



First Bonaire International Sports Week held

From a fun game of pickleball to the extreme and exciting sports of windsurfing or freediving, Bonaire hosts it all in the first ever Bonaire International Sports Week (BISW) March 23 – April 2.

This week of sports was initially organized by Indebon (Sports Institute Bonaire) to draw attention to a first time ever football (soccer) match between Bonaire and Turks and Caicos on March 28. Indebon director Terrence de Jongh contacted Fundashon Wega di Number Boneiro and Tourism Corporation Bonaire and they put their heads together to build an amazing and diverse schedule of sporting events for the island.

De Jongh said, "This is exciting and something realized out of Indebon and something new for Bonaire that will grow even bigger."

International Sport Week got underway with an opening ceremony at Club Boulevard.

BISW's beginning event was an introduction to **Pickleball**. This sport is a combination of badminton, tennis and ping pong and is said to be the first great new impact sport of the 21st century. Pickleball World Ambassador Robin Jayesuria, Angel Tromp, Doris Jayesuria-Clasen and other volunteers held demonstrations to introduce interested players at Jong Bonaire. If you missed it, Bonaire's Pickleball enthusiasts will be playing every Wednesday and Friday from 6-8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire.

Girls Fastpitch **Softball** Bash was held March 24-26 with fastpitch softball clinics, pro pitching shows and five competition games at Jossy Ballpark and Plaza Beach & Dive Resort.

Freediving center Blue Classroom provided support to Alexey Molchanov on March 25 in his successful attempt to break the Variable Weight World Record by

descending to a depth of 153 m. (501.9 ft.) In a second dive on March 28, Alexey succeeded in breaking his earlier record by freediving to an amazing 156 m (511.9 ft.). (More info on *The Reporter* Facebook page.) There is no doubt that these successes prove Bonaire to be a world-class freediving destination with the potential for record breaking results.

On March 26 Bonaire Aquatics held kids **Swimming** clinics and a Float Fest at Park Tului with instruction from a Netherlands swim champion. The swim clinic continues through March 31 from 4-6 p.m. so there is still time to join. The clinic is divided into two swim groups: up to 11 and 12 and up. Certificates and prizes will be awarded. Registration is \$10.

Pia Pia **Walk** was held March 26. The 7km walk began at Indebon and led the walkers through town ending again at Indebon.

Also on March 26 a 2k and 5k **Run** for men and women was held beginning at Bon Bida and ending at the stadium.

The event that inspired sports week, the CONCACAF **Football** game between Bonaire and Turks and Caicos, was held March 28 at Rincon Stadium. We have no word

at press time of the winning team.

Bolas Criollas is scheduled to begin March 30 – April 2 at Gold Finch. The competition for men, women and special athletes will include players from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba.

Beach Tennis between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba is scheduled for March 25 – April 2. A kids tournament was held March 25 and adult games will be held on March 31 to April 2. Playing times are Fri. 4-9 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 9p.m. and Sun. 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Location is behind Budget Marine.

Pro Kids **Windsurfing** IFCA Pan-American Open Championships will be March 31 – April 2 at Sorobon. This event includes Sunfish and Optimist contests. April 2 is the final slalom racing day for all divisions with an awards ceremony at the end of the day.

Extreme Bikers **Cycling** races are set for April 1-2. On April 1, from 5-9 p.m. three different race courses will be set for all types of bikes and all ages from toddler to elite riders. The event is at Rudy Boezem soccer field. Medals and certificates will be awarded to all participants. The April 2 competition is a mountain bike race for riders 16+ in either a short or long distance. Race time is 8 a.m. at Seru Largu. Prizes will be awarded for winners.

Cyclovía Bonaire is April 2, 4- 7 p.m. Streets will be blocked off at Wilhelminaplein, Kaya Grandi and the Bestuurcollege parking lot so kids and adults can run, walk and bike freely. There will be a bounce house for kids, food, drinks and DJ Kiart will provide the music.

Closing ceremony for BISW will be at Wilhelminaplein following Cyclovía.

*Photo of Alexey Molchanov by Petra Oberucova
 Other photos/story Julie Morgan*



Everyone is talking about water

March 22 was designated World Water Day. Consequently the Netherlands, both European and Caribbean, have been much in the news, each having a special interest in water. The focal event was the UN Water Conference in New York co-hosted by Netherlands and Tajikistan. His Majesty King Willem-Alexander gave the opening speech of the conference in person and also opened the International Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas (IPDC) with an online presentation.

The King opens the Water Conference with an appeal for international cooperation

The King told the conference attendees, "Water is our common denominator. Everything we need to live a decent life is directly related to water. Our health, food, safety, habitat, economy, infrastructure and climate." He also cited UN research that shows almost half the world's population will suffer severe water stress by 2030, only seven years from now. He proposed the conference attendees joint forces to create a world-wide Water Action Agenda.

The King tells the Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas about Bonaire

When speaking about Bonaire, the King said, "It's alarming to think that one-fifth of the island, including its capital Kralendijk, could disappear under water before the end of this century." Later in his talk the King praised Bonaire for working to save the mangroves by cleaning up the seaweed to keep freshwater creeks and streams open. "Nature is our strongest and most faithful ally," he said, and he cited Bonaire's protection of the mangroves as a "simple, yet effect" way to maintain our water resources naturally. (Watch video message on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ7Qf8fe02I>)

Rijna also calls for solidarity to fight climate change

Lieutenant Governor Rijna told the International Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas that small island states should receive more support from large countries for protecting themselves against the impact of climate change. He pointed out that islands contribute the least to global warming, but are the first and often most severely affected by the negative threats. He also said islands like Bonaire can contribute first hand knowledge to help counter the effects of more extreme weather and rising sea levels. Bonaire has never before been represented so prominently at the United Nations.

OLB marks World Water Day by announcing new water initiatives

The OLB expects to drastically improve the island's water management with Dutch help in the coming years. It has discussed the possibility of creating a climate table with Ed Nijpels as quartermaster. It is seeking cooperation with the water boards of other municipalities. It will start by repairing a few large dams and mapping the drainage area of Saliña di Vlijt with Wageningen University. The OLB is also amending the building regulations so that cisterns and proper collection of waste water can be made mandatory.

Greenpeace announces it will sue the Netherlands

The environmental organization Greenpeace responded to the speeches of King Willem-Alexander and Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna by announcing at the conference that it and residents of Bonaire are preparing to sue the Netherlands. They want the Dutch to reduce their own emissions more quickly. That, it says, is the best action the Netherlands can take to protect Bonaire and the other Caribbean islands against the effects of climate change. DMR

Election 2023 Results

What we know at press time

There were two sets of published results, those released after the elections on March 15, and those released on March 23. They were not the same. Although Interim Lieutenant Governor Reynold (Nolly) Oleana has said there will be no re-count, the Central Election Committee is still working to publish an accurate and final count. Then the party leaders can sit down and negotiate a coalition.

The unofficial results released to date are:

Votes	Seats	Party	Leader
3,975	3	PDB (Red)	Clark Abraham
2,908	3	UPB (Green)	James Kroon
2,034	2	MPB (Blue)	Hennyson Thielman
985	1	M21 (Pink)	Daisy Coffie
268	0	IUPP	Aljano Emerenciana
62	0	Suzy Thode	

10,524 people, 64.5% of the eligible voters, voted.

The leading vote getters in each party are:

Party	Votes	Candidate (ranking within party)
PDB (Red)	1,635	Clark Abraham (1)
	320	Taty Frans (9)
	274	Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai (2)
UPB (Green)	1,391	James Kroon (1)
	266	B.R. Dirksz (3)
	187	S.B. Chirino-Felida (2)
MPB (Blue)	855	Hennyson Thielman (1)
	115	Domacassé Din (7)
M21 (Pink)	985	Daisy Coffie (1)

DMR

Edison Rijna appointed special envoy

Secretary of State Van Huffelen of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has appointed E.E. (Edison) Rijna special envoy for the Caribbean Netherlands for EU funds, UN funds and economic relations with Latin America. Rijna will start his new position on April 18, 2023 and will simultaneously step down as Island Governor of the public authority of Bonaire.

Secretary of State van Huffelen said: "I am very pleased that Mr. Rijna was willing to accept this appointment. With his many years of experience as Island Governor and his broad international network in the region, I am convinced that he can be of great significance to the islands and the Netherlands as special envoy." DMR



Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 13

The REPORTER

This Issue's Stories

Sports Week, Free Diving Record	1
Dancing to Morning, Wilco Habers, poet	3
Interveners for domestic violence trained	5
Subsidies inter-island airfares	5
Touch Kunuku Spa	6
Art in WSNP	6
Nos Zjilea traditional kids games	6
Refill Bonaire	7
Reusable bottles for sale	7
King abdicating ? (AF)	7
Steneck Coral research 2003-2023	8
Jan Kloos obituary	8
Wreck Diving 2.0 (AF)	10
Orchid Farm (AF)	11
Wine Factory Funrace	15
Scuba cat (AF)	15
Enforcing development	15

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:	
• Water Day; Election; Rijna UN envoy	2
• Inter-island air fares; Hurricane season; OLB digital help desk; Minimum wage (Dutch language; Parking garage - AF)	13
Ask Bob (Promoting property)	4
Police Report	4
Letters: Biodiversity Bolivia; Visitor tax caper	5
Piss and Vinegar (Faustian Close-out, pt 2.)	7
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Accessibility (Down Syndrome Day)	10
Optimal Health (Smell)	10
Sky Park (Planet order: AF)	
Reef Glimpses: (Coral Disease)	11
What's Happening (Events; Cruise ships; Clean ups; Nos Zjilea head cloths)	12
A Garden? (Harvest)	13
Business Directory	14
Pet of the Week (Remie - Cat)	15
Shelter (Demonstrations Disrupt: AF)	15

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Dancing to the morning



Wilco Harbers

Dealing with the grief of a loved one is something everyone suffers, as death is a part of life. After several months of mourning Wilco Harbers managed the loss of his husband Arno through writing. He produced a book of 60 poems titled *Dansen mar de Ochtend* or *Dancing to the Morning*.

Wilco said, "I have to tell you this story. My husband chose not to live anymore."

Wilco explained that his husband Arno had a type of mental depression and wanted to end his life. He thought about it and made a plan to stop eating

and drinking and asked Wilco to help him.

"We were married, and he asked me to help and I said yes, because he was my husband. On October 21, he took three weeks to say goodbye to everyone. By November, he went to Hospice and I stayed there with him for a month. They prepared everything and they took care of him... On the full moon of December 20, 2021, he died in my arms. It is the most difficult thing to do to help the one you love the most die," said Wilco.

For his own therapy, Arno began writing the poems on February 6, Arno's

birthday and completed them in May. Wilco's friends read several of the poems and told him he should do something with them as they could be a great help to others that are grieving.

Everyone who read the poems was impressed including a woman that presides over funerals. Television personality and author Rik Felderhof of the Netherlands said the material was 'spot on' and encouraged Wilco to seek a publisher and continue writing.

Wilco found a small publisher that concentrated on poetry and in December 2022 *Dancing to the Morning* was printed.

The book was released on January 27, a little over a year after Arno's death. A book signing presentation was held first in Curaçao and then Bonaire at Bruna and Del Mar bookstores.

"The whole journey has come to an end. For me as a starting writer it is growing bigger and bigger. It is my tribute to him. So many people feel supported by the book. Everyone has to deal with this type of loss. This book can help and give comfort. Life goes on, when you experience a loss this always goes with you, Allow it to be there. Don't push it away," said Wilco.

Wilco is planning a writing retreat to Samos, Greece this year to work on a second book. He was there with his husband Arno who told him 'after my death, you have to go there again.'

Bonaire Hospice was very good to the couple and continue their kindness to Wilco to this day.

"Healing and accepting your grief and

loss; when you accept it, you can let it loose. Hospice gives you the space for love and support so important for this island. They are there for you. They are still there for me," said Wilco.

Dansen mar de Ochtend or *Dancing to the Morning* is now available on [eBook.nl](https://www.wilco-harbers-poetry.com). The book is published in Dutch but an English translation will hopefully be available in July. The book in paperback is \$21.95 locally at Del Mar, Bruna and Anke's Scissors. Visit

<https://www.wilco-harbers-poetry.com>
info@wilco-harbers-poetry.com

Story/photos Julie Morgan

Between lines

In the book of
loss

I read between lines of
sadness
words of
hope
letters of love

Wilco, Bonaire, Nov. 2022



FOR SALE Affordable Family Home Kaya Piedra Precioso 21A



- Location : Nawati / Republiek
- Lot size: 411 m2 / 4424 sq. ft. lease land
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- Room to expand, fully fenced in garden

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$224,500 US Dollar

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POLICE REPORT

Scooter Found

Mar. 16. The central control room received a report about a scooter that had been standing along the road at Kaya Amsterdam for an extended period of time. The orange Kymco scooter with license plate MF-2088 was taken to the police station for safekeeping. Is this scooter yours? Then bring a valid driver's license, insurance documents and ID to the police station to pick up the scooter.

Home Invasion/Robbery

Mar. 24. Around 10:45 p.m., the police station received a report of a robbery in a house in Belnem, where four people were present. Three masked suspects entered the house and injured one of the individuals. The suspects fled before the police arrived. The victim received medical treatment on-site from ambulance personnel. The police have started the search for the three suspects. KPCN reminds the public to call 715 8000 or the anonymous line 9310 if they have seen anything suspicious.

Arrests

Mar. 24. A man, 42, was arrested on the Kaya Caribe for public intoxication and violation of the BES Opium Act. The man was sleeping in his car, which was parked on the side of the road with its engine and lights still on. In the car were articles to process drugs and also quantities of hashish-like product. The man also appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The drugs were seized and the car was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Mar. 22. On Wednesday, March 22, at around 3 a.m., a young man, 17, was detained in Amboina. He was ordered to stop for a check when he drove his car in a prohibited direction. He ignored these advances several times and drove on. After a brief chase, the suspect stopped and was arrested for failing to comply with police demands. The car was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Mar. 16. During the traffic check, an arrest was made of a person who was illegally on the island. He had no valid documents with him. His car was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Mar. 16. In the afternoon a man was detained at Kaya Mozart for not complying with police demands. He was driving a car and ignored a police stop sign.

Mar. 13. A man, 19, was detained in the Bario Den Tera for failure to comply with a demand, resistance to arrest and violation of the law requiring identification. The suspect was spotted by a patrol as he drove by on a scooter without a helmet and no license plate attached. The patrol followed the scooter and signaled the driver to stop. The suspect did not respond to this. After a short chase, the driver was stopped and arrested.

Mar. 12. In the early morning hours a man, 46 was arrested at a bar/restaurant for public violence and assault. The suspect was involved in a fight in which another person was injured.

Diving under the influence

The number of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol is increasing.

Mar. 24. A man, 41, was arrested for driving under the influence. The scooter was spotted weaving about on the roundabout in front of the church in Playa. He initially did not stop when the police ordered him to do so. When he eventually pulled over, he was unable to show a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. He was taken to the police station for a breath test. The scooter was been taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Mar. 23. In the night hours a man, 23, was arrested for driving under the influence. The suspect riding a scooter was stopped for a routine check. He was unable to show a valid driver's license or insurance certificate. A breathalyzer was also taken, after which he was taken to the police station for a breath test. The suspect was banned from driving for 1 hour.

Mar. 16. In the night hours a man, 47 was arrested on Kaya Avelino J. (Abachi) Cecilia for driving under the influence. He was stopped because the car was swinging on the road. His driver's license was revoked.

Mar. 13. In the night hours a man was arrested for driving under the influence. He was involved in a collision at Kaya J.N.E. Crane. He stated that he lost control of the car because he was on the phone and landed on the concrete blocks on the side of the road. Upon closer inspection, it was found that he was under the influence of alcohol and that he also did not have a valid driver's license with him. As a result of his breath test he received a nine-hour driving ban and a report for the said violations.

Mar. 11. In the night hours two men, aged 39 and 28, were arrested on Kaya Nikiboko North. The men got into a fight after they were involved in a collision. Both men were arrested because they were under the influence of alcohol. Following a breath test, the driver's license of one man was immediately suspended until further notice. The other man was banned from driving for six hours.

Mar. 11. At approximately 12:45 a.m. a man, 61, was arrested during a routine check at Kaya Maria for driving under the influence. His vehicle was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Mar. 10. A man, 52, was arrested for driving under the influence. He was initially stopped when he drove in the wrong direction on Kaya Grandi.

Traffic

Mar. 12. On Kaya Korona at around 4:30 p.m. The driver of a scooter skidded and fell. She was taken to hospital by ambulance. The officers found that there was oil on the road surface from the Kaya Papa Cornes to the Kaya Jose Girigorio Hernandez. The fire service assisted with spreading sand on the road to prevent further slippage.

Traffic control

Mar. 23. In the evening 13 vehicles were stopped and checked at Kaya In-

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



I'm thinking of selling my Bonaire property, should it be promoted in Dutch or English to attract the most buyers? What do you do to promote it for sale? How long will it stay on the market? I know how it's done in the US, but not Bonaire. Thanks, Jean B.

Hi,

To reach the most buyers, you'll want representation from native speakers of both languages, with contacts and experience buying and selling in both countries. RE/MAX is the only real estate agency on Bonaire that has both American and Dutch real estate agents on staff. We are part of an international network of RE/MAX offices worldwide, with 140,000 agents located in over 120 countries. We receive referrals and inquiries from clients all over the world not just the US and Holland. We offer

ternashonal. Eleven official reports were issued: seven for driving without a seat belt; three for driving without a valid insurance certificate; and one for driving without a helmet.

Mar. 16. In the evening 10 vehicles were stopped and checked at Kaya Industria. Four official reports were issued: one for driving without valid insurance; two for driving without a valid driver's license and one for driving without a seatbelt.

Mar. 11. In the morning 56 vehicles were checked at Kaya Industria in connection Thirty-one fines were issued: 15 for driving without a seat belt; three for driving without a valid driver's license; eight for driving without valid insurance; one for calling while driving; one for driving without a helmet and three for driving without license plate attached.

Wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of a fatal accident by 30 to 40%. Seat belts in the back seat also reduce the risk of serious injury by 20%.

The amount of a fine for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

Fire

Mar. 15. The central control room received a report of a fire in a restaurant on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. The street was closed off by the police so that the fire brigade could carry out its work in peace. The adjacent companies had smoke nuisance and had to vent. The cause of the fire is still unknown. The employees stated that they had heard a loud bang just before the fire broke out. No one was injured.

Public order

Mar. 14. The central control room received a report around 2 p.m. about two

information about our properties in both languages, and prices in both US Dollars and Euro's, depending on the client.

When I list a property for sale, I provide a market analysis for the suggested price, and provide information about your property's strengths and areas for possible improvement. Our professional real estate photographs include not only pictures, but a 3-D tour of your property on the inside and the outside that can be viewed online anywhere in the world.

Your property is featured not only on the RE/MAX website for Bonaire, but on the international RE/MAX website globally. Locally, your property will be featured in a large, colorful ad in the Bonaire Reporter and in our extensive social media. We have a mailing list with thousands of clients that we notify whenever a new property is listed that meets their criteria. I have had a number of sales that never made it onto our website or in our ads, because I contacted my off-island clients immediately about a property that matched their needs and they acted quickly to purchase it.

*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

people who were lost walking in the vicinity of Dos Pos. Fortunately, they had a phone with them. Thanks to the efforts of police officers from the KPCN and Stinapa employees, they were found healthy and well a few hours later.

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**Bonaire Vegan Importers is
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Letters & Opinions

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

Importance of biodiversity seriously underestimated in the fight against climate change

While climate change has been at the forefront of political discussions for the past decade or so, biodiversity has not received the same level of attention. One reason for this could be that the effects of climate change, such as floods, droughts and wildfires are more visible, while the loss of biodiversity is not as easily noticeable.

What exactly is at stake if we fail to protect the planet's biodiversity? Biodiversity includes all types of plants, animals and micro-organisms, as well as the enormous genetic variation within those species and the variety of ecosystems in which they exist, and the interactions between them. The more diverse an ecosystem, the better it is equipped to withstand shocks and support life. The biodiversity in an ecosystem act as a buffer against, for example, increasingly severe weather conditions such as extreme drought or enormous rain showers.

Loss of biodiversity therefore not only means the disappearance of species of animals and plants, but also endangers the food supply, health and safety of humanity. While people tend to recognize the gravity of the situation when bees are threatened, the loss of biodiversity often goes unnoticed until it reaches a critical point. Unfortunately, by the time we start to see the loss, it's often too late to take effective action.

Despite the adoption of the '30 by 30' target at the Biodiversity Summit in Montreal in December 2022, which aimed to protect 30% of the planet's biodiversity by 2030, there has been little follow-up action since the summit. This is concerning given the critical role that biodiversity plays in the fight against climate change and suggests that the issue of biodiversity protection may not be receiving the attention it needs to help ad-



A wayaka more than 700 years old.

dress this urgent global challenge.

The main cause of biodiversity loss remains human use of land, but climate change is playing an increasing role in the decline of biodiversity. The destruction of ecosystems undermines nature's ability to protect against extreme weather events, accelerating climate change and increasing vulnerability to it.

Therefore, it is essential to tackle both crises together and consider measures that work for both climate and biodiversity. Economic development, conservation of

biodiversity, and landscape restoration can go hand in hand. We need to consider climate and biodiversity together and always take them into account when making decisions about land use.

One way to promote biodiversity is to recognize the rights of nature. Nature should be seen as having its own independent right to exist, regardless of what it means to humans. We must let nature sit at the table and promote its interests, ensuring that natural cycles are respected. This would mean that the use of natural resources can be determined while preserving biodiversity.

Bonaire is home to trees, such as the Wayaka's on Plantation Bolivia, that have been standing for hundreds of years – some for over 700 years. Off course they have a right to exist in their own right. They have been an integral part of Bonaire's ecosystem for longer than the oldest Bonerian families. As such, it's crucial that we recognize and respect the rights of these trees and other elements of nature to exist independently of their value to humans. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to ensure that they are protected and preserved for future generations to appreciate.

In conclusion, the importance of biodiversity in the fight against climate change cannot be underestimated. We need to tackle both crises together and consider measures that work for both climate and biodiversity. We must recognize the rights of nature and ensure that natural cycles are respected. Let us practice ethical behavior and do the right thing even when doing the wrong thing is legal.

Let's fight for legal rights for Plantation Bolivia.

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia
x

Visitor tax caper

Hi, Bonaire Reporter!

Quick background... my wife and I have been visiting Bonaire yearly (except CoVid) since 2005. For the last 10 yrs. (CoVid) we have visited twice a year. We know the island and how things "work" pretty well. We have gained some acquaintances that live on the island over the years. We come to dive. We read every edition of the Reporter to get a feel for what's happening. We love our vacation time to Bonaire.

Now the story. We last visited the island for 2 weeks; arriving back home on March 12. In early February we went on-line to the CORRECT website to pay our visitor taxes. We received back an email stating that Tourism-tax.bonairegov.com will "hold" our request and stated that we should reapply for tax payment one week before we depart (February 24). The website said that they would hold our paperwork until we reapply. One week before we were to depart, an email arrived stating that our visitor tax purchases were done and we were to print

our QR codes and have them ready when we landed. When we visited last October we payed our visitor tax one week before we departed and everything, this time, appeared to absolutely the same as it was in October.

Last week we get our credit card bill in the mail and there was a suspicious purchase made to a "Globovista" for \$190.00. We immediately checked to see what we bought, contacted our credit card company, and attempted to contact, by phone, Globovista LLC; their address is in Florida. No answer to the call and we left a message. I looked up Globovista on Google and read a extremely vague description of what their business was. Go to their website and read it for yourself. This past Friday we realized that the \$190.00 was our tourist tax payment! \$40 "surcharge" to Globovista.

Some how, either by error or purposely, Globovista received our information from Bonaire and proceeded to act as an agent for our tax purchases. It is suspicious that Globovista and some entity on Bonaire may be working in harmony together. You should look into this.

From what I have read on Globovista's website, along with no phones being answered, and no e-mail responses; I have to assume that Globovista is a shell company; a company in name only; with maybe one individual sitting at a computer making money with possible help from somebody on the island. We know Bonaire says that the tax paying scams are not illegal, but is someone on the island profiting from these scams? There is certainly a lot of bad press on diving websites, etc. that is giving Bonaire a black eye. You would think Bonaire would be more pro-active about preventing the scams than just warning visitors.

You might do some intensive investigation into possible collusion; something is not right. It smells as bad as the Sargassum washing up.

OH, By the way... can we send some type of donation to you to help offset costs of publishing your paper. We really appreciate the quality of the Reporter.

Dennis and Louise Marquering
Corvallis, Oregon

Interveners trained to handle domestic violence and child abuse

A Domestic Violence and Child Abuse policy has been drawn up jointly by the entire chain of island care providers on behalf of the Public Body of Bonaire. Fifteen Attention Officers have been trained to implement the policy.

When there is a suspicion of domestic violence and child abuse, an Attention Officer intervenes knowledgeably and in accordance with the laws and a defined public policy. The new Attention Officers first learned how to identify child abuse and how to follow the HGKM step-by-step. In a three-day follow-up they also learned more about their role as Attention Officers.

They learned how to support the parents and children, and how to help people find assistance. They also were taught how to help organizations use the step-by-step plan internally.

The fifteen Attention Officers are employed by: Sentro Akseso Boneiru, Guiami Advice and Reporting Center for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, Fundashon Mariadal, the Probation Service, Refugio Tabitha, and the Guardianship Council. They were trained by two trainers from the aid chain and received HGKM certificates. *DMR*

Government subsidizes inter-island air fares

The government monitors inter-island air fares annually. If the fares have increased too much, a small subsidy is provided to help keep tickets affordable. The Hague recognizes that "For the Caribbean Netherlands, aviation is vital for the economy, for the transport of residents and goods, for tourism and for patient transport."

For Saba and Sint Eustatius, the national government is exploring whether the routes to Sint Maarten constitute a public service obligation.

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

Touch Kunuku Spa open April 1 and that's no joke



magic.

Born to an Aruban mother and Bonairean father, Alda moved to Bonaire 30 years ago bringing her ideas of a spa with her when she made Bonaire her home.

Many older residents will remember Alda from A Place for You where she worked a few years before moving on to manage The Touch Spa at Divi Flamingo Resort. Alda has been at Divi for 21 years and on April 1 she is going to work full time at her own business, "The Touch Kunuku Spa."

The new spa is located off the main streets of Bonaire in the quiet neighborhood of Noord Salina. Three small buildings, for different services, enclose a shaded patio area nestled among the shade of local trees and plants. The only sounds are the chirping of Bonaire's local birds.

Alda is offering many of the same services as the Divi spa with a few additions. For complete privacy, separate massage rooms are set up for either singles or couples for either body massage, pregnancy massage or reflexology. Customers can enjoy several different non-chemical facials and of course a variety of manicures and pedicures.

The Touch Kunuku Spa will offer spa parties, spa days, spa birthdays and holiday spa specials for Mother's Day, Easter, Dia di Rincon and more.

Alda will cater and personalize your spa experience by offering breakfast, lunch or happy hour complete with a server. Clients only need to ask ahead of time when making reservations.

Alda is assisted by two other spa technicians.

nicians.

The Touch Kunuku Spa is located at Kaya Caribe 57 and open Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information about complete services or to make a reservation visit The Touch Kunuku Spa on Facebook or send a WhatsApp message to +599-785-6378.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan



Art in the Park held at WSNP

Last Sunday, March 26, STINAPA Bonaire and WWF (World Wildlife Fund) displayed 19 beautiful images portraying the work Bonaire's nature organization performs most every day of the year.

The large photographs by Casper Duomo, Elly Albers, Casimir Roosje and Hendrik Wuyts were displayed under the patio area at the park entrance. On hand to enlighten visitors about the images were STINAPA's Monique Grol and head ranger for Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) George 'Kultura' Thode who also led museum tours.

Grol said, "We had a good turnout with a lot of local Bonaireans who drove to

WSNP for the photos and the guided museum tours by 'Kultura.'

Below each image was a description in English and Papiamentu about the organization. And if that wasn't enough, visitors could scan the QR code for each photo and see a video on STINAPA's YouTube channel showing the organization in action. Videos were produced by Skyview Bonaire, Bonaire Vision Films and Casimir Roosje. To see the videos, visit YouTube @STINAPABonaireChannel and become a subscriber to receive the latest information. Design was by Deviate Design.

Story and photo, Julie Morgan

Nos Zjilea never disappoints

Nos Zjilea, one of the best ways to experience Bonaire's traditional culture, was held March 25 and, as always, did not disappoint. Held at Mangazina di Rei on the outskirts of Rincon, the March edition featured kids games and a few toys of the past. Several adults led the games and sang the songs to accompany the fun. The kids played games called Sun and Moon, Drop the Handkerchief, Lock and Dock and Saw-Saw. They also played Captain May I Pass, a game that involved a type of race that included running, jumping, walking on their hands and hopping. There were a few antique wooden toy carts the kids could ride and push and stilts which a few adults successfully tried.

In preparation for the upcoming Dia di Rincon on April 30, Caroll-Ann Soliano

demonstrated how to tie a head wrapping scarf on Merredith Sambo.

The wonderful homemade bread baked in the wood oven was available along with soups, healthy local drinks and juices and specialty foods like Rasta man's Lumpia. Local bands Farley Entertainment and JC Band provided the music which brought many couples to their feet including everyone's favorite cultural dancers Donny and Monique Winklaar.

The Reporter believes Nos Zjilea is probably the best way to learn something new about Bonaire, enjoy great local food, music, dance and have fun with the people that make Bonaire – Bonaire.

Story and photo, Julie Morgan

For more photos visit our Facebook page



Nos Zjilea is held the last Saturday of every month. The next Nos Zjilea will be April 29. Visit Mangazina di Rei website and Facebook page for more information.

Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Bonaire's Faustian Closeout, Part II

My previous article on the trip to Miami, undertaken by the TCB and a number of government officials, has, apparently, drawn some heavy flak in the social media.

I entirely missed the confusion. I don't do social media. The average newspaper, is very well capable in bringing the news in a way I prefer, and I don't really need the socials.

I understand, a lot of people must have been put on the wrong track, because they somehow skipped reading the title. Or the whole article. It's easy to find a ready-made opinion on Facebook, I suppose. Anyway, if you look up Faust (a character brought to life by JW von Goethe) on Wikipedia, you already have a general idea on what I meant with the adjective 'Faustian'.

People stated that, in opposing the cruise ships, I stole their money away, and have called them stupid because the deal, made with the FCCA, was worthless.

I didn't do that. I merely advised them to hire a specialist to close a decent deal, because I thought they failed. It's pretty simple.

When your hair is getting too long, you visit, in order not to look like a choller, a hairdresser, who was taught to cut people's hair.

When your car needs to be serviced, you don't change the oil yourself, but you take it to a garage with a bunch of trained mechanics taking care of it.

If you long to listen to a fiddle, you put on, instead of singlehandedly wrecking a perfectly good Stradivarius, a record of one of Prokofiev's violin concertos (I suggest, for sentimental reasons, the Berliner Philharmoniker).

And if you want to strike a good deal with the FCCA-vultures, you don't negotiate it yourself, but you call an equally mean Miami or New York lawyer to do it for you. It'll cost you a bundle, but you'll probably get your money's worth.

Of course, you miss the fun of a Miami trip where everybody's friendly to you and puts you on a pedestal, but in the end, you'll discover – some internet research can teach you what actually IS a good deal – they wiped (figuratively speaking of course) their posteriors with your wishes and your ideas.

Maybe you don't care. Maybe you think it's your mission to do the negotiating yourself, maybe it's more rewarding, more profitable to do it on your own. That might be so, but you have to realize you do irreparable damage to Bonaire, however much you get. Every profit has a downside.

Now the second allegation of the Facebookians appears to have been, that I took their money.

I didn't do that either. An example. Working for a dive operator, years ago, I learned, on a very basic level, about the greediness of the cruise ship companies. A couple of times per week we had to facilitate the – with almost no exception – grossly obese cruisaders in their preparation for a two-tank boat dive. I won't bother you with the details, but in general it was a vomit-inducing job.

The cruise company supplying the clientele charged

their passengers \$120 per trip. The normal rate for a two-tank boat dive was \$50, under half of what the cruisaders had to pay.

But: the cruise ship companies paid the dive operator \$30 per individual, 25% of what they collected from their passengers. They pocketed \$90 per person for just writing down their names. I suppose they generate a comparable percentage on every on-shore excursion.

So, if you think I took away your money, don't worry. It's not really gone. It's in a bank account in Miami, waiting to be paid out as dividend to the cruise ship company's shareholder.

Therefore, an appeal to the next government, If you want to take part in the next FCCA-cruise show in Miami, please go, but prepare your trip. Put the negotiations in the hands of people who know what they're talking about. Bring conservation specialists, bring people knowing about pollution caused by cruise ships. Calculate the financial losses caused by the cruise ships to Bonaire's businesses and government property.

Make'em pay. Don't let them suck Bonaire dry.



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.

Refill Bonaire scores top marks

"No Water, No Life. No Blue, No Green!"

Sylvia Earle

Refill Bonaire received an excellent 8.8 on their scorecard from the Blue Destination Scan.

Rob van Holstein, Project Manager Refill Bonaire said, "We're going for a big ten.

"We are going to clearly inform those cruise tourists about the water quality, about the Refill app and about the more than 50 places on the island where you can refill the Blue Bottle for free with delicious Awa di Boneiru. No more [bio]plastic packaging to the island, plastics that only pollute and do not keep us warm or cold. That is why they choose our 100% recyclable stainless steel bottle, which also has a fair price."

Send a message to info@refillbonaire.nl



Other reusable bottles for sale



Bonaire launched the 'Bonaire Water Bottle' project on World Water Day, March 22, to raise awareness about plastic pollution and the importance of reusable water bottles. The project is a collaboration between Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) and Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB).

The stainless steel bottles are durable and have two QR codes. The first QR code on the cap helps users find tap water locations. The second QR code on the bottle itself provides more information about Bonaire and the Bonaire Bond, a commitment to travel responsibly and preserve Bonaire's natural appeal.

The partners will be selling the bottles at a price of \$20 each, and the resell price is set at \$25. You can order a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 bottles per company. Individual purchase is \$25. There are two designs you can choose from, one focusing on the underwater world and the other on the flora and fauna of Bonaire.

The water bottles are now available from TCB.

King Willem-Alexander Abdicating???

A recent trip to New York to present an eco-conscious face to Bonaire and the Netherlands has turned out not as originally thought as a way to keep Governor E. Rijna out of Bonaire and away from investigations into land abuses and violations of International RAMSAR treaties and to make amends for the same. Instead it was actually a way for King Willem-Alexander to assess and train the Governor to swap places with him. It is discovered that the current King admires the Governor's amazing ability to avoid censure and prosecution for obvious crimes. Additionally he wishes to reside in the idyllic setting of Bonaire and enjoy the added benefits that Rijna enjoys from his extracurricular activities governing Bonaire.

He also desires to gain the ability to enjoy more family time away from public scrutiny, as the Governor seems to avoid observation.

The pair were seen window shopping for suitable crowns toward the end of their visit with this one being a front runner:



C.B.

Steneck makes final coral study on Bonaire

For the last 20 years Dr. Robert Steneck of the University of Maine has made Bonaire a remote classroom for his research on coral reefs. Every two years, except during the pandemic, he has made the trek from Maine with graduate students to monitor coral reef sites on Bonaire. Steneck has collaborated with STINAPA which has used his findings for scientific coral reef management. Steneck's final trip was a few weeks ago. On March 17 he and STINAPA presented his findings at Plaza Resort.

Speaking to a standing room only crowd, Steneck said Bonaire has a lot to be proud of despite the serious global problems of climate change. In his presentation titled: Battling the coral reef crisis: Bonaire an island of success, Steneck led the crowd through a series of charts explaining the changes from 2003 to today.

Steneck and his team have monitored 11 different sites since 2003 to determine the drivers or indicators that affect the health of the reefs: No-Dive Reserve, Karpata, Oilslick Leap, Barcadera, Reef Cientifico, Forest on Klein Bonaire, Front Porch, Calabas, 18 Palm, Windsock and Bachelor's Beach. Monitoring the reef is not the same as monitoring the coral. On each of the 11 sites Steneck and his team subtract the sand and areas where coral can't grow.

Steneck stated that the coral reef ecosystem is the most endangered on earth and the Caribbean is especially vulnerable. He explained that back in the 1960's people began noticing all the big fish disappearing. A decade later in 1971 the fishermen agreed to stop spear fishing and Bonaire became one of the first places in the world to ban it. But like in the 60's Bonaire's carnivorous fish have declined in both controlled fish protected areas and controlled sites.

In his 2019 report Steneck said, "Disease, coral bleaching and algal competition are powerful drivers of reef decline and pose barriers to reef recovery. All three are interrelated and contribute to the unique challenges of managing Caribbean coral reefs."

Seaweed has been going up since 1999 throughout the Caribbean. The entire east Caribbean and Bahamas have

seen the worst decline with seaweed replacing the coral reefs and Bonaire has not been that affected.

"Seaweed carpets are the most ominous. The carpet smotherers and poisons the coral and reduces the reproductive output making the coral more disease prone. It is very hostile to baby corals," said Steneck.

Other drivers or indicators are coral cover, macroalgae, number of parrotfish, baby corals, sea urchins and diversity of corals. Major threats in the past to Bonaire's reefs were a decline of grazing parrotfish and fish getting caught in fish traps and dying. In 2010 parrotfish fishing and fish traps were banned on Bonaire.

A massive bleaching event occurred in 2010 with a 22% loss of coral causing an increase in algae but in 2013 the coral recovered, in 2015 signs of resilience was evident and in 2019, 46% live coral was reported.

In 2018 the number of parrotfish was compared to several no-take zones in the eastern Caribbean. It was found Bonaire's reefs had more than twice the number despite the fact a slight decline had occurred here.

"As of yesterday, the reefs are at pre-bleaching levels and we are sustaining the seaweed abundance. So far it looks like the parrotfish and juvenile corals are where they have been in recent years. I do not know of any other coral reef recovery in the Caribbean," said Steneck. This is the first documented resilience. If you've only been to Bonaire – stay here. This is a case for optimism, but the threats will continue."

The latest threat is a new disease that is very progressive but yet to be named. Photos have been sent to AGRRA (Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment) for confirmation as to whether it is SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease) or something else. The disease is affecting Maze, Great Star, Boulder Brain, Symmetrical Brain, Grooved Brain, Flower Coral and Lettuce Coral in order of prevalence. (See Reef Glimpses, page 11)

Steneck noted some of Bonaire's corals are probably 500-1000 years old. If they are healthy, then they have



Dr. Robert Steneck

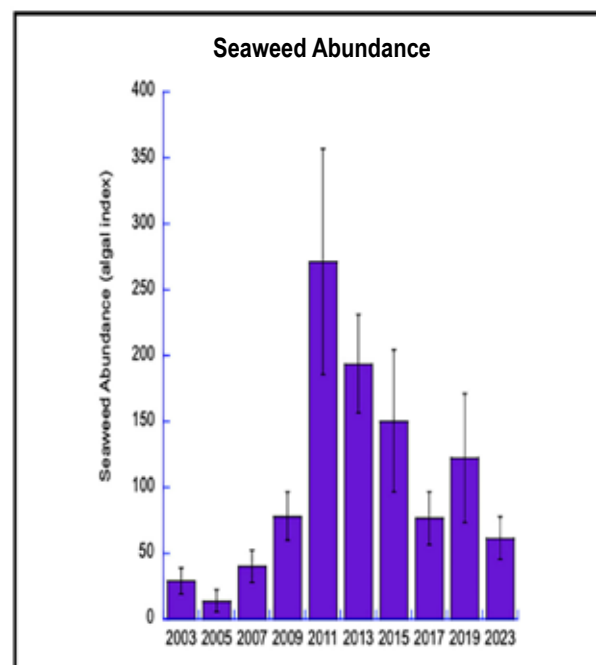
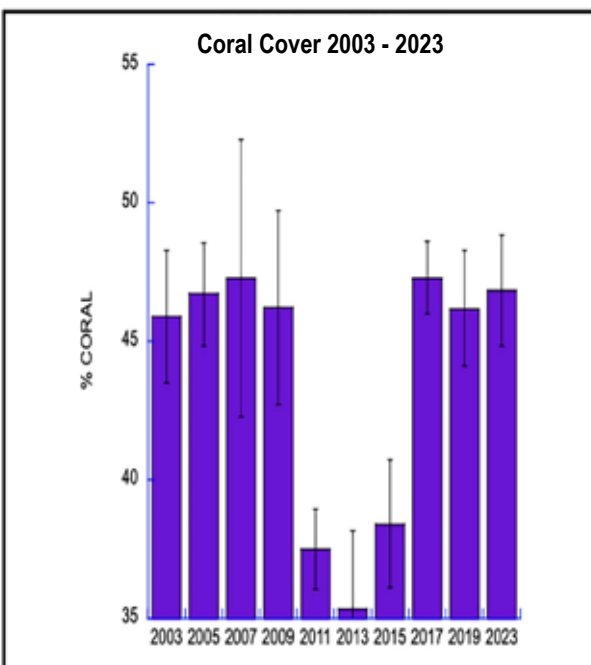
no lifespan and can live forever. We need to maintain the healing drivers for coral until the disease runs through it, but it may take a decade to recover. Bonaire is still the best in the Caribbean. It's the best we can do.

"Thank you to STINAPA for their durable association of science management and 50 years of protection and education. This is my last year. I am handing over the baton to Doug Raster," said Steneck.

The 2023 research team included Steneck, his graduate students, STINAPA biologists and Dr. Doug Rasher, a marine ecologist from Univ. of Maine who is taking over the bi-yearly study.

Dr Steneck's 2023 report will be available on the STINAPA website in a few months. *Julie Morgan*

See our online update page for one more chart.



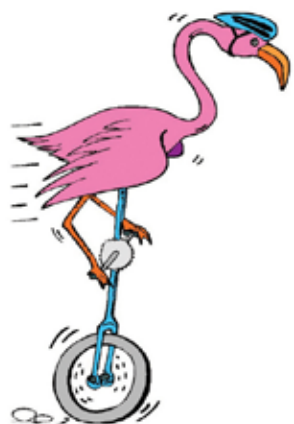
Jan Kloos

The sad news of the sudden passing of our former director and co-founder, Jan Kloos, has deeply affected Dive Friends Bonaire.

Jan stood at the forefront of Dive Friends Bonaire. He was one of the co-founders of the company and long held the position of director. Under his leadership, Dive Friends Bonaire experienced considerable growth. Jan Kloos stepped down as director in 2016, but still maintained contact with the company. He regularly came by to say hello and he never passed a location without at least waving to the staff. The employees who worked with him, remember Jan Kloos as a good-natured man with whom it was a pleasure to work.

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Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

World Down Syndrome Day

Somebody gave me an old calendar filled with riddles a few days ago. I love puzzles and riddles, so I started on them right way.

On page 22 I halted, because there was no riddle. There was just one phrase:

“What was the nicest/most interesting thing that happened to you the day before yesterday”.

And I remembered it right away. I had been looking up interesting facts about Down Syndrome. I recalled overhearing a phone conversation of someone making arrangements to celebrate the global awareness day for Down Syndrome on March 21.

Where does the name Down Syndrome come from? A British doctor, Johan Langdon Down, described the condition in some people with various symptoms in 1862. And when there are that many of the same symptoms it is called a Syndrome in the medical world. The official name is Trisomy 21.

Most people have 46 chromosomes in every cell or 23 from each parent. Down Syndrome is when a person has an extra copy of chromosome number 21. Chromosomes determine how a baby’s body forms and functions as it grows. Down’s Syndrome usually causes various degrees of developmental intellectual and physical disabilities.

To raise awareness on World Down Syndrome Day, there is a new thing, “Rock your Socks”. When you wear odd colorful socks on March 21st, you show that you care and want to raise awareness of people with different abilities.

Each sock has to be different, to show that being different is being addressed. And the other interesting fact is that a sock has the form/shape of chromosome number 21 symptoms.

In my long career of taking care of persons with disabilities, I have met many children and adults with Down’s Syndrome, and I have learned to love them. They are very special and I know that all their family members agree with me.

The first person with Down Syndrome I met was on the island in Holland where I was born. He was leading a parade with so much verve and pride. It shone in his eyes from afar. I asked my Mom who he was and she told me that he was the son of so-and-so and that he was special.

The second person with Down Syndrome I met was in Germany, where I worked for many years in a huge mental hospital. His name was Uwe and he was about 24 years old. He could not talk, but understood things like: “get up, time to eat, go to the bathroom...”. Sometimes he was a bit aggressive, and I was told to be careful with him. He sat the whole day long, cross-legged and swaying back and forth. He did not want to play or be active. And then came the day that we got a big aquarium on the ward. He would sit on a chair, nose stuck to the glass and swayed on, but with much enthusiasm. We found something for Uwe to do!

I still remember all these special people. Many of them are not with us anymore, R.I.P. Long love the people with Down’s Syndrome.



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.

Wreck Diving 2.0 on Bonaire



Although the number of wrecks off the Bonaire shoreline is limited, wreck diving on Bonaire always has been pretty popular. It was, therefore, great to hear from the plans seeping in from Florida: This year, a new wreck dive site will be created, right in the middle between Mari Bahn and Hilma Hooker.

A Bonairean delegation, during a visit to the Miami FCCA congress, managed to convince the cruise industry to make one of their ships available, to be used as a dive site. The biggest of Floridian cruise companies, Carnival, will donate the least profitable of her ships, the Carnival Celebration, to Bonaire.

It will arrive on the island during the last week of March, dumping crew and passengers on the South Pier, on the third day of their \$1,200, eight day ‘Caribbean Surprise Cruise’ (the biggest surprise being their non-existing return flight). STINAPA will christen the new dive site by attaching the characteristic yellow dive buoy to the rear flag staff prior to the immersion of the ship, when it is stilled docked in Playa, on March 31.

The following day it will be submerged, about 150 yards off (how appropriate!) Oil Slick Leap. It will end up on the ocean floor with its bow pointing downward, the stern reaching up as high as 40 feet under the surface.

The new dive site will be, for health reasons, off limits to divers for an unknown period of time. It will take a few months, or a number of years, before feces, bunker oil, waste and bilge water and other potentially poisonous substances will be washed away, probably killing a substantial part of ocean life towards Curaçao.

Although no time frame can be given for the site’s Grand Opening (the USS Aurora, sunk in December 1941, still secretes a dash of oil per day, as rumor goes), Bonaire can look forward to a great new site for wreck diving. Let’s hope we, and the coral, live long enough to witness it.

The next ship donated by Carnival, the equally polluting Carnival Jubilee, will be given back to the sea as a dive site in early April 2024, a quarter of a mile off Andrea II.

Gijs Borsten 🐬

Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Spring is here, time to smell the flowers

Throughout history, our sense of smell has not received the attention it deserves. In the 19th century science located the olfactory bulb in the brain and found that it was very small, and thought it wasn’t so important. We now know that although the bulb is small, its number of neurons is equivalent to that of other mammals. However, at a conscious level, the other four senses overwhelm that of smell. Possibly through social development and the complexity of culture, we have lost olfactory training. Many of the natural body odors are considered inappropriate in social settings and we have learned to disguise and attenuate them in different ways.

It is important to remember that smell is the first sense we use at birth since the olfactory bulb is fully developed, active and essential for the survival of a baby. Through smell, the newly born baby recognizes its mother and finds she is the

source of food and protection. Moreover, it has been discovered that certain aroma preferences refer to those perceived in the prenatal stage, such as creams used by the mother and other scents in the environment.

Hippocrates spoke of the importance of environmental odors to maintain good health. And aromas have been used over time for various purposes, but only in recent years has science vindicated the importance of this human sense.

In 2017, at the University of Dresden, a study was carried out on older adults who suffered cognitive impairment because of Alzheimer’s disease. They worked with two groups, one of them received training through Sudokus and the other was trained to recognize five scents. This second group showed greater cognitive rejuvenation and improvement in their emotional state. The conclusion was that training smell favors cognitive function, which is the ability to perceive, process,

and elaborate information.

Environmental odors are perceived through nasal breathing. The aromatic particles enter the nose and are captured by cilia in the nasal mucosa to be transformed into an electrical signal that is the language of the nervous system. The perception of aromas directly impacts the amygdala, which governs emotions, and the hippocampus, which is the seat of memory. It is for this reason that aromas have a greater ability to evoke memories.

Not surprisingly, one of the biomarkers of cognitive impairment from dementia or Alzheimer’s is related to smell problems. To train the sense of smell, simply smell with awareness and intention. Bring your nose closer to the source of the aroma and inhale with intention dwelling in the aroma, that is, becoming one with it. You can use a spectrum of simple products found in the kitchen to do this like spices, herbs, nuts, oils and fruits. Avoid cleaning products because some can irritate the airways or be toxic. The use of essential oils to perfume the environment is also a good practice. But It’s even better if you have a diffuser that

delivers the smell in intervals, because that brings awareness to the smell the moment it is delivered.

Consumer product companies are aware of the power of scents in our emotions and behavior. Anything that smells flowery or fruity will most likely bring memories involving care, comfort, cleanliness, and wellbeing. Scent marketing and scent branding are complex strategies involving science and art, intended to enhance customer loyalty and spending.

So, Springtime or any time, is a good time to stop and smell. Here on Bonaire we don’t have many roses, but we have other flowers and many natural aromas that can be used to train ourselves.



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.

Orchid Farm to Open Here



Photo Dee Scarr

"It won't be long before our license plates read, 'Bonaire: Orchids Paradise,'" enthuses Rosabelle Osherofsky.

Yes, surprising as it may seem, Bonaire will soon have a new product, grown primarily for export to the United States and Europe: orchids! Osherofsky explains that our last winter, with its unusual wind shifts, made it clear that orchids can not only grow here, they can thrive. All they need is a little space and a lot of water. Salt water, that is.

Osherofsky's orchids were growing near the seaside, and the wind reversals last winter caused the orchids to be misted – or soaked – by sea water. Several times. The sea water-soaked plants were expected to die, but the photo shows how wrong the expectations were!

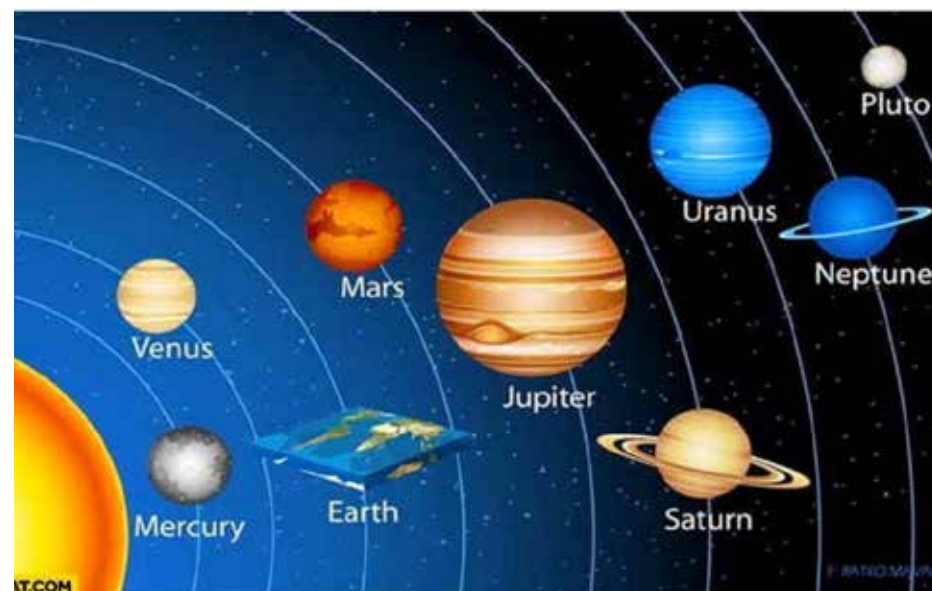
Initially, Bonaire orchids will be grown primarily for the Senior Prom market in the United States, but other potential markets include

(continued on page 25)



Bonaire's sky park

Order of the planets



The order of the planets in the solar system, starting nearest the sun and working outward is the following: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and then the possible Planet Nine, Pluto. Graphic via Flat Earth Society

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Coral Disease

Remember when Covid-19 first struck? Recommendations for what we should do seemed to change daily. Sometimes recommendations even conflicted with each other. I get anxious just thinking about that time.

And now we're facing a similar threat, not directly to humans, but a threat to living corals, the corals who build reefs. As long as they escape injury or disease, corals live and grow for hundreds or even thousands of years. Right now, especially off Playa, many of our stony corals are being victimized by a horrible malady. For convenience, I'll call it "Coral Killer," or CK23.

Stony corals can't escape anything on their own, of course, or right now they'd be boogeying like heck away from CK23.

Last week, off the park in Playa, I began my dive by looking for CK23, wondering if I'd be able to recognize it. The answer to that was a screaming, "YES." When I found white areas of coral, they were entirely devoid of any coral tissue.

In contrast, black band disease kills slowly, so that algae grows on the coral skeleton almost as quickly as the coral dies. In bleaching situations, coral animals, called polyps, are alive but without their brownish or greenish algae. Since they're translucent, they appear white, the color of their skeleton.

The white areas of a coral colony with CK23 are completely denuded of all tissue. In addition, the polyps die so quickly that the naked areas are large; algae doesn't arrive as quickly as the polyps die. CK23 gives us the opportunity to examine the tiny, perfect skeletons created by coral animals. Given the choice, however, we'd really prefer the coral to stay alive...

And if all of that isn't enough, the coral

polyps die in a horrible way: their tissue just seems to dissolve into the water.

To understand the long-term effects of CK23, we have to know how coral grows. Since there is nothing on this planet that grows the way coral colonies grow, learning about them seems complicated. It's easy once you understand it, though, so stick with me. If you have a better way to explain coral growth, please share it!

Every coral head begins with a single larval coral animal settling in a hospitable spot. It attaches, begins to feed, and starts its skeleton. When it gets big enough, that coral animal splits in two, creating a separate skeleton for the new clone. Each polyp continues to grow, extend its skeleton, and split. After an undisturbed three hundred years or so, that original baby coral becomes a colony that's one meter or more in diameter, with every polyp a clone of the first one.

As the polyps grow, they leave their outgrown skeleton behind. A cross-section of any coral head would show that



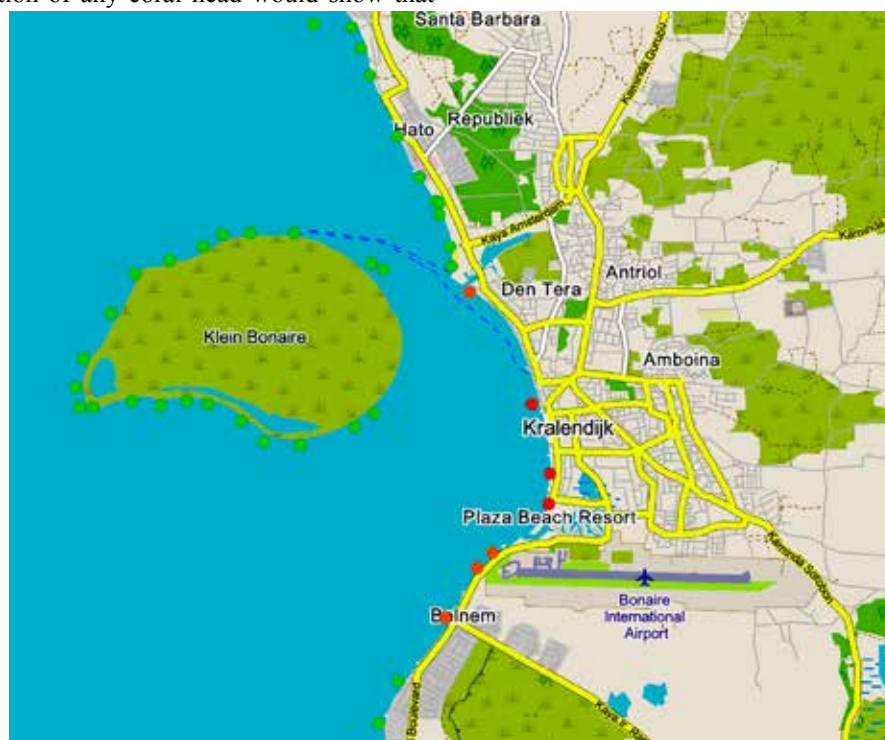
On the left is the completely denuded coral skeleton. On the right is the perfectly healthy coral. The area in between is the dissolved coral tissue.

Photo Dee Scarr

all the living coral animals are on the outside, the top, of the colony. When the polyps die, the colony cannot recover. Other larval corals may settle on it, but they can only begin a new colony, they cannot recolonize the old one. A dead coral head is basically a rock.

Stony corals grow the reef. Just about everything else wears it down.

There will be future information about



Coral Disease on Bonaire STINAPA map

CK23 in upcoming issues of The Bonaire Reporter. Until we learn more, what can we do, other than running around in circles and tearing our hair out?

First: be exceptionally careful about not making contact with the reef. Any additional injury or stress makes a coral colony more susceptible to CK23.

Second: sanitize your gear if you're going from one section of our reefs to another. Sanitize after diving Klein Bonaire, or north of Something Special, south of Te Amo, and especially if you dive off town, in between Something Special and Te Amo. Your dive operator will have sanitation setups ready; use them!

How to sanitize for yourself: rinse your gear in a 1 to 5 percent bleach solution for a few minutes. After that you can rinse it in fresh water so the colors don't fade.

Be sure to sanitize everything, including fins, weight pockets, wetsuits, dive skins, socks, lionfishing equipment, etc. Eventually, just as they did with Covid, things will settle down.

Last week I heard a presentation by a group which had made recommendations for our reef in 2017. The Marine Park adopted the recommendations, and the presentation showed how our reefs are getting better. They finished their study just about when CK23 first appeared.

Timing is everything.

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.



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: Closed on Mondays Apr. 3 - Nov. 27. Otherwise open daily. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.)

Mar. 23 - Apr. 3	BISW See page 1. Pro-Kids Windsurfing Mar. 31 - Apr. 2 at Sorobon / Extreme Biking - Apr. 1-2 / Beach Tennis Mar 30-Apr 2
Mar. 25 - Apr. 30	Simadan harvest festival
Friday, March 31	Taste of Bonaire 2023 in Rincon 6 - 10 p.m. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices. Folkloric music Foyan Boys and Grupo Eso.
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. 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.
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.

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/>



At Nos Zjilea Carol-Ann Soliano demonstrated how to tie a head wrapping scarf on Merredith Sambo while Izaïn Mercera looks on.

*The Reporter wishes you a
Happy Easter.*

Events, Meetings, Sports

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 Kaminda Djabou (behind Budget Marine). Open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

Bridgeclub Bonaire Wednesdays from 7:30 -10 p.m. All levels welcome. 796 2819, email peejeesee@gmail.com. <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

Pickleball. Wednesdays & Fridays 6 – 8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. Come join the fun and see what it is all about. A sport for all ages.



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: April 3 - 8 p.m. at Divi. April 10 - 7:30 p.m. at VIP Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook 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.

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, 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
Saturday, April 22	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. 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/

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
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
Mon. Apr. 3	STAR CLIPPER	0800-1500	North	180
Tues. Apr.4	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	0800-2300	South	3840
	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	1200-2100	North	2417
Wed. Apr.5	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. Apr.6	NORWEGIAN EPIC	0600-1300	South	5186
Fri. Apr.7	MARELLA EXPLORER 2	0630-1400	North	2253
Wed. Apr.12	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-1600	South	2852
Thurs. Apr.13	CARNIVAL SPIRIT	0800-1500	North	2680
	VOYAGER OF THE SEAS	1300-2100	South	3838
Mon. Apr.17	VISION OF THE SEAS	0700-1800	North	2435

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

It's harvest time. Time to enjoy the fruits and vegetables grown by your hands. And my own harvest does not look that big or that fancy as in the warehouses. But one thing I know for sure, it tastes way better, in fact it tastes the best, because I did it. And if you are a gardener like me, you know it's your effort, care and emotional connection you have with it. Look at the photos to get an idea of just a small part of my harvest.

Today I tried a little pumpkin stewed with garlic, onion, some ginger, curry, bayleaf, cumin seeds, black pepper, honey and a bit of salt; wow, you will never forget how delicious your own home-grown pumpkin tastes.

I can't forget to mention how thankful I am to Mother Earth for giving me fresh healthy nice tasting fruits and vegetables everyday. Besides the fact that I enjoy my own vegetables, fruits and flowers so much, I also share with others. It is so satisfying to see others so happy with a part of my harvest. I also save seeds from these Mother Earth goodies for the next planting season.

As you know we are still in the dry season, so don't plant too much right now. Let the soil recover from the last planting season. Prepare the garden with manure compost, dead leaves, charcoal and let it rest.

Hints. How to support plants to survive the drought.

First, trim plants and remove dead parts. This saves the plant's energy to let it survive the drought. Protect the plants by keeping topsoil moist and prevent water loss.

To keep the soil moist plant ground



cover plants; add wood dust, dry leaves, charcoal and ashes, cardboard box pieces, a lot of tea bags, dry seeds and old coconut fiber.

Moist dark places are a perfect habitat for bugs and ants. A great solution to prevent infestation is mixing in some coffee filters or used coffee grains.

Because of world inflation I keep a strict eye on my wallet. I use my fruits as multitask health and home products. Here are some ideas:

Papaya - leaves are good for tea, seeds are good for the colon, green papaya is good in a vegetable stew and for pickles and chutney.

Mango - green mango (dropped by the loros) is good for a mixed vegetable stew,



curry dahl, mix fruit juice and jam, and pickles and chutney.

Tamarind - good for syrup, juices, to cook with, jam, marmalade, candy, tea and chutney.

Lemon - squeezed lemon skins can be used to soak fresh fish in water to get rid of the fishy taste. Remove the skin from the white part of used lemon and add some of it in tea. Zest of lemons can be used in cake batter and cookies for a fresh taste.

Coconut - everything about coconuts is good to use. Use old coconut bark in tea is for a different taste. And in the garden it helps plants retain moisture. Burn the bark to ward off mosquitoes. It won't catch on fire, it just smokes and mosqui-

toes can not stand the smoke.

Make a bundle of the long leaf vines and sweep under furniture to get rid of dust. Make half coconut shells into containers and fill with sugar or water and hang them from a tree for the birds.

Pumpkin - flowers are good in an omelet or scrambled eggs. Green pumpkin is nice in a curry stew and the young leaves are good as a vegetable.

Moringa - use moringa leaf in a tea, as a mixed vegetable and in homemade bread. The flowers are nice in scrambled eggs, salads and the young pods (chopped) are good in soup. The seeds are good for inflammation.

Almond - use almond kernels as compost and to keep top soil moist. Almond nuts in the kernels are delicious, healthy and a good source of protein.

Plantain and bacoba plant - skin of green plantain is very good against diarrhea. Boil in water and drink this the whole day. The same with the very young plantain. The tree remnants and leaves are very good for moist top soil.

Enough hints? Start experimenting with your own garden plants. And meanwhile be aware of all the goodies we enjoy of Mother Earth.

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.



Visitors use correct VET address, get scammed anyway

The Reporter received a complaint from a couple who have been visiting Bonaire twice a year for years. The said they went to tourismtax.bonairegov.com to pay their Visitor Entry Tax. They believed they sent their personal and credit card information to a "secure" official site. But a company called Globovista responded. As promised, it sent their QR codes a week before departure and they had no problems when they deplaned. But afterwards they discovered a \$40 "surcharge" on their credit card bill. Globovista did not respond to their inquiries. They wonder. Did someone inside the organization reroute their application, or are outside hackers to blame? When the couple raised the issue on Bonaire, the authorities were dismissive rather than helpful.

(See their letter, page 5.) DMR

Less active hurricane season ahead

El Niño is back, so we can expect decreasing hurricane activity this year, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The cooler La Niña has been in charge for three years, causing more and stronger hurricanes than normal in the Caribbean. El Niño and La Niña are the names for the fluctuating weather patterns in the tropical Pacific that are caused by interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere. The hotter El Niño brings higher sea surface temperatures, the con-

dition that is more favorable for the development of storms and hurricanes in the Pacific but less favorable for development in the Caribbean and Atlantic. La Niña has the opposite effect.

The NHC designates June 1 through November 30 as the hurricane season. For this year the NHC's list of names for tropical storms are: Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Don, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harold, Idalia, Jose, Katia, Lee, Margot, Nigel, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince, and Whitney. DMR

Immigration Change: Dutch Language Requirements

Starting Jan 1, 2024, all new applications and existing renewals for Bonairean sedulas will require passing both a written and oral examination in Dutch as one of the requirements of the 10/10/10 transition. BN 🇳🇱

OLB has created a digital help desk

The Public Entity Bonaire has opened a new digital help desk for the public. It is a central point for contacting dedicated government staff members for answers and support for all services. A citizen can perform all necessary actions including applying for and collecting permits, all civil registration matters, among others, under one roof and with guidance.

People can contact the help desk by phone and WhatsApp at 715-5330, email at info@bonairegov.com, or via the website www.bonairegov.com. The help desk is open from Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Simultaneously, the OLB is preparing to build a physical Customer Service Center. The Customer Service Center will centralize all services of the OLB. In the near future, all service points of the OLB will be found under one roof in a single building. DMR

Six story parking structure planned for Bonaire

The OLB has announced it is planning to build a Customer Service Center where all service points of the OLB will be found under one roof, in a single building, and with guidance. A search is on for a site that will provide space for the Service Center building plus a six story parking structure to accommodate employees and customers. DMR 🇳🇱

Not an April Fools joke

Correction: The statutory minimum wage per month on Bonaire is \$1,236. We incorrectly reported it as \$3,708 in the March 15 Reporter. DMR

Animal Shelter Flea Market (Pakus) looking for a new home

After years of being housed rent-free through the generosity of the property owner, the Pakus will be homeless. If you know of a space for Pakus, or have any suggestions, please email us at: paulenamina@gmail.com



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Wine Factory Funrace was tough going

The Wine Factory funrace was held March 26, the first weekend of sports week. The 22 cyclists maneuvered the tough course at Barcadera that features a lot of climbing. The trails were in bad condition due to the significant amount of rain we've received of late. But mountain bikers love that. The sponsor also participated in this sporting event.

In the week prior to the event, volunteers did a lot of cutting work on the trails so that the mountain bikers could do their job well. Thanks to these people.

Elite – (3 x 9k)

First - Tom Homburg - 1.14.50

Second - Berry Poort - 1.20.33

Third - Fons de Bie - 1.25.21

Fun – (5 x 5km)

First - Huberto Cicilia - 1.26.54

Second - Bart van Oost - 1.32.17

Third - Eric vd Kitchen - 1.26.30

See our update pages for complete race results. *Frank Bohm*



Funrace sponsor Anne Spijker of The Wine Factory joined the ride.



Pet of the Week - Remie

This is Remie, he's an adolescent cat of 9 months old. He was found at the landfill, (yes, that's true, the landfill), together with his little brother Red when they were only 4 weeks old. They were too young to stay at the shelter so somebody took them home to foster them and feed them bottlemilk. Maybe that's why he's so attached to people. Remy is always in your neighborhood and talks to you if you ask him anything.

He's a lovely boy and looking for a good home.

Remy has been tested negative for FIV leukemia and had his vaccinations.

Come and visit him, I'm sure you fall in love with him the moment you see him!

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



Shelter News

DEMONSTRATIONS DISRUPT ANIMAL SHELTER BONAIRE

Last week chaos descended on Animal Shelter Bonaire. A group of delinquent kittens staged a "lie-in" protest in the kitten kresh. The group refused to move unless their list of demands was met. Their requirements included five new toys per kitten, two human cuddle sessions per day per kitten, and a daily allowance of fresh catnip (solely for "medicinal purposes" they claimed). Within hours, matters became worse. Taking the cue from their feline neighbors, members of the puppy village brigade staged their own "lie-in". Among the canine demands: fresh tennis balls daily, bacon-flavored Beggin' Strips twice a day and at least one belly rub per day per puppy.

Negotiations went on for hours, totally disrupting the generally tranquil ambience of the Shelter. Mediators were at an impasse and the accompanying photos give a birds eye view of the mayhem that ensued. The situation was finally resolved when the kittens and puppies, exhausted by the prolonged chaos, all fell asleep.

Jane Disko 🐾



Scuba Diving Cat

Bonaire holds the distinction of being the only country in the world that has a Scuba Diving Cat. Her name is Bubbles and she was trained by Brenda at H2O. This little feline takes to the water without any issues. She knows how to buddy breathe, but hasn't figured out the buoyancy procedures yet, so you may see her little footprints in the sand. She can be seen chasing Parrotfish and hanging out with other catfish.

BN 🐾

Enforcement of development restrictions much in the news

Four news stories broke recently regarding the enforcement of development regulations on Bonaire.

First, in the States-General the Party for the Animals attempted to delay passage of new environmental regulations for the Caribbean Netherlands. It insisted the legislation should not pass until "enforcement has been effectively, demonstrably and irrefutably guaranteed." It cited the failure at all levels of government to take action against the Chogogo Beach Resort's refusal to comply with the permit conditions for its artificial beach construction. (*Dossier Kingdom Relations*)

Second, State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management, Vivianne Heijnen, has proposed discussions with the OLB "to see what support is needed to take enforcement action and to ensure that the Chogogo Resort meets the permit conditions." (*Bonaire.nu*)

Third, the OLB announced an ongoing commitment to enforce sustainable coastal development. Supervision and Enforcement recently imposed a second penalty for failure to comply with the development rules. A fine of \$2,000 per week will be charged if the violation is not corrected. The press release does not disclose the name of the party that has been charged with the "second penalty."

The press release also said that OLB will monitor and enforce enforcement together with parties such as STI-NAPA. Supervision and Enforcement will visit a number of locations in the coming weeks to inspect compliance. The relevant permit holders have been notified by mail in advance. (*Government press release*)

Fourth, Resort Bonaire, which includes the planned Sunset Beach Resort, has an email reassuring its stakeholders that a hearing will be held on March 28 on the refusal of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) to issue a

building permit for the resort. What exactly is meant by "a hearing" is unclear. Apparently "an advisory committee" will discuss the government's rejection of a building permit and "issue an advice to the OLB."

Initially the government announced the Sunset Beach Resort project would receive a building permit. That stirred so much public opposition, and generated so much negative information about the project, that the permit was withdrawn. At the time Resort Bonaire had advertised that most of the units in the resorts were already sold. That was itself an admission of violation, since the regulations allow only rental accommodations at that location. (*BESreporter*)

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Beware. There's a new variation of the Visitors' Tax Scam. See pages 5 & 13.

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