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BONAIRE The REPORTER



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Photo Julie Morgan

Swimming for Jong Bonaire

Over 700 participants made a big splash off Eden Beach in the 800-meter round trip Swim to Klein Bonaire on October 2. After a two-year hiatus, the event marked 20 years for the swimming fundraiser benefiting Jong Bonaire. People of every size and age joined the non-competitive swim, some wearing wet suits, others in swim wear or t-shirts. They were equipped with masks, fins, snorkels, floaties, noodles, swim boards and there was even an inflatable flamingo. The idea is to have fun, get some exercise with friends and family and perhaps challenge yourself a bit. Many people just showed up to cheer on their favorite swimmer or enjoy time on the beach.

The Red Cross was on hand along with kayaks and rescue boats. The Bonaire Marine Park, Coast Guard and KPCN (police) were stationed along the shores for safety and there was a ferry for swimmers who didn't care to do the return swim. Participants were energized by the MC William Evertz DJ's music, yogurts from Fresh Supplier and water before and after the swims.

In addition to the 'big swim' to Klein, the Aquatic Foundation Bonaire and Jong Bonaire organized a more serious competitive swim earlier in the morning. The contest attracted 63 men and women from 12 to 40+ in six age categories. They met the challenge with swim times ranging from 22.46 to 53.34 minutes.

First three swimmers of the "Big Swim" arriving at Eden Beach were L-R: Third, Timothy Huyzen, board member of Curacao Aquatics Association. Second, Sebastiaan Spruit. First Marcel Spruit. The Spruit brothers placed in the Boys 2 - 17 group competitive swim with Sebastiaan placing 12 and Marcel in first place with the fastest speed overall 22.46.

Many of the competition swimmers jumped in the water again for the 'big swim' including 17 year old Marcel Spruit who took first place in both.



Competitive swim winners were:

- Boys 12-17:** 1. Marcel Spruit (22,46); 2. Tim van der Giessen (23,07); 3. Koen Verhoeven (23,28)
- Girls 12-17:** 1. Jules Jolie Schwager (25,21); 2. Eden-Lee Schwager (25,31); 3. Quinn Divine-Dalm (25,43)
- Men 18-39:** 1. Rob van de Boogaard (24,06); 2. Stefan Sterk (24,11); 3. Djarrel van Troost (24,34)
- Ladies 18-39:** 1. Myrthe Keizer (28,59); 2. Floortje Van Asperen Vervenne (29,48); 3. Madelon Heerema (33,20)
- Men 40 and up:** 1. Peter Zweers (25,28); 2. Roland van Meerten (28,20); 3. Erik Dalm (29,28)
- Ladies 40 and up:** 1. Simone Sweers (26,11); 2. Caroline Teeuwen (33,08); 3. Tracy Hess (34,40)

The Swim to Klein was sponsored and supported by: Sunbelt Realty, Akkermans Auto Supply, STINAPA, Eden Beach Resort, Cargill, Fresh Supplier, Guardian Group, Bonaire Aquatics Bond, Alfa & Omega N.V., Woodwind, Coast Guard, Caribe Water Sport, Man Enterprise, Bon di Gro, Dive Friends, Red Cross, Virgos, Telbo and D.S.G.

Jong Bonaire is a youth development program providing Bonaire's young people the chance to learn new skills, find potential career paths and receive guidance from professional youth leaders. Jong Bonaire is funded in great part by the island and Dutch governments and several foundations. But they must raise from 15% to 20% of their budget from donors or fundraisers. Since they serve the entire Bonairean community with a staff of professionals, the budget is considerable.

Story/photos Julie Morgan (More photos on Facebook)

Big bucks coming to reduce people's power bills

The Hague to cover €15 million of our WEB bills

The government of the Netherlands is helping cushion the impact of the spike in electricity costs by setting a ceiling for energy prices. In the version of the subsidy designed for the Caribbean Netherlands, Bonaire's share of the money will be paid directly to WEB. Beginning January, 1, 2023, the government will cover the fixed cost item on people's WEB bills, That is, the charge for grid management, which now averages \$390, will go to 0 dollars in 2023. The government will also pay half of the variable rate for electricity if it exceeds 0.38 dollars per KWh. Everyone's electrical bills will be subsidized: households, small and medium-sized enterprises, and sports and cultural institutions, on all three BES Islands.

According to the news release from the OLB, the subsidy came about because the Bonairean island government and WEB NV collaborated with the Dutch government.

OLB to pay \$1,300 of some electrical bills

The OLB is also pitching in to ease the cost of electricity. It will make a one-time contribution of \$1,300 toward the electricity costs of lower-income residents. For those who qualify the Society and Care Directorate will deposit the funds directly into the customer's WEB account. The credit will automatically cover any arrears presently owing as well as future WEB bills and Pagabon payments. When the \$1,300 is used up, the customer will resume paying WEB themselves.

People have to apply for the subsidy. Their eligibility depends on income and other variables. Those who think they may qualify should contact the Society and Care Directorate: 701-1055 or koriente@bonairegov.com. Representatives are also visiting the neighborhood centers to help people apply.

Those who apply need to provide the following documents:

1. Sedula

2. Proof of payments to WEB or most recent Pagabon receipt
3. Proof of income
4. Family book, birth certificate or other document showing the family relationship
5. People who rent must show their lease.

Major funding approved for wind and solar

The cabinet is providing €33.6 million to the BES Islands to accelerate the switch to wind and solar generated electricity. The goal for all three islands is to be generating 80% of their electricity sustainably within three years. Energy costs will be reduced considerably.

Contour Global and Bonaire Fuel Terminals (BFT) will invest in a solar meadow, a wind farm, and a battery to store electricity for use when the winds are light. The project is supposed to be completed in 2024/2025. Then 80% of the island's electricity will be generated from renewable sources.

The plan is essentially the same as the one WEB and the OLB proposed several years ago. The project could be supplying the island with now, they claim, if the Ministry of Energy and Climate had not ignored Bonaire's request for funding.

Bonaire's share of the approved €33.6 million will not be invested directly on the island. Instead, the Ministry of Energy and Climate will grant the funds to Bonaire Fuel Terminals (BFT). BFT is a corporation created by the Ministry for this purpose apparently after Rob Jetten became the Minister in the new Rutte government. The Ministry has said that BFT, given the boost in its capitalization, will be able to borrow money elsewhere to finance Bonaire's sustainable energy project. It's not clear whether Bonaire is receiving a government subsidy or being saddled with government debt. *DMR*

more, the Dutch visitors stayed an average of fourteen nights, while the American visitors averaged seven nights. Most visitors were between 46 and 65 years old.

The number of visitors from Curaçao spiked in September to 1,708 because of such island events such as Dia Di Boneiru, Bonaire Bikers week, and Bonaire Music Festival. *DMR*



Firefighters to have two bosses

Thammy Albertsz and Gravey Anthonij now jointly command the Fire Brigade (BKCN). The BKCN has moved to a joint executive in order to better manage the professionalization of the corps via new roster systems, new employment conditions, and more frequent training courses.

Gravey Anthonij has been employed by the fire service for 25 years. Two years ago he replaced Reynold Janga as Commander. Thammy Albertsz has been working at the fire service since 2018. As an enthusiastic young professional, she takes on this new challenge full of fresh energy. *SSO-CN Photo*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7

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Visit us!





First place in the Yacht division was Jenk, owned by Jan Henk van der Wier, sailed with a crew of seven. Photo Julie Morgan (More photos on our Facebook page.)

Bonaire is an island of culture and tradition. One of the most anticipated traditions is the Bonaire Sailing Regatta. As Bonaire has grown, the regatta has evolved into a much more inclusive sailing event than when it began with a single race on September 8, 1968. Challenged by friends at the Divi Flamingo bar, Captain Don Stewart and Ebo Domacasse were encouraged to race clockwise around Klein for 27 cases of beer. Now Bonaire's Sailing Regatta attracts not only yachtsmen and fishermen, but kids as well as adults and includes windsurfing, Micro-boats, and sailing Sunfish and Optimist dinghies. Unfortunately, today, the fishing boats are all but gone from the racing line-up and the sailors receive medals, not cases of beer, as far as we know.

The regatta has grown from a one-day race to three and now five days of competition.

The 55th Bonaire Regatta was organized by Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers headed up by Licetha Saragoza and Derchlien Dijkhoff in cooperation with INDEBON director

Terrence de Jongh. Registration and opening ceremony were on September 30 at SKAL (section for culture, arts and literature) with the racing running from October 1-8. Participants and spectators enjoyed the windsurf and sunfish races for two days at Sorobon and then all competitions moved to Bonaire's waterfront headquartered at Kas di Regatta for three days. A festival type atmosphere was in play with food and drink booths, a stage with a DJ or live bands and dancing at Wilhelmina Plein from October 5-8 from 6:30 p.m. -12:30 a.m. The closing ceremony returned to SKAL for the presentation of awards to the winners and some much-deserved partying.

Dijkhoff said, "Our goal this year was to increase in participants especially from our sister islands Aruba and Curacao. Due to the time restraints, there were just a handful of participants that came... for a total of 82 participants and six yachts."

Participation may have been limited because people had their eyes on the skies due

to bad weather reports early in the week. But all the races were run.

The Bonaire Regatta is sponsored by Guardian Group, Budget Car Rental, FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire), Budget Marine, Total Safety First, TCB, TELBO and Obersi Group.

"We are satisfied with the results of the windsurfers and sailors. The government has committed with Aquaspeed Bonaire windsurfers for a period of five years starting 2023 as the first years," said Dijkhoff. *J.Morgan*

Bonaire Regatta Results:

Top Photo: Winning Overall Youth in the Windsurf Junior Girls and Foil was Bobbi-Lynn De Jong. Bottom Photo: Winning Overall in the Sunfish category was Ton "Opa" Nuijten of the Bonaire Sailing School Association.



Bobbi-Lynn De Jong

First Place Winners (complete results in the online Reporter Updates and Facebook page):

Windsurf Kids Girls – Robyn Nicolai; Windsurf Superkids Girls – Kit de Jong; windsurf Kids Boys – Daan Van Der Wulp; Windsurf Superkids Boys – Kenny Abrahamsz; Windsurf Junior Girls – Bobbi Lynn De Jong; Windsurf Junior Boys – Storm Nicolai

Sunfishes B Sorobon – Sjef Van Burden; Sunfishes A Sorobon – Ton "Opa" Nuijten

Micro Boats D (30) – Everardo Janga (No Game); Micro boats C (35) Everardo Janga (Extreme); Micro Boats A (45) Raji Lamper (Vrolijk)

Optimist C – Maurits Schothorst

Windsurf Foil Junior – Tycho smits; windsurf Foil Men – Nigel Hart

Sunfishes B Kralendijk – Win Stolk; Sunfishes A Kralendijk – Ton "Opa" Nuijten

Yachts Multihull – Paraiso, Gerrie Fokke; Yachts – Jenk, Jan Henk van der Wier



Ton "Opa" Nuijten

FOR SALE Buildings Lots

Kaya Peridoto 2331



- Location: Santa Barbara, ocean views
- Lot size : 879 m2 / 9461 sq.ft. Owned land
- No building obligation, zoning Woongebied II

Asking price \$ 190,000 US Dollar

Hato lot 2711



- Location: Hato, close to the ocean
- Lot size: 745 m2 / 8018 sq.ft. Owned land
- Including building plans for a 3 bed / 2 bath home

Asking price \$ 137,500 US Dollar



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 info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
 http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire

Betrayals of public trust - Part Two

Below is a complaint concerning Prosecutorial Misconduct or inaction involving land or building issues on Bonaire in two parts. Part One was printed last issue.

PART II. Bonaire is a paradise on many levels but it falls woefully deficient when Government actors betray the public trust.

A. Sunset Beach Hotel: The Variances pushed through by the Gov. Rijna and Councilman Kroon are inexcusable in the process of disregarding health and safety considerations (too high for fire apparatus to reach), lack of required parking, too dense a project for too small a space in an already congested area. These are actions not motivated by consideration of the public good and that the plans went through our building departments that should know the rules and regulations and advise all residents of what is permissible, one should be highly suspicious that rules are being broken. The Prosecutors are charged with enforcing the rules but they do not seem to be involved. The only way the project was scrapped was because of the public outcry after so many had been denied prior for much less. The Prosecutors should have been the first ones to be suspicious and act in the interests of the people of Bonaire. This issue was so volatile that the Dutch legislature had to enact legislation to address some of the issues regarding this abuse of process and betrayal of trust. Unfortunately, it only resulted in a minor slap on the wrist and no positive changes are taking place.

B. The roundabout at Kaya Amsterdam was not made according to plan under the eyes of the Government. A Government investigation was purportedly made into the matter but the results were never properly made public and the roundabout is not completed. These types of construction activities are supposed to go out to bid, a government entity selects the 'best' and not necessarily the lowest bid, a bond for proper performance is received and the government is supposed to ensure that the project proceeds as planned. This clearly did not happen at the roundabout and something very wrong has occurred, certainly illegal. The Government Inspectors should have stepped in and found the contractors legally liable to correct the error and when they failed to do so, the Prosecutors should have been involved and resolved the issue. Minimally, the bond should have been revoked and the work re-contracted out. None of this occurred. All that happened is an investigation was launched, completed and then never properly made public even though it is a public project and a public concern. Privacy issues were cited for not releasing the results of the investigation(s) but public officials or workers acting for

the public should have no expectation of privacy.

C. Chogogo Resort had a snafu that dealt with the importing of sand and building of a beach without the proper building permits and environmental input from Stinapa, the local Marine Park Authority. This issue came to a resolution through the press but should have been averted if the Inspectors were following the progress of the construction to ensure that it was proceeding according to approved plans and as soon as it was determined that the plans were not being followed and the building inspectors were not acting to correct the situation, the prosecutors should have been involved.

D. New Special Education Construction has miraculously appeared already approved and in process soon after a possible need was discussed publicly and without publicly discussing whether a separate school is the best way to handle all of Bonaire's special needs students. There is no question that there are special needs students but whether they should be separated from their peers and prevented from mainstreaming by being cloistered in a separate school, is questionable. It is likely more cost effective and better for the students to provide special learning centers at each school to deal with each specific student. This will not work for clearly and severely low functioning students, but school is generally not an appropriate environment for them.

It seems that the public bidding process and forum was totally neglected as Bonaire was never informed that the government was even thinking about a new special school. It should have been a topic in the education budget but that is not what seems to have happened.

The process is suspect and, as it involves many government entities to accomplish, the prosecutors should be investigating and holding liable all bad actors.

E. Plantation Bolivia was deemed a non-building zone by a spatial plan enacted to protect Bonaire from improper development. This is a particularly sensitive issue as it involves land owned by a former Governor (Hart) and as it was unbuildable, reaped untold tax benefits. Hart then sold and apparently became part of the new owner's consortium that sought to build 2,000 homes on land that was zoned as a reserve. The land had been deforested by roaming goats, some of which were reported to be the former governors and the goal of the spatial plan was to reestablish the flora and fauna and to have open space for the Bonairean people to enjoy. This obviously could not occur if houses are built in the zone and certainly not 2,000 of them. Many plans were proposed and all initially included 'affordable housing' which is the only housing that is really needed on Bonaire and subsequent follow-up plans didn't mention it as it was clearly not a profitable proposition for

the developers. There can be no mistake that the land was zoned not buildable and should not have been represented as such when sold. The people of Bonaire have no obligation to the owners to purchase the property at a high value as it was properly zoned and taxed as not buildable. There may be already some houses built already and this never should have occurred in violation of the Spatial Plan. Unfortunately, it appears that former Gov. Hart was using his political influence to circumvent something that he already gained benefit from in the form of reduced taxes. If so, this is something that Prosecutors should investigate and hold all those that violated the public trust and bent the rules liable.

F. The Government of Bonaire entered into an international agreement to dedicate certain lands and waters to be protected from development and abuse and label them RAMSAR areas. It is now public knowledge that there are applications pending that include public development of RAMSAR designated lands. This is intolerable. There should be no possibility of development unless it is for the sole purpose of preserving the RAMSAR sites. If the government entities even allow requests for development of internationally recognized areas, it just shows how useless laws and spatial plans are when money is concerned. Accepting those plans for review or variance is a violation of not just Bonaire's public trust but of the International Community. They should have been rejected for review until revised to conform to the RAMSAR rules, which allows no development. Again, government entities should know better, but since they don't seem to the prosecutors need to investigate the processes for wrong doing.

CONCLUSION:

Again, Bonaire is a great environment to live if you can ignore the political and governmental abuses that occur on an all too often basis. There is no functioning check/balance system to keep the government in line because the Prosecutors do not investigate where there is clear likelihood of abuse. They must be more properly active as many people seem to profit while bending or ignoring the rules while others are penalized and the people of Bonaire suffer. Please get the Prosecutors to properly do their jobs and allow Bonaire to be the paradise it can be.

*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 One of this complaint appears in this issue's Online Updates at <https://bonairereporter.com>

Selibon recycling

A letter to the Editor,

I am often asked by guests at the vacation rental properties that I manage, and by friends who visit the island, if the things that are put into the Selibon recycle bins are actually recycled. I recall reading many articles on the topic in The Reporter. Can you please summarize the status of the recycling efforts, or perhaps reprint the article, or reference the editions that had the articles?

*Thank you for keeping us so well informed.
Leanne Pinkerton*

Recycling articles can be found in The Reporter's online archives. Look for articles in issues:

**2022 Issue #11, May 25 - Jun 8,
pg 20: Glass crusher arrives**

**2021 Issue #2, Jan 27 - Feb 24,
pg 1: Selibon really does recycle**

**Also relevant is the community initiative,
Refill Bonaire
2022 Issue #13, Jun 22 - Jul 6, pg 6.**

Time to move on from Chogogo, etc.

Since 10-10-10 Bonaire has been catching up. We now have better health care, better schooling, better social care, fiscal responsibility, better governance generally, even better streets, one construction project at a time.

Unfortunately an older version of island governance reared its ugly head during the recent scandals regarding development permits. The worst accusations against those seen as the perpetrators have now been aired in public. On the other hand, the accused had opportunities to voice their best justifications. There is nothing new to be said on either side. It's time to put the debate behind us and carry on the work of creating a new Bonaire.

The issue has been brought to a head by a story that appeared on the website of Follow the Money, a Dutch organization that describes itself as "an independent platform for investigative journalism." The story presents what is perhaps the most negative case that can be made against Lt. Governor Edison Rijna regarding the development permit scandal. He has responded with his best explanation and justifications.

The most damning interpretation: According to Follow the Money, "Dutch entrepreneurs are building illegal resorts that pose a threat to the vulnerable coral ... Rijna promises entrepreneur friends permits for their illegal building plans and his girlfriend works as their advisor."

The most exonerating interpretation: According to Rijna,

there was no malfeasance, not even misfeasance. It's just that the island is growing so rapidly and the existing development laws were inadequate. Therefore those in power were not able to cope, despite their honesty and the best of intentions. But, Rijna says, new agreements are now being written that will prevent future mistakes.

I propose a third interpretation: The old, long established rules of political behavior have been fading away on Bonaire since 10-10-10. Under Rijna and the present Executive Council, the governance of the island has improved exponentially.

On the other islands, however—Curacao, Aruba, and St. Maarten—the old guard has continued to battle the Hague to retain the old powers that allowed them to govern as they pleased and to their own benefit. Those islands have continued to be burdened with debt and misgovernance as a result.

Let's consider what happened on Bonaire to be a momentary relapse under temptation into the old ways. Let's assume the reaction of the public has been so adamant that those involved are aware they are now under scrutiny. They have experienced the costs of lapses in transparency and principled behavior.

Then let's all get on with building a new Bonaire. We may regret what the island is losing as it grows, but we can celebrate the political maturity it is achieving.

Don M. Ricks.

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Oct. 7. Thieves gained access to a house on Kaya Oktaaf between 9 p.m. and 12:45 a.m. They stole a Dell laptop with charger, a Lenovo laptop, an Extreme dive computer, some jewelry, AirPods and cash.

Oct. 6. Thieves gained access to an apartment on Kaya Akuario between 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. They took, among other things, an HP laptop, an Adidas backpack, a Samsung charger and a passport.

Oct. 5. Thieves gained access to a tourist accommodation on Kaya Playa Lechi between 4:45 and 8:15 p.m. They took two dive computers, an Apple iPad, a Samsung Tablet and a Gopro.

Oct. 3. In the late afternoon hours three men were caught in the act by a kunuku owner while they were stealing goats. The suspects released two of the three goats they had stolen and ran into the bushes. They left a pick-up in which there was still a goat which was handed over to the owner. The pickup turned out to be a rental pickup and it was returned to the owner. Due to the alertness of an on-duty patrol, a 17-year-old girl was found in a car in the vicinity of the crime. She was arrested on suspicion of helping the three men who had fled. It is an offense to assist a person who is guilty of a crime to escape or avoid arrest. The vehicle the suspect was in was seized for further investigation.

Oct. 3. In the night hours a burglary took place in a business on Kaya Korona. The burglars caused significant damage to the property and took a sum of money.

Sept. 29. Various tools were stolen from a container at a construction site on Boulevard E.E.G. Thieves took, among other things, two Milwaukee drills; a Makita drill, circular saw and grinder; and a Makita and Hilti Kango.

Arrests

Oct. 7. Around 1 a.m. two men were arrested on Wilhelminaplein for public violence. The men, aged 29 and 17, were involved in a brawl outside a nightlife venue.

Oct. 2. Around 11 p.m. the police received a report about an incorrectly parked car on Kaminda Jato Bako. The driver was found to be in the car and under the influence of alcohol. The man, 38 was arrested.

Oct. 1. In the night, a man was assaulted with a knife at Hanchi Amboina after he refused to give another man a lift. The ambulance transported the victim to hospital for medical treatment. A man, 27, was arrested 10 minutes later at Kaya Papa Cornes.

Oct. 1. During the night, a patrol spotted a suspicious exchange among a group of people during surveillance. When officers approached, they saw that one suspect put an unknown object under the skirt of the other suspect, who then threw this object into the car. The object turned out to be illegal drugs. Both suspects, a woman, 20, and a man, 29, have been arrested for violating the Opium Act BES.

Sept. 30. A man, 27, was arrested for assault with a weapon. A knife was seized for further investigation.

Traffic accidents/violations

Oct. 7. In the early morning hours on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot a driver of a car crashed into a wall. The driver was thrown from the car by the impact, after which the car landed on the driver. Firefighters were able to free the driver from under the car. After medics stabilized the driver, he was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Oct. 5. At about 5:30 p.m. a car and scooter collided on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver of the scooter fell when the car in front suddenly braked. The driver of the scooter was treated by ambulance personnel on the spot.

Fire

Oct. 1. Around 2:15 p.m., the police received a central report about a 20-foot container that was on fire on Kaya Anna. The fire produced a lot of smoke and the container contained objects that could cause an explosion. Residents on the west side of the fire were evacuated as a safety measure. The fire service quickly got the fire under control. Investigation into the case is underway.

Oct. 1. Around 5:40 a.m., the police received a central report of a vehicle fire in the city center area. The fire brigade was able to extinguish the fire. A group of people were arguing on the spot. The police tried to calm the situation but one of those involved escalated the conflict by punching someone in the face. A 33-year-old man has been arrested for assault.

Public order

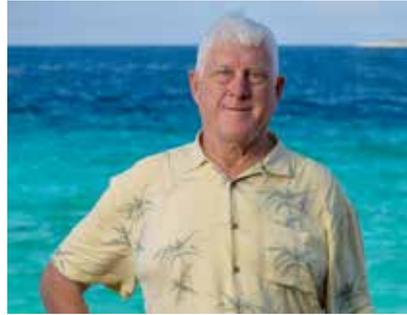
Oct. 5. In the afternoon, the police station received a report of a missing diver on the south coast of Bonaire. STINAPA, KMar and the Coast Guard immediately started a search for the diver. A little later, the diver, who showed no sign of life, was found by a diver from STINAPA. The medical examiner declared the death of a 51-year-old man with initials C.G.A.

Sept. 28. Around 10:15 p.m. the police station received a report that a man wasn't responding after he fell into the bathroom of a house on Kaya Nikkel. The medical examiner determined death was caused by the injuries sustained. The man with initials P.C.O. was born on July 21, 1944 in the Netherlands.

People should reclaim seized goods from police. The police are clearing out of the seizure room at the police station. 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.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob –
Can you tell me who regulates real estate brokers on Bonaire?

Thanks, Peter Z.

Hi Peter, that's a great question and one I get asked a lot.

Unlike the rules in the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands, on Bonaire there are no licensing requirements for real estate brokers and agents, nor is there much – if any – government regulation of the industry or selling/buying process for real estate. So the short answer to your question is – nobody.

Lacking any sort of regulation, anyone on Bonaire can call themselves a real estate agent and claim to be able to help you buy or sell your property. These people may or may not have an office, and – incredibly – may not have any experience selling real estate at all.

Since selling real estate is NOT regulated here, there are some things to think about when you decide to engage the services of an agent/broker to buy or sell property on the island:

- **The most important question to ask is one you should ask yourself. “Do I trust this agent to tell me the truth?”** If you work with an agent and feel they are not being honest with you or that they just want to sell you something, trust your instinct and look for another agent. Buying real estate is one of the largest purchases you will make in your life, so you want to make sure you are working with a good advisor who you trust.
- **Does your agent/broker have a well-established office and support staff to help you through the entire process of buying or selling your home?** Buying and selling property on Bonaire is unlike what you may be used to elsewhere. It is critical you have an agent/broker that knows these procedures inside-out and has experienced staff available to manage the processes and the inherent language barriers that come with real estate transactions on a Dutch island.
- **How long has this agent/broker been in business?** How many properties have they sold this year on Bonaire? Last year? Since it is so easy to call yourself a real estate agent/broker

here, it is an unfortunate reality that many “fly by night” individuals try their hand at selling real estate here and then disappear when things don't go as planned. Reputation matters anywhere, but especially on Bonaire.

• **If you are buying property, ask your agent who they are really working for.** Most brokers on Bonaire believe they work ONLY for the seller, meaning they are only concerned about getting the highest selling price for the property, with no consideration as to whether the buyer is paying too much. (It is often to your advantage to hire your own agent when you buy property here to avoid this conflict.)

• **If you are buying new construction, ask who the developer is.** Once you know that information about the development company, you can go to the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce and see who the managers of the development company are. This is important since some of the real estate agents/brokers on Bonaire are silent partners in new developments and then list and sell their own developments via their role as agent/broker. If a broker is selling you their own project, whose interest do you think they are looking out for? Brokers/agents here aren't required to disclose that they are selling their own property in situations like this. The potential conflict of interest is obvious. It pays to do your research.

• **If you decide to buy a house,** ask your agent/broker what comparable houses in the area are listed for and, in the case of recently sold homes, what the sale price was. Be careful if your agent won't tell you selling prices because they are “confidential.” The selling price of every home sold on Bonaire is public record and can be researched for a small fee at the Kadaster's office (the land registry and mapping office).

• **Before you finalize any purchase agreement,** be sure to ask for a technical inspection. The disclosure of “known defects” in a house is loosely enforced on Bonaire, so it is to your advantage to discover defects before the sale is finalized.

As you can see, Bonaire is a bit like the wild west in terms of buying and selling real estate. No regulation on agents/brokers and little regulation on the rules that are in place make it a bonanza for anyone hoping to make money selling real estate here. It pays to do your homework before choosing an agent.

*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

School Meals: On October 11, poverty policy minister Schouten announced that there will be additional funding to provide free school meals at primary schools in the Caribbean Netherlands. The cabinet is immediately allocating €250,000 to expand existing local initiatives. The public entities will be in charge of distributing the school meals. The extra free school meals will be provided over a period of four months. In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science will soon deliver a plan for school lunches at schools in the European and Caribbean Netherlands.

Minister for Housing and Spatial Planning, Hugo de Jonge, took almost five months to answer questions about Plantation Bolivia.

You can read the questions and answers for yourself: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/kamervragen/detail?id=2022Z09873&did=2022D39326>

On October 4, 2022, Minister Hugo de Jonge, Minister for Housing and Spatial Planning, also on behalf of the Minister of Nature and Nitrogen and the State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management, answered the questions about Plantation Bolivia from the Partij voor de Dieren (PvdD) of 19 May 2022. It took almost five months to answer 25 questions, which creates the expectation of accurate and careful answers.

When reading, most of the answers appear to provide a general story and little news ('...I am confident that the procedures are followed in accordance with the law and regulations...').

Two answers stand out because they are entirely inaccurate (the answer to question 1 and question 8).

In his answer to question 1, the minister states that there is a second nature corridor that would connect the northern and southern half of Bonaire. INCORRECT. See map, source Strategic Environmental Assessment (SMB)).

Plantation Bolivia, this large 33 square kilometer area which forms THE ONLY 'undeveloped' ecological connection (nature corridor) between the northern and southern halves of the island. The wildlands of Bolivia serve the crucial ecological role of natural corridor for much of the native fauna and flora.

Corridors are important for the survival of animal species on Bonaire: they are areas that are widely used by the various important species for movement between nature areas. The corridors therefore ensure that the habitats are much larger than if there were only isolated nature areas. Securing such corridors for the future (no spatial developments) is therefore essential.

The second disturbing error, the answer to question 8, the minister states that the SMB considers that the natural values of Bolivia are relatively limited. INCORRECT, the SMB has included Plantation Bolivia as an area containing important natural features such as caves with endangered bats and endemic invertebrates, Important Bird Area, nesting site for the Lora and Barn Owl, tropical dry forest.

The PvdD will continue to ask further questions to correct these issues.

**these answers were given after the 'Follow The Money' article was published ('The Island Governor, appointed by the Hague, has the coast built up illegally' Oct 1, 2022). This makes you wonder.*

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia



RCN raises the rainbow flag



"Today we raise this flag as a symbol of the inclusive and diverse organization that we as RCN aim to be for everyone" director Jan Helmond said last week. The first "Diversity week" was sponsored by the working group for Diversity & Inclusion. A number of activities explored the theme "Differences are enriching!" Photo credit: RCN

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DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE



QUARTERLY CLEANUP DIVE

October 22
 At the North Pier
 09:30 AM registration



FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

Muller new director of RCN



T. J. (Tim) Muller MBA will replace Jan Helmond as the director and quartermaster of Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland on December 12. The Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN) is a collaboration between the various ministries for matters concerning the Public Entities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba. Muller has been serving as the island secretary on Saba. Helmond, who has also been deputy Kingdom Representative since 2018, will continue in that role.

BES healthcare and youth care to meet European standards

State Secretary Van Ooijen says healthcare and youth care in the Caribbean Netherlands should be comparable to that in the European Netherlands, "However, 'comparable' does not mean that everything from the European Netherlands will be copied like for like," she said. "The aim is to create a health system that has been tailor-made for the Caribbean Netherlands, bearing in mind the small scale of the islands." She says that service deficiencies on the smaller islands should be covered by service opportunities made available on the larger islands of the kingdom.

She emphasized that the elderly and those with disabilities must receive full care, especially given the aging population. Youngsters with complex issues must also be helped. Exercise and a healthy lifestyle must become part of the daily lives of all inhabitants. "When it comes to public health, it is important for the local branches of the special municipalities to be developed further."

More rain means more danger of Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika

The Bonaire Public Health Department reports that there are currently no signs of Dengue, Chikungunya or Zika on Bonaire. But people should take precautions. The rainy season multiplies the breeding sites for *Aedes aegypti*, also called the Dengue mosquito, which spreads all three diseases. If a female sucks blood from

an infected person she may pass the infection into the blood stream of the next person she bites.

She also passes the infection to her eggs, then looks for standing water to lay them. The Dengue mosquito prefers artificial, smooth walled containers holding clear water. Therefore people should clean up potential rain catchers on their property such plastic containers, car tires, bottles, cans and buckets. Cisterns and Barrels used to collect rainwater for plants or animals should be closed at the top. A small measure of diesel fuel will thinly coat the surface of the water and smother mosquito larvae when they hatch.

The health department recommends people wear protective clothing during the rainy season, use a strong mosquito repellent (such as DEET), and keep out mosquito with hand screens spraying indoors. The Dengue mosquito active during the day and especially in the early morning and in the afternoon. So people should sleep under a mosquito net during the day. *DMR*



Kaya Grandi Renovations

From Wed. Oct. 12 the entrance to the Kaya Grandi between TCB and the Banco di Caribe will be closed for four to five weeks to vehicular traffic. The shops will remain accessible by foot. Local traffic may enter by Kaya Isla Riba and leave by Kaya Almirante Pedro Luis Brion. See *The Reporter's* online update pages for a map of the work.

As part of the Kaya Grandi renovations, the public body Bonaire (OLB) has agreed with the Lions Club to give its time capsule in Oranjeplein a new look.

New exhibit at Terramar



Kenny Ranking and a few of his photographs showing at Terramar

Terramar Museum's latest exhibit, *Boneiru Bibu: Bou di Awa (Bonaire Alive: Under the water)*, is the first collaboration with World Wildlife Fund NL. The goal is to share Bonaire's connection with the ocean and promote an understanding of just how fragile it is.

The exhibit includes a series of photographs from past Regattas along with programs of the Bonaire historical event. Local school children's drawings of their interpretations of the ocean fill one wall. A board has been set up for museum guests to submit their ideas of what can be done to preserve our oceans. In addition, photographer Kenny Ranking who is from the Netherlands with Bonaire and Aruba roots displays a few of his favorite images of Bonaire shot in natural light.

The exhibit opened on October 3 and can be viewed through November 4. Terramar Museum is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Photo/story Julie Morgan*

2022

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

October Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	SUNSET	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
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS-10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	18:20	18:20	18:19	18:18	18:18	18:17	18:17	18:18	18:16	18:15	18:15	18:14	18:14	18:13
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral								18:27-19:27 (Expected nightly until at least Oct 29; new observations are encouraged from any date)							17:05-16:25
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							16:33-22:03 (Peaks in first 1.5 hrs)								
<i>Coccolophyllia 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> (85-160 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 annularis</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>Solenastrea sidera</i> (195-280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							21:33-22:58								
<i>Pseudodiploria silvosa</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 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>

Final Taste of Bonaire 2022

Papa Cornes School wins



Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) final offering of Taste of Bonaire on September 30 proved to be the highlight of the 2022 Tourism Month on the island. With a theme of promoting Tourism and Culture in education, the kids from three schools put their best foot forward in a dance competition. The school dance teams from Kolegio San Luis Bertran, Kolegio Kristu bon Wardador and Skol Amplio Papa Cornes performed traditional dances attired in cultural dress. TCB said the aim behind this project is to motivate our youngsters in the fields of our culture and tourism. Miss Tourism, Sunniva Manuel, presented prizes to the winning dance team from Skol Amplio Papa Cornes. (For more photos of Taste of Bonaire visit [The Reporter Facebook page](#).)

Photo Julie Morgan

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Uncle Vernon

Halloween decorations are going up, so it's a good time for a story concerning witches, right?

Do you remember when Harry Potter went to the zoo with his cousin, Dudley, his Aunt Petunia, and his Uncle Vernon? Everyone in the group but Harry is a Muggle, a non-magical person. Uncle Vernon is a particularly selfish, obnoxious non-magical person. When Dudley complained that the snakes weren't moving, Uncle Vernon immediately rapped the glass, to disturb them into moving.

Harry wasn't happy about the snakes being disturbed. That's how I feel too often when watching divers around marine animals. I hope this quiz will be entertaining as well as educational, dealing with five Uncle Vernons, back in the 1970's and 80's. Next issue we'll have direct information about how to tell if marine animals are stressed.

In each of these examples, one answer is "correct" because it happened.

1. You see Uncle Vernon poking a scorpionfish with his fin. You write "Why?" on your slate. He wants to see the pectoral fin colors it displays when it swims away. What happens next?

- You turn Uncle Vernon's air off. (His buddy turns it back on.)
- The scorpionfish dives straight for Uncle Vernon, then somersaults downward, scraping its venomous dorsal spines against Uncle Vernon's chest.
- The scorpionfish swims off, but doesn't spread its pectoral fins.

2. Under a ledge, Uncle Vernon sees the tail of a green moray. He wants to see the head, so he decides to get the moray's attention by putting his knife through its tail and into the sand. What happens?

- The moray turns instantly and just misses biting Uncle Vernon's hand.
- You signal Uncle V to put his knife away, and he does.



Brad was only twelve years old when he met this scorpionfish, but Uncle Vernon could learn a lot from him... Photo Dee Scarr

c. Uncle V picks up his knife, and as it catches the light a barracuda bites it. Uncle Vernon drops his knife and bolts.

3. Uncle Vernon sees a sea turtle. What happens?

- He rushes toward the turtle at full speed, the turtle bolts out of view. His dive buddies tie his ankles together to prevent future similar episodes.
- He grabs the turtle's shell. You grab him by the shoulders. Surprised, he lets go of the turtle but you ride him around for a while anyway.
- He grabs the turtle's shell, discovers he can't let go, is carried to Bonaire's East Side, and released.

4. You see Uncle Vernon's sister, Marge, grab a porcupinefish – which inflates immediately -- and carry it to her brother.

- You signal her to release it and she displays a middle finger.
- Since Marge is using one hand to display the finger, the porcupinefish is able to move; it bites the extended finger!
- You signal Marge to release it, and she does.

5. Uncle Vernon and Marge find a nurse shark about 2' (63cm) long. Vernon has the camera ready, and Marge prepares to grab the shark. What happens next?

- You signal them not to do it, and they back away, shrugging.
- Marge grabs the shark by the tail; it spins around

and bites her on the leg.

c. Marge grabs the shark and holds it up to the camera. The shark bites through the housing, which floods.

Next: dealing with Uncle Vernon

Note answer key below:

Explanations of "Answers."

1a: Turning someone's air off could kill them! It's sometimes tempting to consider, but better to resist.

1b. Back in 1974, in Florida, my buddy got cute and poked a scorpionfish with his spear, and the scorpionfish did exactly this. Luckily its venomous spines didn't break his skin, and he never poked a scorpionfish again!

2a. Also years ago, a guy bragged about doing this. Sheesh!

3b. And while his boss rode the turtle-rider (in 1981), the boss explained why that was rude and dangerous to the turtle. Perfect!

4b. The inflated porcupinefish the guide was holding did chomp his finger, though the finger wasn't extended; the injury required stitches! (Around 1981)

5b. Last and oldest, this happened around 1973, to a teenager who mistakenly thought that nurse sharks couldn't defend themselves. He detached it from his leg and it whipped around and bit him on the arm. The shark was fine, and the teen remembered the lesson!

1c, 2c, 3a and c, 4c, 5b and c: if only we weren't Muggles...

2b, 3b, 4c, 5a: are all things a reef lover would do.



Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef (for children)*; in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses." *The Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge through [touchthesea.com](#).

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Daily Fresh announces opening



Lauri selling some fresh lettuce at Taste of Bonaire on September 30. Photo Julie Morgan

Mark your calendar for the special grand opening of Bonaire Daily Fresh on LVV Open Day Sunday, October 30. It has been a little over two years since The Reporter announced Bonaire had its very own aquaponics growers to make the island more sustainable. And now the big day is almost here. Owners Bob and Lauri Janssen were the first to lease a 3000 sq. meter lot on LVV property to further expand their backyard sustainable vegetable growing business.

Lauri and Bob have some super fun things planned for the day. Because it is Halloween weekend, kids are encouraged to wear their costume and join in

the Halloween costume contest for prizes. There will be a Simadon dancers and unique cooking displays with Bagels & Bloom chef Maria Maestroni and Lauri. In addition, a pair of tickets (\$300 value) to the first ever 'Dinner in the Field' event at LVV with chef Helmi Smeulder on November 11-12 will be raffled.

Fifteen minute tours of the 1250 sq meter greenhouse and how aquaponics work are scheduled from opening to close, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour size is limited so it's best to sign up before opening day at <https://www.dailyfresh.eco/tours>

Photo/story Julie Morgan

Learn how to ship to Bonaire

eZone To make the shopping season less stressful, eZone is holding its second annual information course for clients. The whole eZone process will be explained: how to become a client, how to upload correct invoices that Customs will accept and how to receive the packages. Supplying CRIB numbers can also be an issue.

eZone now has three weekly shipments coming in from the U.S. (American Airlines, FedEx and Amerijet Don Andres).

Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa
Self-care and service

Is taking care of oneself an act of selfishness? I think it is quite the opposite, but it depends on what we think self-care is. Self-care is not self-pampering or self-indulgence. Self-care means devoting time and energy to those activities that contribute to making us a better, stronger, and more resilient person. This is vital to being healthy, happy and able to attend to the needs of others.

Just as different levels of attention and care are necessary for a car to transport us safely and comfortably, human beings need similar treatment and we ourselves must attend to that. A car frequently needs attention at different levels. You need to fill the tank with fuel, periodically check levels of water, oil and other fluids and eventually small parts need changed along with some cleaning and lubrication. Every few thousand kilometers it will need a global check and change parts that wear out.

Just like vehicles, humans also have

different areas to attend to for proper operation. We need a daily supply of energy in the form of healthy food, clean water, and pure air. Fortunately for water and air we don't need to do any extra work here on Bonaire. For healthy food, we need to be pay attention for freshness and raw, versus ultra-processed products. To keep our body parts working and our joints well lubricated, the best thing is to keep moving. This doesn't have to be a boring routine as here on the island we have many options: Zumba, functional training, yoga, and tennis. But you can also go swimming, cycling, walking on the boulevard or Seru Largu or join one of the many dance academies here. Movement helps to maintain a good mood and favors good sleep. Each person needs a different number of hours to function well, but sleep quality also matters.

From the cognitive point of view, that is, from the area of thought and internal

Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter
Easy? You wish.

I was reading an article about a 26-year-old young woman in a magazine. She was just married and planning to have children. She had a good job and life was simply awesome. At a party she started to get a headache and was dizzy. After a while she got sick and threw up. Every time she moved her head, she threw up again. At the E.R. she was told to get some sleep. She was probably drunk. The next morning she could not move her left arm. Back again at the E.R. she was told she had brain hemorrhage! She needed six months to revalidate and still was not really well after that.

This is how easy it can go, and that age does not matter. Everybody can get sick and need accessibility.

What matters is how we as a community deal with this. Education is very important because people who know are people who act differently.

This week was the week of accessibility. To reach out, to inform, to share and teach.

The goals

Accessibility not only means that people with a disability can go where they need to go. It means that they have rights. It also means that they get the right tools to live well. They can live in a house where things are adapted to their needs. Their housing is adapted from the start and doesn't need to get fixed when problems occur. Children can go to school and get an education; travelling goes smoothly; one can go to stores and shop; there is proper transportation available; going on a vacation is no problem or getting a job is a walk in the park..... The list can go on and on.

Achieving true accessibility also means that another thing must change: education: both of the general public and

in schools. Because people who know, act accordingly.

Political action

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted on December 13, 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on March 30, 2007. Holland signed it in 2016 but Bonaire did not sign.

In order to get those rights mentioned above, it is very important that Bonaire also signs. After all... we are a special municipality of the Netherlands. It is just about time.

Elections are soon. Our politicians need to get to work and work on accessibility. Do their homework about how to get Bonaire to be an island for everyone. Where everybody can get what they have a right to.

Adding to Bonaire's image

How awesome would it be to be known not only as a diver's paradise, but also as an island that is 100% accessible? It would mean more and different jobs for all. It would change a lot, but it would be 100% worth all efforts.

Imagine how this would look: a sign at the airport that reads: "Welcome to Bonaire, our 100% accessible island."



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.

dialogue, it is important to detect and refute all those internal messages loaded with irrational and negative content. After all, it is not the experience itself that affects the person who experiences it, but the series of internal dialogues that are generated within us. Therefore, it is our way of seeing reality that will determine our reactions. Practices like meditation and mindfulness help slow down the flow of thoughts so we can listen to our own internal dialogues to detect thinking patterns and irrational biases.

Regarding affective bonds, it is important to understand that we learned them in our early childhood through family ties. This does not mean that these patterns are carved in stone, so there is always a chance later in life to improve them. Awareness, mindfulness and self-knowledge gained through different life experiences such as therapy, coaching, mind-body practices, spiritual development, social groups, and others, help us correct any dysfunctional patterns learned during childhood.

On the ecological dimension, protecting the environment is both taking care of ourselves and future generations. Active participation in environmental

groups has the added benefit of fulfilling our social needs as human being.

And last, but not least, finding the meaning in life. Some doctrines acknowledge a single and great mission in life that must be found and fulfilled. From my point of view this is way too big and it is preferable to think of multiple life missions which can change throughout our existence and can be achieved through small and daily acts. Serving is one of the activities that generates the most personal satisfaction, emotionally, cognitively, and biologically, generating a beneficial cascade of neurotransmitters and hormones, reaping benefits in both directions. So to serve others it is important to begin with our own "auto-service."



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.

New Turismo na Boneiru unveiled



TCB director Miles Mercera, Miss Tourism Sunniva Manuel, Denise de Jongh-Rekwest and commissioner Hennyson Thielman do their best to unveil the new book. Photo Julie Morgan

Denise de Jongh-Rekwest's fourth edition of the book series on tourism for Bonaire kids, *Turismo na Boneiru*, was released in a celebratory book signing on September 28 at the museum housing SKAL (Culture, Art and Literature). The book is not for commercial sale but is distributed to schools as a part of a contractual agreement between two agencies: culture (SKAL) and tourism (Tourism Corporation Bonaire/TCB). The book series promotes tourism education of Bonaire's children.

This fourth book and the previous three are in Papiamentu, Bonaire's native language.

TCB director, Miles Mercera; Bonaire commissioner, Hennyson Thielman; SKAL director, Felix Thomas and the author, de Jongh-Rekwest, spoke at the book release. Attending the ceremony were invited guests including contributors to the book, interviewed participants, fishermen Eddi Christiaan and Nolly Thode and photographers Meredith and Steve Schnoll.

Turismo na Boneiru, mi kultura, mi encanto (Tourism of Bonaire, my culture, my enchantment) focuses on the island's culture. It includes information on the importance of tourism and the responsibility of everyone to display an attitude and manners that welcome visiting Bonaire guests.

There are explanations of cultural dances, local food dishes with recipes and local art. Colorful illustrations accompany information on important historical monuments and festivals as well as a section on traditional and present-day fishing. Kids can learn to identify fish from beautiful underwater photographs by the Schnolls and

then test their knowledge. Denise has even included a QR code to scan that takes the reader directly to a YouTube video of the hit song *Piscador* by Luis Moka. And the words are included to sing along. The book is beautifully illustrated by Gairo Tromp of Aruba with colorful caricatures of people and places.

Denise de Jongh-Rekwest is the author of 17 books, two for adults and 15 for children. She will be launching a new book, *Bebe Bira Bon*, in Dutch, Papiamentu, English and Spanish for Kids Book Week 2022. For more information visit www.requestpublishing.com. Julie Morgan



de Jongh-Rekwest with fisherman Nolly Thode who is caricatured in the new book. Photo Julie Morgan

Parrots & People

by Megan Hill



Ava Finlay



Robin de Roo



Demi van Hooijdonk

Echo has welcomed three interns who are all studying Environmental Science at Avans University in the Netherlands. Demi, Robin and Ava will be conducting their individual projects here on Bonaire over the course of five months. In addition the interns will assist Echo with parrot husbandry and the watering of their native tree nursery at the Dos Pos Conservation Center.

Their research projects will support Echo's reforestation program, which is dedicated to replanting Bonaire's precious dry forest to help not only parrots, but people too.

Ava's project is researching the best method to increase water retention in our reforestation areas so that

the trees and plants have more access to water and a higher rate of survival.

Robin's project is researching whether seed bombs could be an effective way of restoring degraded habitat on Bonaire. The seed bombs will be made of compost, clay soil and seeds of native trees. They will be distributed in various locations throughout Bonaire.

Demi will be replicating a vegetation baseline study conducted five years ago measuring the biodiversity in the Roi Sango area. Demi's study will record and track the biodiversity changes inside and outside the reforestation/exclusion zones in comparison to five years ago.

Ava, Demi and Robin have been on the island for a couple of weeks now and have already made great progress with their individual projects. Echo cannot wait to see the results in a few months. In the meantime, you can follow their adventures in the field by following us on Facebook at @Echobonaire.

Thank you, Robin, Demi and Ava for helping us to understand Bonaire's beautiful and precious dry forest and restore it back to its former glory.

For more information about Echo visit <https://www.echobonaire.org>.

Photos Echo.

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.)

Starts September 29 Ends November 4	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. See page 7.
Friday, October 21	Meet the Artist, Jeff Wolf. 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 (English only) www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, October 29	Nos Zjilea Festival 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. eZone Information Course. Habitat (Aquarius room). Understand how you can use eZone to ship to Bonaire. English: 2 - 3:30 p.m. Papiamentu: 3:30 - 5 p.m. See page 10.
Sunday, October 30	LVV Open Day 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kaminda di Lagun 32. Popular market. You can learn what others are growing, buy plants, purchase food, attend workshops, visit animals and tour the facilities. Lots of activities for kids too. Daily Fresh opens at LVV with a Halloween party. See page 10. Fifteen minute tours of the aquaponic facility. Tour size is limited. Sign up at: https://www.dailyfresh.eco/tours
Saturday, November 5	Bario Festival Tera Kòrà - 6 - 10 p.m. Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.
Tuesday, November 8	Kids edition Big Live Nature Quiz. See below.

Calling all kids: Join the Big Live Nature Quiz

DCNA organizes twice a year a FREE Big Live Nature Quiz for people Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten.

The online Big Live Nature Quiz is created to educate citizens about nature conservation in a fun interactive way, to instill pride about the islands' nature, encourage eco-friendly practices, support the parks conservation projects, and to connect people throughout the Dutch Caribbean.

The Quiz is in English, with Dutch, Papiamentu and Papiamento subtitles.

The next kids edition is planned on: November 8, 2022. REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON. If you have any questions, send an email to research@DCNAnature.org or call +599-717-5010.

The Big Live Nature Quiz is generously funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and DCNA's activities are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

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 Fundation 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.

'INDEBON Kids' show off their moves in celebration

**"Alleen jij bepaalt wie je bent"
Only you determine who you are**



leen jij bepaalt wie je bent" (Only you determine who you are) the project has proved to have a positive impact on the

children's attitude evidenced by their school performance.

The program was originally adopted

by Lt. Governor Edison Rijna's office from a similar program initiated in Holland.

With the project coming to an end last month, INDEBON is working to receive the necessary grants from the Netherlands to continue the program on a year-to-year basis.

"We are working to renew this program with the parents, coaches and kids. They fell in love with it. We are trying to get the program into other neighborhoods," said de Jongh.

The INDEBON Institute of Sport was held for boys from 8 – 13 years of age with eight coaches. Boys have proved to be the most at risk, but girls could be added at a later time.

Moogie (Ralph Stewart) entertains every Monday night at Habitat's Rum Runners. To watch the video of the kids celebrating visit: <https://fb.watch/fYkGwjoqYw/> Julie Morgan

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Of course most of us know about gardening. You take a plant and put it in the soil. Logical. But often it doesn't work. Especially on Bonaire where we have an extreme climate and poor soil. So I made a list for a beginner Bonaire gardener so that they might have an idea of how to start.

- **First, if possible, place the garden in a part of the yard where you can see it regularly.** When seeing it, it is on your mind to pay attention to it.

- **The sun is important** in gardening. Here on Bonaire no problem with not enough sun. Pay attention to how much sunlight plays through your yard before you make the decision where you want your garden. Most tropical plants need five to six hours a day of sunlight.

- **Water must be close by.** Take care of your water source. When you want to know if your plants need water, push your finger an inch down into the soil. When it's dry, you need to water.

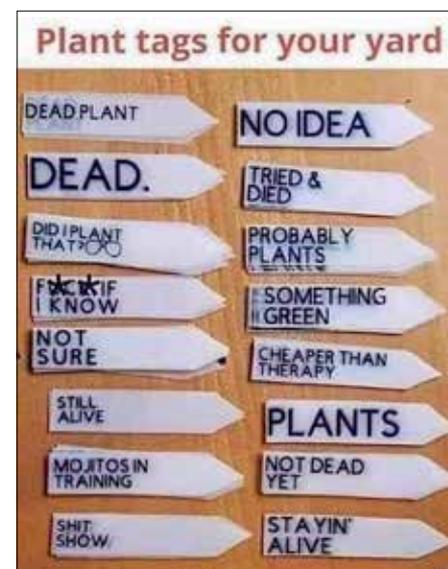
- **Invest in good soil** that is nutrient-rich and well drained. Think of a good compost mix, manure, dried leaves, charcoal, ashes and make raised beds if possible.

- **Look for containers** if you have little garden space. Many plants can grow in pots. Use pots that are large enough for the plants it is hosting. Vegetables such as eggplant, tomato, peppers, kalaloe, tayerblad, spinach, paprika and herbs like basil, mint, ginger, lemongrass, oregano can fit in pots.

Even fruit trees and shrubs can be planted in containers but pay attention to how big the plant will become and look for the right container. I had a funny experience with some palm trees growing in big trunks. I planned to plant the trees in the soil but when I wanted to transplant, I found the roots had grown into the old trunks so I had to leave the palm trees there. It was not a problem because that particular place was okay. But, can you imagine how strong roots can be that they can even grow in trunks, rocks or even through the foundation of a house.

- **Choose plants that fit in your garden.** If you have less shade in your garden then plant only sun lovers. Don't spend time with plants that will grow big if you have only a small space in your yard. If you want pumpkin, cucumbers or watermelons make a trellis for them.

- **Certain plants need to be trimmed** after producing. Spinach has to be trimmed close to the roots, so it will sprout even more again. Other examples are okra, pepper,



eggplant and so on. Herbs also need to get a facelift to grow fresh again.

- **Start seeds indoors** to protect against the hot sun, iguanas and lizards who love the young sprouts like crazy. Seed containers should be at least 2 inches deep. One can recycle egg cartons, yogurt and cottage cheese containers, cans and so on.

- **Apply mulch around each plant** when replanting the plants in the garden, apply. It helps against weeds by blocking the sun and there is less moisture lost through evaporation, so less water needed.

- **Check often for bugs** and keep an eye out for fungus white fly, iguanas and lizards. Protection is needed.

- **Make sure you have the basic tools** needed. Old knives, spoons and forks, can all be used in the garden.

- **Harvest in the morning and late in the afternoon.** Some fruits and vegetable can ripen in a few hours, such as okra, guyaba, cherries, bacoba, tomatoes, berries and grapes.

- **Last but not least.** Look at the photo. This is a very handy and cool idea to do in your garden.

We have a lot of rain coming and so it is the perfect time to start gardening, just do it now.



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.

KLM expanding winter service

KLM will fly 20% more seats to the Caribbean this winter. Curaçao will have at least ten flights a week, with two flights a day during the Christmas period. On its daily Aruba/Bonaire service, KLM will use the largest aircraft in its fleet, the Boeing 777-300ER with 408 seats.

KLM's has scheduled flights to 163 destinations this winter. Those are its plans at least. Currently it is being forced to cancel flights because of grim understaffing in many service positions at Schiphol. The waits to pass through Security are running as long as four hours, for instance. The lines extend outside the terminal. DMR.

Photo: via NL Times. Lines at Schiphol on Sept. 17, 2022. - Credit: El Frugal, luis_gcb / Twitter - License: All Rights Reserved



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Pets of the Week



Fibi

Dear Animal lovers,

My name is Fibi. I am about seven months old and was found by a man who lives on the north part of our beautiful island. I was walking around his house to see if I could grab some food. This man took me in his arms and brought me to the Animal Shelter.

At the Shelter the people had me checked by a man in a big white coat. I was tested for FIV and leukemia. I had surgery so I can't have any baby kittens so I can spend all my time with you, my future house mate.

I really love people around me. I'm not a real lap cat but I do appreciate cuddles and kisses.

I'm not that fond of other cats around me as I get a little bit jealous when I'm not getting all the attention. So I really would like to have a life with just you and me alone.

I never met a sweet dog so I don't know how I will respond to one.

Will you come to the Shelter so we can meet? I'll be waiting for you!

Story / picture Monique Degenaar



Tiger

Hello friends,

My name is Tiger. I'm a very sweet 5 year old male. Five years ago I thought I found the love of my life, but time showed me otherwise. I'm very well mannered and a good listener. I have all the skills to be the perfect furrever friend. The only thing missing is a person that will love me and give me a wonderful home. I hope to meet you very soon

Story / picture 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

Shelter News How You Can Help Animal Shelter Bonaire?

While we are always in need of volunteers to help care for our residents, we realize that some people do not have the time nor the inclination to do that kind of work. There are plenty of other ways you can help us maintain our mission of providing quality care for the abandoned and homeless cats and dogs of Bonaire.

We also need handy-persons, gardeners and general maintenance help. Dog and cat care is the priority at the Shelter, so sometimes minor repair work, laundry and gardening may go neglected. Your help in that area would be much appreciated by the staff and animal volunteers.

Donating items that we regularly use is also extremely helpful. We are always in need of these items that can be purchased on island:

- Cat litter
- Dog food (dry and canned)
- Puppy food
- Dog treats
- Cat and dog toys
- Onima Aloe Healing Cream and/or Onima Aloe First Aid Cream
- Cat Carriers
- Flea/Tick shampoo for dogs

You can help our cause by donating to or shopping in our second hand shop, the Pakus di Pruga. As prices continue to go up all over Bonaire, the Shelter's Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market) that is open every Saturday has become more and more popular. There is obviously a need on the island that is being filled by this little shop run by volunteers to benefit the Shelter. In fact the place is just bursting with items – furniture, clothing, household items, garden items, children's furniture, clothes and toys and more – lots of cheap stuff! And if you have things to get rid of, let us know. We can even arrange pick up if there are large items like furniture or appliances.

And last, but certainly not least, we are always grateful for monetary donations. The Bonaire Animal Shelter has some small funding from the government of Bonaire, however, 75% of the operating budget depends on the contributions from businesses, foundations and people such as yourself who appreciate the unswaying affection and devotion that these animals provide us. You can look for the dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses on Bonaire or at the shelter. Donations can also be made via bank transfer: Maduro & Curiel's

Bank Bonaire, Bank address Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #70, Kralendijk, Bonaire CN, Account Number 10237800; in the Netherlands, Rabobank (Dongen, Netherlands) Account Number NL404RABO0137748744. You can also donate through PayPal on our website, click on the yellow button that says "Donate".

No help is too small, whether volunteer time or monetary support. We appreciate whatever help you can give...and so do our cats and dogs!!

Jane Disko



Kids celebrate World Animal Day

Several childcare centers visited Animal Shelter Bonaire in celebration of World Animal Day on October 4. Children from Childcare Bon Kwido, Elephants Splash, E Shoco Sabí and others were a part of the school trip. Shelter staff instructed the kids about animal care. They were allowed to spoil the dogs with a delicious dog treat.

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- o 3 bedrooms / 3.5 bathrooms / open living and kitchen area
- o Offered fully furnished
- o Permanently unobstructed panoramic sea views!
- o Luxury high-end finishing o Reflecting pool with infinity edge



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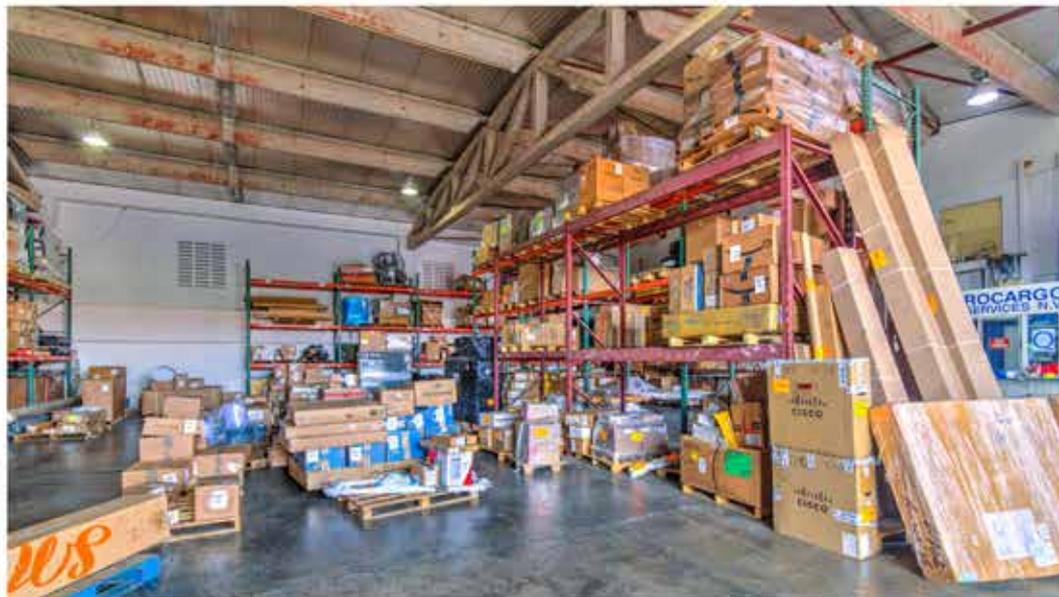
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