and Curiel Bank) celebrated 60 years on Bonaire with a by invitation only party on September 8 in the parking lot of their main office in Hato. Blue and yellow MCB flags adorned the streets in the surrounding area in celebration of the event. Business owners, dedicated employees and a few local government officials made the guest list for the anniversary party.

Guests enjoyed music by Farley Entertainment and were given a ticket on entry for a complimentary cup marking MCB's 60 years, drinks, a cupcake and snack box. MCB Bonaire director Leonard Domacasse took the stage to welcome the crowd and define the bank's role in the community since 1962.

"Today we remember the historical opening 60 years ago. A small office located in Playa...when the popula-

tion was about 6000. During the past 60 years MCB has been a strong partner in Bonaire's overall development. We have been a driving force in the balanced evolution of Bonaire's community. We have shown a strong commitment in supporting many elderly projects, initiatives in history, culture and nature," said Domacasse.

To illustrate this commitment, Domacasse and Chicu Capriles, CEO of WMCB called to the stage four organizations to receive \$5000: Zorg en Welzijn (Pension Fund for Care and Well-being); Federashon di Futbol Bonaeriano; Fundasho Historiko Kultural Bonaeriano (Fuhikubo) and The Bonaire Bond (Tourism Corporation Bonaire).

Julie Morgan

Love Blossom Arts and Crafts ahead

Artists and art lovers will have an opportunity to take part in an art festival displaying the work of local artists on September 24, 3 – 8:30 p.m. Love Blossom Arts and Crafts Fest organized by artist Shirmeena Francisca is creating a platform for all artists, young or old established or just getting started.

Shirmeena said, "I want it to be an exhibition where they [artists] can exhibit but also buy and trade art if that's what they want to do. There will be workshops, a paint area and more."

Love Blossom will have food, drinks and music for festival visitors. DJ FE of Bonaire, DJ Captnzen of St. Tropez Ocean Club of Curacao and Com Alma on saxophone are scheduled to provide the music. A story telling workshop will be presented by Guineta de Palm.

Artists are invited to exhibit or sign up for a booth which can be shared by two artists for just \$20.

Shirmeena hopes to see as many artists be a part of Love Blossom. Families are invited to come and enjoy the art, music and food.

For more information contact Shirmeena at 785-5125 or visit on Instagram page: kunukulove_dba_Love-blossom

Love Blossom will be held at Wamari #5 Kamindi Lagun. (Pass Krusada and the entrance will be on your right- follow the signs.)



Wave by Femke Franckaert. Photo Julie Morgan

2022 Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

September Corals

	NAFM	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13												
		Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	SUNSET	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS-10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral													17:23-18:43
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral							18:45-19:46 (Expected nightly until at least Sept 30; new observations are encouraged from any date)						
<i>Montastrea cavernosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							18:52-22:22 (Peaks in first 1.5 hrs)						
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral							19:00-20:30						
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group; 35-100 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral							19:10-20:15 (Peaks in first 30 min)						
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral							19:51-23:06						
<i>Montastrea/Orbicella frankii</i> (90-150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral							20:07-21:07						
<i>Dendrogya cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			20:09-21:19										
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral				20:04-21:19 (Expected every night across the full lunar cycle; new observations are encouraged from any date this month)									
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140-190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral			20:59-21:49 (Spawning could occur on any of these dates; this species is not highly predictable in the Southern Caribbean)										
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150-190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral				21:09-21:49									
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160-255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral							21:17-22:52						
<i>Montastrea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral							21:42-22:47						
<i>Montastrea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral							21:42-22:52						
<i>Siderastrea sidera</i> (195-280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							21:52-23:17						
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210-255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								22:05-22:50					
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group; 205-270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								22:00-23:05					
<i>Madracis sonaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral								all night					
<i>Agarcia humilis/Agarcia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral								all night					

Coral spawning in Bonaire is an amazing event for anyone lucky enough to experience it. Divers and even snorkelers can witness the magnificence of coral re-birth that keeps Bonaire's stunning reefs growing. August is usually the best month to see staghorn, elkhorn and pillar coral spawn although spawning occurs almost every month of the year. September and October are the best months to see mass spawning events of not just coral, but sponges and many invertebrates. The CARMABI chart gives a little insight into when the best times might be to see your favorite corals the most active. Spawning predictions are based on records from the previous years and aren't guaranteed. And times may vary in different areas of the Caribbean.

Tips from CARMABI: • Make multiple dives on multiple nights • Dive in a place with high coral cover

• Enter the water before the predicted time • Dive shallower than 50 ft for best bottom time • Use a moderately bright dive light • Scan the water column for clouds of spawn

WARNING: Be wary of box jellies at the reef edge after sunset. The box jellies are also lunar driven and make their appearance 7-10 days after a full moon (Sept 10) which is right when most of the corals will be spawning. As I can personally attest, box jellies are really beautiful and cool to see but they are beyond nasty to be stung by! Charles M. Baltayan

For the full CARMABI schedule see our facebook page or the "Since we went to print" pages of The Reporter's online edition: <https://bonairereporter.com>.

Lac Bay and the Marine Park have received a total of \$1,600,000 in new funding help.

Stinapa has received \$800,000 from the European Union to protect and preserve Bonaire’s beautiful Lac Bay. These funds, called a Resembid, will be used for multiple improvements. Additional Marine Park Rangers have been hired and they will be a daily presence at Lac on both land and sea. They will meet and greet and inform visitors about the rules at Lac, rules such as “stay off the sea grass.” A new information and Lac viewing tower will be constructed at Sorobon from which Rangers can keep an eye on activities. The funds will also be used to plant new Elkhorn corals in Lac and pay for scientific research at Lac.

The Lac project is called “Pa Semper Lac” (For Lac Forever). The growing Ranger team (pictured) was honored at Foodies on Friday afternoon, August 26, for their substantial efforts to protect the nature of Bonaire. The event also celebrated the new funding for Lac.

1.6 million slated for Lac

Story and photo by Virginia Knight



STINAPA’s ranger team: L-R. Deangelo, Leonel, Melissa, Edwin (Din), Enchomar, Gideon, Suradno, Dustin and Jonathan.

The Marine Park has received a second \$800,000 from both Bonaire’s local Island government and the Dutch government for sargassum cleanup. “We have cleaned up Sargassum this year for 48 days compared to 23 days in 2021! That is madness!” stated Judith Raming, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park.

Removing the sargassum within three days of its arrival is critical to avoiding damage to the ecosystems. The funds will be used to purchase sargassum booms which can be used to direct sargassum to an extraction point. “We will invest mainly into ordering heavy equipment such as excavators, trucks, containers for our Rangers to use to combat sargassum fast and more effectively,” said Ms. Raming.

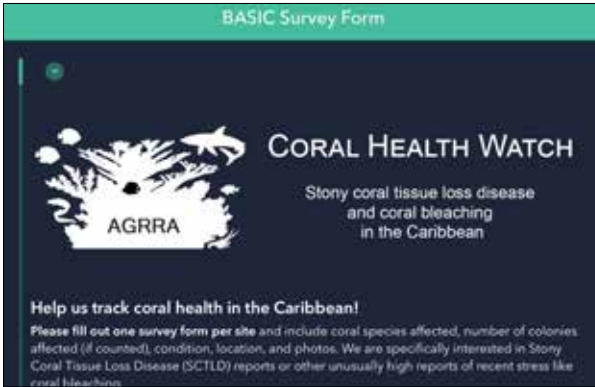
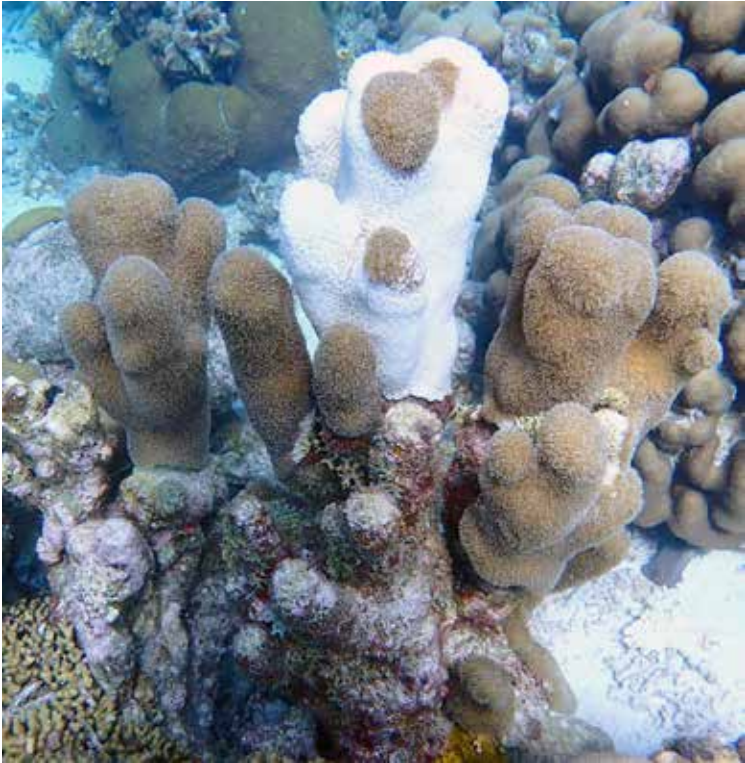
In the past Rangers and others have used picks and rakes to clean-up the sargassum. Sargassum Volunteers of Bonaire were also honored and treated at Foodies following the celebration of the new funding for Lac.

STINAPA less concerned about coral disease but stays vigilant

The Karpata and La Dania dive sites are still closed, and divers are still urged to decontaminate their gear, but STINAPA says what it suspected is Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) is probably “a particularly aggressive form of white plague, a disease that has been present on our reefs for quite a while now.” STINAPA removed the most damaged areas of reef and will continue to quarantine the two site in order to monitor the corals.

STINAPA requires all users to keep up with the recommended decontamination protocols. All gear should be decontaminated prior to the first dive in Bonaire as well as at the end of each diving day. STINAPA strongly recommends diving only one area (North, Middle, South or Klein) per day to limit potential spread of pathogens.

Caren Eckridge, STINAPA biologist, said this is either a very fast white plague or SCTLD - but SCTLD has not been confirmed



STINAPA is also asking citizen scientists and anyone who is interested to pay attention during their dives to corals that are particularly susceptible to SCTLD. Species like the pillar, maze, and flower coral are very vulnerable to SCTLD and are usually the first species that start to show symptoms. Filling out the survey is very easy and only takes two minutes, just follow this link: <https://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-outbreak/>

DMR

Nos Zjilea presents: “Man of the Sea”

In the 1950’s, sailing and fishery were of great importance to Bonaire. Fishermen would go out to fish on the islands of Margarita and Roque and would return with fish such as grouper, tuna, Mahi Mahi and many more. The people of Bonaire love to fish and swim. Because of this heritage many Bonaireans are very proud to be called “Man of the Sea”.

On Saturday, September 24, the next edition of the cultural event Nos Zjilea will present a “Man of the Sea” at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. Julius Clarendra, a man from a fishermen family, will share his experience about his life at sea and how he is passing on this family tradition to the next generation.

The traditional fishing basket is a piece of antique fishing equipment that we do not hear a lot about. It is known as “the canister” by the locals. Leonel Martijn will share his knowledge about building and using this fishing equipment.



As always, the cultural market will feature fresh locally produced natural fruit juices, locally produced herbal teas, local sweet delicacies, local art and much more. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with an assortment of delicious soups to enjoy and a large variety of local creole dishes to taste.

All of this in a cozy atmosphere with “LIVE” performances from local band “Tipiko Klasiko” with traditional classic music and the local band “JC & Friends.” There will also be a dance presentation by youngsters from ACE Kids Club under the guidance of director Segny Bernadina.

Experience ‘Nos Zjilea,’ the cultural event of Bonaire on Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. For more information you visit the Facebook fan page of Mangazina di Rei.

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Bonaire competes in 51st Sunfish World Cup in Italy



Sailors from around the world battled uncharacteristic fluky winds at Lake Garda during the 51st Sunfish World Cup in Italy. For Bonaire's team the highlight of the competition was George (Kabes) Soliano's ninth place finish (among 94 participants) on day four. Bonaire's team consisted of George Soliano, Sipke Stapert, Robbert Verboon, Alexander Gregory Tromp, Johan de Waard, Ton Nuijten, and Ralf Theyse (in order of finishing). Photo Julie Morgan

Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter
The things I learned...

When I started my first job, I was young and had just graduated from school in a kindergarten-teacher college. The new job was in the biggest European psychiatric hospital and as soon as I began I realized I knew nothing. It was very clear that it was important I learn something else, so I decided to discover the secrets of how to be a psychiatric nurse. In those days there was no specific schooling for working with adults and children with mental retardation. One thing that was also important was learning how to assist with medical care and provide medical care. I had just bought a car and was eager to travel but for travelling you need

time. I made an agreement with the head nurse that I would do a night shift once a month. This gave me enough free time to travel and still work. I had a week of night shift duty on a ward where the children could only lie in bed. During my week almost every child was ill. There had been a flu and some of the kids had pneumonia. They needed a penicillin shot during the night and their temperature had to be taken. There was this sweet little boy, we will call Andreas, with olive skin, huge brown eyes and soft curly hair. He was four years old and could not speak. He suffered from hydrocephalus. During an operation, a small tube had been insert-

Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa
The ego traps

What is the ego? Is the ego good or bad? There are many definitions of ego. Let's say that the ego is who we think we are. The ego is our personality, our beliefs, our values and our way of seeing and relating to the world. Evolutionarily, both as species and as individuals, the ego is our identity. It allows us to differentiate what is me from what is not me. This allows us to protect ourselves from external aggressions which is essential for our survival. The ego gives us a sense of unity and coherence. It is important to understand this unity and coherence is not true, yet this false belief is vital for us to function in this world. Therefore, the ego is an operative illusion. It is a belief that beyond its veracity, allows us to operate. The ego

is neither good nor bad, it just is. While the ego performs important functions, it is also the source of all or most of our suffering. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that our attachment to our false sense of ego or our extreme identification with our ego is what produces suffering. How is this? Let us repeat that the ego protects us and gives us a sense of coherence and unity that is necessary to function, therefore, the ego is not our enemy. But if we excessively identify with that defense system and buy into the idea that we are 100% consistent, then we begin to suffer, unnecessarily. It is easy to identify some of the ego's traps expressed in irrational ideas or beliefs. These ideas are perceived as axiom-

Sunset Beach Park, from page 1

ment is set between BHM and MiVaBo, an association for the disabled, to offer water wheel chairs at the park for elderly and disabled to enjoy the water. TELBO is on board in support of the infrastructure for lighting and security cameras. WEB's recycled waste water will irrigate the local trees and plants used to landscape the park. Currently both Chogogo and Den Laman, resorts on either side of the park, have placed walls or structures to deter anyone from passing onto 'their' beaches. Jansen explained that the Chogogo blockage to the beach will be removed. The future of the wall blocking access to the Den Laman property has to be discussed with the government. Construction is expected to begin this month with a possible end date 10 months from now or a bit longer taking into consideration shipping availability. Once construction begins the area will be closed to everyone but workers. No one will be allowed to enter the area or to access the beach or ocean directly from the park area. Divers, snorkelers

or swimmers will need to enter the water between Eden Beach and Chogogo or Den Laman and Sand Dollar. Jansen said, "This is a public park, where everyone is welcome to walk the beach, swim, snorkel or dive and fishermen can use the slips." A part of the monies realized from the sale of Chogogo and Sunset parcels will fund the 2.6 million dollar budget. Julie Morgan <https://fb.watch/fvD1CqrmLr/> Plan and video by Heren 2 Caribbean BV



Keep your pets cool during these hot days. If it is hot for you, it is hot for them too. Make sure they have plenty of cool water, take walks in the early morning or late evening when the pavement is cooler or perhaps they would like a nice swim. Photo John Krejci

ed into his brain to remove the fluid and flow into his stomach so his head would not grow any bigger. Andreas was so sick and very skinny. I felt so very bad for him. I had to inject his medication subcutaneously and it was very difficult. I decided to take a piece of his skin with my thumb, middle finger and index finger to lift the skin. This was the only way I could inject the medication. Big tears rolled down his cheeks and it obviously hurt very badly. I felt so sorry for the little guy. I was glad the treatment was finished. I laid him down again and sat by him, my head in his bed, close to his head. I also cried. He laid his little hand on my cheek and we cried together. Never in my life had I felt this way. I swore to myself that this was the last time I did medical treatments and would stop being a nurse. I would dedicate my time with the children in another way. I

asked for a psychologist to assess all the children and work with them in an educational way because that is what they deserved. If the doctors could note what the children could and could not do then I would observe them and learn. And this is what I have done ever since. What I know about mental retardation is what I was taught by them. It's so important to give the patients the rights they so deserve. 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.



atic, which means we think they are absolutely true with no room for any kind of questioning. These ideas have a general interpretive bias that promotes our suffering. Clear examples are thoughts of the type: "this should not happen to me" or "I do not deserve this." The premise is that I am a special being or have different qualities from other mortals so that I do not deserve a consequence that others might deserve. In general, if we win the lottery, we do not feed this type of thought, but if a serious illness occurs, most of us do. To the pain caused by the illness itself, we add the suffering caused by us feeling a victim of an injustice. Pain is not optional, but suffering is, in most cases. When we manage to momentarily detach ourselves from our ego and see other people suffering from evils equal to or worse than ours, it is not conformity that arises, but acceptance and compassion. Acceptance does not imply giving up, but it implies seeing reality as it is. Compassion is as important to feel towards others as

it is towards oneself. And then the question changes from "why me?" to "why not me?" When we understand that we are one amongst the multiplicity of beings inhabiting this planet and that we are a tiny speck of stardust in the universe, only then can we understand and choose to be a happy or miserable speck. When we understand that our ego is not our enemy and it should not be annihilated but kept in its place fulfilling its function and not dominating our existence, then can we find peace. 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.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Bonaire Divers Paradise

Almost every year I spend some time in south Florida. That's where I learned to dive way back in the 20th century, but it's only been in the last few years that I've been able to look into diving there again.

Back then I knew only about boat diving. In the Keys and also farther north, the main reefs were a few miles out and the sea conditions weren't visible from shore; some days you could dive and some days the seas were too rough. A few years later, when I worked on the island of San Salvador, the diving was also entirely from boats, but when the wind shifted, we could bring them to a side of the island where things were calm. Diving off the protected side of an island is what we do here, too, when the wind is extra strong or changes direction.

Here on Bonaire, of course, the wind almost never causes cancelled boat dives. In fact, more than twenty years ago, one of our dive operators inaugurated a "boat diving every day you're here, or your money back!" program. Less than a month later, we experienced a strong, unexpected wind reversal. There was not enough warning to move the boats around Bonaire for calmer diving; the operator paid the refunds -- and cancelled the program. No one else has tried it since; maybe there's too much temptation of fate involved.

As I wrote this I thought, "Well, we do have shore diving every day." Then I remembered the 29th of June, 2022, off Playa, when Julie and I were stopped from entering the water by the Police! That was the day a tropical storm was supposed to hit us; it actually barely slapped us, but at the time no one knew



Shore diving, anytime and almost anywhere on Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan

what would happen. I was astonished! In 42 years of diving on Bonaire, I'd never experienced such a thing! Still, once in 42 years is a pretty good record, plus a few days when we looked at the waves ourselves and said, "not today..."

In addition to being able to dive (almost) every day, don't forget that we can dive here pretty much any time, too. A few years ago, my friends Ed and Bernadette de Jonge did something that I've always wanted to do (but never had the discipline): they dived one reef (Lamachaca) in every one of a day's twenty-four hours! Not in one day, of course, but over only four days in which they did six one-hour dives. What an amazing way to understand a reef habitat, to really get to know the neighborhood. You couldn't do this in most dive destinations because you need a boat to get to dive sites and most boat schedules don't include, for example, 3 a.m. You couldn't do it off a liveaboard because they move around. Captain Don Stewart used to call Bonaire "A liveaboard dive island," but he undersold us -- he didn't mention that we get to choose among the sites and the times.

There's one south Florida dive site,

famous for its unusual critters, that isn't particularly dependent on sea conditions (except for tropical storms and hurricanes...) but is severely limited as to time: the Blue Heron Bridge, which I mentioned in my last Reef Glimpse. It's part of Phil Foster Park, which opens at sunrise; night diving is allowed but everyone must be out of the park by 10 p.m. -- there'll be no dive experiences for anyone between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. under the Blue Heron Bridge, without very special permission. Also, diving there is

not recommended earlier than an hour before high tide or more than an hour after high tide; one time I accidentally overstayed and found what looked like a wall of black water. Fleeing the wall led me right up to the beach of my entry, thank goodness.

The Divers Paradise declaration on Bonaire license plates is more than advertising. We don't have to worry about anyone's schedule but our buddy's. We can dive before work and after work (and, sometimes, during work). We can watch fireworks through the water's surface on New Year's Eve. If insomnia strikes, we can dive.

What I won't forget again is that things don't work like that everywhere.

Bonaire is definitely this diver's paradise.



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.

Picture Yourself Serengeti, Tanzania, Africa



Rae Montgomery, Jim Zandlo were with Scott and Laura Cook in Serengeti National Park Tanzania. Scott and Laura are Sand dollar owners. Jim and Rae are long time Bonaire visitors.

Are you traveling again? Send us your photo with *The Reporter* - the printed or online version.



Bonaire 17-time visitors Nick and Britta Monaco of Maryland, USA shared their prize-winning photos with *The Reporter*. They recently scooped up two first place and two second place ribbons at the 2022 Montgomery County Maryland Fair for their photos of: pair of banded butterfly fish; grouper in azur vase sponge; yellow seahorse and Lac Bay. Nick and Britta said they are 'happy to represent Bonaire.' Congratulations and thank you for sharing the beauty of Bonaire.

A photograph of a diver underwater, swimming near a coral reef. The water is clear and blue.

DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE

Join Our Team!

We are looking for dive professionals who are ready for a new adventure!

Looking for people who will go above and beyond!

email: hr@divefriendsbonaire.com

What's Happening

Animal Shelter: 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

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

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

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

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): 8- 4 Saturdays.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. <https://terrarmuseum.com>

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

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

Friday, Sept. 16	Meet the Artist, Valerie Wolf: 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 7:30 – 8 p.m. Papiamentu; 8 - 8:30 p.m. English www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Wednesdays, Sept. 21 - Oct. 12	Terramar Museum after-school heritage workshop. Two hours a week, \$20 for the entire theater workshop. Kids make their own script and material for a live stage performance. For more info: mayafromterrarmuseum@gmail.com Phone +599 701 4700
September 22 - 25	The 2022 Bonaire Music Festival will run over several days in the area in front of the Kralendijk stadium. During the festival, musical groups will perform from the island and beyond.
Saturday, Sept. 24	Nos Zjilea Festival, "Man of the Sea." 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 8. Love Blossom Arts & Crafts Festival 3 - 8:30 p.m. A family day of fun. Exhibits, items for sale or trade, workshops, paint area and more. Also food and drink, music. Bring your chairs and hang out. Wamari #5, Kamindi Lagun, past Krusada, entrance on the right. See page 7.
Sunday, September 25	Bonaire Duo Xtreme. Mountain bike race for teams of two. Competitors sign in at 6 a.m. and race ends 12 noon. See page 16.
Starting September 29	Terramar Museum exhibit, BONEIRU BIBU:BOU DI AWA BY WORLD WILDLIFE FUND NI Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Entry \$10. \$5 locals.
Friday, September 30	Taste of Bonaire 2022 (Tourism and Culture, my charm) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
Sunday, October 2	Swim to Klein Bonaire fundraiser for Jong Bonaire. It's a family event. Start from Eden Beach /Spice Beach Club and swim 800 meters to Klein Bonaire. Swim back or come back by boat.
October 3 - 8	Bonaire International Regatta 2022. During the 55th edition of the regatta, the bay will be filled with sails from all kinds of sailing divisions, all competing for their class championship.
Saturday, October 8	FKK Open Day and Lottery. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FKK Animal Rescue, Flor di Cuba 40, Kralendijk, Bonaire +599 780 8020 (WhatsApp) Facebook: Fundashon Kunuku Kakelvers

International Flights to Bonaire

Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM Daily flights connecting through Aruba TUI Daily
Brussels (BRU)	Air Belgium will fly to and from Bonaire on Dec. 23 & 25 and on Jan 6 & 8, 2023. Will also connect through Curacao.
Atlanta (ATL)	Currently Delta has a weekly Sat. flight. From Dec. 17 to Jan.8, Delta will fly five flights per week: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. From Jan. 9 to March 8 the flight schedule will be two weekly flights on Wed. and Sat.
Miami (MIA)	American's current flight schedule through Dec. 12 is three weekly flights: Mon., Wed., Sat. Starting Dec. 14 through Jan. 7 there will be daily flights with a Boeing 737 offering more capacity in both Business Class and Main Cabin. January 9 the flight schedule will go back to three weekly flights on Mon. Wed. and Sat. with A319 Jet.
New York (EWR) & Houston (IAH)	United. According to TCB, the flight from Newark, New Jersey with United Airlines is currently on hiatus but will resume on October 29, while flights out of Houston, Texas will remain with a weekly flight to Bonaire on Saturday with return flight on Sunday.

Activities, Events & Meetings

12 steps meeting: 12 Step Meeting, Wednesdays at Kaya Den Haag 30 in Hato. Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

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 peejeese@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 -Resumes August 29. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program presentation at Yellow Submarine Mondays 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 September 2022.

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturday, September 17 & 24	One Hour Clean up Power Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, October 16 (changed from Oct. 9)	Boka Onima, 4 – 6 p.m. Clean Coast Bonaire. Note the schedule change for October. Usually held second Sunday of each month at one of three locations. Collect and count. Donate your time by working as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter and data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire .
Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/	
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. 1. fishing line clean ups with Dive Friends and 2. annual clean up with SELIBON of Klein's beaches that have nest sites. Check FB page for dates. https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/?ref=hl	

BONAIRE REGATTA 2022 PROGRAM

FRIDAY SEP 30	SATURDAY OCT 1
17:00 - 20:00 REGISTRATION ALL CATEGORIES & OPENING CEREMONY SKAL(MUSEUM)	09:00-18:00 CAPTAINS BRIEFING RACING WINDSURFING SAILING COMPETITION
SUNDAY OCT 2	WEDNESDAY OCT 5
09:00-18:00 WINDSURFING & SAILING RACING	19:00-21:00 BBQ NIGHT FOR PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS
THURSDAY OCT 6	SATURDAY OCT 8
09:00-18:00 RACING SAILING, FOIL & MICROBOAT	09:00-17:00 RACING SAILING, FOIL & MICROBOAT COMPETITION
KAS DI REGATTA	KAS DI REGATTA
HAPPY HOUR 17:00 KAS DI REGATTA	AWARD CEREMONY SKAL (MUSEUM)

IOMC celebrates Bonaire for the 24th year

IOMC (Iron Order Motorcycle Club) Caribbean Pirates of Bonaire celebrated Bonaire Day/ Flag Day with their 24th edition bike rally. Cyclists numbering almost 300 came to the island to celebrate six days of biker comradery and RIDE.

Bikers from Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maartin and the United States joined the celebration, Some shipped in their bikes in containers and some rented bikes on the Island.

Orlando Francisca of IOMC said, "We prepared for 350 participants and had a little less than 300 on paper but many just joined us without registering. It was a big success, again. There were zero traffic accidents, and everyone enjoyed themselves."



The 24th edition was dedicated to member since 1997, Gersham Binns, alias 'Jamming.' Binns serves as the business manager for the IOMC Bonaire. He was honored with a gift of a new office chair for his other job as financial comptroller at Divi Famingo Resort Bonaire.

Bike friends and longtime visitors from the U.S., Randal Deaver of Dallas and Mike Parnell of Chicago combined their Bonaire visit with a 'Dive and Bike' holiday bringing an entourage of bike and dive enthusiasts to enjoy the island.

The Deavers have been visiting Bonaire for over 20 years and this was their 30th visit. Randall is an award-winning photographer. Parnell has visited the island many times and is the owner of the highly rated Magnum Scuba and teacher at the Univ. of Chicago.

Thanks to Randal Deaver and Big Papa Cliff for contributing photos for this story and our Facebook page.

Julie Morgan

Top photo: Almost three hundred bikes joined the 24th Annual IOMC Flag Day Rally

Left photo: Gersham Binns receiving his award of an office chair by Orlando Francisco and Sergino (The Great One)

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON THE REPORTER'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Hot weather tips

Every living thing experiences this terrible heat, the sharp sunlight and very dry air. I look at my plants and I wonder how they survive in such an extreme climate. Of course, I take good care of them and during in this time they require even more care.

Two months ago I was watering once every four days and with some rain showers in between it was more than enough to keep them nice and healthy. Now I water some of them once every two days but there are a few that get watered every day or even twice. This depends on how hot the day is. I put some sensitive plants under the trees so they are not exposed to the hot sun. But because the air is so dry, they still suffer and I had to let a few go. What a pity.

Managing water

The rainwater has a lot of good minerals for the plants and empowers them to survive. So when it rains, try to get some water in buckets, pots and pans and give the rainwater to the plants that show less energy. When there isn't enough for all



Put plants together. They will share the soil's moisture, making your watering more efficient.

the plants, add water from the pipe, so it is a mix. Put containers with plants under the airco outside where water drips. One can collect bathroom water, dish-washing water, mop water or water from the washing machine; yes, all water you would normally throw away. If you want to keep your water bill reasonable, this is the way to deal with water.

On St. Eustatius, there is no water from the pipe. Each house has a cistern and

catches water from the roof. While living there, I learned how to carefully manage the water. Water is used there two-three times, before it goes on the plants. I think this is what awaits us regarding clean water in the future. I read in a science article that in the near future water will become one of the most expensive products on Earth due to the climate crisis. I think people on Statia and Saba will not experience such a water problem. In fact they can teach us how to make use of our water in a more responsible way.

Hot weather tips

Plants on Bonaire are suffering with these extremely hot days. Here is my advice:

- Don't plant too much, even better, don't plant at all.
- Try to save what you have, but let the weak plants and one year plants go because they will not make it.
- If possible, put your plants in shade and out of the wind. Even plants that can stand the hot sun are suffering because it is hotter than hot.
- Water in the evening, if possible, so water does not evaporate so fast.
- Spread a mulch of dry leaves around the plants. When you water, the leaves will soak up moisture to release it into the soil.

- Make a small trench around trees and big plants so the water remains there when you water.

- Put plants together so many plants can use the same water.

- Create shade for plants.

- Last but not least, talk to them. In this tough weather, they need some extra love. A gardener told me to do this and I don't know if it works, but you lose nothing by trying, do you?

- This drought gives us a surplus of dry leaves. Use them for compost. Nothing is a waste, if you recycle and reuse.

Work to save your plants, start now, just do it.



Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she 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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Glenn

Pets of the Week

Meet Glenn.the Animal Shelter's most patient paws. Glenn is a relaxed and distinguished gentleman about 3 years and nine months. He has spent his entire life at the Animal Shelter, since he was about 4 weeks old. He has been at the Shelter longer than any of our other dogs and cats that are up for adoption. He is very "laid back" and likes to snooze and eat, and is very happy to be petted and get some attention every now and then but is never pushy about asking for attention. Guess you could say Glenn is a bit of a couch potato! He is healthy, vaccinated and sterilized and would be a wonderful companion to watch TV with or just hang out. If you're looking for a couch buddy, please visit him at Animal Shelter Bonaire. He really deserves a loving home.

Story/photo Jane Disko



Amelie

My name is Amelie. I'm a happy girl about 1 year old. A few months ago I was left at the back gate of the shelter. I was in a lot of pain and covered in wounds over my whole body. I'm very glad they saw me and let me in.

It was quite a long road of recovery. My wounds needed to be cleaned daily and I needed a lot of medication.

But now, within just a few months all my wounds have healed and I'm ready to go to my forever home.

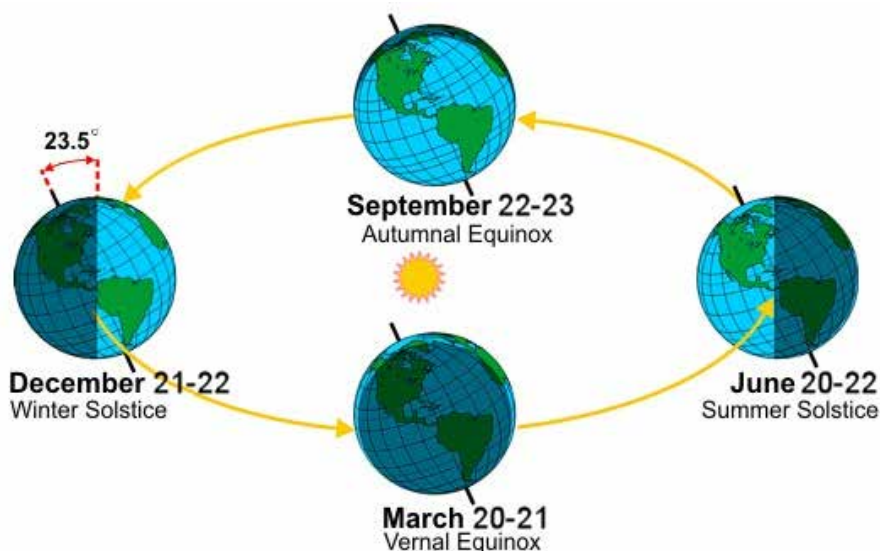
I'm really good with kids of all ages, I like other dogs and cats are fine too.

Are you the one that will love me and treat me right? Then don't wait any longer and come and get me.

Story/photos: Sanne Attevelt

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

Bonaire's sky park Autumn equinox



Visual via National Weather Service <https://www.weather.gov/cle/Seasons>

Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline:

The fall equinox is coming on September 22. The equinox happens because of the orbit of the earth around the sun, plus the precession or wobble of the planet on its axis.

Equinox literally means equal night -- Equi. Nox. The length of night is equal to the length of day, 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. That equality is used to mark the beginning of the fall season.

This is a great chance to observe our closest star: the sun. Today, the sun will rise directly and exactly due east and set directly and exactly due west! If you have a perfect east-west road in your town, snap a photo for your insta, because today it'll be perfect! Tag us if you do.

Solstices change of the length of night

and day, but the equinoxes do not. The summer and winter solstices result in the longest and shortest day of the year respectively while the equinoxes result in an equal amount of daylight and darkness received all across the earth. (<https://byjus.com>)

If you are watching for Bonaire's green flash, know that sunsets take a shorter time around equinoxes. At an equinox the sun rises due east and sets due west, so on the day of an equinox the setting sun hits the horizon at its steepest possible angle. Meanwhile a sunset is longest at or near solstice because the setting sun hits the horizon at its shallowest angle. Sunsets near the equator are shorter than those at northerly latitudes, but at any particular latitude, sunset duration is always shorter at equinox and longer at solstice. (EarthSky.com)



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Get paid to help save lives!

Animal Shelter Bonaire needs an Animal Care Giver

Four days per week

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

(two full days 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., and two morning shifts 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.)

(22 hours per week)

Requirements:

- Love of animals
- Physically able
- Good people skills
- Resident of Bonaire with valid sedula
- Able to read basic English
- Willing to learn about animal care

Responsibilities include:

- Cleaning kennels and cages, watering and feeding the animals
- Checking and reporting health and condition of the animals
- Walking, bathing and grooming when needed
- Helping keep property and kennels neat and clean

Salary based on qualifications, minimum \$6.75 per hour

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

Counting down to Duo Xtreme mountain bike race

On September 25, 2022, the 12th Annual Duo Xtreme mountain bike race will be held on Bonaire.

The designated route must be completed as duo cyclists or, in other words, as a two person team. The last rider of the team to cross the finish line earns the final time. It is therefore wise to stay together so that you can help each other to reach the finish line.

There are two routes. One of 60 km and one of 80 km. The route of 60 km, which we call PRO, is slightly easier than the 80 km ELITE. The route is approximately the same for both races. The ELITE deviates from the PRO mainly by the number of times the route must be completed. The ELITE route needs more repetitions, and therefore is more difficult and challenging.

The route starts and finishes at Eden Beach Resort. Riders must check in by 6 a.m. and the start is at 6:30 a.m. (All teams must return to Eden Beach to finish by 12 noon.) From the start, the route then goes over the boulevard to the airport. We follow the gate of the airport on the south side and to arrive on the road to Lac. The course continues through the kunuku to Yatu Bacu and on to Washikemba and then on to Lagoen. All of this route is on dirt roads.

At Lagoen there is a rest stop for riders to get chilled water and / or a sports drink.

We travel on the route via Guatamala / Mexico to Gurubu. On Gurubu we take a newly constructed trail and continue our way north via Tras di Montana. Arrival at Arawak is the crossover point across the island to the west coast. We do this through the 'Hell.'

The 'Hell' ends on the brother Janga and there is a trail split here for PRO and ELITE riders. The ELITE goes to Rincon, Para Mira, Alta Mira towards Karpata. Halfway down this road it goes back into the kunuku and then a



climb to Subi Rincon continuing on to leave 'Hell.' There, the PRO and the ELITE follow the same path again. They climb up to Sabadeco Terrace to continue via a dirt road to Seru Largu. Finally, the trail leads down Kaya Diamanta and back to Eden Beach for the finish.

After the race, participants will enjoy lunch and the award ceremony with live music.

Sign up for the race is Friday, September 23 at Karel's Beach Bar from 5 – 9 p.m. and on September 24 at Eden Beach from 5 – 7 p.m. or online at www.bonairextreme.com.

The DuoXtreme is urgently shy of volunteers who will man the water stations and checkpoints (a very important job to make this harsh trip possible for the rider).

Information at: Xtreme Sport Bonaire via the website, Facebook or at De Freewieler.

Duo Xtreme is made possible by various sponsors in-

cluding the main sponsor for the last five years, Brandaris BV Accounting. Duo Xtreme is sponsored by: Alcon, Sunbelt Realty, De Freewieler, Karels Beach Bar, Bonaire Office Center, Budget Logistics, Mega FM and, of course, Brandaris BV Accounting.

Frank Bohm



Dive Friends is looking for passionate team members who love the ocean and the environment. Multiple positions are available throughout the company at our eight different locations serving Bonaire's divers, snorkelers and water enthusiasts.

We are looking for passionate team members who preferably have dive experience. Come join our constantly growing team. Email

-hr@divefriendsbonaire.com



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