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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Photo Julie Morgan

Experts say Bonaire reefs are doing okay (Part 1)

“Coral reefs are in the cross hairs all over the world. It is an ecosystem that is suffering and is seeing the effects of climate change more than any other ecosystem. If we don’t manage them, then they will go to hell.”
Dr. Callum Roberts

Scientists Erik Meesters, Callum Roberts and Julie Hawkins returned to Bonaire in January not for research but to join an interactive workshop to discuss the condition of the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) ecosystem. Organized by MaCoBios and STINAPA, a group of approximately 30 individuals including scientists, nature organization heads, local government representatives and fishermen attended. *The Reporter* was not in attendance but Meesters, Roberts and Hawkins met with us to discuss the state of Bonaire’s reefs. This is part one of the conversation.

For almost 30 years, Dr. Erik Meesters Wageningen University Research, Dr. Callum Rob-

erts and Dr. Julie Hawkins, both of Exeter University, UK, have been documenting Bonaire’s reefs. Meesters started his career collecting data on Bonaire and

Curaçao’s reefs as a student in the 90’s with famed marine biologist Rolf Bak, formerly of CARMABI, the marine institute on Curaçao. In 1970, Bak reportedly was the first marine

biologist to dive Bonaire’s coral reefs and collect data. Meesters has continued Bak’s work. He expanded the research by documenting 150 sites with his own project RESCQ (Restoration of

Ecosystem Services and Coral Reef Quality). He surveyed the reef in 2014 and 2017 and will do so again this year in 2023.

“Bak actually concentrated on two spots on the island [Karpata and Barcadera] and I think 150 sites gives us a better idea how the whole reef is doing,” said Meesters. “Callum was here 28 years ago and collected some data and he did it again last year. So we know what has changed over the last 30 years and we have the same conclusion.”

Coral reef information is gathered by transecting the reef into sections. Within each section, photos are taken. The types of fish are counted, noting size, and number. Reef algae and micro algae are recorded, as is anything on the bottom of a 100 sq meter area.

“Scientifically it (the index) would be a more intensive analysis but basically we see a big difference between 5 and 10 m,



Callum Roberts, Julie Hawkins and Erik Meesters visit Bonaire - again

Rating the reef,
to page 6

March 15: Election Day

On March 15, elections will be held. Votes can be cast on the composition of the Kiesraad, the Electoral College (and, indirectly, for the Senate, the Eerste Kamer), and for a new Bonaire Island Council.

Although the Senate isn't super relevant to Bonaire – their role is merely assaying the legitimacy of draft laws after their adoption by Parliament in The Hague – every holder of a Dutch passport can cast his vote in these elections. Simply apply for the necessary documents via stemmenvanuithetbuitenland.nl. They will be forwarded to you by mail. Fingers crossed.

Although the Island Council elections seem to lack relevance for immigrants (there are no factions representing specific groups of non-Antillean citizens), and none of the parties – other than a number of picknicky sounding general ideas – boasts an unequivocal program, there are some general choices to be made. The economy (generally reduced to an 'opinion' on tourism), ecological values (ditto), fighting poverty: most parties have a more or less clear opinion on these main topics.

Everybody of 18 years and up living on Bonaire, possessing a valid sedula, will receive a ballot form, by mail, at his address of registration (reference date: Jan. 30, 2023). Didn't you get one? Check the validity of your registration (or whatever else went wrong) by sending an email to: burgerzaken@bonairegov.com. They'll inform you on the ins and outs of why your ballot is missing.

Casting your vote at one of the polling stations requires your ballot form and a valid ID (passport, sedula). Bring them. You have to vote in person, or authorize someone, but voting has to be done in person: there's no voting by mail or ballot boxes on Bonaire. You can find a polling station in your barrio, or anywhere on the island:

- Playa: Jong Bonaire
- Tera Kora: Sentro di Bario

- Nikiboko/Maparia Kutu: Kristu Bon Wardador
- Nikiboko: Sentro di Bario
- Amboina: Sentro di Bario
- Antriol: Sporthal Adventista
- Hato: Sentro Deportivo K. Amsterdam
- N. di Salinja: Sentro di Bario
- Rincon: Sociedad San Antonio de Padua
- Rincon: Tia Sani

For the 2023 elections, according to bonairstemt.nl, six parties have met the standards for registration. They are, including their #1 candidate:

- MPB (Tjin Asjoe)
- Demokrat (PDB) (Abraham)
- UPB (Kroon)
- 1Union pa Pueblo (Emerenciana)
- M21 (Coffie)
- Groepering Suzy Thode (id.)

Some of the parties have been present on the island for a multitude of years (often ran as a family business), others disappear within a short period of time. Besides, the average Island Council party often has the characteristics of a cluster bomb, council members flying off in all directions. Compare it to the right-wing parties in the Motherland, their Council Members disappearing, or starting a party of their own. Daisy Coffie, for example, started as a member of MPB, split off, and after a while founded her own party (M21).

Although it doesn't seem appropriate to indicate which party to vote for – I have no clue myself – I'd like to suggest you let Google do some research into past irregularities. Simply enter the name (party or candidate) of your choice followed by the word 'corrupt.' It ain't a silver bullet, but it helps.

Go vote!

Gijs Borsten

Statia close to regaining autonomy

The Council of Ministers has approved the restoration of two important powers to Sint Eustatius' Executive Council and Island Council. The local authorities will re-assume control of the civil service and of the registry as of March 2. Following the March 15 election, Sint Eustatius is expected to re-assume financial authority as well.

In February 2018 The Hague co-opted Sint Eustatius' governing powers when it determined that the politicians and the bureaucrats were violating laws and neglecting their duties, and that they were unwilling to adopt reforms. As a condition for restoring democracy to the people of Sint Eustatius, The Hague decreed that civil servants and political office holders had to complete training programs in good governance. The Hague

also required that good personnel policies and legal regulations for government positions be re-established.

Government Commissioner Alida Francis informed State Secretary Van Huffelen that Sint Eustatius has complied with those conditions. Consequently Van Huffelen recommended the restoration of self-government to the island. The Council of Ministers approved the move.

Members of several political parties have questioned whether the decision is premature, including some members of the governing coalition. They have enough votes to delay approval pending a debate in the House of Representatives if they act before the March 2 deadline. *DMR (Bonaire.nu, Dossier)*

KMar turning away twice the number of visitors

In 2021 the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar) refused 68 people entry to the Caribbean Netherlands. In 2022 they turned away 115, almost twice as many. More people are being refused entry, KMar says, because so many more are coming. Therefore, more visitors are failing to meet the requirements for entry.

KMar officers are responsible for performing border control checks. They are charged with assuring visitors to the CN meet a number of criteria. Citizens of countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, South and Central America and the Caribbean area, for instance, must have been granted an entry visa. On the other hand, citizens of member states of the European Union or the European Economic Area are allowed direct entry as temporary visitors to the CN, as are people from Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Vatican City, United States, South Korea and Switzerland.

The KMar also checks to make sure a visitor comes to the CN for a legitimate purpose. They refuse entry to potential criminals or illegal workers. KMar also makes sure people have sufficient financial means for the duration of their allowed stay.

When time comes for visitors to depart, the KMar checks them again. It assures their stay has not extended longer than they were allowed. American and Dutch visitors may stay for 180 days in a period of 365 days. Other nationalities have other limitations. For some, the free period can be 90 days per 180

days, or a visa limitation may apply. Those who overstay their time can be fined, the amount depending on the number of days they exceeded their limit. *DMR*

Cruise ship revenues and refusals

In a cruise update, commissioner Hennyson Thielman said the projected \$5 million revenue from cruise ships for 2023 is on target. To date cruise ships have brought \$450k.

The last day for a two-ship cruise ship day will be April 8 although larger and smaller ships may be arriving on the same day.

And for those of you wondering why Holland America tendered people to the island last month rather than coming into port, Harbour master Gunther Flanagan said, "They didn't want to go to the north pier. I gave them the okay to tender people into shore. They could do it that one time and never again. Now they have chosen not to return to Bonaire. *JM*

Construction to start on drag strip

A million dollars has been allocated for the construction of a drag strip near Onima. Motor racing fans have been promised the funding for some time. The Executive Council and the Island Council say the project will proceed as soon as the contractor is determined. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 10

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Visit us!





Friso Gramsma, MG furniture store manager.

Any year on Bonaire before the year 2000, the chances of finding quality furnishings for your home or business were slim. Most people brought a container in from the US or Europe to satisfy their taste. Sometimes they recycled old furniture or made their own.

Yes, one might say there was a big hole in the market for home goods and Jan Willem and Annelies Gramsma recognized it. Jan, an entrepreneur and working photographer with several photo shops in the Nether-

lands and his wife Annelies, a purser for KLM, traveled frequently. When they moved their family to Bonaire in 1991, the couple put their import contacts to work. They opened MG Bonaire, a store named for daughter Marjoleine Gramsma, in 2013 which offered items from around the world.

The first location was in a building across from Warehouse Bonaire. Jan Willem experimented with different

products from China and Indonesia to see exactly what people wanted. Bonaire residents would finally have options to buy furniture and other items on the island instead of importing them on their own.

The store grew in popularity and in 2018 MG Bonaire/ Furniture made a big move to their new location

MG furniture *continued on page 5*



FOR SALE Million Dollar View! Crown Terrace 8



- Lot size: 1694 m2 / 18233 sq. ft. owned land
- Built area: +/- 575 m2 / 6189 sq. ft.
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- Garage / carport / rinse tank / outdoor showers
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Recognize Caribbean nature in one click with ObsIdentify



Have you ever wondered what kind of species you are seeing around you? A beautiful lizard, flower, or sea turtle? You can now easily check by taking a photo with your smartphone and uploading it on to the ObsIdentify app for identification. Residents and visitors on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Maarten (Dutch and French side) and St. Eustatius can now download the ObsIdentify app for free.

Around 3,000 Dutch Caribbean animals and plants have been added to the automatic species recognition tool called ObsIdentify, using data from Observation.org, Dutch Caribbean Species Register and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). This updated version of ObsIdentify was created in collaboration with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), Naturalis Biodiversity Center and Observation International and is funded by the Netherlands Biodiversity Information Facility (NLBIF).

Multilingual

With the ObsIdentify app, users are now able to upload photos of plants or animals for easy identification. ObsIdentify is available in English, Spanish, Dutch, French, and German, depending on the language setting of your smartphone. Together with local experts, species names have also been made available in Papiamentu (Bonaire and Curaçao) and Papiamentu (Aruba). The website associated with the ObsIdentify app is also available in Papiamentu and Papiamentu. Users can help improve the app by sending (missing) local species names to research@DCNAnature.org.

Fun tips

The ObsIdentify app not only helps

you learn more about nature, but your photos also contribute to nature conservation. Each photo taken adds to a global database to improve biological research and knowledge about nature. This app is meant for photos of native plants and animals. So please do not upload pictures of yourself, other people, pets, or home and garden plants. Your uploaded photos also help to train and further improve the automated species recognition tool. Make sure to create an account and save your sightings.

Boost your discovery skills with fun tips for finding new species. In addition, you can earn badges and join challenges, you can even create groups with family, friends, or colleagues to share amazing photos.

Get to know the nature around you

If you are interested, you can download ObsIdentify for free from the App Store or Google Play. Keep an eye on the Facebook pages of Carmabi- Curaçao, Nature Foundation St. Maarten, la Réserve Naturelle de Saint-Martin, Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba, STENAPA St Eustatius, Saba Conservation Foundation and Tera Barra Bonaire for various hikes in which you can test the app. For more information about ObsIdentify, visit <https://observation.org/apps/obsidentify/> or check DCNA's Facebook or Instagram.

Join an ObsIdentify nature hike Saturday, February 25, 4 p.m. at Tera Bara, the native garden on the Rincon/Kralendijk road, <https://www.facebook.com/TeraBarra/> Register for free by sending an email to: officeassistant@DCNAnature.org

DCNA

KPCN asks for help in the search for a suspect

Hillside

In March 2022, a violent theft took place in the Hillside catering facility in Antriol in Kaya Linda. Security personnel were tied up and a cash box containing a large amount of money was taken.

Trocadero

In October 2022, a theft took place at the catering industry Trocadero / Islander located at Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. A safe was broken and a large amount of money

was taken.

Your help is requested in tracing the perpetrators. The perpetrators in both cases can be seen in videos which can be downloaded from WeTransfer <https://we.tl/t-G4xq94RSC7>

Do you recognize the perpetrator or if you have information that may lead to the perpetrator, please contact the police on 715 8000 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Bob –

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

Hi Jim,

Since you will be living in whatever you buy eventually, I would choose the home and neighborhood that you like the best. There is no one best area for vacation rentals. Some renters like being within walking distance to town, other

renters prefer to be further out of town in more quiet neighborhoods. Some people like Belnem, others prefer Sabadeco. Each area on Bonaire has appeal to different renters. If you want to have good rental income you should focus on the amenities in the house you buy that appeal to most vacation renters, like having a pool, or access to a pool, sunset or sea view, bedrooms that include an en-suite bathroom, and so on. Then, you want to be sure you charge a rental amount that reflects the amenities of your house and its condition and is comparable with similar rentals on the island. Also keep in mind that Bonaire has lots of visitors who are budget conscious and are happy with a moderately priced rental property that is clean and well maintained.

Good luck with your home search.

Bob Bartikoski, Broker/Owner
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

POLICE REPORT

Arrests

Feb. 3. A man, 23, was arrested for assault after he hit another man. Because the suspect had a ring on, the victim sustained a wound to his head. He was treated at the scene by paramedics.

Jan. 30. At about 2:20 a.m. a man, 32, was arrested for violation of the BES Opium Act. During a routine check, the suspect had bags with a drug-like substance with him. The scooter he was riding was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Traffic

Feb. 9. At around midnight a car and a moped collided on Kaya Grandi. The medical examiner who arrived on the scene confirmed the death of the victim, a 30-year-old man with initials J.M.T., who worked for the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force.

Feb. 6. Around 8:20 a.m. a person was hit by a car on Kaya Hermandad. The mirror of the car hit the victim causing her to fall. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Feb. 3. On E.E.G. Bulevar the driver and passenger of a scooter were driving towards Kralendijk when a black pick-up suddenly stopped in front of them. The driver of the scooter braked too late, causing him and his passenger to fall. The pickup driver drove off. The driver of the scooter went to the hospital on the scooter himself. The passenger was taken to hospital by ambulance. The make and license plate number of the pick-up are unknown.

Feb. 1. In the night hours a car overturned on Kaya Kanari landing on its wheels. The driver, 39, was not injured but was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol and was arrested.

Jan. 31. A car and a scooter collided on Kaya Korona in the early evening hours.

The driver of the scooter was taken to hospital by ambulance. The scooter was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Fire

Feb. 8. Around 4 a.m. the control room received a report of a house fire on Kaya Johanna. The three residents got themselves out safe and sound and one of them extinguished the fire. The fire brigade came to investigate and to ensure that the fire could not flare up again. Outside, a discussion ensued with a fourth person who was suspected of starting the fire. The discussion ended in a stabbing after which the suspect left. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance. In the morning hours, around 6:30 a.m., the 19-year-old suspect was arrested at a residence on Kaya Barakuda. He was also injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Public order

Feb. 8. Around 10:30 a.m. the police station received a report of a deceased person in a tourist accommodation in Barkadera. After investigation by the forensic department of the KPCN, the medical examiner determined the death to be suicide.

Jan. 30. Two aggressive dogs attacked a plainclothes police officer and another person outside a home. They tried to keep the dogs off by throwing stones, but at one point the imminent danger was so great that the police officer saw no other option than to shoot one of the dogs to avert further danger to local residents and passersby. The other dog kept walking around for a while and luckily stopped his aggressive behavior and then left.

Recognizing World Wetlands Day



Like so many countries/islands worldwide, Bonaire recognized World Wetlands Day on February 2. The event hosted by the Mangrove Maniacs was held in Wilhelmina Plaza. Booths were set up for visitors to learn more about the work being done on Bonaire by our nature organizations: STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire); Reef Renewal; Echo; STINAPA; World Wildlife Fund; Tera Barra and the Mangrove Maniacs.

Chairs were set up as a mini outdoor theatre for a premier public viewing of a 55-minute video of the nature organizations in action. The behind-the-scenes video was compiled and produced by Marcel van der Kamp with footage from van Camp, Henrick Wuyts and Casimir Roosje. In addition, a first ever seen exhibit of 19 original photographs corresponding to the video were displayed on the plaza.

Sabine Engel of the Mangrove Maniacs said, "Bonaire's wetlands are one of the most biologically diverse areas on the island. Although Bonaire is small, four of its wetlands are designated as Ramsar sites, signifying that they are wetlands of international importance. These areas are Washington Slagbaai, Klein Bonaire, Lac Bai and Pekelmeer.

To learn more about wetlands worldwide visit <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org>. To learn more about Bonaire's wetlands or to get involved contact Sabine Engel, Sabine@mangrovermaniacs.com or Jessica Johnson, info@coastal-dynamics.com or any one of the organizations listed above. *Photos/story Julie Morgan*



Nos Zjilea - Harvesting Sorghum

Sorghum is a type of corn that grows here on the island that can withstand drought well. When the tops of the sorghum are ripe, the necessary preparations are made for harvesting. The owner of the ranch will choose a day and invite family and friends to help. He makes sure to get to the ranch early, because some people come early. There used to be many ranches. These ranches are called kunuku by the locals. Large ranches were, among others, those of Carnero, Compa Kahn, Felesi and Atalya Goeloe. These were large ranches that produced a lot crops such as pumpkin, cucumber and various other fruits and vegetables that grow on the island. The biggest ranches were in the area of Sta. Maria which is an area before you enter Rincon.

On Saturday, February 25 Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei will present the next edition of the cultural event of "Nos Zjilea" with the theme, "Harvesting Sorghum." Bèrna Emerneciana, a passionate rancher, will share his experiences with us about harvesting sorghum and the traditions that come with it. One of the features of his presentation will be an explanation of grinding sorghum into flour and how it was sold in the past

The cultural market with its local fresh products such as locally produced natural juices, local herbal teas, local delicacies and local art will not be available and should not be missed.

The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of soups and the possibility to taste various local Creole dishes, including fish dishes during the afternoon. Do not miss it. All this in a cozy atmosphere with "LIVE" performances by the group "Nel & his Gang" and a debut performance by the group "Kulturando."

'Nos Zjilea' is ideal if you want to do something fun with family and friends.

Experience 'Nos Zjilea' on Saturday the February 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. For more information, please visit Mangazina di Rei's Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/mangazina-direi.

MG furniture *continued on page 5*

in the MG Mall on Kaya Grandi.

The Gramsma's son Friso, a former social worker and teacher, is the furniture store manager.

Friso said, "We look for quality and uniqueness and things people need when selecting items for the store. Most of the furniture is from Bali and parts of Java. The boat wood furniture is refurbished and recycled wood that once had a former life as a boat."

The wicker and rattan furniture and accessories make the long journey to Bonaire from Java.

Friso explained that the teak furniture from Bali and rattan are perfect for Bonaire's climate. The furniture will stand up to the sun and wind, will last for years, is termite resistant and is easy to clean.

"Our philosophy is it might cost a few dollars more, but they never have to buy it again," said Friso. "I'm always happy to see the customers come in again but it

usually doesn't happen because their furniture is still in good shape."

Customers will find colorful boat wood sofas, different size tables, chairs, wardrobes, bookcases and cabinets of all shapes on the showroom floor. There are accessories of all types for the home including, artwork, Buddhas, mirrors, baskets, linens and more. There is always something different and unique to find.

Friso said, "We have a few loose sofas and chairs and other items purchased from container buys from the Netherlands that were kind of a test. They are priced 50% off."

MG Furniture has a warehouse storage facility on Kaya Industria Pariba #26 that is full of items including solar powered air conditioners with a WEB inverter.

Delivery is free on furniture items and discounts are available on the purchase of large, multiple pieces.

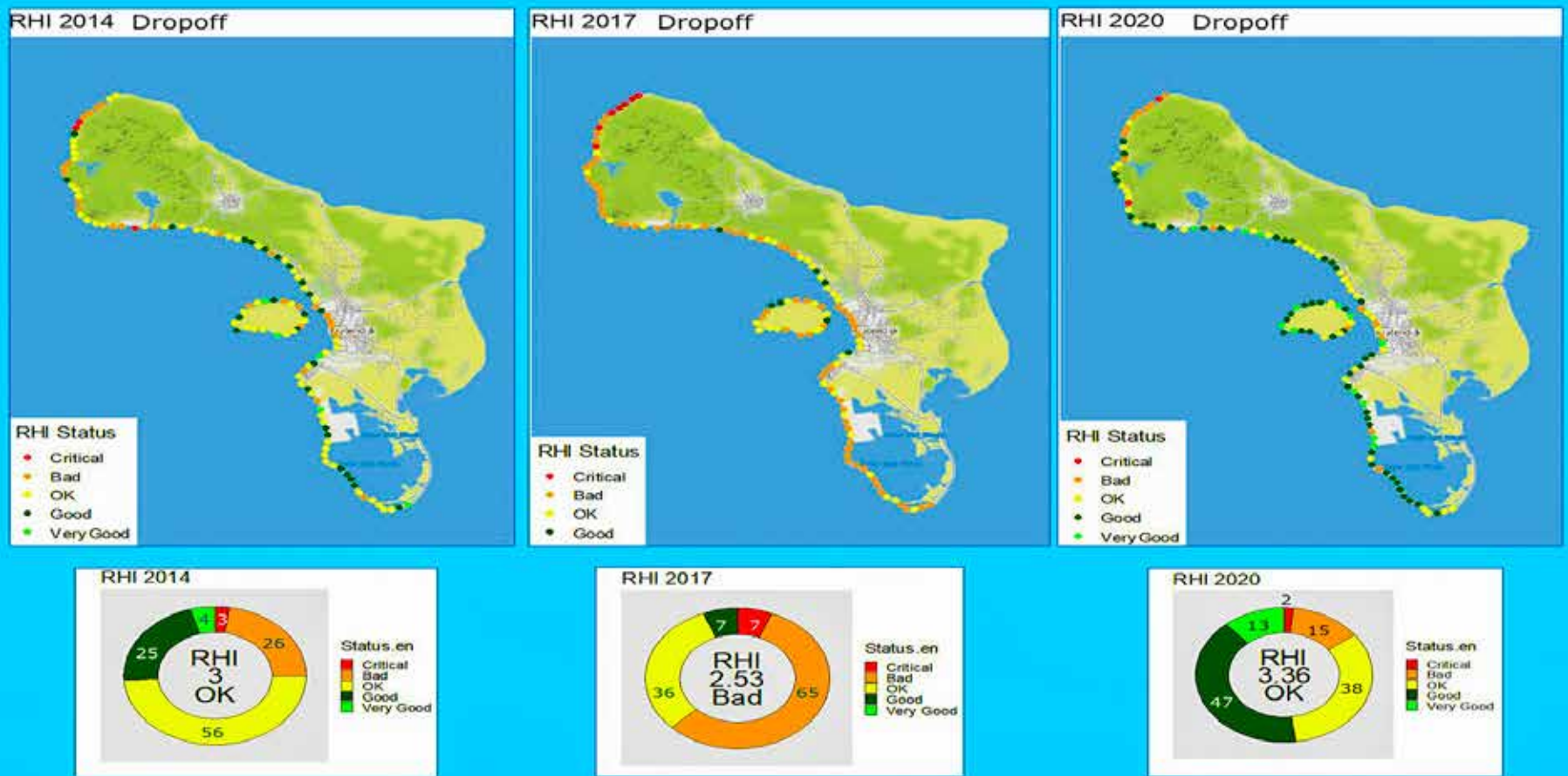
MG Furniture is open Mon- Fri 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit MG

furniture on Facebook or at

<https://MGbonaire.com/furniture>.

Story/photos Julie Morgan





Rating the reef, continued from page 1

just before the drop off and where most people do their research, making it easier to compare. And most diving is around 5 m.” said Meesters.

The analysis revealed a lot of mortality from coral disease. Also bleaching, known to be the result of high water temperature, occurred at deeper depths. Temperatures varied in the shallows going up and then down again. At depth, waves of warm water passed through ranging from 30-40 c. causing a lot of stress on the corals.

The index for judging healthy coral vs. critically unhealthy coral is based on Meso-American reefs like those in Belize, Honduras and Mexico which are comparable to Bonaire.

Meesters explained that more than 40 % of coral coverage is very good, between 20-40% is good, 10-20% is okay, 5-10 is bad and below 5% coral is critical.

He rated Bonaire as okay, or reasonable. He added that most of the Caribbean has much less coral, but because Bonaire is outside the hurricane belt it is lucky and it has been well protected.

“But now I would say it is going down the drain as the population has nearly doubled in the last 10 years,” said Meesters. “In 2010, I said we need to have a sewage system, because we have this data from 74 and we know that the reef went down from 70% to an average around 20% and we knew it was going and we really need to do something... So, they built this incredibly expensive sewage system

and the politicians said now we can grow. The sewage system was built to decrease the pressures that were already there and if they would have stayed at the same population level maybe the pressures would have decreased.”

Meesters is not blaming the local government but believes the Dutch government has made a big mistake by allowing unlimited immigration to the island.

Regarding fish population, Meesters, Roberts and Hawkins agreed the numbers were reasonably good except for the bigger carnivore fish.

Meester said, “We used to have the big grouper and yellowtail everywhere. Overtime they are now all gone.”

Roberts added saying, “the fish community itself has held up remarkably well considering the change in the coral. Parrotfish, surgeon, snappers, grunts are about the same as in 1994, but within that group all the big groupers are all gone. None of those [are found] now. This was one of the striking things about Bonaire then.”

Dr. Meesters is the project leader for RESCQ (Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Coral Reef Quality). He has extensively monitored the coral reefs on Bonaire, Curaçao and the Saba Banks since 1987.

Dr. Roberts and Dr. Hawkins are professors in marine science at the University of Exeter, UK. They have been collecting coral and fish data on Bonaire since 1994.

Julie Morgan

Freedom | Comfort | Royal Treatment

Majestic

Comfortable banking

Comfortable banking

Orco Bank is your personal banker in Curaçao, Bonaire and St. Martin. Entrust all your banking needs to us and be sure to receive the most courteous and competent of services available. With ample experience operating in the international arena, we offer expert advice and the perfect platform to design a mortgage tailor-made to your needs.

At Orco Bank, it's all about your comfort: knowing that your finances are well taken care of, so you can enjoy a carefree lifestyle!

Orco Majestic: the ultimate feeling of freedom and comfort

Orco Majestic is our private banking service for select customers only. No other bank in Curaçao, Bonaire or St. Martin will offer you more personal attention or privileges. We provide a complete package of extraordinary banking products featuring attractive conditions and lots of extras. Your freedom, comfort and flexibility are our first priority.

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Bonaire's concern

According to dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl, Bonaire's political landscape was on the verge of being enriched by a brand-new political party, 'Belang van Bonaire', 'Bonaire's Concern'. It proved to be an eye of the needle situation: on the ultimate day of registration the launch was postponed. Thank God, Bonaire has been spared a right-wing populist party, Makamba style.

'Belang van Bonaire' appears to have been founded recently, as a subdivision of 'Belang van Nederland' (BvNL), by a brand-new immigrant, Carlo Schneider. In 2021, BvNL had split off of the extreme right 'Forum voor Democratie'.

To explain the roots of the movement: FvD's leader, Thierry Baudet, the Netherlands' #1 Wacko, recently stated on his website, that the Dutch government is composed of a bunch of pedophilic, baby-blood sucking reptiles. He also introduced the theory of 'homeopathic dilution' in Dutch politics. He assumes they (The reptiles? The WEF? The Illuminati?) are planning a 'great replacement' of the ethnic Dutch by injecting alien genes into the said superior Dutch DNA.

(Spoiler: If you want to observe some of the finest examples of their superior DNA, go watch a bunch of Dutch tourists stumbling down the stairs of a TUI flight. You'll be surprised. The Great Replacement is, BTW, a centuries old conspiracy theory).

BvB still doesn't seem to have published a program.

Presumably, however, its political stance will lie, judged by its NL namesake and its ideological origins, on the extreme right.

A casual glance at BvNL's election program shows a familiar mixture of nationalist and traditional socialist issues. In the first place there's a strong emphasis on preventing immigration (which sounds, Schneider himself being an immigrant, a bit suicidal). Secondly, emphasizing the autonomy of the individual (at the same time unifying them into a greater (ethnic) community by creating all kinds of collective services) is also a clear right wing feature. Other issues are the opposition against nature preservation, and the complete absence of every aspect of society requiring intellectual abilities over a middle school level. On the side, representatives of FvD and BvNL called the pandemic a 'hoax,' probably causing an unknown number of casualties among their followers.

Schneider realized, in time, that his initiative almost certainly would prove a disaster. Being a New Makamba, he obviously has no clue about the values Bonaire's society has been built on. His judgment on a potential electorate might also prove fatally inaccurate.

Drawing up a program on a number of prejudiced assumptions may lead to a fairy world with little connection to the harsh outside. For instance, like Schneider did, painting a picture of Bonaire having the attitude of a spoilt child, sucking up money from The Hague for every public provision they can think of, isn't very accurate.

Obviously, Schneider is unaware of the fact that Bonaire is a municipality of the Netherlands and therefore entitled to a number of basic provisions, at the expense of The Hague. The fact that the Dutch government falls short in providing a number of these provisions doesn't make Bonaire the whining toddler.

Secondly, Schneider apparently doesn't know Bonaire itself is generating plenty of money, via various sources, to keep the national treasurer happy. Besides, the island has, year after year, lots of problems exhausting her budget (which is, BTW, an administrative deficiency), the leftovers being transferred to The Hague for redistribution. There must be dozens of municipalities in the Kingdom that form a less profitable burden.

Schneider stated he wanted to aim at a limited electorate, mainly consisting of Dutch immigrants, assuming they will vote for him just by looking into his big blue eyes. Analyzing the results of the 2021 general elections, we see that his line of politics, the extreme right doesn't stand much of a chance on Bonaire. It scores a meagre 10% (all parties combined), way less than the assorted Christian parties (33%), the conservative liberals (VVD) (13%), and the left leaning parties (28%).

The Island Council election will of course show a different picture because only local parties (which, BTW, are mainly populist. Bonaire traditionally doesn't vote for programs) will take part. But the data show that the general idea, that a party propagating racism and ethnic cleansing won't take hold on Bonaire, is clear. Bonaireans are generally inclined to vote on a party they're familiar with. Europeans and most Americans living on the island are often sensitive to more liberal and/or ecologically oriented stances (see, for instance the attraction the MPB program during the 2019 elections had on them).



There might be a limited group of Dutch blue-collar voters, who think that the world has treated them unfairly, and that 'the others' are to blame, that might vote for BvB in the future. Do they exist on Bonaire? Probably. Will they have the electoral firepower to conquer a seat in the Island Council? I very much doubt so.

Carnival executives outline the cruise line's environmental goals

Cooperation between Bonaire's government/ TCB and Carnival Cruise lines was in play on February 8. Carnival hosted a ship tour and presentation for local cruise industry partners, government officials and media. In turn, Bonaire hosted an island tour for Carnival cruise executives to acquaint them with the island's nature and culture.

On board the ship, Marie McKenzie, Sr. VP of Government & Destination Affairs and Richard Pruitt, VP of Environmental Operations for Carnival Cruise Line presented the 2023 Environmental Policy report and forecast. The objective: to reduce the cruise line's pressure on oceans and the environment. Carnival says they are committed to reduce carbon emission intensity and be carbon-neutral by 2050. All of the improvements are ongoing with specific goals for 2030 and 2050. For example, 'advanced air quality' is now at 57% with a goal of 75% by 2030.

The environmental improvements include a switch to LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) which the cruise line considers a bridging fuel. The switch to LNG could lead to more sustainable options such as Biodiesel, a renewable fuel for diesel engines derived from natural oils. Batteries or other alternative fuels are also being considered.

Pruitt said, 'We are learning and discovering.'



Carnival Horizon

LNG has zero sulphur emission, 85% reduction of nitrogen oxide, 20% reduction of carbon dioxide. Carnival expects to have 11 cruise ships 100% LNG powered by 2025. It has completed work on six, and one of them, the *Mardi Gras*, is set to make port in Bonaire May 1.

According to Pruitt, Carnival has spent \$65-70 million investing in energy efficiency. Their 2023 Annual Report suggests that potential passengers are concerned about taking a cruise and contributing to climate change, therefore

change was necessary to keep the cruise industry afloat. Pruitt agreed this was a part of the reason for the big move to sustainability.

A few of the changes completed to date or ongoing:

- Food waste has been reduced to 10% with a goal of 20%. Biodigester and dehydrators are used and the liquid is discharged overboard at greater than six knots and beyond 12 nautical miles.
- A 90% reduction of single use plas-

tic items- ongoing; edible straws for drinks

- Solid waste, special waste including Hazardous/Universal/ Biomedical and recyclables are offloaded at one of their 14 house ports authorized waste/recycling facilities.
- Liquid waste: grey water, black water, oil bilge or oily residue sludge is treated onboard for recycling
- Reverse osmosis, desalination is used to make water on all ships
- Ballast water treatment.

Carnival Corporation & PLC includes: include Aida, Costa, Cunard, Holland America Line, P&O, Princess Cruises and Seabourn. All of these ships make port in Bonaire.

According to AP News' writer Ed Davy in June 2022, "Shipping emits about 2.9% of global carbon dioxide emissions, (over a billions tons annually). Cruise liners produce more carbon dioxide annually on average than any other kind of ship due to their air condition, heated pools and other hotel amenities, studies have shown."

Beginning in 2023, all large ships will be assigned a Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII). This divides the CO2 output by the capacity of the ship and again by nautical miles traveled.

Julie Morgan

HORECA serves a lunch fit for a king



The royal visit to Bonaire January 27-28 included a luncheon fit for a king at Arawak on Bonaire's east coast. King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and Princess of Orange Catharina-Amalia enjoyed a three-course luncheon featuring local cuisine with a modern twist.

The royal lunch menu

Starter -Repa octopus cilantro mayo and Yorki with funchi and chicken roulade

Main - Barracuda with local vegetables, pumpkin, papaya, and potatoes in red beets, and concentrated coulis creole sauce

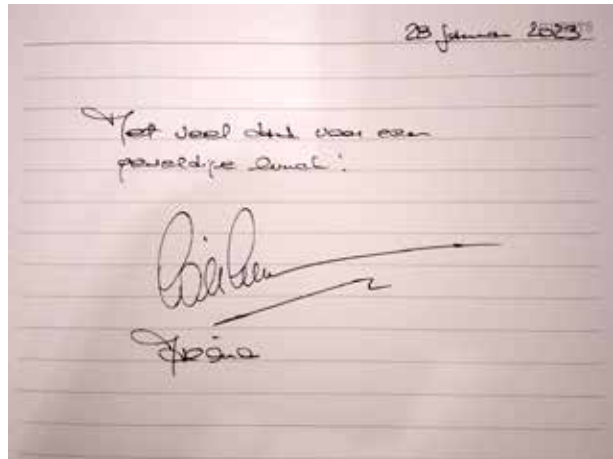
Dessert -Pistachio flan with rum rincon infused merengue and roasted crumble pistachios

The luncheon was catered by SGB HORECA department teacher Vernon Martijn and 12 Bonairean chefs. Team captain for the culinary experts was 2014 Caribbean Chef of the year, Raschindra.

The chefs were experienced, professional chefs from local restaurants. Most have been a part of the Bonaire Culinary Team at the Caribbean wide competition held each year in Miami by the Caribbean Hotel Association. Additional team members were fourth year SGB HORECA (hotel, restaurant, catering) students. All have attended school workshops and classes in adult education to improve their techniques and skills. The royals were served by a team of 22 Bonairean waiters of which half were professionals and half students.

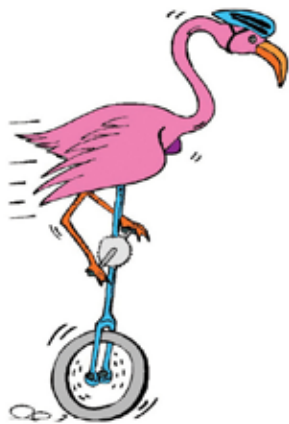
Arawak's dining area was decorated with Bonaire foliage featuring the decorative Palu di Lele.

Bonaire's economy is based on tourism and its reputation is enhanced when visitors enjoy the best possible service and products. The royal luncheon shone a light on the professionalism of the HORECA service industry.
Julie Morgan/Photos OLB



King Willem and Queen Maxima signed the guest book: Thanks for the lovely lunch

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Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Sea Turtles: Something new after only 110 million years



This beautiful little Green turtle that was resting in a rope sponge was photographed by our publisher, Julie Morgan.

Shortly after coming to Bonaire in 1980, I moved into an apartment furnished with a hawksbill turtle shell on the wall. At first I loved how beautiful it was, but within days beautiful turned to creepy. It felt like living with a human skeleton hanging on the wall like a tapestry... It was too big to move, and where would I put it anyway? Eventually, a sheet solved the problem in an out of sight, out of mind way.

When I searched “sea turtles” before writing this, one of the things which came up was a turtle shell for sale for something like USD\$12,000. Yikes!

Fortunately, selling a marine turtle shell (or any other part of the turtle) internationally is illegal, since every species of sea turtle is protected. In many countries, selling turtle shells domestically is also prohibited. These prohibitions have teeth, too: on Bonaire, there’s a fine of \$560,000 and/or 4 years in prison.

The reason sea turtles are internationally protected is unpleasant: they’re endangered. The good part is that the protection has resulted in growing turtle populations. In my own experience --

diving from 1972 off Florida, with a dive trip to Grand Cayman and two years of guiding on San Salvador in the Bahamas -- I never saw a sea turtle until coming to Bonaire in 1980.

In 1980, I’m pretty sure that the STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, bonaireturtles.org) was called the Sea Turtle Club; anyway, the Turtle Club was working even then to protect Bonaire’s sea turtles. They’ve made great strides in learning about the turtles who visit Bonaire, and about those who are born here. They share this information free of charge at Dive Friends Yellow Submarine, at 8 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Another inviting facet of STCB is the opportunities they provide for volunteering. For example, STCB schedules volunteer patrols to locate, protect, and document turtle nests on our beaches. Volunteers can also participate in tagging expeditions.

Green, hawksbill, and loggerhead sea turtles can be found just about anywhere around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire: sandy shallows, the reef slope, the blue wa-

ter. We’re likely to see at least one, often more, in as little as a week’s diving here. Plus, sea turtles have been around for 110 million years or so, so humans have had plenty of time to study them.

We know, for example, that the hatchlings in a turtle’s nest all emerge at the same time. Coordinated hatchings enable the babies to work together to crawl up out of the sand and head for the water. When I first heard this, it made perfect sense: of course all the babies would hatch at once; all the eggs were deposited at the same time, right?

One of Jacques Cousteau’s early books was called *The Silent World*, but underwater microphones changed that perception forever. Fairly recently, someone hatched the idea of placing a microphone into a turtle nest -- and discovered that the babies make sounds!

Apparently, every single turtle egg in a turtle nest doesn’t necessarily hatch at the exact same time as every other egg. Given even slightly different maturity times, a whole nest of babies could be lost. Could be, that is, but isn’t lost, because the sounds alert all of the babies that it’s hatching time.

The turtle hatching scenario is similar to alligator hatchings, with one major difference: the alligator mom guards her eggs, and, when her babies hatch and begin making their own chirpy noises, she lifts them gently in her mouth and carries them to the water. The sea turtle mom, exhausted after leaving the water, digging a nest, depositing her eggs, covering

the nest, and crawling back into the water, cannot provide any additional care to her babies.

So, if you’re walking along a beach on Bonaire, and you hear some chirrupy sounds (with your Super Hearing), look around for baby turtles. Don’t touch the babies -- mostly they don’t need it, even a hatchling on it back can turn over by itself! Plus, our bacteria may harm the hatchlings, so when an STCB person does need to touch the hatchlings, they wear gloves.

But, if you can chase a sea gull away, for example, go for it! If the nest turns out to be baby alligators, however, it’s time to jump into your vehicle, call the STCB (+599 780 0433) the Bonaire National Marine Park (717-8444), and The Bonaire Reporter (+599-796-4055) -- and don’t forget to take photos of the baby alligators!



*Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She’s written about her under-sea 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.*

A Partial List of Bonaire Sea Turtle Protection Laws:

- It is prohibited to disturb or destroy sea turtle nests or to remove eggs from the nests; it is prohibited to be in possession of, to have for sale or delivery, to offer for sale, to sell, to buy, to trade in, to donate or to transport eggs of sea turtles.
- It is prohibited to kill, catch or be in possession of sea turtles
- It is prohibited to offer for sale, sell, buy, trade in, donate, or offer as a dish in any way in public, sea turtles, sea turtle meat or other products of sea turtles.

The penalty for violating laws that [protect our sea turtles] can result in a maximum fine of US \$560,000 and/or ... jail time and confiscation of relevant equipment (spear gun, car, boat).

For full information, check out the STCB website: bonaireturtles.org

FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

Construction of Sunset Beach Park is underway

The public park at Sunset Beach is now under construction. The site between Chogogo Beach Resort and Den Laman Condominiums will be closed to the public for about a year. When completed, the park will have a catering building, palapas, a BBQ area, and other attractions for families. *DMR*

Developers request permits to build eight piers

A long list of permit applications is

awaiting public input and OLB action. The list includes permits to build seven “piers and similar structures.” The proposed locations and applicants are:

- Chogogo Resort, submitted by Chogogo Bonaire OG B.V.
- EEG Boulevard 80, submitted by Association of Owners Belair.
- Tului Park, submitted by the Public Entity, subsection Indebon.
- Kaya International Lot 4 F 1389, submitted by Willem van Dijk/ AG Architects Bonaire.
- EEG Boulevard, submitted by HBB B.V.
- Gobernador Debrot Bulevar 73,

Eden Beach, submitted by Latin America Investments

- Watervillas Bonaire, submitted by Watervillas Bonaire N.V. *DMR*

they should always take aboard a means of emergency communication, preferably a VHF radio.

DMR (Besreporter)

Coast Guard rescues three fishermen

Earlier this month the Coast Guard’s Maritime Operations Center (MOC) dispatched a helicopter and patrol aircraft after receiving a distress report regarding a fishing vessel at an unknown location. Eventually the boat, *La Patrona*, with three people on board, was spotted north of Malmok. It had run out of fuel. The Coast Guard cutter *Jaguar* was deployed and towed the boat to the fisherman’s wharf in Playa.

The Coast Guard warns boat owners

Income limit for energy supplement raised

Households with an income of between \$2,033 and \$3,817 per month are now eligible for the once only \$1,300 supplement for their electricity bill. The applicable income limit depends on the number and ages of the residents in the household. The funds are deposited into the applicant’s WEB account or given as tokens to households with Pagabon.

DMR

Yoga for all



Lolymar Sanchez

Celebrating the rising of a full moon by practicing yoga is the perfect opportunity to release unwanted energy, let go of what isn't working and start anew to live your best life. The full moon on February 5 saw some 30+ people attend a full moon yoga celebration at Lolymar Sanchez' Yogarriba Earthship. And on this particular evening many of the attendees gathered not only for the full moon but to celebrate Lolymar's 10 year journey of yoga instruction on Bonaire.

The evening was magical atop the Earthship, a round two-level adobe type building once part of a housing project by Lolymar's husband Rob. The unusual building is the home of Yogarriba and the perfect setting for this full moon celebration. Yogis were led through a meditative practice by Lolymar to the beat of a drum as the full moon crested and then showed its brilliance. Yogis of every age, gender and race attended the celebration which upheld Lolymar's personal goal and journey to achieve 'yoga for all'.

Lolymar began her yoga journey in 2001 by taking class with one of the first yoga instructors on the island, Desiree' Seaver. After discovering she was pregnant with her first child, Seaver told her she wasn't trained for pregnancy yoga but Lolymar continued to practice on her own learning yoga breathing and meditation. She discovered the teachings of transcendental meditation with Brahma Kumaris. This led Lolymar and Rob to a meditation enlightenment cruise in the Baltic Sea that proved to be an amazing experience. For onboard the ship, was past life regression specialist, psychiatrist and author of "Many Lives, Many Masters," Brian Weiss.

Returning to Bonaire Lolymar's physical yoga practice continued with Desiree while she worked a number of jobs including a corporate position with Digicel

and owner of the shop Tambu.

Interested in becoming an instructor herself, Lolymar began searching the yoga network and traveled to take classes to see how others teach yoga.

She enrolled in a class to become an instructor for a 200 hour teaching certification with Phillip Urso of Live, Love, Teach at Newport Power Yoga, a national yoga teacher training school in Newport, Rhode Island.

"I was taking the training of how to teach [teaching others] and I was completely out of my comfort zone and I missed Bonaire. There was a snowstorm and it was all in English and a lot of new terms for me. The trainer said to switch to Spanish and I yelled out 'arriba' and threw up my hands. It was an arriba moment for me. Then he said, now come back to English."

This 'arriba' moment was the point when Lolymar really got it and was the basis for the name of her business "Yogarriba".

Lolymar continued her training to 500 hours in Newport, Providence and Jamestown, RI, and Houston and Fort Worth, TX.

"I want to change the traditional way of yoga not only for people that have money. It can really help you in many ways for every race, gender or religion. I want to do this for a kind of dancing yoga and drinking wine and adopt it for everyone. The idea is that people feel good and be happy when they are doing yoga," said Lolymar.

The first full moon yoga was held at Sorobon with Laura Stefani in 2013. The first time at Earthship only one person came.

Lolymar said, "I had bought everything, cake and healthy snacks. So, I said to myself, just do your work, this person is here for a reason. I tried one more time

and now I have reservations till April."

Lolymar teaches yoga at Bonaire's prison four days a week for the inmates for a prison yoga project.

She explained that they come in very agitated, "Some really like it and are very committed and I've seen big changes in their attitude."

She teaches yoga at Divi every Thursday at 6 p.m. Back on the Earthship, Lolymar does massages, private classes, full moon yoga and a two day retreat is scheduled for March 18. She hopes to begin teaching yoga nidra, (relaxation and peace yoga) and power yoga.

Lolymar has taught mindfulness and team building for STINAPA and the

OLB. The Bonaire government has scheduled her to teach a program at Cocari in Rincon, a 60 plus program, and a 55+ family program for wellness in Papiamentu at Centro di Bario in Kralendijk.

Yogarriba will be a part of the Yoga and Wellness Festival scheduled by Tourism Corporation Bonaire June 19-25.

To learn more about Lolymar and Yogarriba visit her Facebook and Instagram page. The next full moon yoga is March 7. Contact Lolymar on WhatsApp at +599-701-2302.

Story Julie Morgan,
Photo Casper Douma

MoltenWolf Glass promotes local artists

On Saturday, February 18, MoltenWolf Glass will be hosting their first PopUp Art Gallery. Here, for one day, artists can showcase and sell their work. Artists of any discipline residing in Bonaire can now sign up for future Art PopUps.

Art submitted can be of any type - from painting to fashion, photography, fine arts and more. The first artist showing her work in February will be For Little Art by Femke, who creates "Acrylic Pouring Art", inspired by the ocean and the colors of nature. The next Art PopUps will take place in May, August and October. Artists who are interested to participate can send an email with their portfolio to moltenwolfglassinc@gmail.com. A portfolio can be a PDF, a selection of photos or a link to a website or social media.

MoltenWolf Glass' owners Jeff and Valerie Wolf want to give the local art community in Bonaire more opportunity to exhibit their work. With the PopUp Art Gallery, they want to give an extra platform to local artists by providing more possibilities for residents and visitors to enjoy art culture in Bonaire. MoltenWolf Glass is not taking any commission and participating is free.

For inquiries, email moltenwolfglass-

inc@gmail.com. Upcoming events are announced on their website: www.moltenwolfglass.com, in their newsletter, and on Facebook and Instagram: @moltenwolfglass. MoltenWolf Glass is located in the Shopping District at Kaya J.N.E. Craane, Terramar 8. They are open from Monday to Friday from 9:30am - 5:30pm, and occasionally on Saturdays.

MWG



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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 -10 - 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.)

Karnaval 2023.

Saturday, Feb. 18	Karnaval Adult Parade Rincon
Sunday, Feb. 19	Karnaval Adult Parade Kralendijk
Monday, Feb. 20	Karnaval Youth Momo Farewell Parade
Tuesday, Feb. 21	Karnaval Adult Momo Farewell Parade
Feb. 11 - Mar. 11	Terramar Art Exhibition, Renske Herder
Friday, Feb. 17	Art Talk, Jessica Semeleer-Welch will be presenting for the first time: 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. In English. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, Feb. 18	Art PopUp Gallery. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. See page 11.
Saturday, Feb. 25	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event "Harvesting Sorghum." 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 5. Obsidentify hike at Tera Barra . 4 p.m. See page 4.
Sunday, March 5	Special Olympics Walkathon. 5 a.m. \$15 Start: White Slave Huts Finish: Pasadia Kariño, Rincon. T-shirt pick up: El Mundo, 7 Kaya Grandi, Kralendijk Friday, March 3, 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. contact: Tirza (+599) 701-1010; Earon (+599) 796-1010

Roost count results of our precious island parrot

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of roosts	31	37	36	28	28
Loras	1133	1131	945	1779	889

On Saturday 28th of January 2023, Echo hosted the annual, Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot roost count!

Echo is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the Yellow-shouldered amazon or Lora as it is most commonly known here. The roost count is an important yearly event that was started in the 1980s, that brings together the local community to help estimate the minimum number of Loras on Bonaire.

This year, with the generous help from 54 volunteers, at 26 roost sites across the island, 889 Loras were counted between 6 am – 8 am!

The total is significantly less than in previous years, with 1779 parrots being counted in January 2022, however, this decrease doesn't necessarily mean that the population is also decreasing.

External factors could be to blame for a decrease in counted parrots: for example, the above-average rainfall could have affected our volunteer's ability to see the parrots flying due to the increased foliage, or the Loras chose new, unknown roost sites where no observations were made. Many volunteers reported hearing Loras but were unable to see them, and therefore could not record the number present. As with all our roost counts the data collected is only an estimate of the minimum number of Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots on the island.

Tracking the population over a long period of time allows Echo to detect long-term trends in the population and help to inform what effective conservation actions need to be implemented to safeguard the population of Lora on Bonaire.

Parrots are notoriously hard to count, which is why the roost count is done simultaneously on one day, between set times with volunteers only counting Loras that they observe flying from the site to reduce double counting.

Loras are classified as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) meaning that they are vulnerable to extinction in the future if efforts aren't put into place to stop their population decline.

Echo is extremely grateful to everyone who participated in this year's count and thanks them for helping to conserve the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot on Bonaire.

Echo

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 peejeesee@gmail.com. See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.

UW photography workshops at Buddy Dive Resort with Lorenzo Mittiga. Jan. 21 – 28. <https://bonaireisland.com/events-calendar/buddy-dive-resort-x-lorenzo-mittiga/>



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. Presentations 7:30 p.m.: Feb. 20 Divi Flamingo. email: Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Sundays 5:30 p.m. Blennies Restaurant – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m.

The king will invite 100 guests to lunch from public nominees

King Willem-Alexander has asked residents of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to choose 100 guests to help him celebrate his tenth anniversary as monarch in April at a festive luncheon hosted by the royal couple at Huis ten Bosch Palace.

"Over the past ten years I have met many people who make fantastic efforts for others, for the neighborhood or the general interest. I would like to thank those people for their commitment to the Netherlands," the king said.

Until February 20, the public can nominate candidates via the website www.10maal.nl. A short list will be selected by lottery. The Royal House Service will then review the submissions and choose the hundred invitees. DMR (Bonaire.nu)

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. Feb. 15	CARNIVAL SPIRIT	0930-2300	North	2680
Thurs. Feb. 16	VOYAGER OF THE SEAS	0800-2100	South	3838
Fri. Feb. 17	CELEBRITY EDGE	0700-1800	South	3200
Sat. Feb. 18	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	0600-2000	North	3000
Sun. Feb. 19	AIDAPERLA	5300-1530	South	3286
Mon. Feb. 20	ROTTERDAM	0800-2300	South	2668
Wed. Feb. 22	JEWEL OF THE SEAS	0700-1300	North	2501
	CARNIVAL HORIZON	1300-2300	South	4683
Thurs. Feb. 23	NORWEGIAN EPIC	0600-1300	South	5186
	STAR LEGEND	1300-2200	North	214
Fri. Feb. 24	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-1600	South	2852
Sun. Feb. 26	COSTA FASCINOSA	0800-2000	North	3800
Mon. Feb. 27	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	0700-2000	North	3000
Tues. Feb. 28	CELEBRITY MILLENNIUM	0800-1700	North	2450
Wed. Mar. 1	CARNIVAL MAGIC	0800-1600	South	3646
Thurs. Mar. 2	NORWEGIAN EPIC	0630-1300	South	5186
	SIRENA	1300-2000	North	824

Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Surviving natural disasters

What can we do to prevent emotional damage after a natural disaster?

One cannot help but be moved by the images we see of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. A disaster can happen at any time and in any place. The recent global experience we had with the pandemic, an event that had an impact mainly on the emotional and social aspects, made clear the fallacy of security and certainty. In the case of disasters such as earthquakes, the destructive impact on a material level is added.

Tropical storms, tornadoes, fires, floods, earthquakes, wars, transportation accidents and many other disasters occur throughout the world each year. In the wake of these events lies a wide path of catastrophic physical and psychological destruction. One thing we know is once

a disaster occurs, we look at many things differently than we did before. The previous existing order in our lives is gone and we realize we no longer have control over anything.

Can we prepare for these events? In logistical terms, there may be a certain type of preparation either at the personal level or at the community level. There are different prevention policies in place by government entities depending on the probability and type of disaster,

On an emotional level there is no proven way to prepare for these events. Approximately 10% of people exposed to such events will develop what is called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The person's immediate response to the event must involve intense fear, helplessness or horror. After that, three symptoms

characterize the emergence of PTSD: re-experiencing, avoidance and numbing and hyper-arousal. This means that the images and all sensorial and emotional memories of the event will haunt the person repeatedly. The person will start avoiding situations that bring back those memories or will detach completely from emotions by being numb. The person will develop a state of hyper-arousal, being always alert waiting for another disaster to happen. Other symptoms include flashbacks and nightmares. These symptoms usually appear within the first three months after the trauma, although there may be a delay of months or even years.

In different areas, attempts have been made to implement interventions to prevent the appearance of PTSD without much success. What does seem to work is early intervention through CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprogramming) when the first symptoms are detected. That is why one way to be pre-

pared to prevent the worst consequences on an emotional level is to raise awareness of this and be alert to its appearance and know who to turn to for help. CBT and EMDR are the most effective treatments for PTSD. If the intervention occurs in the first weeks after the trauma it will be a much shorter and effective process. So, it is important that people who have been exposed to trauma, both direct victims, rescuers and aftermath workers, are able to talk about their feelings and recognize the emergency of specific symptoms of PTSD to get the right intervention as soon as possible.



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.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

It hangs in the air, one can feel it, "Fiesta Carnaval". Everyone gathers on the streets to party, some to watch the parade, some to sell food and beverages. Sometimes we will be in the hot sun celebrating the Carnaval activities and lose a lot of liquid.

Dehydration is a serious condition. Drinking is very important to get enough liquid in the body. Here one should make healthy choices as well because not all drinks lead to a healthy body. The ones which for sure are healthy are water, tea and coffee and yogurts.

How much liquid to drink a day depends on your job and in which phase of your life you are. Teens and adults should drink at least two liters of liquid or water per day. You need this amount because of breathing, sweating, and ridding body waste. Liquid is important for transporting and processing food through the body and balancing body temperature. The human body is comprised of 60 percent water. Losing as little as 2 percent of a body's water content can significantly impair your physical performance.

Water: Getting enough water every day is important for our health. Drinking water can prevent dehydration, a condition that can cause unclear thinking and result in mood change, cause your body to overheat and lead to constipation and kidney stones. The more you drink, the better for the body. When you look for variety, think of adding ginger with oranges, cucumber with mint and fruit in water.

Herbal tea made from fruits, flowers, spices, herbs or a combination of them is another good choice. And there is no



Top: Lipia alba (L), Basil (R)
Bottom Lemon grass (L) Mexican mint (R)

caffeine.

Green and black tea which come from the *Camelia sinensis* have caffeine. Three cups a day from this tea is a good amount and has very few calories if any. The more filtered the tea, the less caffeine and better for your health.

Mineral water is considered one of the healthiest drinks in the world. The sulfates in mineral water stimulate your pancreas which lead to an increased production of digestive enzymes. This helps relieve bloating and aids indigestion. It has zero calories, promotes weight loss,

maintains your electrolyte balance and supports heart function. It can reduce headache symptoms, help prevent hangovers and it's good for a dry throat when singing, dancing, shouting or if you're sick.

What is not mentioned here are fruit juices, smoothies, alcoholic beverages, milk and so on. These drinks are not pure but come from materials with a lot of stuff added to them which is not healthy. Yes, I'm talking about pure liquids which one can use the whole day because of the lack of sugar so no calories and no other

additives.

So before participating in the Karnaval jump-ups and parades, make sure you have had something healthy to drink.

Make your herbal tea from fresh herbs (of course from your garden, if you have some). Ginger tea is a blessing for a tired throat. Bonairean basil which they call here Yerby Hole found in many local gardens, is also very good as an herbal tea for a tired body and upset stomach from too much beer and street food.

Mexican mint and Lipia Alba which are both called oregano on Bonaire are perfect for a nice herbal tea. Mix them with some lemongrass or lemon juice and one gets a great combination of a fine herbal tea. These plants grow easily on Bonaire. They can stand the drought here very well, grow in every kind of soil and iguanas do not touch them because they really do not like them.

Meanwhile you have great herbs for delicious healthy teas to make sure your body gets enough liquid a day. It also is a priceless, healthy treat for your guests.

So enjoy Karnaval celebrations with healthy drinks made with herbs from your garden. 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.

WALK-A-THON SUNDAY MARCH 5 2023
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Echo
PARROTS AND PEOPLE

Pet of the Week

Hello, my name is Cecilia.

I'm a beautiful (if I may say so myself) calico just a little bit over one year old.

I used to live around a restaurant, and I was fine getting little left overs and it was great. But then I met this Tomcat and he made me pregnant. I had my two babies near the restaurant but the woman that worked over there thought that this was not the place for my kittens to grow up. So, she brought me and my babies to the Shelter.

My babies have been adopted and now it's my turn. I had an operation so I can't have anymore babies. I was tested for FIV and leukemia and all was good. I have had my vaccinations so I'm ready to go to my forever home. I love people and want to be petted.

Curious? I'm curious to meet you.

Photo/story: Monique Degenaar



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 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Reading Good for you.

The people who know me, know that I am an avid reader. There is always a book or two on my nightstand, a stack of books on the windowsill and lots of magazines close by.

When you are young, you learn to read in school. Use letters, the alphabet, but you don't really know how to read yet. It's a good start. A bit later you learn to understand and that is when you really learn.

I remember the first book I read, "Pip-py Long Stocking." And it hit me, I knew and understood and literally peed my panties from laughing. I was hooked.

After that you would always see me with a book. My grandparents were concerned. Would I ever learn to be a good housewife? Nana's sister explained to them that when reading, one learns, and I was going to study and maybe become a teacher. From then on I could read without disturbance.

A book teaches you so much. You can travel the world, meet people, learn and understand nature. Even the pictures in books and magazines show you the world. In magazines you get good tips and advice.

Although I can find everything I want to know on the internet, I still do prefer books.

My house seems to be a drop off point for reading material. Every now and then a box or huge carton full of books and magazines appears on my porch. Friends come by and leave books and magazines. I read them all and when finished I give all of them away to friends and acquaintances.

When the animal shelter has sales I buy books, read them and have a friend return them.

Books are the best thing ever. I learn so many facts, get so many tips, get so excited and cry so much over good books. Sometimes I am so sad when I finish reading a good book, because it really touches me. I even get annoyed sometimes because I wish I had written that one.

When I read or see a good, interesting recipe I make a picture and send it to people that might be interested.

At the moment I am reading a spy-novel, called, "The Repair Club." It is about a couple of agents who are officially no longer active. They run a workshop where they repair toasters, mixers, refrigerators, etc. giving them a second life. And in the meantime the employees still spy.

Repairing - good for Bonaire

But the idea of a "Repair Club" is something I really love. That would be something awesome to establish here on Bonaire. We throw away too much good stuff that is broken, but that can be easily fixed. People with a low income would have to pay nothing or just a little fee for the repairs. The money for parts should come from elsewhere and the staff should consist of volunteers. Also the students of the technical department of the SGB could get involved.

Don't you all agree?



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.

important issue on our island.

Shelter News

Renovations

The past six months have been very busy times at Animal Shelter Bonaire. Not just because of the rise in the number of animals we have taken in, but also because of the renovations and construction needed to expand our capacity to care for them.

Thanks to the financial support of the foundations Stichting DierenLot, Stichting Het Waardige Dier, Stichting Abri voor Dieren and numerous private donors, and cost-cutting assistance from AmCar Freight and Rocargo, the Shelter has recently completed the first phase of these much needed improvements. We have built new dog kennels, a puppy quarantine kennel, a covered cleaning/meeting station, renovated and upgraded the cat quarantine, and added concrete

gutters and drainage to prevent future flooding of many kennels.

Our plans for 2023 include more new dog kennels, an upgraded dog boarding area, renovated cat boarding area and creating spaces for people to meet with dogs in a quiet setting. All these plans are of course dependent on raising sufficient funding to accomplish them.

Animal Shelter Bonaire is very grateful to all who have made the completed plans a reality and we are hopeful we can count on your help in the near future as we continue to try our best to care for the abandoned and surrendered cats and dogs of Bonaire.

Jane Disko



New dog kennels



New cat quarantine kennels

Sunday March 5th

5 a.m.

Start: White Slave Huts

Finish: Pasadia Kariño, Rincon

\$15

Fundraiser for Special Olympics, Bonaire

T-shirt pick up:

El Mundo, 7 Kaya Grandi, Kralendijk

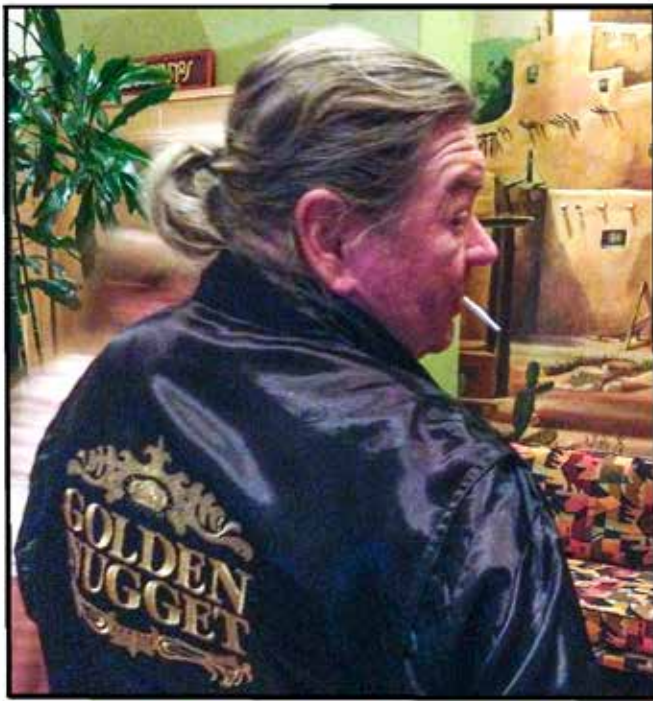
Friday, March 3 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 4 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

contact: Tirza (+599) 701-1010;

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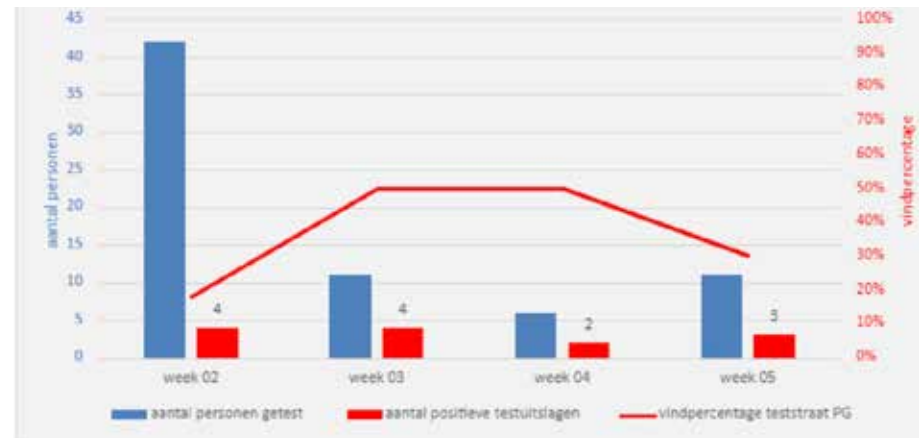


BRIAN MCCARLEY

FEBRUARY 15, 1955 - JANUARY 16, 2023

Long time Bonaire resident Brian McCarley passed away January 16 at home surrounded by "the boys" (his doggies). Brian grew up in California. He had an incredible career in engineering, most prominently at Disneyland. His best skill was storytelling and made everyone laugh. Brian and his late wife Phyllis Blackburn moved to Bonaire in 2004 and quickly adopted Bonaire as their home immediately becoming residents and settling into island life. They both enjoyed everything about the island, especially the scuba diving. Their parties which often included entertainment from "The Stingrays" were legendary. They were also known for their deep love of animals and their work for the animal shelter, protecting the reef and taking part in numerous cleanup dives. Brian also loved playing golf. Brian is survived by his friends, three dogs, Yogi, Odie and Bouncy and his cat, Clyde. We will miss him.

COVID – 19 Translated from <https://bonairegov.com/inwoners/update-covid-19>
Number of people tested (blue bars) and number of positive Covid-19 test results (red bars) in weeks 02 to week 5, 2023



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