



Photo Arjen van Dorsten

Xtreme heat and mud is the biggest test for Duo 2022

Even with the remnants of rain from the threatening storm of last week, Bonaire's 12th Annual Duo Xtreme mountain bike race on September 25 prevailed.

At a controlled start from Eden Beach early Sunday morning, a total of 86 cyclists moved along the boulevard towards the airport. Just before the airport the 58 Pro and 28 Elite riders let go and the pace graduated to a high clip. A long-stretched ribbon of mountain bikers drove along the 3.5 km fence of muddy track by the airport. The bikers met the challenge in various ways. Some overcame the barrier by trying to ride, while others either carried or walked their bikes through the large mud puddle.

At this time, the leading group had already formed, and they kept the pace very high on reaching Jatu Bacu and through the kunuku to Washikemba. The cyclists met several small climbs and descents along the way.

By Washikemba, many riders opted to avoid the mud by riding 50 meters off the prescribed track. They moved on to Red Hill trail via a narrow single track to Lagun where volunteers awaited in the rising temperatures with the first much welcomed water and sports drink post.

At Lagun, the first big challenge lay ahead, a very steep climb. This signaled the split between the Pro and Elite course. Elite riders had to ride a lot further to get back on the same route. The same watering hole was passed again and then a flat stretch via Guatemala and Mexico to Gurubu. There were three very steep descents that not everyone chose to cycle.

In the meantime, the first dropouts were reported due to cycle material breakdowns.

The cyclists continued via Gurubu and took advantage of another water station and then through Tras i Montana. They were met with many large ponds of water on the road to Rincon to Arawak. On this part of the course, enthusiastic volunteers cheered the riders on helping them cross into Hell, the most difficult single trail from Arawak over the mountain to the Broertje Janga. The big challenge here is three very steep descents at the end. The temperature got a grip on the riders and the next water station was eagerly used.

Elite riders continued their way to Subi Rincon to descend to Rincon, climb again to Para Mira and descend again to "the wall",

a steep, sandy path that goes to Alta Mira. From here they made the descent to Karpata and then climbed again to Subi Rincon, over the Broertje Janga and back to connect to the Pro route. Both Pro and Elite climbed Sabadeco Terrace to climb via the single trail to Seru Largu. This ended the climbing route and they descended via Kaya Diamanta and back to the finish at Eden Beach.

First to cross the finish line were Elite riders Tom Homburg from Bonaire and Olaf Cruitzberg of the Netherlands with a combined time of 3 hours, 15 minutes and 40 seconds. The duo was well ahead of the number two riders of Curaçao, Reinier vd

Sande and Rene Klop with 3 hours, 46 minutes and 4 seconds.

Pro riders Robert Potveer and Max Bakker from Curaçao crossed the line first with a time of 2 hours, 54 minutes and 8 seconds. Coming in second were the Curaçao team of Everzeft Wilsoe and Tibor Bakhuis with 3 hours, 8 minutes and 19 seconds.

What is striking this year was the participation of many ladies delivering an excellent performance. The Pro team of Kelly Mettes and Vera Potharst of Bonaire delivered a time of 3 hours, 54 minutes and 37 seconds. There were also a number of junior riders.

The final tally for the Pro riders (60km) was 29 teams, 58 riders, 16 dropouts; Elite riders (80 km) was 14 teams, 28 riders and six dropouts.

The only accident was a non-race accident when a rider lost control and crashed his bike into a spectator. No one was injured and the rider continued the race.

Three special awards were presented by the main sponsor of the last five years, Brandaris Accounting, to three ambassadors: Wilma Bohm, volunteer, Virgilio Batista and Tom Homburg for their contribution to the sport.

Duo Xtreme thanks the 47 volunteers who helped steer everything in the right direction this year. Thanks to the Red Cross and Police for their help.

Photos of the race by Arjen van Dorsten and the award ceremony will be posted on *The Reporter* Facebook page. Full race results will be published on *The Reporter* website update pages.

Frank Bohm



Elite first place winning team L-R: Olaf Cruetzberg of the Netherlands and Tom Homburg of Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan

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Still not in the hurricane zone

Ian, now a major hurricane beating up on Florida, was a mere tropical disturbance when it brushed Bonaire. It produced heavy rain and a strong wind reversal, leaving a big mess to be cleaned up and sailboat driven ashore on the Malecon. DMR



Photo: Selibon



Photo: Jason Buttenshaw

Thief who said "Nobody can stop me" stopped

The Court of First Instance has found "T.M." guilty of thirteen offenses and sentenced him to 7 1/2 years in prison. T.M. was arrested on March 28. Before that date the police had been receiving frequent reports of thefts of money, mobile phones, and wallets at 1000 Steps, Alta Mira, Seru Largu, and other tourist sites. Those reports stopped abruptly after T.M.'s arrest. He was also implicated in a house burglary, a robbery, car theft and several cases of fencing.

A one-man crime spree, T.M. had a long rap sheet and seemed proud of his work. He took photos of items he stole and left messages saying, "Nobody can stop me." One of his victims reported, "He took selfies holding the items he stole from us,

proud and unashamed."

The Bonaire Police were on T.M.'s trail for months. They investigated findings from seized phones, phone tapping, call records, witnesses and seized property. T.M. will no longer be a person of interest for them for several years.

A spokesperson for the Public Prosecution Service (OM) said, "These are very serious facts that have had a huge impact, not only from the point of view of social safety within the small community of Bonaire and the tourists who visit the island, and therefore also the image of Bonaire, but also with very large emotional consequences for the victims."

DMR (BESreporter)

STINAPA says OLB must collect Chogogo fine

Last year STINAPA fined Chogogo Beach Resort \$1.2 million for raising the beach without a permit. STINAPA director Jan van der Ploeg is now insisting the OLB must enforce that fine. Van der Ploeg says the resort used imported river sand and built a retaining wall that is too low to prevent the sand from escaping onto the sea, where it has seriously damaged the reef. Chogogo has neither paid the fine nor complied with an order to raise the retaining wall, according to van der Ploeg. He also says the OLB has failed to respond to several requests that it take action. So he has now gone public, saying the OLB should instruct the Supervision and Enforcement Department to collect the fine.

Reportedly discussions are now underway between the Executive Council, the Supervision and Enforcement Department and STINAPA in order to arrive at a joint solution. Van der Ploeg's action was reported by the newspaper *Trouw*, then posted on *Dossier Kingdom Relations*.

Budget needs more work BFS rules

The Board of Financial Supervision (BFS) says the draft 2023 budget the Executive Council presented to the Island Council does not comply with the FinBES Act, despite advance warning from the Board. The Board says it informed Lieutenant Governor Rijna that a budget with a \$1.9 million dollar deficit would not be justified. The expenditure and income must be balanced before the budget is sent to the Island Council, he said.

The BFS also noted that the higher income from the Tourist Tax forecast in the budget is insufficiently substantiated, among other criticisms. The BFS further warned the Island Council that continued delays in determining a land policy are not acceptable. If a land policy is not in place before November 15, the Ministry might not approve the budget. (*Dossier Kingdom Relations*)

Millions to be injected to improve purchasing power

The government is enacting broad measures to increase people's purchasing power in the face of inflation, including €16 million in 2023 to improve purchasing power for residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. An additional €12 million will then be made available in 2024 and €4 million annually from 2025 onwards.

This increase in purchasing power will be additional to the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to structural spending to improve the standard of living of the inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands, the lowering of excise duties, and the reduction of energy costs for low-income households.

The basic pension paid to older people will increase by approximately \$150 dollars per month. The child benefit and childcare payments will increase. A single mother with two young children, for example, will receive \$40 dollars more per month as a child benefit, and \$50 dollars more for childcare. A package is being worked out to mitigate the consequences of rising energy prices for the Caribbean Netherlands. The tax-free allowance will also be increased.

The Groningen outruns another go-fast

The naval vessel Zr.Ms. Groningen, sailing for the Caribbean Coast Guard, intercepted four suspects and a 1,200 kilo drug transport on September 16. The Coast Guard helicopter was dispatched when alerted by the Maritime Operation Center (MOC). It located the suspected vessel and pursued it out to sea. When Zr.Ms. Groningen arrived, she launched her two fast motorboats and they overtook the go-fast. The suspected smugglers and their cargo were handed over to the Curaçao Police Force, which will investigate the matter further. The confiscated contraband has been destroyed. So far this year the Caribbean Coast Guard has seized more than 10,000 kilos of drugs from smugglers. .

DMR

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 4

Looking for something Sweeti?



I first tried Sweeti Bakery goodies at Taste of Bonaire and I was immediately sold. Little pies, cakes and big American style cookies that are just the right size with amazing flavor presented in an artful design. Every bite seems to reveal the expertise, thought and love of baking by Sweeti owner Elise Arrindell.

Elise, originally from the Netherlands, pretty much grew up in her mother's kitchen. Baking was something she had always loved and when she was challenged with health problems, she turned to what she loved -baking.

Elise said, "As a child I was always in the kitchen. My mother loved to bake. There are photos of me at one year playing with kitchen utensils".

She attended several private patisserie schools and moved to Bonaire six years ago for a healthier, quieter and stress-free environment with good air. Elise had hopes of working in

a bakery, but there wasn't one. Instead, she went to work at Sebastian's where she learned a lot about cooking, hospitality and improved her English, which she says wasn't very good.

Elise was hired to run a new bakery but when that fell through she didn't know what to do. She once again turned to her love of baking, bought a freezer and began baking at her home selling the goodies to several restaurants.

"Dishes were piled high and my house was not a house. I was very excited, even though I was a little scared. I made a business plan, but I had no experience owning a business," said Elise.

When Covid hit, and the restaurants closed she went to work for Fresh Supplier which proved to be a very intense and challenging job. But, she received the training and business knowledge she needed to go out on her own. And, she was ready when the restaurants reopened and her baked goods were in high demand.

"I had saved every penny, so I didn't need a note and the savings would start a business. I bought everything new from the Netherlands and shipped it," said Elise.

Sweeti opened in December 2021 selling to restaurants for four months before going public. The bakery has grown from one building to two with three employees and one intern.

Elise said, "My favorite thing is the diversity. I have my own store so I can do what I want... and I have the creativity and freedom of having my own business."

Sweeti creates both sweets and savory items from a super flaky cheese croissant to little quiche and of course, amazing little cakes, pies, cheesecakes and brownies along with specialty birthday or wedding cakes. Elise caters events, parties, luncheons and meetings. The bakery can even personalize the goodies with edible logos. Vegetarian and vegan items are available and gluten free items are possible, if ordered in advance.

Elise said, "Eric Gietman of Cadushy has been a great mentor. Eric has given me great support and I've learned a lot about business from Eric. I've made 100s or maybe even 1000s of rum balls with Cadushy Rom Rincon for him."

Sweeti bakery goods are currently sold at Cadushy, It Rains Fishes, Cuba Compagnie, Bon di Gro, The Coffee Bar, Kooyman Café and soon at the Marriott and the new Plaza Hotel.

Sweeti is open Tues. - Sun. from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Patrons can enjoy the fresh bakery goods at their outside seating with a freshly made Nespresso, tea or homemade juice from Smooth Operators or takeaway in eco-containers. Contact Sweeti Bakery by WhatsApp +599-782-5885 or visit their Facebook page. Sweeti is located on Kaya Princes Marie.



And, now with Bonaire Culinaire in full swing September 22 - October 6, fresh bakery lovers have the opportunity to try the Sweeti's goodies at a special price. For Culinaire, Sweeti is offering a combination of a signature pastry of mango coconut cheesecake or red velvet cake and a savory snack of a cheese croissant or quiche along with a Smooth Operators fresh juice of mango or passion fruit for only \$10. I personally had the cheese croissant and will say it is the most flaky and light croissant I've had since Paris. The little red velvet cake is perfect with just the right amount of sweetness. For more information about Culinaire and a complete list of the restaurants visit <https://bonaire-culinaire.com> or visit them on Facebook.

Story/photos Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Oceanfront Penthouse Club Nautico



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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.

Donkeys

Letter to the Editor,

I read in the September 2022 Issue 9, XP Paradise Bonaire newspaper, "Environmental Policy Plan 2030: b) all wild grazing animals (i.e., goats and sheep, donkeys, pigs, cattle are removed from Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius (2030))"

In the United States, we had millions of free roaming bison (buffalo) slaughtered during the 1800s. Today they roam free in our National Park Yellowstone. They also are on farms of immense acreage as tourist attractions and for their meat. They are enormous size animals and need hundreds of acres in order to roam. They can cover a great distance in one day.

In the African countries hundreds of acres are set aside as preserves to protect free roaming elephants but they continue to be slaughtered by poachers for their ivory tusks. These large animals also cover a great distance in their walks. Other large-size animals also live in these preserves.

Bonaire, a tiny island in the Caribbean Sea, has a unique donkey breed that presently roams. This is the year 2022, soon approaching 2023. The year 2030 is

not that far in the future. Meanwhile, all that can be accomplished by mankind is a distracting parlay, one side against the other. Instead of purchasing land to allow this breed to exist, the land is sold to speculators in desire for profits. 700 donkeys are located on a few acres owned by an individual who is doing the best they can in a bad situation. What happens should that property change hands. Will speculators build housing on that acreage and forcefully remove the donkeys? 300 donkeys are roaming wild fending for themselves finding sustenance where they can.

The donkeys cannot be allowed to roam free in the Washington Slagbaai National Park due to the damage they incur. A solution: Land needs to be purchased and fenced so they can continue to roam. In dire times, water and feed can be supplied to them should it come to that. They can still be a tourist attraction. Other countries have 'wild parks' collecting car entry fees. Why not Bonaire.

Culture and progress don't necessarily go hand in hand. Compromise has to be reached. Hopefully, before the year 2030.

*Mushi Danki,
Earline Wasser, Bonaire.*

Whose privacy? Whose business secrets?

People want government transparency. That is, the general public wants the government to conduct public business in public so everyone can keep an eye on the politicians. On the other hand, we want the government to conduct its business with us in private. Governments collect vast amounts of information on individuals and organizations they should keep quiet about.

Public suspicions were aroused when the Executive Council said it has received three official reports on contentious matters, but that it was not going to release the reports to the public or to the Island Council because the reports were Confidential. These were the reports the OLB commissioned regarding the QuickScan-BonLAB issue, the Development Agreement at Sunset Beach Resort, and the investigation into the design errors of the Kaya Amsterdam roundabout.

The Executive Council has since announced it has "anonymized" the reports as required by privacy laws and will release them to the Island Council and thereby to

the public. The Council says it just needed time to redact personal and business information from the reports that it is obliged to protect. The Executive Council is to be commended for both actions.

Suspensions will remain, however. The public knows that no one is more concerned about protecting their personal privacy and protecting their business information than those in government who may be aware of matters they don't want disclosed—and who may be involved in deciding what gets redacted.

In a different case, there seems to be little ambiguity regarding an impending controversy in the European Netherlands that affects Bonaire directly. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate is stonewalling information regarding its participation in Bonaire Fuel Terminals BV, a company it created and financed from the public coffers. According to reports, even members of the House of Representatives have been allowed only limited access to "confidential" information about that business.

Don M Ricks.

Betrayals of public trust - Part One

Below is a complaint concerning Prosecutorial Misconduct or inaction involving land or building issues on Bonaire in two parts:

PART 1. The inaction of Prosecutors following a complaint to them from me involving land that the government gave to an adjacent landowner and thereby deprived me of longstanding access and use to my property after claiming I had been consulted/contacted when I had not;

On or about 11 November, 2020, An Officer Phillips and others approached me to move my car from where it has been parked for as long as I have owned the building, approximately ten years. The officers were acting on behalf of C. & J. Schmitz, 16 Gob N deBrot, and stated to me at the time that they had taken over the land and I would have to move my car or have it towed at my expense. Phillips stated to me that I had been approached/consulted about the matter, but I had not EVER been and certainly not by any interested government entity.

I made a complaint to the Prosecutor on Bonaire stating that land was erroneously granted to the adjacent landowner on what had to be false pretenses and the police were lied to as to my involvement and actions that the police took violated my rights and the law. The act of

lying to a government entity whether it be a Police representative to enforce something or a government entity to grant something is an illegal act. There is no way I would knowingly consent to the loss of use and access of land that has been in use for over 50 years and no government entity would legally do so either.

Prosecutor Marian Veneberg refused to investigate and prosecute on my behalf to right this wrong when the laws are such that errors in transfer made on false premises can easily be overturned and government embarrassment could be averted.

It appears that legal transfer did not occur until January 27, 2022 and the initial Police action was totally without legal basis. Again, at no time was I ever consulted by any government entity (DROP, Kadaster, OLB or Schmitz) about what the transfer would do to my existing use, which is obviously an abuse of power and government and against the law. The Prosecutors should have willingly and vigorously investigated and prosecuted on my behalf.

*Respectfully,
Charles M. Baltayan, Kralendijk, Bonaire NC*

Complaint was filed and logged on Sept. 27, 2022 to Ombudsman and Secretary of Justice Eric van der Burg-Part Two of this complaint will appear in the next issue of *The Reporter*. It also appears in this issue's Online Updates at <https://bonairereporter.com>



People should reclaim seized goods from police

The police are clearing out of the seizure room at the police station this month. People have until the end of October to reclaim property held there. Everything not claimed will be destroyed on November 4.

Claimants must provide proof of ownership. If they are claiming a vehicle, they must bring a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. The police will contact people known to own a vehicle or goods in the near future. Some vehicles or goods are subject to a judicial decision and must be destroyed.

Undocumented "swimmers" turn up on beaches

On Saturday, September 17 the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee investigated a report that three suspicious people had turned up near Laguna Beach. None could explain their presence there. They are presumed to be from the Dominican Republic and could not prove residency status on Bonaire. On Sunday a Marechaussee patrol found three more people swimming in a prohibited area near Sorobon. One had an Ecuadorian passport but no residency documentation. Like the previous three, he was turned over to the Dutch Caribbean Police Force and they are being held in aliens custody at the Netherlands Caribbean Correctional Institution pending further investigation..

New Flamingo International departure lounge officially opened

Bonaire International Airport (BIA) has completed some finishing touches and officially opened the new terrace at the departure hall. Departing passengers can await their flight in an attractive outdoor area that evokes the island. It has a bar, plants, modern furniture and attractive lighting.

"Upgrading the visitor experience helps improve the tourism product," Commissioner Thielman said during the opening ceremony. A new area for security control, new shops and a new operational center for the Airport Duty Officers team are other recent upgrades.

Dive sites reopened

STINAPA has reopened Karpata and La Dania's Leap. It has determined that the disease observed on the coral at the site is a particularly aggressive form of white plague, a disease that has been present on our reefs for years. In other words, it is not the dreaded and super-infectious stony coral tissue loss disease (SCT-LD), which is a death warrant for coral.

Since the threat is still under investigation, STINAPA reminds users not to contact corals in any way and requires all users to follow the recommended decontamination protocols.

BES governors to have authority to shut down drug premises

The Council of Ministers at The Hague has amended the Opium Act 1960 BES to give the Lieutenant Governors of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba authority to close drug premises. The Council of State will not consider the change. Mayors in the European Netherlands already have that power.

When the proposed authority is given final approval, the OLBs on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be able to issue decrees that shut down buildings (homes, business premises and 'rooms') where drugs are delivered, stored and/or traded.

*(Dossier Kingdom Relations)
DMR*

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Sept. 21. Between 6 and 9:30 p.m. persons gained access to a house in Sabadeco Terrace and took, among other things: Airpods, an Apple Watch, an Ipad pro, an Ipad Air, a Macbook Air, a Gopro, Bose Earbeats, jewelry, passports and a wallet with contents.

Sept. 18. A scooter theft was reported. It is a rented dark gray Agility KYMCO scooter with the registration number MF-1153.

Sept 16-19. Between Friday and Monday, unknown persons broke into an office on Kaya L.D. Gerharts and took a large amount of cash.

Recently, several reports have been received about fraud when buying cars online. Victims have online contact with a car dealer abroad, make certain agreements and when the payment has been made, they never hear from the car dealer again, nor do they receive a car. If you have become a victim of online fraud when buying a car or other online purchases, please contact the police on telephone number 715 8000 or visit the police station to report it.

Arrests

Sept. 19. An employee of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force on Bonaire was arrested in connection with domestic violence. The employee has been placed on the non-active list. The Rijksrecherche and The Bureau of Internal Affairs of the KPCN is conducting the investigation.

Sept. 17. During the night hours, the police station received a report about a fight at a food and drink establishment (snèk) on Kaya Nikiboko South. A person was threatened, assaulted with a weapon and his car was set on fire. A little later, a patrol spotted the suspects' vehicle. They gave chase which ended when the suspects' vehicle collided with a transformer box in the bend at the former St. Dominicus school. Three men, aged 37, 35 and 51 have been arrested for assault with a weapon, intentional arson, threats and vandalism. In addition, a 17-year-old boy was detained for threats and assault.

Sept. 14. During the night hours a man, 56, was arrested for burglary and theft when he took food from a restaurant on Kaya Grandi. The case is under investigation.

Traffic accidents/violations

Sept. 21. At about 2 p.m. two cars collided when a car leaving the parking lot of a supermarket crashed into a car driving on Kaya Industria towards Kaya Nikiboko South. The passenger of car 1 was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel. The driver of car 2 did not have a driving license and received a police report.

Sept. 21. In the afternoon the police station received a report that a car with five occupants rolled over and ended up in a ditch near Playa Funchi in Washington National Park. Two of the occupants were slightly injured and were taken in another car to the entrance of the park

where they were treated on the spot by paramedics. The other three occupants, including a child, had no complaints.

Sept. 18. Around 9 p.m. the police station received a report about a hit and run. A car driving on Kaminda Gurubu towards Playa was suddenly hit from the rear by another car. The driver of the hit car lost control and collided with a lamp-post. The driver of the car that caused the collision stopped to check on the other driver's condition, but then drove away. Police contacted the driver who drove away by phone. He returned to the scene where he was questioned. Electricity in the area was cut off due to the hit lamp post.

Sept. 15. Two cars collided on Kaya Internashonal. One of the drivers was assisted on the spot by the ambulance staff and did not have to go to hospital.

Traffic control

Sept. 19. A driver at E.E.G. Boulevard was ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license and without proof of insurance.

In the night hours, a driver was ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license and without proof of insurance.

Sept. 17. Three different drivers were inspected. One for driving without a seat belt and the other two for driving without a valid driver's license.

Sept. 16. Around 9:20 p.m., a man, 56, was arrested for drunk driving on Kaya Sonmontuno. The vehicle was uninsured.

During the night hours, a man, 22, was held at E.E.G. Boulevard after a breathalyzer determined that he was driving under the influence of alcohol. Around 5:20 p.m., the vehicles of two underage boys were taken into custody by the police. The boys were driving without a valid driver's license.

What is the difference between a declaration and a notification?

If you make a report, you inform the police of the situation. You see something suspicious or you need help.

When making a declaration, you request criminal prosecution. A criminal offense has been committed and you want something done about it.

Where do I report what? You can make a report via 717 8000, 715 8000, at the counter of a police station or via the agent on the street.

How do I file a declaration? A declaration can be made by telephone, mail via Politie@politiecn.com or at the police station. An appointment is then made to come and sign the declaration for further processing. Only declarations are criminally prosecuted.

Call 911/112 in an emergency, immediately life-threatening situations, if you identify suspicious behavior or witness a crime or a traffic accident.

The anonymous tip line is 9310. An answering machine records the message and sends an email to a special 'inbox' containing only the recording of your anonymous message. There is no telephone number included.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



I just got my property tax bills, and my Vastgoedbelasting (VGB) increased by a large amount. Can you tell me what happened? Barney R.

Hi Barney, that's a good question.

VGB is one of the three types of "property taxes" here on Bonaire (see my previously published column from two weeks ago for descriptions of each). This year, the RCN decided to adjust the estimated value of all properties subject to the VGB.

Below is a refresher about how the VGB tax works.

Vastgoedbelasting (VGB): This is the property tax charged on houses and land owned by a company or non-resident or on properties owned by residents of Bonaire but NOT used as 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 (e.g. a BV). In addition to the VGB tax that you pay, the government adds on a service fee of 17.5% of the VGB tax. These funds go to the local Dutch government, the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland, also called the RCN.

Legally, the RCN has the right to adjust or reassess the value of all properties on Bonaire every five years. However, in this case they waited ten years. This last revaluation was done in 2010.

As a result, the increase in value (waarde) on property was between 37%

and 44%. Although this adjustment might seem high, the truth is that real estate values have increased by at least that amount over the past years.

If you think your taxes might be too high, there are a few things you can do to try to lower your tax bill:

• **Protest the value:** If you think that your property value is significantly lower than the real market value, you can protest the value directly with the RCN. You will need to write a letter to the RCN showing why you think your property is overvalued. You'll need to support your claim with a value opinion from a local appraiser or real estate broker that states their opinion of your properties value. Most brokers or appraisers charge a small fee for this.

Other ways to reduce your tax bill:

Vacant Land: If you are a **RESIDENT** and you own **VACANT** land with no buildings or other structures on the land, that land is exempt from VGB taxes. This can also be protested directly to the tax office at the RCN. You will need to write a letter that includes a copy of your sedula and passport, plus photos of your land showing it is undeveloped.

Apartments/Rental Units: If you own rental apartments, the RCN will value the overall structure at a certain amount. However, you are entitled to a reduction in that taxable value at a rate of \$70,000 PER APARTMENT or "living unit." You can find this amount listed as the "belastbare waarde" on your tax statement. In order to qualify, each apartment or living unit must have its own water meter and electric meter. You will want to check the first page of your tax bill to see if you are credited for the correct amount of living units. If the amount is incorrect, you can also protest this directly to the RCN tax office.

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 +590786-7362



Selibon NV has taken delivery of its own tanks for the transport of waste oil. Selibon expects to dispose of more than 800,000 liters of discarded oil this year.

Bonaire Customs gets a new boat



Both agents Jampi Martinez (L) and Deedezick Paupina are licensed boat captains and have been Customs agents for 15 and seven years respectively. Bonaire has 30 Customs agents, four women and 26 men. The agents rotate with Saba and St. Eustatius every three months. Photos Julie Morgan

To better protect the shores and waters of the island, Bonaire Customs (Douane) received a custom built 38 ft boat on September 22. The boat was personally delivered by the builders Eduardono of Colombia and Imix Marine of Curaçao to ensure everything was in working order.

The boat, an Eduardono 380, is equipped with three 300cc engines and can reach speeds of 48 mph. The boat is designed for five personnel but will carry up to 12 passengers and can be expanded. The Eduardono 380 was built in Colombia in three months and then transferred to Curaçao where it was customized and rigged with engines by Imix of Curaçao in two weeks.

Ten of Bonaire's Custom agents began training this week with Ludwig Frans for handling and maneuvers. In the coming weeks the customs team will receive professional training and certification from Tres Martine of the United States who are responsible for training the United States Navy.

The boat is replacing an old customs boat. The new replacement is a collaborative project which has been in the works since 2021 with Multidisciplinary Maritime HUB Bonaire (MMHB) that includes Customs, KMar, Coast Guard, KPCN and OLB. The project is funded by RCN. Julie Morgan

Bonaire Regatta 2022
FRIDAY SEP 30
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A cartoon illustration of a pink flamingo balancing on a unicycle.

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A turbulent Lora breeding season ends



Ann-Fluer, a volunteer, climbs with Jack Haines to monitor a Lora nest Photos by Echo

Accessing Lora nests is not for the faint of heart. It can often be dangerous because the majority of nests are located in the sharp fossilized cliffs in the north of Bonaire. In order for the team to inspect the nests, they must access them by abseiling off the cliffs. In addition to the deadly heights and sharp rocks, the team must also contend with invasive bees that nest in the cliff cavities. Sometimes team members must wear a head-to-toe protective bee suit whilst abseiling to ensure their safety.

From May to August Echo has been monitoring the breeding efforts of the wild Lora thanks to the help of volunteers and wildlife biologist Jack Haines. A total of 67 nests were monitored, double the number of last year.

After hundreds of hours of observational and physical

monitoring of the nests, it was clear to the team that only 20 of the 67 Lora nests were being actively used by the Lora (that is, only 20 had eggs laid in them).

Heartbreakingly, as the season unfolded, six of the 20 active nests were seemingly predated by cats or rats. This was a big blow to the team and the overall success of the season. However, thanks to the team's continued monitoring and sheer determination, 19 chicks fledged successfully out of the remaining nests. These chicks are vital to Bonaire's wild population of Amazon parrots. Hopefully once fully matured in 5-8 years time, they themselves will be hatching chicks high on the cliffs of Bonaire.

Echo wants to increase its monitoring efforts next



year to better understanding how invasive species are affecting Lora reproductivity and what conservation actions are needed to ensure their survival.

Echo has several conservation projects dedicated to tackling the threats faced by our precious Loras. Many of us on Bonaire have long enjoyed seeing the Loras daily, but the population has only recently become "stable" thanks to more than a decade of conservation. Unfortunately, other islands such as Aruba are less fortunate. They no longer have wild, Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots to grace their skies and haven't since the 1950s due to poaching, habitat degradation, and invasive species. Echo is continuing to safeguard this beautiful species for generations to come.

If you would like to learn more about Echo's conservation efforts, visit their website www.Echobonaire.org

Written by Megan Hill



2022

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	Sun 9-Oct	Mon 10-Oct	Tue 11-Oct	Wed 12-Oct	Thu 13-Oct	Fri 14-Oct	Sat 15-Oct	Sun 16-Oct	Mon 17-Oct	Tue 18-Oct	Wed 19-Oct	Thu 20-Oct	Fri 21-Oct	Sat 22-Oct
October Corals	SUNSET	18:20	18:20	18:19	18:18	18:18	18:17	18:17	18:16	18:16	18:15	18:15	18:14	18:14	18:13
<i>Scientific name (and spawning window)</i>	<i>Common Name</i>														
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS-10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	17:05-18:25													
<i>Myndrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral	16:27-19:27 (Expected nightly until at least Oct 29: new observations are encouraged from any date)													
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral	16:33-22:03 (Peaks in first 1.5 hrs)													
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral	18:42-20:12													
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group; 35-100 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral	18:52-19:57 (Peaks in first 30 min)													
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral	19:32-22:47													
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90-150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral	19:48-20:48													
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)	Pillar Coral	19:50-21:00													
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-150 MAS)	Pineapple Coral	19:45-21:00 (Expected every night across the full lunar cycle: new observations are encouraged from any date this month)													
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160-255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral	20:58-22:33													
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annulatus</i> (185-250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral	21:23-22:28													
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral	21:23-22:33													
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195-280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral	21:33-22:58													
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210-255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral	21:47-22:32													
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group; 205-270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral	21:42-22:47													
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral	all night													
<i>Agarcia humilis/Agarcia agaveoides</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral	all night													

• 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>

ICB Opens New Fellowship Hall

After seven long years, Bonaire's International Bible Church (IBC) officially opened the doors to its new fellowship hall on September 25. It was a long wait with a lot of hard work and prayer for many of the 80 plus members of the congregation. But for one member, Bob Lassiter, it was even longer, as he was the most instrumental in making it happen.

IBC pastor since 2013 Doug Searle told us Bob had been visiting DROB, Bonaire's Spatial Planning and Planning office, since 2009 to secure the lease land for the new building. Before moving to Bonaire in 2000 with his wife Dabney, he had owned a real estate construction company in North Carolina. With that experience he knew what to do. In addition, Bob had been instrumental in the main church construction and as a devout Christian, he was determined to make this happen.

Searle said, "We all came out here and prayed that God would give us this property and that very week we got it," said Searle. I want to thank Bob myself, personally, for helping maintain my sanity. No one helped me more than Bob. Grateful for that and the fellowship... This building is for him."

Construction on the new fellowship hall began in 2016. The initial cost of the building was 280k but in the end it cost a bit more at 330k. The hall was built without borrowing any funds. The entire cost was paid for by the church.

The fellowship hall has a large gathering room and six smaller rooms.

Searle said, "In addition to enhancing our regular weekly ministries, the building will also enable us to host conferences, training workshops, after school activities for kids, international mission teams, receptions and meals."

In addition to Sunday worship, IBC holds a children's



IBC pastor Doug Searle (L) watches as Bob Lassiter cuts the ribbon at the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan

church, fellowship, adult Sunday school, youth group, prayer team, home fellowship, prayer walk, men's breakfast, women's ministry, music team, food box ministry and an online help desk for visitors/tourist.

The church is multi-cultural with at least six different languages spoken. Although other parts of the church services may be in a different language, the pastor's sermon or message is always in English. The message is translated live in Papiamentu and Dutch. This IS an international church. Attendance changes seasonally throughout the year as many of the parishioners are only part-time Bonaire residents or visitors.

For more information visit <https://bonaireibc.org>.



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover
Starting again

What a blessing when on Monday, September 19 the sky turned black late in the afternoon and smashing showers of rain came down on Bonaire. I heard that it wasn't everywhere, but mostly here in downtown. We cannot complain.

Besides the rain, did you see the turbulent sea that evening along the boulevard? Fascinating to experience the high powerful waves crashing against the rocks while most of time the sea is calm.

Trimming after the rain. Just when my big container for catching rainwater was empty and I had started to complain, the rain came in full speed showering my garden. My prayer was fulfilled immediately.

The next day, as I expected, all the plants looked healthy and beautiful like they have been touched by a magic wand.

So I spent the whole day in the garden. First, I trimmed a lot of plants and bushes. With all this rain the trimmed plants will give new shoots quickly which is very good for the plant and for the garden. Old parts of the plant use too much energy to keep alive and will hardly bear fruits and flowers. I was amazed when my almost dried up pepper plant recovered beautifully when I took the old parts away. Afterwards it produced nice, big peppers for a long time. I wonder at how strong nature can be.

When you see that a plant is about to die, save seeds or make cuttings and plant them so you don't lose the plant. Some seeds I have saved for years, almost forgetting them, but I still tried and a few of them grew again. So happy with them, because otherwise they would have been lost.

Start to prepare your soil for the next season now. Make beds if you need them. Turn your topsoil upside down with compost, manure, rotten leaves, charcoal,



some ashes, used coffee grounds and add dried neem leaves to ward off bugs and fungus. Let it all compost for one or two months and your garden will be the perfect place for your new plants. In the meantime, start making new plants and keep them away from the dry wind and hard sun so in two months they will be big enough to go in the soil. Also, cuttings can go into pots and containers so they are ready to go in the garden soil.

Even throughout the heavy drought, our nature survived. There are so many fruit trees bearing fruit right now that it is amazing.

An update of what is producing:

Mango, papaya, druif Surinam, mispel, cherries, passion fruit, pomisiter, hoba, knep, starfruit, guyaba, tamarin, coco, bacoba, druif di laman, maka pruiim, sunsaka, skopappel, cashew, pommegranate and maybe a few more. And even with the drought, I have a lot of herbs growing such as lemon grass, basil, yerbi hole, lipia alba, mexican mint, mayoran and mint. Some vegetables

like spinach, peppers, postlein, yuca, and tajeblad are growing, but soon I will need to replant all these veggies because they are at their end.

Little by little, my flowering plants are doing well. They didn't die but they have needed a lot of care lately. Yet they look great with the latest showers.

The ground cover plants and the bigger plants in the soil survived the drought better. It's like the cover plants keep the soil moist and cold so the soil doesn't get too hot for the roots. Maybe an idea is to plant more ground covers to save the water evaporation and keep plants alive until the last months of the year when the planting season is here again. By the way, a good ground cover is the sweet potato plant. Yes, iguanas are fond of it and will eat some of the leaves, but if you plant a lot you will still have some left and your sweet potato is growing nice and sweetening the soil.

Lastly, pay attention to mosquitos. Remove containers where water can stay in or turn them up side down. Avoid Dengue, it's all our responsibility to prevent a dengue outbreak on Bonaire. After Covid we don't need another plague. Take care of any standing water in your yard.

If you want a good planting season, start preparing 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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Ned and Anna return



Two of Buddy Dive's most popular guests, Ned and Anna DeLoach, recently returned to Bonaire after two years away from the island due to Covid regulations. Any diver, snorkeler or fish lover is familiar with the name DeLoach along with Paul Humann, authors of the most popular Reef Fish ID and Fish Behavior books. For almost 20 years Ned and Anna have taken up residency at Buddy Dive holding informative fish ID and behavior slide shows, classes and fish counting dives for anyone interested on the island. This year was no exception. In their two week visit they held two slide shows, two fish ID classes, two mangrove and century dives (participants try to count at least 100 species

on the dive). They topped off their stay with a book signing where anyone could bring their old or new fish ID book to be autographed by Anna and Ned.

"We surveyed the Reef Renewal coral [at Buddy] and were amazed at how fast they are growing. We saw lots of baby tiger grouper on the reefs which was exciting and something we have never seen on Bonaire, the Pudding wife. It was really, really good to be back," said Anna.

The Deloachs will return in 2023 for more fish ID education.

The Fish ID book series is available at many local dive shops on Bonaire.

Photo/story Julie Morgan

Anna and Ned DeLoach sign a book for Elizabeth Godsey who took time off from her Wannadive job to participate in several of the events. Photo Julie Morgan

Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter
Are you happy?

Are you happy? Is the way you live and where you live what you want?

Baby boomers were born between 1946 and 1964. As of 2022, they range in age from 58 to 76 years old. As the baby boomers cross the magic border to turn 65, they become a very big group in the world. Are the government and the caregivers prepared for them?

New care facilities pop up like mushrooms and lots of activities are being offered for the 65+-group, but is it enough?

At 65+ do you want to stay in your house? Would you move to a smaller home? Are there enough houses, homes and facilities for all of us? Would you want to live in a huge facility or would you prefer small cluster pods.

Do you have doctors who really care for you and will keep you out of the existing care facilities? Some medical operations are not even been executed, be-

cause of age. Imagine that!! Healthcare as it is needs to change drastically.

The large population of those 65+ surely cannot be a big surprise. After all, we have a Bureau of Statistics, and they should have all the numbers.

It seems that suddenly there are quite a few new daycare facilities. Will they be able to satisfy the specific needs?

On the Island we have large ethnic groups that are not specifically Bonairean. Would they prefer small group homes with staff who speak their language?

Is the world of care prepared for care for the elderly? We are a large group of citizens who need specific care and attention. We hardly fit into a mold. Often we don't handle large groups very well.

I think that it is time to handle, set up and install a "client council". They can

deal with all authorities and demand immediate attention.

I suggest that all political parties set up an election program and a party program just for these specific citizens and think very hard and deep about how to confront this situation. All trade unions could offer their expertise.

Education should take an active part. Why? Because all elderly are not the same and do not fit in all programs. They are not adult toddlers. Care for the elderly is very specific and diverse. Education programs should be adapted and more specialists appointed. The nursing education program should be adapted. More ergo therapists are needed, as are specialized physiotherapists, music-therapists, etc.

Can you imagine a room full of baby boomer elderly sitting quietly at big round tables, singing and clapping their hands participating in Miss or Mister elections (Like Miss and Mister Best dressed, or Miss and Mister Mamma or Daddy)? I would think small concerts with rock music, theatre, pub-quizzes would be more appropriate.

All the 65-year-olds and older have

worked their whole life and most of them have their life and finances in order. It seems that the "younger ones" do not recognize their elders' labor and contributions. The "minus 65s" look at us as if we are a kind of enemy and even treat us that way!

Let's think outside the box. For example, we could even have elderly and younger students living together in care facilities. The elderly thrive with their company and the students could offer 30 % of their time taking care of the elderly. And a combination of a crèche and a daycare facility could be an interesting combination.

And all this could make us very happy.



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

Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa
ABC of mindfulness

Mindfulness, according to Jon Kabat Zin, creator of the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction program, is the non-judgmental acceptance and investigation of present experience in order to reduce suffering or distress and to increase well-being. (Present experiences include body sensations, internal mental states, thoughts, emotions, impulses and memories.) During the practice of Mindfulness, attention skills are cultivated, emotional regulation is developed and rumination and worry are significantly reduced. Mindfulness also aims to get us out of what would be the automatic mode, where we act and live without being fully aware of what we are doing. At the same time, it aims to give us self-knowledge and increase our well-being. The automatic mode is a saving mode. It is fundamental for our survival

as we do many of the daily functions in this mode. The problem is that some of our habits are detrimental to our well-being, and we keep doing them without being aware of this.

For many people the practice of mindfulness seems complicated. Some people participate in various courses and workshops but fail to adopt the practice and reap its benefits.

To make it simple, as a start there are three basic pillars in the practice of mindfulness, one is to pay attention to the body, another is to pay attention to emotions and the third is to pay attention to thoughts. After you can manage attention to your body, emotions and thought, you can practice mindfulness with various purposes, such as gratitude, compassion, etc.

How do we bring attention to the body?

An easy way is to focus on our breathing. Bring attention to the flow of air entering through our nostrils, its temperature, its speed, its volume, its frequency, and the movements of the body when inhaling and exhaling. The mere fact of focusing on breathing already has the effect of slowing down our thoughts. If we are easily distracted, we can also count the cycles of each breath. There are those who claim that they do not have time to stop and do this, although this practice can be done at a traffic light, waiting for the bus, while watering the plants or in line to pay for purchases at the supermarket. We can also pay attention to the body, for instance, when we take a shower. We can focus on the sensation of the water falling on our head, our face, all our skin, the temperature and the flow. Another option is to focus our attention when we brush our teeth and make this a conscious task where we pay attention to the hygiene of each tooth and the gums. We can take any simple habit that already exists in our lives and transform it into a

mindfulness practice. Any of these practices, if carried out regularly, serves to train the observer that we all have inside us.

Once we manage to bring our attention to our body, we can observe our emotional state and then our thoughts. Our inner observer is also trained through the regular practice of mindfulness bringing balance between our emotional being and our rational being. For mindfulness is not about breathing, showering or brushing our teeth but about balance and self-knowledge through self-observation.



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.

Pam Teitel receives the perfect gift



Pam Teitel, Photo Julie Morgan

Diamonds are the traditional gift for anyone celebrating their 60 years on the water planet, otherwise known as Earth. But for someone like Pam Teitel, owner of Budget Marine, and advocate for everything that has to do with water on Bonaire, what would be the ideal gift?

The answer is a plot of live growing staghorn coral from the Reef Renewal program; though not

a diamond, it is a pearl.

Twenty-four of Pam's friends pooled funds to buy a 1.5 m2 plot of out planted coral located between Buddy Dive and Sand Dollar where Pam worked for many years. The plot named "Pam's Pearl" is just in sight of her parents' Sand Dollar condominium, purchased when the resort began. And, her mother lives there to this day.

Pam's first visit to Bonaire was in the early 80's on a vacation with her family. She temporarily moved to the island 38 years ago and never left. Since those early days she has been involved in the water community on Bonaire. Pam was a dive instructor at Divi Flamingo, dive manager and condo manager at Sand Dollar.

In 1987, she was implemental in getting the Recompression Chamber Bonaire off the ground with Dr. Dick van der Vaart and remains as supervisor to this day.

Pam was the first woman course director for PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) IDC (instructor development course) in the Caribbean region.

For the last 20 years, her company, Budget Marine, now 20 years old on Bonaire, has supported the Bonaire Regatta, Bonaire Barracudas (swim/waterpolo), BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association), international and local fishing tournaments and swimming. Through Budget Marine, Pam has held four Sail and Triathlon fundraisers for various watersports organizations and Jong Bonaire. Another triathlon fundraiser is set for 2023.

Pam is indeed a woman of the water. And though a patch of coral is not diamonds, it could be far more significant as coral reefs take up to 10,000 years to grow.

Pam said, "When I arrived on Bonaire, the staghorn [coral] was so prominent in many places. But in time, due to storms



and increase in the population, the coral became devastated. Through their [Reef Renewal] efforts, the ecosystem is getting back to what it used to be. This is not only the value of the coral itself, but it provides shelter and homes ... for the many fish and other marine life."

For more information about Reef Renewal and purchasing your own "diamond" coral plot visit <https://www.reefnewalbonaire.org/>

Photos/story Julie Morgan



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Mangrove Maniacs set planting record



Bonaire's Mangrove Maniac volunteers were out in full force for the 'sunset' mangrove planting event on September 23. Along with the regular team, 75 volunteers showed up to plant 1300 red and black mangroves in a shoreside area between the dive sites White Slave and Margate Bay. And, this was the largest of the four outplanting events which is more than all of 2021 combined. This latest planting brings the total for 2022 to an estimated 2,650 mangrove plants.

Large scale outplanting on the southern coast of Bonaire began in early 2021 with an estimated 1,250 red mangroves between Salt Pier and Red Slave.

Director of Coastal Dynamics B.V., Jessica Johnson said, "The goal of these mangroves is to provide a natural buffer between land and sea, which not only creates new habitats and nursery grounds for fish, crusta-



ceans, and birds, but also acts as the first line of defense against rising sea levels and worsening storm conditions."

For more information about the Mangrove Maniacs or to volunteer, visit <https://mangrovemaniacs.org> or visit their Facebook page. If you want to learn more about Coastal dynamics visit www.coastal-dynamics.com.

Photos/story Julie Morgan

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.bonaireartsandcraftscruisemarket.com/market-schedule> or <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://terramarmuseum.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.)

September 22 - October 6	Culinaire Fall edition: Try a new restaurant or food outlet. For 15 days Bonaire's culinary hotspots offer special menus at a fixed prices, special deals and prizes. https://bonaire-culinaire.com
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. Info at https://www.facebook.com/jongbonaire.71 Register at JongBonaire Oct 1, online or at Eden Beach Oct 2 *Note Swim Competition starts early. Be there at 7 a.m. Regular swim starts at 9 a.m. Kids \$10. Adults \$20.
September 30 October 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. Fri. Sept. 30. 5 to 8. Registration & Opening Ceremony SKAL Sat. Oct. 1. 9 to 6. Windsurfing, sailing, racing Sorobon Beach Sun. Oct. 2. 9 to 6 Windsurfing, sailing, racing Sorobon Beach Wed. Oct. 5. BBQ night for participants and volunteers (7 to 9) Thu. Oct. 6. 9 to 6. Racing, sailing, foil & microboat. Fri. Oct. 7. 9 to 6. Racing, sailing, foil & microboat. Happy Hour at 5 p.m. Sat. Oct. 8. 9 to 6. Racing, sailing, foil & microboat. Award ceremony 7 to 8:30 p.m. SKAL
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

Looking for artists

The Chamber of Commerce (KvK) invites artists who are active in ALL categories of art, such as painters, visual artists, graphic artists and photographers to register for its second Bonaire Chamber Art Exhibition held November 26th . The works of art will be exhibited in the building of the Chamber of Commerce and the public can step inside to view and buy them.

This year KvK wants to invite also the young artists (8-18 years) to register. Registration is possible until October 3rd , 2022. Participation is completely FREE and you do not need to be registered as a company in the Trade Register to participate. So REGISTER NOW!!!

Tentative cruise ship schedule				
DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE
Tues. Oct. 4	<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	0700-1800	South	3840 Royal Caribbean
Wed. Oct. 12	<i>Celebrity Equinox</i>	0700-1600	South	3852 Celebrity
Tues. Oct. 18	<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	South	3840 Royal Caribbean
Wed. Oct. 19	<i>Carnival Horizon</i>	0700-1500	South	4863 Carnival
Thurs. Oct. 20	<i>Celebrity Equinox</i>	0800-1800	South	2852 Celebrity
Fri. Oct. 21	<i>Norwegian Prima</i>	0700-1700	South	3300 Norwegian
Sat. Oct. 22	<i>Celebrity Summit</i>	1300-2200	South	2450 Celebrity
Thurs. Oct. 27	<i>Carnival Freedom</i>	0800-1600	North	3783 Carnival
Mon. Oct. 31	<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	0700-1400	North	3115 Regent

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 - 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.

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	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 (was October 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 .
Saturday, October 22	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. North Pier. Registration 9:30 a.m. 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	

INTERESTED IN BONAIRE'S GEOLOGY?

Everyone who loves Bonaire has questions about the island's geology...How was the island formed and when? What is the actual composition of the island's topographical structures? Is Bonaire a volcanic island? All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by André Nahr. The class will be held in October; Tuesday 18, Thursday 20 and Saturday 22 at Fundashon Mariadal, Kaya L.D.Gerharts #17, across Hotel Central on the road to the big church in town. Session one and two are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and session three brings everything together in a fun field trip on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand examples of Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested, but there is no heavy hiking. The class is taught in English.

Cost is \$105.00 p.p. payable in cash at the first session, Sign up at geology.andrenahr@gmail.com, but don't wait too long, there are only 15 spots available! André & Catherine Nahr

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.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Soapfish: Helping clean our reefs in an unexpected way

The other day when I passed a soapfish resting photogenically on an orange sponge, I thought, “Gee, I haven’t written about soapfish in a while.” When I checked, I discovered I should’ve omitted the “in a while” part. No one else seems to have written much about soapfish, either, except for two things:

The first thing written about soapfish is the explanation of how they got their name. When a soapfish is handled – which divers generally have no opportunity to experience or see – the thick mucus, called grammistina, on the body of the soapfish foams up like lather. Instead of cleaning, however, it irritates human skin.

Soapfish mucus is more than irritating, it’s toxic. Fish sharing aquaria with soapfish often die; they always die if the soapfish is upset. Soapfish toxin is one of the ways being used to classify soapfish, and is one of the reasons Dr. John (“Jack”) Randall was studying the toxin and the soapfish.

A little background: Randall’s Caribbean Reef Fishes (1968) was one of the first fish ID books available to divers; I got my copy in 1978 and still consult it often. A few years later Randall himself visited Bonaire and I got to talk with him. We talked about burrowing shrimp and their lookout gobies, which I hadn’t



This soapfish was kind enough to pose for me.. Dee Scarr

known lived anywhere in the Caribbean. He told me there were a few of them right offshore, and took me out to see them! He was an incredibly prolific writer and his enthusiasm about marine animals was infinite.

The enthusiasm Dr. Randall showed on Bonaire enabled me to accept without surprise his way of determining the comparative strength of the toxin from several species of soapfish: he and his fellow researchers touched their tongues to the skin and mucus of various species of soapfish, then ranked them for potency! (They did this in the lab, although the mental image of a bunch of diving scientists licking soapfish is pretty entertaining.)

Still, even in the lab they had to lick the soapfish carefully, because the toxin in soapfish skin and mucus can kill human beings and other mammals. Luckily, it

needs to be in higher concentrations than a lick would provide.

The second thing written about soapfish is something that divers can and do notice: soapfish take poses we usually see only in a sick or dying fish. They look okay, but they don’t act okay. So if the soapfish aren’t sick or injured, why are they lying around like that? One possibility is that they want other creatures to think they’re sick or injured, so the others will check them out for a meal or simply ignore them as they forage. Then, the instant a small fish or shrimp comes too close, the soapfish’s tail snaps to create acceleration, its mouth opens quickly to create suction, and the careless critter is caught.

Frogfish and batfish have to grow actual lures to attract prey. Scorpionfish grow costumes like overgrown rocks, hoping for critters to come close enough

for them to catch. Soapfish pretty much look like any other fish, without any physical adaptations for hunting. They don’t need hunting devices to lure prey because they do it solely with their acting ability.

Talk about efficient use of resources!

And, when lying around isn’t enough, they also do hunt actively, at dusk and nighttime.

Once, long before lionfish invaded our waters, and by accident rather than design, a big-enough lionfish and a small-enough soapfish were placed together in a tank in Dr. Randall’s lab. The lionfish sucked the soapfish into its mouth -- and then ejected it immediately, and repeated the spitting out behavior a few more times, as if trying to get rid of the taste.

What do you think would happen if the situation were reversed? When we first began lionfishing, I’d occasionally find a small lionfish hanging out under the same ledge as a soapfish, but I haven’t seen such a thing in years. Aaand, we do seem to have fewer lionfish.

Perhaps our soapfish have learned to clean the reefs of lionfish.



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.

Nina to OCW



Nina den Heyer will be appointed head of the Department of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) in the Caribbean Netherlands as of December 1, 2022. She will succeed Nolly Oleana, who has held this position since 2015 and will retire at the end of this year. *DMR*

Businesses can get environmental compliance info from KvK

The Bonaire Chamber of Commerce (KvK) has opened an “Environment Information Point” in the lobby of its office. Entrepreneurs can drop by during morning hours to find out how their business can comply with the Establishments and Activities Decree BES (IAB BES) expected to take effect during the first quarter of 2023.

The decree will reduce the regulatory and administrative load because fewer companies will have to apply for permits. Most companies will be subject to a notification requirement and general rules, and a few larger companies will have to apply for a permit. The Environmental Information Point will explain to business owners which category they will fall into, and which environmental rules will apply to their business activities.

The desk is available for questions from individual companies. The Chamber of Commerce will also announce information sessions to be held for specific industries. *DMR*

TCB looks back at a successful summit

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) organized its second annual Bonaire Tourism Summit on September 26th, 2022 at Courtyard by Marriott. During the summit Miles Mercera, CEO of TCB, presented an overview of Bonaire’s industry, results and planning for 2023. Mercera said, “I am inspired by the input received from the public-private tourism sector. Sustainable Tourism development is a contribution of all of us.”

Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Hennyson Thielman, emphasized the importance of including the community. “Hiring more locals to work in the tourism industry and increasing the minimum wage does not only increase the quality of life of the locals, but it also contributes to the visitors’ experience. From our side we will invest in education and training.”

“Helping Bonaire craft a new communications platform has been an amazing experience because the island actually walks the walk when it comes to eco-tourism,” said Troy Dunn, president and CCO of Dunn&Co., TCB’s agency of record. “Their brand authenticity is reflected in everything we’re making to help educate the world about their dedication to the important balance between human nature and Mother Nature.”

Mr. Erik Wolf, Executive Director & Founder of World Food Travel Association, discussed Bonaire’s culinary strategy. Ms. Stephanie de la Hera, Bonaire Representative for Diamond Public Relations (Bonaire’s PR firm) spoke of results and trends for 2023. The summit also welcomed Mr. Sander Langeveld, Liaison Eu-



rope for Tourism Corporation Bonaire who shared an overview and forecast of the marketing performance in Europe (The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany). Mr. Maarten van der Scheer, CEO of Bonaire International Airport, gave a sneak peek into the future of the Bonaire International Airport (Flamingo Airport) and their main priorities.

At the end of the day ENNIA hosted a cocktail hour. As part of the summit, TCB is also hosting a special seminar with interactive breakout sessions, in which the private sector can participate and provide their input for marketing initiatives for Bonaire for 2023.

TCB would like to thank all partners such as BONHATA, BHG, BIA, OLB who supported and participated in the summit.


If you have missed the Bonaire Tourism Summit, visit TCB’s YouTube page ‘Bonaire Island’ for the live stream video.

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Pets of the Week



Loe

Dear people,

My name is Loe, but they also call me Mama Loe, because I'm the oldest in my kennel and I am also a mom even though my pups found a home a long time ago.

I've been at the shelter for over a year, so that's half of my life, I do not want to stay here forever. I hope you read this and want to be my Mama or Papa and give me a nice place to live and be loved.

I'm good with other dogs male or female, no problem for me.

I love to cuddle and sleep in the shade.

Hope you are the one that's coming to meet me and hopefully take me home.

Story/photo Jane Disko

Hello, my name is Kika! Hello, my name is Kika! I came to the Shelter four months ago with my three little babies. Once my babies were grown, I was spayed and I am ready to live the life of leisure with my very own human family. I am a pretty and petite cat and I LOVE humans....other cats not so much! The Shelter is very full right now and I really would like to find a home of my own without so many roommates. I am looking for someone who likes to pet me, let me sit on their lap and just enjoy hanging out with me. I am very healthy, vaccinated, spayed and ready to "travel"! Please come by the Shelter and you will meet me right away as I love to greet every human that visits. See you soon I hope!

Story/photo Jane Disko



Kika

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

Jupiter is only 400 million miles away right now



Planet sizes and order. Timeanddate.com has an interactive graphic that answers the questions: How big are the planets? What is their order from the Sun? How do the planets compare in size to Earth?

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/planets/size>

Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline:

Hi there – this week Jupiter reached opposition – this means it's opposite the sun relative to us – and it's also close to us at only 400 million miles away. This makes it great for viewing in a small telescope. Lemme show you how to find it.

Hit the darkness anytime after nine p.m. September 5 to October 2. If you look toward the east, you'll see a very bright, non-twinkling light – that's Jupiter. If you've got a good set of binoculars point them at the gas giant, but even better is a small telescope. This is one of the best views of the planet you're going to get.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. It has over seventy moons (some of which we have plans to explore) and even with its huge size Jupiter rotates once every 10 earth hours. The gaseous atmosphere is fast-moving and contains storms which are larger than our whole planet. The sky is incredible. Keep lookin' up.

Timeanddate.com:

After the Sun, the Moon, and Venus, Jupiter is the fourth brightest object in the sky— although, occasionally, Mars

can outshine it. When Jupiter is at opposition, it lies directly opposite the Sun in our sky and is visible all night. At solar conjunction, the planet passes behind the Sun and cannot be seen from Earth for a few weeks. Jupiter reaches opposition every 399 days or so (about 13 months).

Jupiter can easily be enjoyed with the naked eye. A reasonably good pair of binoculars will reveal the planet's four large moons discovered by Galileo in 1610. These four moons discovered by Galileo are called the Galilean moons. From largest to smallest, they are Ganymede (about one-and-a-half times the size of Earth's Moon), Callisto, Io, and Europa (slightly smaller than Earth's Moon).

Jupiter played an important role in the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries. According to the old Aristotelian model of the universe, everything circled the Earth. The discovery of the Galilean moons orbiting Jupiter proved that something was wrong with Aristotle's model.

In addition to its moons, Jupiter has a ring system. Whereas Saturn's rings are made of shiny ice particles, Jupiter's are made of faint dust.



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Animal Shelter Bonaire needs TWO Animal Care Givers

Four days per week Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

Minimum 22 hours per week, full day and half day shifts

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.

Love Blossom offers all artists a platform



Shermeena Francisca introduced her Love Blossom Arts and Crafts Festival to Bonaire on September 24. Ten artisans signed on for the festival but unfortunately three canceled due to the threat of bad weather.

Visitors came in throughout the day enjoying the craft work, live music and a DJ, food and drinks, a Dutch bingo game and live performance storytelling.



Francisca, an artist herself, recently moved to Bonaire from California and has taken over her late mother's kunuku. She hopes to cultivate a platform for artists young and old by creating a place for exhibits. Francisca plans to organize more festivals for artists in the upcoming months. Contact Francisca at 785-5125 for potential events and how you can be involved.

Photos: (L) The sax player, Adriana Oliveira of Com Alma, is



originally from Portugal but has been on Bonaire for 17 years. She gives sax lessons and plays in concerts.

(Middle) Guineta de Palm is a dramatic storyteller who uses props and costumes.

(R) Laurie A. Smith displays some of her art available from Inspiration Art by Laurie.

Photos/story Julie Morgan



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