

Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone/WhatsApp (+599) 796-4055,
www.bonairereporter.com email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com



Nicolaas Wanga's first time in the ocean in 20 years with help from Ingrid Havermans (L) and Bon Doet volunteers Photo Julie Morgan

What an awesome project!

Early morning March 10, a wheelchair bus drove to Sorobon beach and out came three huge colorful beach wheelchairs. A bit later two more were delivered from a pickup truck. A few cars followed with a few elderly carefully getting out and then more cars dropped life vests, boxes, folding chairs and people wearing T-shirts with the text, "Bon Doet."

The elderly group looked very happy but a bit unsure as this was the first time in 20 years or more they had been to this beach.

Everyone was welcomed by chairman Artie de Vries of MiVaBo, the foundation that fights for the rights of the disabled. He explained the plan for the day and introduced Ingrid Havermans who brought the first beach wheelchairs to Bonaire.

This day at the beach for the elderly was a project organized by MiVaBo and the annual volunteer event, Bon Doet. What a great way for the elderly or handicapped to get out of the house. MiVaBo wanted to bring back their memories of past times when they could spend a day at the beach, swim and have fun.

Bon Doet supplied 10 volunteers who had signed up from RCN. Guided by Ingrid, they would get the elderly into the wheelchairs and into the sea for a swim or to just lay back in their water wheelchair and enjoy the waves and sensation

of the sea. There were three volunteers for each wheelchair and a few of them spoke Papiamentu and translated all instructions.

First into a chair was an enthusiastic 90-year-old Nicolaas Wanga, a former boat captain and excellent swimmer. Next up was his wife, Odilia. Neither had been in the ocean for more than 20 years. Nicolaas laid in his wheelchair like a king, arms crossed and the broad-

est smile on his face. As soon as he was used to the situation he was asked if he would like to get out of the wheelchair and use the pool noodles and drift. And yes, there he went, out of the chair and drifting all by himself, but carefully watched by "his" volunteers. It was hard to say who enjoyed the water more, Nicolaas or Odilia. The volunteers pushed her wheelchair in the sea she had no fear, just a big smile.

Of course, the other elderly enjoyed watching all this. One woman was a bit skeptical, but she was so affected by their joy, she "dived in." With her hat and her sunglasses on her nose she enjoyed her "dive" to the max telling her volunteers that she would not leave the water for a long time and if MiVaBo did this again to sign her up.

Most all the elderly went for a swim leaving a few to observe from the beach, but those few said next time they would be joining the swim too. All had a great time watching and laughing and after the swim were treated to juice and pastechis.

MiVaBo is a foundation that tries to see that all Bonaire citizens with a handicap receive what they have a right to. This is difficult because nothing is stipulated by law - yet. The foundation helps, when possible, giving advice and talking to legislators and politicians. MiVaBo is often contacted by people who want to visit Bonaire and need to know what to expect for the handicapped. Nowadays, we are lucky that MiVaBo is asked for



Carmelita Semeleer takes a ride in the water wheelchair with the help of Ingrid Havermans (L) and Hilde de Boer.

**MiVaBo / Bon Doet
 beach wheelchairs
 to page 15**

STINAPA takes OLB to court for Chogogo nonenforcement



STINAPA has reluctantly appealed to the Court of Bonaire for a ruling on the OLB's repeated failures to take action against Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort for continuing violations of environmental regulations.

The issue dates back to October 2021, when STINAPA reported to the Supervisory and Enforcement Directorate (DTH) that the Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort Bonaire was constructing an artificial beach without first being receiving a STINAPA nature permit. The OLB responded to the complaint by granting a permit on its own authority to the resort on January 19, 2022. That permit

specified several conditions that Chogogo must meet, including a requirement for a 20 cm (8 inch) retaining wall to prevent the sand from being washed into the ocean and damaging the reef.

Chogogo Resort refused to install a retaining wall that met the requirements. STINAPA reported the refusal to DTH, but the island government did not take action. In March 2022 STINAPA submitted a so-called handhavingsverzoek: a request to enforce legislation. Again, the public entity did not respond. STINAPA

submitted further objections in July and December. Those objections too were ignored. So STINAPA has asked the Court to order enforcement.

In the meantime, research conducted by Wageningen University confirmed that, because the retaining wall is too low, winds and waves "may lead to massive sand transport onto the reef, consequently smothering and killing coral colonies." *DMR*

Selibon has stopped burning garbage at Lagun

Selibon is no longer burning waste at the Landfill near Lagun. For some time residents of the area have been complaining about the smoke and resulting health problems that affected their lives. Selibon shut down the incinerator immediately when an independent investigation confirmed their complaints. Selibon, which commissioned the investigation, is awaiting the recommendations of a more detailed second report for guidance in developing longer term solutions.

Dr Pieter van den Torn, who carried out his research on February 6 and 7, reported that the daily burning directly exposes people who live in the area to smoke and smell for approximately 6 hours every day. The stench and flue gases continue to degrade their lives after hours and on weekends. "This is an unpleasant situation that is not suitable for the residents to live in," den Torn said.

Selibon has tried to alleviate the situation in the past, but Den Torn determined the problems are built into the system. The company is determined to find a more healthy way of disposing of the waste than burning it. *DMR*

Food prices on Bonaire now controlled

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) hopes to ease the effects of inflation for the general public. Therefore it has set mandatory maximum prices for a 'basic basket' of 38 categories such as vegetables, fruit, rice, coffee, meat, canned food, baby food, sanitary towels and diapers.

The government has set two maximum prices for each product category. A food market may sell the most popular brand of a product at the higher maximum price, but it must also offer at least one other brand at the lower maximum price. For example, consumers can be charged \$2.11 for a two pound pack of top quality rice. But they must also be offered an unbranded pack for \$1.76. *DMR*

Sales tax to be removed from food maybe

Proposed legislation that would temporarily suspend the sales tax on food is wending its way to consideration by parliament. It is intended to reduce the cost of living in the Netherlands, including the Caribbean Netherlands. The proposed amendment would eliminate the Turnover Tax in Europe, and the General Spending Tax (GST) in the BES, for one year, then expire. The rate is 6% on Bonaire and 3% on Saba and Sint Eustatius. *DMR*

OLB increases and broadens rental assistance

The Island Council approved measures that are expected to reduce the average rent paid by low income workers by \$115 per month and increase their legal protections as tenants. The Private Rental Contribution (BPV) is an income-based rent subsidy the government has been paying on behalf of low income renters who rent from private owners. The BPV has now been extended to renters in social housing as well (that is, Fundashon Cas Bonairiano properties). The coverage has also been broadened. More families now qualify to receive BPV.

The amount of BPV paid to renters is calculated using the rent by income table. The table in turn is based upon the statutory minimum wage (\$3,708). The minimum wage determines the maximum percentage of the household income an individual or family can pay on rent and still make ends meet each month. For instance, renters with a monthly household income of up to three times the statutory minimum wage (\$3,708) qualify for smaller rent reductions while those with lower incomes receive larger subsidies.

Occupants of a broader range of properties will now qualify for BPV for both private and social rentals. Previously only rents up to \$750 were subsidized. The limit has been raised to \$937. The rent charged, in turn, is supposed to be based upon the valuation of the property. If renters and owners disagree on the valuation, can appeal to the Rent Assessment Committee. *DMR*

Visitors, pay your VET only at the official online site

Bonaire's Visitor Entry Tax is \$75. And it can be paid online legitimately only at the official site, tourismtax.bonairegov.com. An online search will show you other convincing looking sites. But they are only unofficial "resellers." They will submit your application to tourismtax.bonairegov.com, pay the tax on your behalf, and forward the QR code to you. And they will definitely charge you more than \$75. *DMR*

Visitors should pay only at:
tourismtax.bonairegov.com

(The official site can be accessed directly or from the TCB website, <https://bonaireisland.com>)

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 5

The REPORTER

This Issue's Stories

MiVaBo / Bon Doet	1
Number Ten	3
Coral Reef Disease	4
Christopher Frans Island Secretary	4
April Fools announcement	4
Rule of law in CAS	5
Pickleball	5
Wine Factory Funrace	6
STCB / Bon Doet clean-up	6
Three generations divers	6
TCB room inventory	7
TCB Bonaire website wins ADDY	7
Bud Gillan - Jellyfish	8
Nos Zjilea - Traditional games	10
Bridgeclub Bonaire	13
Terramar free film	13
1000+ participate Walk-a-thon 2023	16

Our Facebook page and The Reporter's Online Updates bring you news that arrives between issues

Departments

Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Flotsam & Jetsam:	
• STINAPA takes OLB to court; Selibon shuts off incinerator; Food price controls; Sales food tax; Rental assistance; VET resellers	2
• Bachelors Beach; Flood management; Low cost loans to farmers	5
Ask Bob (contingency)	4
Police Report	4
Letters: Reef rating	5
Piss and Vinegar (Traffic Jungle)	7
Accessibility (Election)	10
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Reef Glimpses: (Morays)	11
What's Happening (Events; Cruise ships; Clean ups)	12
Optimal Health (Thinking / reasoning)	13
A Garden? (Tips)	13
Business Directory	14
Pet of the Week (Scotty - Cat; Fikky - Dog)	15
Shelter (Pakus must move)	15

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Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599) 796 4055
Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com
Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff

Julie Morgan, Publisher
Production: Barbara Lockwood
Website: Michael Copini
Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Jane Madden-Disko, Don M. Ricks, Alan Zale, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Irene de Cunda Costa, Sanne Attevelt, Monique Degenaar, Kaj Schut, Wilma Nijland, Frank Bohm, Izaïen Mercera, Gijs Borsten
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Send us your tall tales.
Our next issue is the April Fool's edition.

Number Ten



From the building to the owners, Bonaire's newest restaurant, Number Ten, is all about family. The building, like so many others on Kaya Grandi, was once a family home. The restaurant owners are a family from Curaçao, Daphne Steine, son Christopher Suares, daughter Liberty Suares and son-in law Donovan Lieuw-A-Len.

Daphne said, "We try to run the restaurant as a family. So, when people come in they feel like a part of the family. Like they are sitting in their own living room."

This is not the first restaurant for the family. The first is Number Ten Curaçao that began as a yoga studio / coffee bar

five years ago by Liberty (a yoga instructor) and Donovan (a chef). The restaurant business became so successful, the yoga studio was eventually phased out to make more space, going from 20 to 155 seats. Christopher, an IT specialist, became involved and Daphne, always the supportive mother, wanted to make her kids' dreams come true.

After five successful years in Curaçao, the family decided to expand and began looking at options.

Daphne said, "Last year on vacation in Bonaire, I was at El Mundo and saw the 'for rent' sign next door."

The building was owned locally by

Charlotte Beukenboom. The building at one time was in her family and she bought it to return the old house to its former glory. Countless layers of old wall were removed to reveal the stone used in the original construction. The building is well over 125 years old and one of the oldest on the block.

The new exterior of Number Ten Bonaire is painted green symbolizing luck, prosperity and hope. And, the awnings have been removed for original authenticity. With the new/original building interior and added décor, the result is amazing.

Daphne said, "People can't close their mouths when they first walk in and some

people just come in to take photos. It's the details, the little stuff is mostly travel things we collected and guests leave things sometimes for us."

Number Ten prides themselves in serving breakfast all day, filling a big chasm regarding breakfast choices on Bonaire. But they also have a great lunch menu that is served all day too.

Chris explained that as a family we all live together and cook comfort food together and that extends to the restaurants. He calls the food healthy 'comfort food' with a twist. There are salads, burgers,

Number Ten *continued on page 7*



L-R - Christopher Suares, Daphne Steine and Donovan Lieuw-A-Len at Number Ten Bonaire. Liberty Suares is in Curaçao, taking care of Number Ten Curaçao

FOR SALE Oceanview Condo Kaya Grandi 89 Apartment E



- Location: Kralendijk, close to the boulevard
- Living area: 80 m2 / 861 sq.ft.
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage / parking



- Spacious balcony with great views
- A short walk to downtown Kralendijk

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$399,000 US Dollar

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f http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire



POLICE REPORT

Property

Mar. 5. In the early afternoon hours a black Sym scooter, model Fiddle with registration number MF-2367, was reported stolen. The scooter was parked at Kaya Theresa F. Ilario and was taken between 11 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Mar. 5. In the early morning, the residents of a house on Kaya Purunchi found a gray scooter in their porch that did not belong to them. The patrol concluded that the scooter was probably stolen and took it to the police station.

Mar. 2. A burglary was reported on a building site on Kaminda Sorobon. Thieves broke into a construction container and took various Dewalt tools, including saws, drills, various batteries and a generator.

Arrests

Mar. 3. At approximately 3 a.m. a woman, 37, was arrested on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. When a patrol stopped to see if a woman wandering along the road was all right, she began to swear and insult the police officers. She was under the influence of alcohol.

Diving under the influence

Mar. 5. At approximately 3:20 a.m. a man, 52, was arrested on Kaya Korona for driving under the influence. A patrol spotted a white pickup truck lurching onto the road in the North Saliña neighborhood. The pickup almost crashed into some lamp posts on the way.

Mar. 4. At approximately 12:30 a.m., a man, 61, was arrested on Kaya Haldu for driving under the influence. The driver backed up and crashed into the car parked behind him.

Feb. 27. A man, 63, was arrested on Kaya Rincon for driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was stopped by a patrol as he was driving in the middle of the road. His driver's license was confiscated and the car was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Bonaire has a new Island Secretary



Christopher Frans is the new Island Secretary of the Public Entity Bonaire, replacing Wendy Pelk. An employee of the OLB for nine years, Frans has been the Deputy Island Secretary for the past two years. *DMR*

Traffic

Mar. 7. In the morning hours KPCN measured with a 'laser gun' the speed of cars driving on Kaminda Gurubu. Of a total of 33 drivers, nine received a report for exceeding the maximum permitted speed of 60 km/h. They were driving between 80 and 90 km/h. In addition, during the check a car turned around as soon as the driver saw the police and tried to drive away. A patrol immediately went after him and the driver was ordered to stop. The driver did not have a valid driver's license or insurance papers with him and was issued a ticket.

The KPCN will continue to carry out speed checks at various locations on the island in the coming days and warns motorists to watch their speed on the road. The maximum speed is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside.

Mar. 3. In the night hours a car overturned on Kaya Internashonal. The driver was responsive and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Mar. 3. At approximately 6:30 p.m. a single-vehicle collision with a scooter occurred on Kaya Platina. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Feb. 27. In the morning hours, speed checks were held on E.E.G. Bulevar and Kaya Ir. R. Statius of Eps. A total of nine cars were stopped and four fines were issued for driving above the permitted maximum speed.

Fire

Mar. 3. The central control room received a report of a fire in a house on Kaya Perla. A lithium battery in the house had caught fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was injured. There was, however, some material damage.

Public order

Mar. 7. Around noon, the control room received a report that a person had been found in a house on Kaya Macario Sint Jago who showed no sign of life. The medical examiner declared a natural death of an 83-year-old man.



Help us celebrate April Fool's Day

'April Fool's Day' is coming and we would love to see and share your best tongue in cheek stories, jokes and/or photos.

They will appear in our next issue on March 29.

Deadline is March 24.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Can I make an offer with contingencies, such as the contingency that my home in Canada sells before I buy a place in Bonaire? Thanks, Gail

Hi Gail,

Good question! A contingency in a purchase agreement means that unless a certain action takes place, the purchase agreement is void and the Buyer has no obligation to purchase. The Seller may accept or reject various contingencies. A contingency that a home in another country must sell first is one that will almost certainly be rejected by a Bonaire seller, since there is no guarantee that the home will sell. If your house is currently under

a purchase agreement and you are just waiting for the closing date to receive the money, a Seller may be agreeable to a short contingency.

Two contingencies that are more common here in Bonaire are inspection contingencies and financing contingencies. Both will have expiration dates, a typical time frame for an inspection contingency is 14 days from the date of the fully signed purchase agreement. A financing contingency will take longer, because the bank will require the buyer's financial documentation and a completed appraisal of the property before submitting it to the loan committee for approval.

Remember that the Seller has the right to accept or reject any contingency, since the property is effectively on hold and cannot be sold to someone else during the contingency period.

Regards,
Bob

*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

Coral disease alert

STINAPA has issued an alert regarding a quickly spreading disease attacking Bonaire's hard corals. So far the disease has been discovered from Carib Inn to the South Pier. Several species of coral have been affected so far: maize, great star coral and brain coral.

Biologist Caren Eckrich explained STINAPA has surveyed several sites including the south pier, Carib Inn, Bachelor Beach, Te Amo Beach and a few sites on Klein. The disease was not confirmed on all sites. STINAPA will continue their investigation at other sites this week.

Coral Science specialists HAVE NOT confirmed if this disease is the deadly

SCTLD. Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease

In the meantime, all divers, snorkelers and others entering the water are asked to observe precautions with their gear to help prevent any further spreading.

Disinfect gear from one site to another especially when diving mid-town where the coral has been affected. Try to limit your diving to one area, either south or north sites. Rinse your gear after diving using a mild /watered down bleach solution, let soak and rinse. Set used bleach water mixture in the sun for a day. STINAPA will continue to keep everyone confirmed. *JM*

Protect The Reef

Bonaire National Marine Park



1

DECONTAMINATE GEAR

Decontaminate all of your gear before entering the sea for the first time and at the end of each day.

2

LIMIT YOUR DIVES

Limit your dives to only one area of the island per day. So each day only dive the North, Town, South, or Klein Bonaire.

3

DON'T TOUCH CORALS

Practice good buoyancy and don't touch the reef.

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

“OK” is one percent from “Bad”

Letter to the editor

Thanks for the article on the health of Bonaire reefs. It's good to know that the reefs are “OK.”

However, “OK” is a bit misleading. “OK” on their scale is only 5% better than “Bad” and only 6% better than “Critical”. It takes very little additional coral loss to go from “OK” to “Critical.”

I have been diving in Bonaire for over 30 years and it is not apparent to me that the reefs on the west side of the island are improving. Lenny destroyed much of the reefs from the shoreline out to the reef crest. I have not seen a positive recovery trend since Lenny in 1999 except in small areas where stag horn and elk horn corals have been replanted. On much of the west coast where the majority of dive sites are located, the near shore bottom consists of rubble, sand, silt, and encrusting sponge out to the reef crest, not an attractive area for diving, snorkeling, and photography.

My concern is that those who are responsible for further development and increased tourism will take the “OK” rating as a green light to continue with business as usual without realizing how close Bonaire's reefs are to being rated “Critical” and that there is considerable urgency to address the causes of reef deterioration.

It is nice to read the scientists recommend additional “no fishing” areas in order to allow the large predator fish populations to recover. However, STINAPA is not given the necessary resources to enforce today's “no fish” areas. Designating additional “no fish” areas would require a significant increase in STINAPA's resources.

If the government does any planning, they should seriously consider what they will begin doing to restore the reefs or alternatively, what will the government and TCB do to replace the lost diving tourism business if the reefs are allowed to continue their decline from “OK” to “Critical.”

Gary

The Dutch are trying to strengthen the rule of law in CAS

The Hague has implemented policies intended to strengthen the rule of law in the CAS islands (Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten). Are they working? State Secretary Van Huffelen told the House of Representatives that the government doesn't know. Too many separate programs have been initiated, by too many different ministries, under too many budgets. And they all lack clearly stated objectives. The government knows what is being done to strengthen the rule of law, but it has insufficient criteria and information for measuring the outcomes.

Strengthening the rule of law and law enforcement is an autonomous matter for the Caribbean countries themselves. However, Article 36 of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands stipulates that the countries within the Kingdom provide each other with help and assistance. And the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations interprets Article 36 as a mandate to “help and assist” the CAS nations achieve the objective of Article 1: “Promoting good governance by contributing to strengthening the rule of law in the countries of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.”

Van Huffelen (Kingdom Relations) said the policies developed under Article 1 focus on three goals: strengthening the border control capabilities of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar); increasing the investigative capacity of the Criminal Investigation Cooperation Team and the Anti-Undermining Team; and upgrading the judiciary and public prosecution services on all the

islands, including BES (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba).

Van Huffelen recently reported to the House of Representatives on the results of a study intended to determine “To what extent are the policy instruments for strengthening the rule of law of the countries Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten deployed efficiently and effectively?” Basically the study determined that the policy instruments lack concrete operational objectives and that little information is available. Therefore the researchers could confirm that the funds invested had increased the capacity and knowledge of the relevant law enforcement organizations. But they could not determine whether those enhancements have produced measurable outcomes.

The researchers noted that the Caribbean countries confront a relatively high level of drug crime and illegal migration as consequences of their proximity to Venezuela. And being small countries they have limited law enforcement capabilities. Therefore extra funding does help them build their law enforcement infrastructures. The report cited the KMar practice of twinning local officers with officers seconded from the Netherlands as an example of a good idea that is likely producing worthy results, even though its objectives are unstated.

The researchers concluded that promoting the rule of law is only part of the larger effort to help CAS strengthen their public administration under the country packages, a Dutch effort that effort is not limited to the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. *DMR*



OLB gets flood advice from Dutch partners

A delegation from the water boards of various Dutch municipalities visited Bonaire in January to consult on the heavy rainfall and flooding last November. Their report summarizes measures the island can and must take in the short term to achieve sustainable and integrated water management. They also offered advice regarding the medium and long term.

Dijkgraaf Hein Pieper of the Rijn en IJssel water board said: “Climate adaptation takes place worldwide and on all islands. Most islands lack sufficient knowledge, experience, resources and implementation power. With an accelerated and combined approach (twinning), Bonaire could also be a pilot project for many other islands, because we have little time. Knowledge gained and solutions put into practice can be copied here by other islands.” *DMR*



Low cost loans available to farmers

Bonairean farmers can now apply for loans of up to \$100,000 at 2 per cent interest. The OLB provides access to the funding in collaboration with Qredits, a Netherlands agency which encourages entrepreneurship by providing business loans. The program also offers an Agri Business Academy where local farmers can follow training courses in entrepreneurship, innovation and agriculture. *DMR / Photo OLB*



PICKLEBALL

Workshop

for Beginners

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A Sport for Active & Healthy Lifestyles
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Now playing in more than 70 countries and soon to be an Olympics sport!

Come and join us for a free tryout

PICKLEBALL

Demonstration & Introduction

5.00 - 8.00pm

24th March 2023
Jong Bonaire

25th March 2023
Sports Hall



Public objections force Bachelors Beach redesign

The OLB has gone back to the drawing board in constructive response to a negative petition and feedback targeting its renewal plan for Bachelor's Beach. The new plan calls for enlarged paved parking, a single kiosk operated by a local entrepreneur, and a public toilet. The existing staircase, unsafe for many users, will be completely renovated.

And that is all, according to the news release announcing the changes. The multiple kiosks, sunbeds and beach beds, barbecues and playground equipment have disappeared from the plan.

The news release acknowledges the billboard publicizing the original plan has not yet been taken down. That has led to suspicions the announcement of a new plan is just a ploy, that the project will continue as designed. Those unlikely accusations are a measure of how much public trust the current OLB has lost because of a single issue—development. *DMR*

Route The Wine Factory Funrace



After several postponements due to weather and muddy roads, the Wine Factory sponsored Funrace will be held March 26.

The weather forecast looks pretty good so cyclists can get prepared for the always challenging route in Barcadera.

As always two race groups and routes are available: the Fun, 4km/5 times around and the Elite 9 km/ 3 times around.

Start of the race is 8 a.m. and the cost is \$10 with sport drinks and water included. Helmets are required. For more information visit de Freewieler or visit the Bonaire Xtreme MTB site.

The biggest volunteer event on Bonaire, BonDoet NGO Platform was held March 10 and 11. A registered 800 volunteers generously gave their time to complete 61 jobs for the island's non-profit organizations.

One very important environmental organization, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), attracted 17 divers who collected fishing line. An additional group of seven led by Dee Scarr continued their efforts to remove glass that was dumped at the pier by a cruise ship.

BonDoet staff includes coordinator NGO Platform, Marlies Vels, Christy Cicilia, Raynel Cicilia and volunteer Rosalie van Nunen.

Photo/story Julie Morgan



STCB / BON DOET fishing line clean up

Three generations of divers



Pictured from left: Brad, Rob, Ben Louth.
Photo credit: Irene Louth/Cliff dive site

Multiple generations of the Louth family gathered at their Sand Dollar home in February to enjoy Bonaire's beautiful weather and fish watching in her pristine waters. Following in his father's and grandfather's fins, Ben became the third generation of Louth divers. This trip marked his first anniversary of certification (earned under the supervision of Lucia Podlipny from TDS at Capt. Don's Habitat). Inspired by childhood trips with Granddad Brad since 1987, Ben's father Rob was certified in Bonaire as a teen (with Andre Nahr at Sand Dollar Dive and Photo). And this trip marked the 20th anniversary of Rob's proposal

to his wife Irene on the island.

The whole family looks forward to Ben's mom Irene and younger brother Jon achieving certification in the future.

They hope to share many years of aqua adventures and pay tribute to the father of Bonaire diving Captain Don Stewart by visiting Habitat's underwater flag memorial salute to divers.

These three generations of divers hope to continue the family tradition of raising responsible divers who will help protect Bonaire's incomparable ecosystem for generations to come.

Nancy Louth

Freedom | Comfort | Royal Treatment

Majestic

Comfortable banking

Comfortable banking

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by Gijs Borsten

Traffic Jungle Bonaire

One Sunday afternoon, a couple of months prior to 10-10-10, my friend W. and I drove home in his 1969 Cadillac Eldorado, from a well spent day on the beach. The V8 was humming, and nothing seemed to interfere with our excellent mood, when, at the traffic circle on Kaya Internashional, an oncoming Volkswagen Golf took a left turn, rounding it clockwise.

Because the circle wasn't made for two-way traffic, the driver of the Golf had no other option than squeezing himself between the concrete drum and the Caddie.

Late 1960's Eldorado's, however, are made of 5,000 lbs. high-quality steel, with lots of edges to damage your modern tin foil automobile. The Volkswagen was ripped open from front to rear by the Eldorado's rear bumper, like a can of sardines. The driver, despite the damage he had caused, sped off in his original direction onto Kaya Industria.

W., severely pissed about the damage caused to his car, rounded the circle and started a chase. It was short.

Everybody knows the Eldorado was the first front wheel drive Cadillac ever produced boasting a 7.7-liter V8, that, originally, delivered about 375HP. W. had slightly modified the engine (for fuel efficiency) and, driven by over 500 horses, the car thundered forward, reaching 160 kph before passing Warehouse. In the meantime, I was trying to pound 911 into my phone.

We caught up with the Volkswagen before the end of Kaya Industria in about 25 seconds. Never think you can outrun a pissed W. in a high-powered Eldorado.

To cut a long story short, after a few attempts to rid himself of the tons of steel on his tail by rounding a few corners, the driver of the Golf gave up and pulled over. W. parked the Caddie against the driver's door, positioned himself at the passenger door to prevent him from escaping and waited for the police to arrive.

The driver was arrested. He was DUI, didn't have a driver's license and had taken the car from his cousin, who kept it in his yard as a spare. It was not insured.

So, W. ended up in the same situation as hundreds of drivers on Bonaire through the years: an accident caused by a driver without a license, uninsured car and a DUI, who simply walks away without ever having to pay a penny.

For W., being a professional car body worker, the consequences were manageable. The only problem for him was a broken tail light, that we found on Ebay a week later.

However, for most people involved in an accident with an uninsured or DUI driver, if they survive, life tells a different story. Most victims don't have the means for an instant repair and the loan for their wrecked car consuming a considerable chunk of their paycheck. And there's no 'Waarborgfonds' (Guarantee Fund, funded by the insurance companies) to pay for the damage, like in the Netherlands.

Because of these accidents, three people lost their lives in the last three months alone (about 50 in every 100k residents), a number of casualties over twenty-five times higher than the Motherland (1,8/100k).

Are we bad drivers? Probably. Are we to blame? Not entirely. On Bonaire, we never really learn to drive in a proper way, and once we passed the test no-one ever tells us what we're doing wrong. But is the lack of education the only cause?

Traffic regulations on Bonaire are virtually equal to those in the Netherlands. So why is traffic on the island so deadly?

I think we have to blame ourselves. Partly, it's incompetence and a lack of responsibility. But it's also blinding headlights, black windows, texting, DUI's and reckless driving. It's neglected cars, blocked viewing angles on street corners, the absence of road markings, crumbling roadsides and missing bicycle lanes.

And it's a government doing nothing, not wanting to enforce their own rules. Except for a fresh layer of tar-mac here and there and a sporadic traffic check, nothing happens to ensure our safety.

So, let's wait until a minivan full of tourists gets crushed by a speeding 50-ton dump truck, leaving nothing but a mushy substance of the contents. Welcome to Bonaire.

Will that wake them up?



Gijs, originally from Leiden (NL), has been living on and off on Bonaire for about twenty years. He has no clear focus, and loves to be surprised by actors in politics and administration. Originally into The Fine Arts, then a career in (forensic) accounting, then a PhD in German Philology, now operating rake & shovel at Mangasina The Storehouse.

Number Ten

continued from page 3

quesadillas, avocado smashes, unique breakfast foods and even waffles. Available drinks include espresso, brewed teas, beer, wine and Compass beverages both virgin and non-virgin.

Donovan said, "Everything is fresh, local food with a consistency between the two restaurants. The buns and fresh sour-dough we bring from Curaçao. We make everything here except for the bread."

Number Ten opened on February 23, 2023 without recognizing the synchronicity of the date.

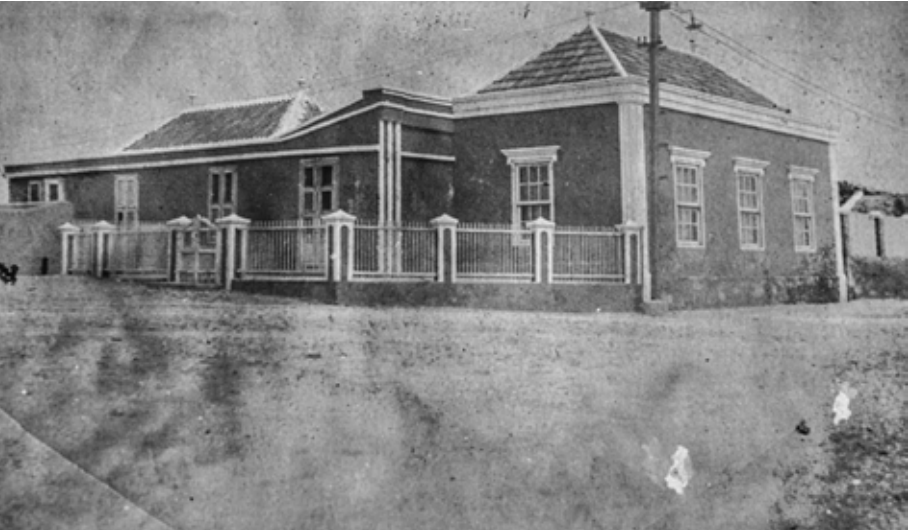
The family said, "We are so thankful how Bonaire opened up to us, everyone has been so nice."

When Daphne, Christopher and Donovan aren't in Bonaire, a second management team of Robbe Holemans and Louise Meersman take over bringing the same quality and attention to detail.

Number Ten is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 to 3 p.m. for now. But they hope to add Saturday in the future.

To view the menu and learn more, visit Number Ten Bonaire www.numberten-bonaire.com; on Facebook; Instagram @numbertenbonaire #10bonaire or call +599-700-5544. Takeaway is available.

Story/2023 photos Julie Morgan



The original Number Ten building is on the far right end of Kaya Grandi.

TCB launches its 2023 Room Inventory Study



← **SCAN HERE**

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has announced the launch of its bi-yearly room inventory study.

As part of the study, TCB is inviting all hotel operators/owners/managers and other accommodation stakeholders to participate in the Room Inventory Study. They are asked to provide information that will be kept confidential on the number of rooms, growth and changes on the island including historic performance.

TCB writes: "To accurately determine

the amount of rooms on Bonaire, we need your support in completing the survey. Your participation in this survey will greatly benefit the island's tourism industry. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at marketing@bonaireisland.com or if you want us to pass by please call us at 7178322. Information will be strictly confidential."

Bonaire website wins ADDY Award

TCB is thrilled that the Bonaire website, bonaireisland.com, took home a Gold and "Best of the Bay" ADDY Award in the website/online category, a recognition of the highest level of creative excellence.

The American Advertising Awards, home of the ADDY® award, attracts over 40,000 entries every year in local chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) competitions. The local tier of the

American Advertising Awards is the first of a three-tier, national competition. Now that the local ADDYs have passed, local ADDY winners will compete against winners from other local clubs in one of 15 district competitions. District ADDY winners are then forwarded to the third tier, the national stage of the American Advertising Awards. Entry in a local competition is the first step toward winning a national ADDY.

Bud Gillan, the Jellyfish Guy

Bud said, "Of all the 15,000 new species that year it was voted number two in the world. About 100 sightings [of the jelly] have been documented and recorded across the Caribbean, but mainly Bonaire."

The other jellyfish that is in the process of being named a new species was discovered 10 years ago by Bud's underwater buddy, Johan van Blerk, botanist at Tera Bara. The 'blerkii,' is of the Carybdea genus and is going through the same specimen genetic sequencing and morphology testing required as did the 'oboya' to name it a new species.

Bud said, "It's about six inches long and has a nasty sting and there are so many more of them now than there ever have been. There can be well over a hundred at one time."

Recently he saw nine people in the water and the girls had nothing more on than bikinis. The snorkel guide told them it wasn't necessary to cover up or wear a wetsuit. The 'blerkiis' and 'Alatina' (sea wasp) were stinging the snorkelers and resulted in four of the nine going to the hospital. Later two of the snorkelers returned to Holland and came down with a recurrence from the stings.

Jellyfish do not discriminate with who they 'hit.' Last year world famous authors of the REEF books, photographers and citizen scientists Anna and Ned DeLoach were in the water with their longtime friend Bud hoping to find some jellies. A box jelly wrapped itself around the mouthpiece of Ned's snorkel stinging his lips and mouth.

Bud had his 'Sting No More' kit and saved the day.

Jellyfish stings can be fatal and very painful. We've all heard various remedies for stings. Bud says peeing doesn't work nor does ice, alcohol or fresh water, but hot water and vinegar helps on some species, but not all. He says the only really complete antidote is "Sting No More" and Anna and Ned agree.

There are more than 2000 different species of jellyfish worldwide and at least 54 known box jelly species. Reports say the numbers of jellies are increasing worldwide.

Bud explained this is partially due to climate change and overfishing depletion of the number of tuna that love to feast on jellies. Sea turtles main food is jellies and they are endangered due to fishing bycatch, illegal egg collection and mistaking the ever growing plastic bags in the oceans for jellies.

Bud said, "Right now we have four species [of box jellyfish] on Bonaire all the time: Tamoya ohboya, Carybdea blerkii, Tripedalia and Alatina alata. They come in monthly around the full moon, eight to 10 days after."

According to Bud, Bonaire has become the epicenter of box jelly research because the water is easily accessible and the jellyfish are predictable. On his bi-yearly visits to Bonaire Bud spends many evenings in the water at Oil Slick Leap or at Karel's beach bar collecting specimens.

This trip he is trying to capture the 'blerkii' specimens to use for the final determination of genetic and morphology testing at the Smithsonian.

If you want to learn more about jellies and see Bonaire's jellies firsthand, join Bud at Karel's Beach Bar for his informal and fun Jellyfish Jamboree Weds. Mar. 15, Thurs. 16 and Fri. 17 around 8 p.m.

For more jellyfish information watch 'Science of the Sting' on YouTube filmed in Bonaire and Hawaii with jellyfish scientist and researcher Angel Yanagihara.

Bud Gillan has contributed three articles to the Reporter on jellyfish and Blackwater Bonaire: Oct. 13, Nov. 24 and Dec 9, 2021. And we can expect an article on the elusive sapphirina and his study of the post larval massive nightly migration that comes up from the depths of the ocean.

William (Bud) Gillan is a science guy. He taught AP and Honors Biology and Ocean Ecology at the CIEE Bonaire Research Station. He is a collector and consultant to The Smithsonian Institute. His current research includes: box jellies and their stings, the impact of chemical sunscreens on coral reefs, and finding effective, natural insect repellents



Bud Gillan Photo Julie Morgan

Scientist, researcher and retired teacher William 'Bud' Gillan has been visiting Bonaire's waters since 1966. He has made some 55 trips to Bonaire and is known respectfully by some as the 'jellyfish guy.' Since 1989, Bud's unyielding curiosity of jellyfish led him to the discovery of a verified new jellyfish species and quite possibly co-finder of another on Bonaire.

Bud first became interested in jellyfish while teaching in Palm Beach county Schools and FAU (Florida Atlantic University). Kids were coming in with massive sea lice bites from sitting in the sand on the beach and no one knew what they were. It was soon discovered that the sea lice were the larval stage of jellyfish and he became interested.

On his next trip to Bonaire he visited Bonaire's epidemiologist and showed her photos of the infected Florida kids. Was she seeing the same thing on Bonaire?

The answer was yes. Bud thought if those things are here then there are even more species caught in the currents from the Azores and sargassum drifting into Bonaire.

Visiting Bonaire In 1998, Bud discovered a jellyfish with unique colorful banding and knew immediately it was a new species. For years people said, 'there are no box jellies on Bonaire,' but he proved them wrong. The Bonaire Banded Box Jelly is very rare in its looks, toxicity, swim speed and it mainly shows up during the day. To verify the species, expensive genetic sequence and morphology testing was done by Smithsonian that took years. The new species was named in an open contest. A high school science teacher won with the name, Ohboya. explaining her choice she said, anyone encountering this jelly would say "Oh Boy." The full name is of the jelly is Tamoya ohboya.



Tamoya ohboya Photo Ned DeLoach.

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Nos Zjilea - Traditional Games

Our elders did not have a lot to play with when they were little so they had to be creative and invent their own toys and games. Local traditional games with a lot of movement would be a sack race, playing with unwanted tires or driving a wooden cart. While playing they would sing songs like Duck, Duck, Goose and Hide & Seek.

On Saturday, the March 25, the next edition of the cultural event “Nos Zjilea” at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei has the theme, “Local Traditional Games.” The folkloristic group ‘Kanta Orkidia’ will demonstrate different games which have been passed on from generation to generation. ‘Kanta Orkidia’ has been here for over 50 years. Their main goal is to promote, sustain and safeguard the local folklore and culture.

Also on the ‘Nos Zjilea’ program is a demonstration on folding different styles of scarfs. You are welcome to participate if you like.

And of course we have the cultural market with fresh locally produced products such as natural juices, local herbal teas, local delicacies and arts and crafts. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of soups and various local Creole dishes, including a delicious grill in the afternoon. All this in a cozy atmosphere with “LIVE” performances by “Farley’s Entertainment Band” and the local band “JC & Friends”

It doesn’t get more local than this. For more information, please visit Mangazina di Rei’s Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei.

Thanks to sponsors, OLB; Coral Casino; IT Connection.

Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter
Election time

On March 15, today, all eligible Bonaire residents are invited to cast their vote. It’s an important right and important to participate.

Every party wants us to vote for them, but if you cannot attend the gatherings and forums, you will not have enough information about the programs the parties offer.

Especially for the elderly and those with disabilities it is hard to choose. For them it is very hard to attend the meetings. Some of these special citizens cannot read nor write, but they all have the right to vote.

Sixty percent of our population is over 60 years old and thus a force to be reckoned with. They can bring a lot to the table and they can ask for a lot as well. These citizens all had or have a job, studied, are very experienced and still able to

function as a politician, a party member or an advisor.

An important part of the programs the politicians offer should be about accessibility and the rights for all disabled persons.

All parties should have informational talks with foundations, associations for the disabled, elderly in organizations, those still living at home and elderly that live in assisted living.

Topics should be raising income, lowering costs of living, welfare, sustainable housing, adapted housing, special care for the elderly and disabled citizens. Other subjects should be schooling for all those working in care, better and affordable public transportation, WMO (Social Support Act), health care, client council, availability and funding of decent hulpmiddelen (wheelchair, walker, canes,

braces, etc.) better and more home care, special parking spots, changing laws and legislation.

We have a lot of inhabitants on Bonaire who originate from other countries. It is a proven fact that elderly suffering from Alzheimer’s disease thrive when surrounded by staff and co-inhabitants that speak their original language. With this familiarity of language, memories can be shared, and they feel safer. It would be a good idea to open small locations for these special groups.

The best idea is talking to the elderly directly by organizing gatherings in the care facilities where they are or where they visit daily.

Clarity is always a good thing. Information is always best given in the language of the public. Organize gatherings in English, Dutch and Spanish and really listen to what is being said.

The elderly are not all demented! Listen to them carefully. After all, they have lived longer than most politicians and are often very well educated and experienced.

But also speak to those with mental disabilities as they should be taken seriously. Invite them, or better yet, go visit them and ask the parents or guardians to be present.

We hope the candidates and those elected show all the voters that they care and are honest and will be there for the voters. Earn their trust. Bonaire is for all of us, not just for a special group of inhabitants. We all deserve a better Bonaire.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her

husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.

Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

When thinking turns into overthinking
and drifts apart from reasoning

Many times, I hear my patients complaining this way, “I think a lot, all the time” or “My head doesn’t stop thinking”. Thinking is the function of the brain, just as the stomach secretes hydrochloric acid and the heart beats, the brain produces thoughts. The thoughts appear in a flow, one after the other. It is hard to say that someone can voluntarily bring the mind to a total blank. Practices such as meditation and mindfulness do not aim to void the mind, but rather ask us to become aware of thoughts, detaching ourselves from them and slowing down the speed of their flow. We can become aware of our thoughts because we can think about what we are thinking. This function is called metacognition. Metacognition also helps us detach from our thoughts, meaning we acknowledge that we are not our thoughts. The aforementioned practices

also aim to train focus and concentration. These abilities have been seriously compromised with the bombardment of stimuli to which we have been subjected for last 20 years through the Internet and social media.

Why is this natural activity of the brain, in some cases, perceived as a problem? And what can we do about it?

Buddha describes the human mind as being full of drunken monkeys, nonstop jumping, screaming and running. Those monkeys are our uncontrolled thoughts and are at the origin of our suffering. He says that it is impossible to get rid of these monkeys, since what we resist, persists. He recommends the practice of meditation, focusing on a mantra or on the breath, so that over time, those monkeys calm down, becoming serene and friendly.

The practice of meditation helps to calm the whirlwind of thoughts. Slowing the thoughts down helps us to identify

them, especially the automatic thoughts that pass quickly and from which we only perceive the effect they produce on us after they have passed. It also helps us recognize recurring thinking patterns. And that’s where the rational evaluation of our thoughts comes into play. Because thinking is not the same as reasoning. Most likely, those disturbing thoughts have not passed through the scrutiny of reason.

Albert Ellis, creator of Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy, says that humans are born with the potential to be both rational and constructive and irrational and destructive. Most of the sufferings involve illogical, unreal, dysfunctional, defeatist thoughts, which are not submitted to the dispute of reason, but rather assumed as real based on specific experiences or social, cultural or family mandates. Ellis and Aaron Beck, creators of Cognitive Therapy, identified several types of cognitive distortions. These are biased ways of interpreting reality, such as filtering, or taking a detail of reality to assess the whole and polarized thinking, which is evaluating reality in extremes without taking intermediate nuances into

account. They also identified some specific irrational ideas, such as the fallacy of fairness, the fallacy of control, and the fallacy of change.

Meditation and mindfulness can help us detect irrational thoughts and dysfunctional patterns and through rational dispute, we can refute and modify them. At present there is Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy, which combines the benefits of both practices to promote self-awareness, self-knowledge and improve quality of life. In this way, the brain can continue doing what it knows best - thinking. But these thoughts are no longer a source of suffering, but instead a production of well-being for oneself and for others.



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.

Parrots and People!

A Feathered Odyssey by Mel McCombie

I fell in love with Bonaire in 1993 on our first visit—not only with its reefs, its people and culture, but with its parrots. Clever, beautiful, lively, and vocal prikichi and Loras enchanted me!

I was predisposed to love Bonaire's parrots, as a long-time human companion to cockatiels. But it was thrilling to see and hear wild parrots every day.

Around 2009, we happened to meet Sam Williams, who was on the island working on his Ph.D. with a focus on the yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot (the Lora). As fellow featherheads, we bonded over our love of parrots. When Sam established Echo in 2010, we were proud to support it.

Echo began modestly, with a small sanctuary at Dos Pos, and aviaries for birds in rehab. As time went on, Sam recognized that some of the Loras who came to Echo could never leave and be wild birds. Maybe it was an injury, or maybe the Lora had been a tame pet for so long that it would not be able to survive in the wild. But by allowing these birds to pair-bond and raise chicks, Sam reasoned that with care, those chicks could eventually be released into the wild. Sam created nesting



Our first peek at Echo's domestically raised Lora chicks

enclosures for the Loras under Echo's care, and lo and behold, a year later, the first chicks were hatched. We were overjoyed to see the tiny beauties! And when, after careful rearing, the fledged birds were released into the wild, proof of concept.

What impressed us was how Echo's mission grew. The original focus on parrots broadened to something more wholistic: parrots are part of a larger ecosystem, and repairing that ecosystem is the key to supporting

parrots. Restoring the original vegetation that supported parrots, and controlling invasive species (like pigs, rats, cats, and donkeys) in areas where Loras breed and forage would necessarily aid and support the parrot population. Although cultivating and planting native trees and shrubs is not particularly exciting, the logic was incontrovertible.

Echo's mission is a win-win for stakeholders. Tough shrubs and trees that thrive on the island help everyone, by using little water, holding the soil together, and providing habitat and food for native animals. I admire how Echo reaches out to school children and their families on the island, teaching about Bonaire's natural history and its importance. And we have been so impressed by the leadership of Echo since Sam moved; under Lauren Schmaltz and now Julianka Clarenda, Echo is more involved in conservation that benefits Bonaireans. It lays bare the connections between thriving parrots, and thriving people.

And selfishly, I revel in the sights and sounds of thriving Loras and prikichis! Their social squawking is music to my ears.

Mel McCombie, and her husband Harris Friedberg, have been part-time residents for almost 30 years. Both are divers, ardent marine conservationists, and parrot-lovers. They are proud to serve on Echo's advisory board.

Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr Moray Watching

When I was a very new diver, I was looking at an anemone – and suddenly realized there was a green moray right next to the anemone. I was much closer to the moray than I would have been if I had known it was there!

The consequences of that meeting were both positive. I finally had an excuse for the expense of a prescription mask. And I acquired a fondness for morays, especially for calm ones.

Norine Rouse, famous for interacting with loggerhead turtles off Palm Beach, Florida, would say, "People are in the ocean by virtue of technology, not biology, so we are neither the natural enemy nor the natural food source for any creature in the sea." Then she'd swim to a moray and pretty soon she was tickling it under the chin.

During the times I was able to tickle a moray, I loved the feel of their skin; they have no scales and are as smooth as silky velvet. Morays swim in a sine-curve way (when seen from above), and can go forward and backward with equal ease, thanks in part to their lack of scales.

From my moray-watching, I realized that the steady opening and closing of their mouths wasn't a threat, but rather the way a moray pumps water over its gills. At the Curaçao Aquarium I saw a black brotula swim into the mouth of a green moray and disappear. "Uh-oh," I thought, but moments later the brotula casually emerged from the moray's exhaust port!



The moray shares his roommates, a pair of scarlet striped cleaner shrimp, with a pushy trunkfish. The moray's long, sharp teeth won't work well on the trunkfish, and the trunkfish knows it! Photo David Batalsky

If I got too close to a moray on the reef, the moray would back up. If I'd really startled it, it would open its mouth wide and hold it wide in what is a threat gesture; read it as: "You're frightening me. Back off!"

The perfect time to back away is before an animal backs away from you, and you can predict that. Until then, though, it's good to know that the moray's next move would be either to back out of sight, or – less likely but still a possibility -- to bite. Most of the time, morays avoid aggressive behaviors toward people.

In the last few years, some morays on Bonaire have been affected by lionfishing. Every time a diver carries lionfish, the container leaks fish fluids into the water. This wounded-fish perfume entices the morays who scent it, and every time

they don't reach the source, they follow the trail more quickly next time.

Eventually a moray may get to the lionfish carrier. The most important thing for the diver to do is drop the lionfish carrier! I know that seems obvious, but the first (and only) time a spotted moray came after me, I completely forgot to drop the carrier. I was busy getting into midwater, and keeping my fins between me and the moray, but still... Right before I reached the surface, the moray realized where we were and turned back toward the bottom. My adrenaline pumps just in the telling of the story, so learn from my experience and remember to drop the carrier!

Occasionally, someone assumes that feeding lionfish to morays will result in morays hunting lionfish. That is not what happens! Divers feeding morays results

in morays looking to divers for food.

Aggressive moray occurrences should be reported to the Bonaire National Marine Park. Morays who become a problem may be relocated.

An experienced and skilled diver friend of mine was nipped by a spotted moray a couple of weeks ago, to the surprise of everyone who knows her. She saw the moray hunting under a ledge and hovered about 4' (1.3m) out from the ledge, hoping to photograph the moray when it left. Instead, the moray burst out from the ledge, bit her on the wrist, and retreated.

What was that all about?

There are two possibilities. Because of the diver's excellent buoyancy control, the moray received no warning of her approach; it may have thought her hand was a competitor for the prey and rushed out to give a warning nip. Or, if the prey fish escaped, the moray may have thought her hand was the prey and released her as soon as it realized it was wrong.

She is healing well.

And we're reminded that circumstances we don't know about can affect critter behavior.



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."

March 24 - April 2; First Annual Bonaire International Sport Week

March 24 and 25.

Starting out with Pickleball, a sport for everyone. Demonstration, workshop and tryouts. See page 5.

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 -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. +599 701 4700 <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.)

Mar. 24 - Apr. 2	First Annual Bonaire International Sport Week .
Mar. 25 - Apr. 30	Simadan harvest festival
March 16, 17, 18	Jellyfish Jamboree Bud Gillan at Karel's Beach Bar 8 p.m. See page 8.)
Friday, March 17	Art Talk, Valerie Wolf: 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, March 18	Free film Odyssée d'Amour. Terramar Museum. See page 13.
Friday, March 24	International Sport Week. Beginners Pickleball Workshop 5-8 p.m. Jong Bonaire. See page 5.
Saturday, March 25	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event. The Games We Play. 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 10. International Sport Week. Beginners Pickleball Workshop 5-8 p.m. Sports Hall. See page 5.
Friday, March 31	Rincon Cruise Market 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the corner of Kaya Rincon and Kaya Commerce. Local art, music, and food Taste of Bonaire 2023 (Sports & Culture) 6 - 10 p.m. Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
Sunday, April 2	LVV Open Day. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kaminda di Lagun 32. Popular market. Learn what others are growing, buy plants, purchase food, attend workshops, visit animals and tour the facilities. Lots of activities for kids too.
April 7 - 10	King & Queen of the Caribbean windsurfing event Sorobon at Frans Paradise. Junior & Professional Slalom and Freestyle contest. April 7 Good Friday Public Holiday. Much is closed. April 9 Easter Sunday Public Holiday. Much is closed. April 10 Easter Monday Public Holiday. Much is closed.
Saturday, April 8	Kings of Krioyo. Kabuya Ranch. Listen to vibrant Krioyo music.

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/
Saturday, March 18	Kids Beach Clean Up at the old shrimp factory. Young and old, everyone is welcome. 9:30 a.m. Directions: From Kralendijk, on EEG Boulevard, take the exit to Kaya IR Randolph Statius van Eps. Follow the road until you reach the Sorobon exit, at this fork turn right. After a few hundred meters you will see the old shrimp factory on the left side of the road.
Wednesday, March 22	Dive Friends Clean-up at Karels. communications@divefriendsbonaire.com
Sunday, April 9	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Saturday, April 22. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/	

Government dates

Register for primary education. Children 4 years old and children who will go to school for the first time in 2023-2024 must be registered for primary education before April 1st, 2023.

First half of annual road tax due before April 1. See *The Reporter* online update pages.

April 11-15. DUO on Bonaire to talk with students who want to study in the Netherlands

Personal Income Tax May 15.

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 7:30 -10 p.m. You are welcome, whatever level you play. Contact via phone 796 2819 or email peejeesee@gmail.com. See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire/>

Cyclovia Kids Street Park Wilhelminaplein 4 - 7 p.m. Free monthly event. Children of all ages can bike, scooter, skate or skateboard. Expect a bouncy castle, music and a hot dog cart. First Sunday of the month: April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

UW photography workshops Buddy Dive Resort with Lorenzo Mittiga. Mar. 25 -April 1 <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. See Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook for location. 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.

Coming Up

Second Annual Bonaire Rum Week, June 12 - 17. Tastings, parties, bartending, competitions, dinners & cigars. For more information visit <https://www.bonaireumweek.com>. For questions, contact.rum@caribjournal.com

Pride Bonaire. June 22 - 25. Sponsors and volunteers welcomed. <https://www.facebook.com/EQBonaire/>

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. Mar. 15	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	06:15-1500	South	2852
Thurs. Mar. 16	CARNIVAL SPIRIT	0800-1600	North	2680
Fri. Mar. 17	SILVER DAWN	0800-2300	North	623
Sat. Mar. 18	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	0700-1700	North	3000
Sun. Mar. 19	COSTA FASCINOSA	0800-2000	North	3800
Mon. Mar. 20	AIDAPERLA	0800-1800	South	3268
Tues. Mar. 21	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	0800-2300	South	3840
Wed. Mar. 22	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. Mar. 23	LE BELLOT	1000-1800	North	184
Fri. Mar. 24	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-1600	South	2852
Sat. Mar. 25	WIND STAR	0700-1300	North	159
Mon. Mar. 27	VISION OF THE SEAS	0800-2300	North	2435
Tues. Mar. 28	CELEBRITY MILLENNIUM	0800-1700	North	2450
Wed. Mar. 29	CARNIVAL MAGIC	0800-1600	South	3646
Thurs. Mar. 30	NORWEGIAN EPIC	0600-1300	South	5186
Fri. Mar. 31	CELEBRITY EDGE	0600-1800	South	3200
Sun. Apr. 2	AIDAPERLA	0600-2000	South	3268

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

A beautiful garden does not exist by itself. There are several efforts required to create the ground for a healthy, productive and cool garden. Often when people visit me, they are surprised to see how green and at the same time colorful my garden is. They say how did you do this on Bonaire?

I have included hints from me and other fellow gardeners.

First of all, it took me about 10 years to create the garden I have today. It takes time and effort to keep it in this condition and you are never finished, but the garden goodies never stop.

Here we go with the hints:

1 - Avoid too many garden tiles or a big cement floor. This blocks rainwater from penetrating into the soil. The more rainwater comes into the soil, the greener your garden becomes. With garden tiles one wants to prevent grass and weeds but they grow easily everywhere, also in between the tiles. And besides that, the garden looks like a grey valley, no green, no shade, no birds and no butterflies. On a hot day the yard stays hot into the night because the tiles absorb the heat and keeps the surroundings hot.

2 - In a green garden, water will not stay easily where mosquitoes can breed. While water penetrates in the soil, the roots are using it and the rainwater disappears.

If possible, store rainwater in water containers with covers. Rain water is the best water for plants because it contains the necessary minerals plants need. One can also make a ditch along the fence so



Oleander white



Faja Lobi



Oleander pink



Heliconia

rainwater will store there and keep soil moist which is very good for the plants. Green gardens give a fresh breeze which will be missing with a tiled garden.

3 - Plan before planting. Check your soil first and look at what kind of plants grow in your neighborhood. Prepare the garden with top layers of top soil manure, dry leaves, charcoal from Bonaire, wood, ashes, wood dust and even cardboard. This can work to keep soil moist.

4 - To select plants, first look where you want to place them. Make sure you have enough shade and enough space for big trees, because you don't want to have their roots grow under your house. If you have sensitive plants, create a corner

where they can grow safely or build a greenhouse. Always consider the iguanas and lizards.

Look for organic seeds and kernels if possible. They are strong and can stand Bonaire's weather better and need less care and attention than sensitive plants.

Avoid bug spray. I know you want to enjoy the fruits and veggies of your garden but if the bug spray can harm the insects it can harm your health as well.

5 - If you don't have much time, look for local plants. They don't need much care and maintenance. Sometimes you find nice plants in bushes, in the "mondi" or at your neighbors. Ask friends for local plants when they are cleaning up their

yard. And after the rainy season a lot of plants just pop up in the yard. Have a look. You might find a nice collection of Bonaire's beautiful wild greens as well as young trees such as wayaca, appeldam, morenga and guyaba. Don't forget a green fence made with yatu (cactus), oleander, bougainvillea, palm trees or vines.

A green fence gives a nice breeze and good privacy protection.

6 - Certain "weeds" can be very healthy garden plants. Vegetables such as locally named Kalaloe, Bimbe and cacti (for cactus soup) were popular in the old days. And there are so many medicinal plants growing all over the place like aloe, Corona di Birgen, cabelas and neem.

7 - Last but not least, enjoy your garden. Take a walk early in the morning and enjoy the smell of the earth and flavor of plants. Take a book in the late afternoon and enjoy the shade and nice breeze. Set up a garden table under a tree and enjoy the connection with friends and family. Just relax in your garden and breathe the powerful energy of all life around you. Go for it, 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.

Bridgeclub Bonaire invites you

Do you know how to play Bridge or do you want to learn? Every week Bridgeclub Bonaire gets together to play and you are invited. Whether you are an old hand, master or you aren't even sure you know what it is, you are welcome. Bridge is mentally challenging and allows for great social experiences and bonds. It has been called "the game for a lifetime" as it only takes a basic knowledge to begin playing and have fun but can take a "lifetime" to be a true master if that is your goal.

Bonaire's club meets every Wednesday at Hillside at 7:30 - 10:30. Tables are filled with four players/two partners. In the summer two tables are the norm and in the winter there could be as many as four-five tables set up. It is all dependent on the number of players attending.

Bridgeclub Bonaire has special events



at Easter and Christmas and last month they held an international competition with players from Curaçao, Holland and of course, Bonaire.

Bridgeclub Bonaire was organized 20-25 years ago and some of the original members are still playing the game for a lifetime.

If you are interested call 796-2819 or contact peegeesee@gmail.com. Visit their Facebook page at Bridgeclub Bonaire.

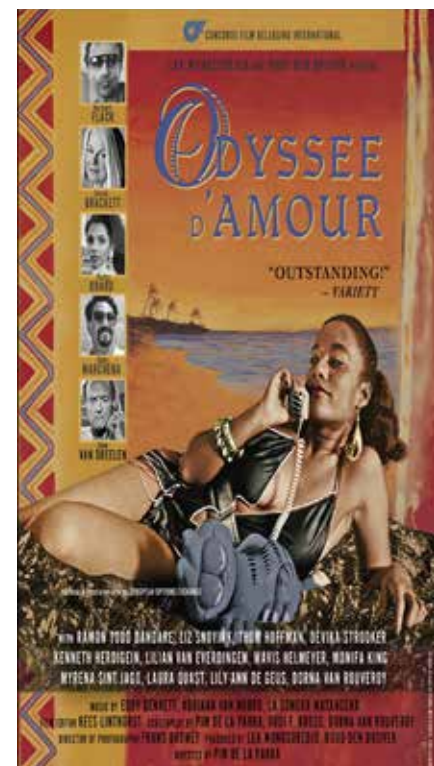
Terramar Museum announces a free screening

On Saturday March 18, 7-8:45 p.m. the Terramar Museum will show the film "Odyssée d'Amour" by director Pim de la Parra. Access to the museum and entrance to the film are completely free.

Discover the work of Surinamese-Dutch film director Pim de la Parra. After Pim de la Parra explored the islands for four years, his final choice fell on Bonaire which offered him the most beautiful nature and the most suitable locations.

Released in 1987, "Odyssée d'Amour" was the first cinema film that showed a contemporary community in what was then the Netherlands Antilles. It tells the story of the Dutch engineer Paul Henks who has been working on Bonaire for many years.

The film uses simultaneous dialogues in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Various roles are played by Bonaireans: Adam Littman, Siso Thomas, Henk Deira, Eveline Prins, Valerie Wanga, Dorna van Rouveroy, Liliane de Geus and Helen Martina. Bonairean folk songs can be heard, played and sung by the groups: Tipico Boneriyano, Nos Kosecha and George Thode.



The film screening is part of the two-year program 'Bou di Awa' of the World Wildlife Fund and Terramar Museum.

The film has Dutch subtitles and is for 18 years and older.

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Scotty

We are urgently looking for a good home for Scotty.

Scotty is a castrated male cat almost 2 years old.

He's unique because he has a lovely short tail, one crinkled ear, a clipped ear and the most beautiful eyes.

Scotty has a great personality but lately, he has become a little grumpy. Everyone knows we have so many cats at the shelter (36 alone in our cat palace) and we think that is the problem. What Scotty needs is a normal home of his own with people who love him and maybe one or two other cat family members.

Scotty is not a lap cat but will sit next to you enjoying your company for hours.

This handsome guy has been tested for FIV and Leukemia, had all his vaccinations and is ready to go to his new home.

Who will give this lovely boy the home he deserves?

Photo/story: Monique Degenaar



If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

Pets of the Week

Dear people,

My name is Fikky and I'm a girl about one year old.

When I was a three month old little pup I was dumped in the mundi along with my brother and sisters.

We did not know what to do, but thankfully they noticed us, the people from the shelter. They rescued us from the wild and took us in.

I love attention, and I do like to play. But going out for walks is still a bit scary for me, but if you will help me to get the confidence, I know for sure I will enjoy walks.

I hope you are the one who will give me a home, take care of me and love me,

In return I'll be your best friend forever.

Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt



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

Shelter News

Help!!! Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga needs a new home!



After years of being housed rent-free through the generosity of the property owner, in two months the building we are in will be demolished and the Pakus will be homeless. If you or someone you know has a space that can accommodate the Pakus, or if you have any ideas or suggestions, the Shelter would love to hear from you.

Please email us at:

paulenamina@gmail.com



Jane Disko

The Pakus di Pruga serves two important functions for the community. First, because our merchandise is donated, all sales help to pay for the care and shelter of the island's unwanted animals and that income keeps the Shelter functioning. Second, we sell the items (from furniture to clothing and everything in between) at low prices for the benefit of those who cannot always afford the island's high cost of living. An added benefit is that good usable items don't end up in the landfill. Please help us find a new home for Pakus di Pruga so we can continue these important community services. Any suggestion is welcome and worth looking into.

MiVaBo / Bon Doet *continued from page 1*

advice about accessibility when companies design new buildings.

MiVaBo stresses the importance of dedicating more attention to the care for the elderly. More than 60% of Bonaire's population is 60 years or older. Some live in care homes; others must be given the care they need to live as long as possible in their own homes.

Ingrid Havermans, who introduced the special beach wheelchairs, will be offering special vacations for special needs persons (Kas di Kurason, www.kasdikurason.com, info@kasdiKurason.com, 599-777-4488)

MiVaBo has no income, so the NGO-project Bon Doet allowed MiVaBo to rent the chairs and buy refreshments. In the future, perhaps INDEBON, the government's sports department, could sponsor the swims?

We thank RoRo-transportation, NGO/BonDoet, Ingrid Havermans, INDEBON and the RCN volunteers. MiVaBo applauds all the elderly from the Hofi Kultural buddy-project who were so brave to participate in this maiden swim.

*Ria Evers-Dokter /
Photos Julie Morgan*



Walk-a-thon exceeds expectations

Thanks to a well-attended and supported Walk-a-thon on March 5, Bonaire's Special Olympic athletes are heading to Berlin, Germany to compete in the Special Olympics World Games in June.

This is the 20th year the Special Olympics Bonaire (SOB) organization has organized the Walk-a-thon to ensure Bonaire's special athletes are able to make the World Games.

The 30 km walk, ride or run traditionally begins early in the morning from White Slave and ends in Rincon.

According to SOB, the turnout was higher than expected with all 1000 tickets sold plus an additional 18. Some 224 people bought tickets just to support the athletes. Approximately 785 people registered to walk or run with 681 participating and all 113 registered cyclists made the trek.

All along the journey SOB volunteers handed out water, fruit and at Karpata everyone could take a break for a sandwich or other goodies. The Karpata stop was also a good

place to add bandages or make a sock change before heading up the hill leading into the Rincon valley. Participants arriving at the church were treated to a much needed meal and drinks prepared by the Lion's Club. Red Cross and SOB vehicles gave tired participants a short lift or other assistance that was needed. Trucks and buses transported participants back to Kralendijk.

Special Olympics Bonaire is grateful to all participants, volunteers and donors who joined in, donated their time and/or contributed to Walk-a-thon 2023.

Donors included: Warehouse Bonaire, OLB, Ennia, NAPA, Pietersz, FWNB, Van den Tweel, NOS Bonaire, Flamingo TV, Live FM 99, Mac Enterprises, Multi Post, Bonaire Logistics, Indebon, Guardian Group WEB and Coca Cola.

*Story/Photos Julie Morgan.
More photos on our Facebook page.*

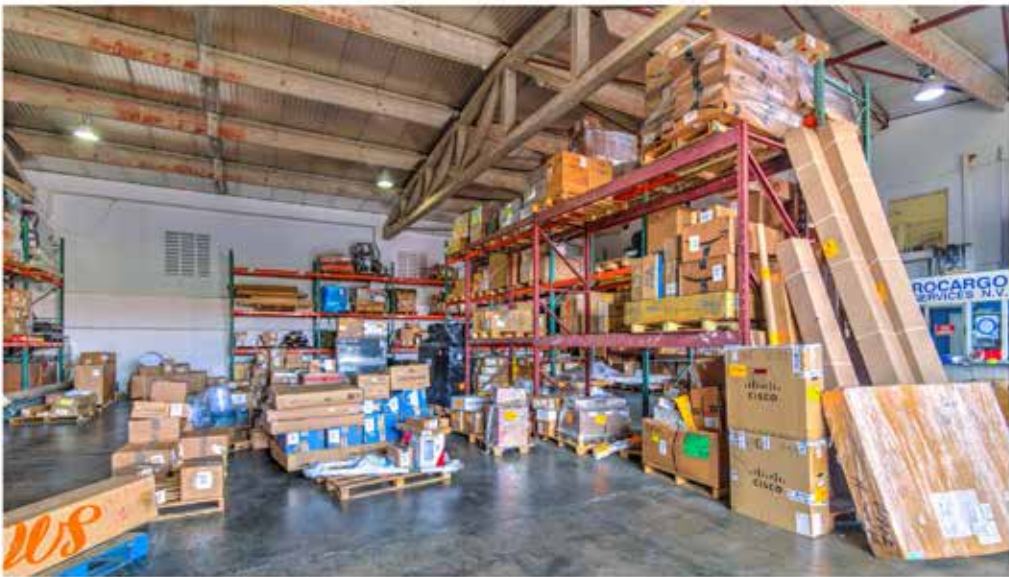


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