



The three deputies of the 2023 Executive Council are shown above with the Lt. Governor. (L-R) Deputy Hennyson Thielman, Deputy James Kroon, Lt. Governor Nolly Oleana, Deputy Jolinda Duncan-Craane and Shuzelle Pieter, Clerk of the Island Council.

Coalition government official

In a signed agreement, the Union Patriotiko Boneriano (UPB) and the Movimentu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB) declared they have formed a governing coalition. In the March 15 election, the UPB won three seats, the MPB won two.

In the agreement the two parties declare a mutual intention “to commit themselves to achieving a solid local government for the next four years.” They also say they “want to take the necessary time to sit quietly at the table to conduct thorough consultations regarding the points to be made for the general interest of Bonaire.”

Oleana replaces Rijna as Lieutenant Governor

The new Lieutenant Governor of the Public Entity Bonaire is Nolly Oleana. Oleana has been serving as acting Lieutenant Governor since October, 2020. Before that he was head of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) for the Caribbean Netherlands. Outgoing Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna has been appointed special envoy of the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*

The Hague’s campaign against Caribbean corruption continues

With a new government installed on Bonaire, negotiations will begin to revise and update the administrative agreements between the central government and the municipality. Eliminating government corruption, both inadvertent and deliberate, will be one focus of the negotiations. The BES still lack a firm and unambiguous integrity policy. The negotiators will try to create legislation and procedures that allow the robust anti-corruption measures the Dutch already have in place in the Netherlands to be meshed with Bonaire’s laws and situation.

Minister Yesilgöz of Justice and Security outlined the government’s intentions in a letter this month to the House of Representatives. She explained that recommendations made by the Law Enforcement Council will be implemented. “Integrity and citizens’ trust in public administration are crucial for the proper functioning of the democratic constitutional state,” she said.

Yesilgöz affirmed the government’s support of the Land Policy Memorandum adopted by the Island Council of Bonaire last October. She praised “the quality of the processes within the spatial domain, including the entire chain of licensing, supervision and enforcement.”

The Law Enforcement Council recommended a legislative amendment that would make possible theme processing for official bribery investigations in the Caribbean Netherlands. Theme processing is a law enforcement tool used in the European Netherlands. It involves a continuous soft investigation to uncover information concerning serious crimes such as official bribery. Reports of possible malfeasance are kept and indexed in a so-called thematic register. Such information can later be processed and analyzed, possibly in combination with other information, in search of patterns that reveal likely corruption. The Police Data Decree on Bonaire does not allow theme processing and must be updated.

The Law Enforcement Council also recommended the passage of a Caribbean Netherlands version of the Public Administration Promoting Integrity Assessments Act (Bibob). The Bibob Act prevents license abuse, prevents Dutch government bodies from doing business with the wrong partners, and blocks permits that may be misused. The Act provides for a mechanism for combating organized crime through an administrative procedure. Recent negotiations have already produced concrete agreements and action points to prepare for a possible Bibob Act adapted to the Caribbean Netherlands.

The European Netherlands has a Whistle blower Protection Act. Because of terminology conflicts, the Act cannot be enforced the CN. The Law Enforcement Council recommends a version of the Act should be tailored to the needs of the islands.

Yesilgöz’s letter to the House acknowledges the substantial gains Bonaire has already made to promote integrity in the island government. The OLB’s 2023 budget provides for the hiring of more integrity coordinators and making more resources available to them. New civil servants now take an oath of office and attend an integrity workshop. By the end of last year, all civil servants had attended integrity awareness training and their bosses had received additional training on the manager’s role in integrity issues.

Bonaire’s Decentralized Management Promotion and Integrity Act came into effect on January 1. Among other things, that law requires deputies to have a Certificate of Good Conduct. All candidate deputies for the new Executive Councils will have to submit a Declaration on Behavior. The law also stipulates that job opportunities in the public administration in the Caribbean Netherlands must be publicized electronically. *DMR*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 10

The full text of Minister Yesilgöz’s letter can be found on Dossier Kingdom Relations
<https://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl/2023/04/18/onderzoek-naar-ambtelijke-corruptie-in-caribisch-nederland/>

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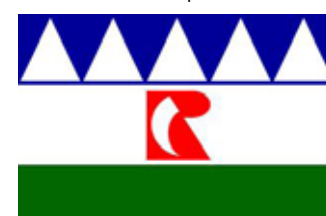
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**Dia di Rincon
 Sunday April 30**

Blue Lagun Cafe is fresh and fast



Owner Elise Arrindel-Weerstand

Inarguably one of the best additions to Bonaire's culinary offerings in the last years is Sweeti Bakery with its unique and innovative pastries, desserts and breads. And Sweeti's owner, Elise Arrindel-Weerstand, has once again raised the bar by opening her new Blue Lagun café on March 29. The Blue Lagun is made unique by its location at Bonaire International Airport (BIA), and by the fact that it is Bonaire's first healthy 'fast food' pick up and go place.

Elise said, "In the Netherlands you walk out of the train station and you can grab and go with something healthy and that is something I really missed."

Since Sweeti took off, Elise has been planning to add more locations as part of

a five year plan. When the Daboussi family approached her with a location, she was unsure if she was ready. Elise considered the possibilities, applied for an entrepreneur loan just to see what would happen and after thinking it wasn't going to happen, it did.

Elise said, "The airport is perfect as there are not a lot of choices in Belnem and the beaches are close so people can stop by and grab something on their way. People can check in or drop off their bags and they get to spend every last moment enjoying the views of Bonaire while waiting for their plane."

Blue Lagun includes not only a large deli style display cooler with fresh ready-made items to Grab & Go but other items

that can be ordered from the menu. The café has inside or outside seating on the expansive open-air deck. Customers can choose conversation type seating or chairs at tables, all with a great view of the incoming planes.

Elise said, "The Daboussi family supports local entrepreneurs. But it was important the café was in line with the luxury style of the building. They inspected and gave approval for the colors and the furniture."

The menu for Blue Lagun includes healthy salads with vegan and vegetarian options: Caesar chicken, poke tuna, pasta tuna, Greek couscous, Pasta pesto Parmesan, poke avocado (vegan) and / Buddha bowl (vegan). Warm items are available like lumpia, rissoles, pizza focaccia and, of course, croissants. Sweeti's famous desserts are on the menu along with all types of drinks including

beer and cocktails.

"We have a base menu for now but will expand to include more dishes. Everything is fresh and homemade from the bread to the salads," said Elise.

Blue Lagun celebrated Easter with an elite culinary brunch but that was just the first of many to come. Elise has plans for a special Mother's Day Brunch on May 14. And with seating for 55, Blue Lagun is open for personal brunches and catered events where you can choose the menu.

Elise has surrounded herself with an amazing staff that includes her husband Jeomar Arrindel who loves to cook almost as much as she does.

Blue Lagun is located at Daboussi Center at BIA and is open Tuesday – Saturday from 12 noon – 8 p.m. Call +599-701-1373 to order take away or plan your next catered event.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



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Central Dialogue sends The Hague a plan to reduce CN poverty

The Hague wants to introduce a social minimum income in the Caribbean Netherlands on January 1, 2024. Then the government can declare a statutory minimum wage, or WML. As in the European Netherlands, the WML will be set at 130% of the social minimum. Bonaire's Central Dialogue (CD), the consultation platform of employers, trade unions, and the local government, has proposed a roadmap to achieve that goal. The roadmap is consistent with the Cabinet's three-pronged policy: that incomes, the cost of living, and the state of the economy and labor market must all be taken into account.

The Central Dialogue concluded, first of all, that setting an acceptable WML by 2024 is impossible and may take many years to achieve. Rampant inflation is making all the economic indicators moving targets. And the introduction now of a WML that is 30% higher than the present temporary social minimum would deliver a nasty jolt to the island economy.

The CD believes that the cost of living must be structurally reduced. Until then, special arrangements such as allowances and subsidies should be used to increase the purchasing power of those who work. The CD proposes seven short-term measures to kick in on January 1. They would reduce costs and also create opportunities for Bonaireans to earn higher incomes.

1. Set a social minimum for the CN, then set benefits and retirement payments (AOV) and that level. 2. Set the WML at 130% of the social minimum. 3. Then reduce the WML to a level that is realistic but still improves the income of working people. 4. Set the tax-free amount at 130% of the social minimum. 5. Freeze business taxes

for five years so entrepreneurs can better predict their costs. 6. Improve collection of economic data so better administrative decisions can be made. 7. Eliminate the Sales Tax (ABB) rate on all foods. Consider increasing the tariff on luxury goods and alcohol.

The CD also recommended 12 more longer-term measures to be introduced over the next four years:

8. Set a rent subsidy policy for both social housing and the private sector like the one in effect the European Netherlands. 9. Accelerate the construction of homes in the social rental sector and cheaper owner-occupied homes. 10. Ensure a well-functioning public transport system. 11. Make energy and water cheaper. 12. Make it attractive for private individuals and businesses to invest in sustainability and environmental measures. 13. Provide a cheaper method of importing goods. 14. Limit the time outside laborers can remain and work on the island to discourage permanent settlement. 15. Allow only people who have a social or economic bond to settle on the island. 16. Draw up a housing ordinance that improves opportunities for home ownership and limit ownership of less expensive homes to people who have a social or economic connection with the island. 17. Require almost every private individual to have a bank account. 18. Enact a policy that reduces the percentage of workers without basic qualifications—a HAVO or VWO diploma or a diploma at MBO II level—to 25%. 19. Intensify education campaigns that reduce indebtedness and promote a healthy lifestyle. 20. Build a private sector pension plan that reduced the elderly's dependence on AOV.

DMR (File Kingdom Relations)

Ask Bob Bonaire real estate advice



We considering putting ownership of our property on Bonaire into a LLC. Should have done that when we purchased the property? Does this need to be done by a Notaris here on island? Thanks, Cheryl M.

Hi Cheryl - If you decide put your property into an LLC now, after you already own it, you have to pay the real estate transfer tax and legal fees just like you did when you purchase it, which will amount to about 6.5% of the value of your house.

Assuming the current value of your house is \$500,000, then it will cost you at least \$32,500 to do it now. Since most US citizens do this for tax purposes, you are unlikely to recover this extra over the long term as the net tax savings on an ongoing basis between personal ownership and ownership in an LLC is not that much.

If you are doing this for estate planning purposes, the odds are that you will likely resell the house before you die.

If you are planning to get residency on Bonaire in the future, then your property taxes go down from 0.91% of the value to 0.345% of the value, once you are a resident. However, If the house is owned by an LLC then it will never qualify for the resident property tax rate since it's not owned by a resident. An LLC cannot be considered a "resident" for property tax purposes.

I don't recommend this to my clients but it is best to check this with your tax advisor as every one's situation can be different.

*All the best, Bob Bartikoski,
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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

Bonaire's young athletes make the Island proud



A Bonaire under-14 team proved itself competitive in an international soccer competition, the Real Madrid foundation's World Challenge Tournament in Madrid during April 2 - 7. Matched against Spain, Uruguay, Mexico, Brazil and Turkey, Bonaire won two games and placed fourth. The names of the participants L-R: Back line:

Coach Naftali - Satiago Naranjo - Iker Casillas - Coach Jose Aparicio; Middle line: Santiago Conduetto - Dime-try Governour - Rayvion Simon - Aidem Mensing; Real Madrid Front line: Luca Sambo - Irvin Timber - Victor Fernandes - Anyerson Bernabela - Dylan Sint Yago

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Come to Rincon Day Sunday, April 30, 2023



POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

Apr. 12. Between 8 – 10 p.m. a black Senzo Sports scooter, with license plate number MF-4412 was stolen when parked at a bar on Kaya J.N.E. Crane.

Arrests

Apr. 23. A man, 41, was arrested on Kaminda Gुरु-bu for assault with a weapon. The suspect assaulted his uncle with a stone. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Apr. 19. In the early evening hours a young man, 17, was detained on Kaya Lourdes in Rincon for insulting a public official and for resisting arrest. He was riding a Raptor when he insulted an officer on duty. When informed that he had been apprehended, he attempted to run away.

Apr. 13. A man, 34, was detained. He ignored an order to stop for a routine check and drove on. After a brief chase, he was stopped and checked. He was unable to show a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, or identification. He was subsequently arrested for failing to meet a claim and for not being able to identify himself. Upon closer inspection, some articles were seized for further investigation.

Driving under the influence

Apr. 23. In the night hours a woman, 56, was arrested on Kaya Bonaire for driving under the influence. Her car was temporarily impounded.

Apr. 16. Around 6:30 p.m. a car and a moped collided in Amboina when the driver of the car took a turn and did not give way to the moped. The driver of the moped was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was subjected to a breathalyzer test. As a result, she was arrested for driving under the influence.

Apr. 14. In the night hours a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. The scooter probably drove in a forbidden direction and collided head-on with the car. The driver was checked by paramedics on the spot. He was also breathalyzed. As a result of this, he was arrested and his driver's license was confiscated.

KPCN would like to remind you to consume alcohol in moderation when you participate in traffic. This way you prevent unpleasant situations for yourself but also for others.

Traffic

Apr. 23. At approximately 12:45 a.m. on Kaya Internashonal the driver of a scooter driving towards Playa from Belnem lost control and fell. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Apr. 22. At around 3 p.m., a two-vehicle collision occurred on Miguel Pourier Boulevard (formerly Kaya Rincon). A truck collided with a crew-cab pickup truck that was pulling out of a parking lot. The driver of the

pickup was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The driver of the truck was ordered to do a breathalyzer test and was arrested on the basis of the result.

Apr. 21. In the early morning hours two cars collided collision on Kaminda Jato Bako when a driver who wanted to turn left collided with a car coming from the opposite direction. The occupants, including a 4-year-old child, were checked on the spot by the ambulance staff.

Apr. 20. On Kaya Korona the driver of the scooter suddenly braked and fell when a car in front braked hard. She was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Apr. 16. Around 6:30 p.m. a car and a moped collided in Amboina when the driver of the car took a turn and did not give way to the moped. The driver of the moped was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was subjected to a breathalyzer test. As a result, she was arrested for driving under the influence.

Traffic Control

Apr. 22. Routine traffic checks were held at various locations. During the checks, a number of trucks were checked. Four official reports were issued for endangering other road users during the transport of cargo and, among other things, for driving without a number plate. The operation of the turn signal and brake light was also checked. At the same time, other vehicles were also stopped and checked. Seven police reports were issued for driving without a license plate on the front bumper and one for calling while driving.

Apr. 19. In the afternoon, a traffic check was held at Kaya Internashonal. A total of 48 motor vehicles were checked and 17 fines were issued for driving without: a seat belt (6); valid insurance (4); a valid driver's license (1); a helmet (1). Tickets were also issued for calling while driving (4) and for not using a child's chair (1).

Apr. 15. In the afternoon, a traffic check was held at Kaya Nikiboko South. A total of 68 vehicles were checked and 30 fines were issued for driving without: valid insurance (17); a valid driver's license (6); a helmet (1); a seat belt (6).

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

Public Order

Apr. 23. In the night hours, the central control room received a report from the Maritime Operations Center (MOC) of the Coast Guard that a suspicious boat was detected at sea. It was on its way at high speed from Venezuela to Lagun on Bonaire. A patrol was immediately dispatched to the site and found four individuals with a baby. They were apparently waiting for the suspicious boat. When the people in the boat saw that there was movement from the patrols, they turned the boat around and headed towards Lac Cai. The patrols of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force, Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, Customs and the Coast Guard succeeded in intercepting the boat, but the suspects have now managed to flee. A few hours later, the police managed to arrest two suspects. After investigation of the boat, it turned out that 37 bags filled with conch (karko) were on board. These were handed over to Customs.

A total of six people have been arrested in connection with this case. It concerns four men: a 53-year-old man with initials C.B.A., a 48-year-old man with initials S.S.A., a 57-year-old man with initials J.J.M. and a 44-year-old man with initials R.G.F.T. Two women were also arrested: a 30-year-old woman with initials J.J.C.A. and a 26-year-old woman with initials D.M.G.V.

The baby has been handed over to a family member in agreement with the Youth Care Department. Two vehicles were also seized. The case is under investigation.

Apr. 20. At around 1 a.m. the KPCN received a report of noise nuisance at a house party on Kaya Sabana. When the party continued despite been given two warnings about the noise, the police confiscated the two speakers.

Apr. 16. In the afternoon hours a kite accident occurred during a kite competition. A large kite fell on a child who was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Apr. 13. The KPCN received a report of a swimmer in distress at dive site Sampler at Klein Bonaire. Occupants of a few boats tried to resuscitate the victim before the Maritime Hub (Coast Guard, Customs, KMar and KPCN) brought the victim ashore. The paramedics took over CPR, but to no avail. The medical examiner confirmed the death of the female victim with initials J.M.S.T. born July 14, 1954.



Community Police Officers introduced to the island

The Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) is now assigning Community Officers to the different districts on Bonaire. The officers are tasked with getting to know the residents and becoming familiar with the different challenges in each community. As they become more familiar with the districts, the police will be able to intervene more quickly and knowledgeably when problems arise. See facebook page: [Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland](#). DMR



WEB APOLOGIZES FOR ACCIDENT IN RINCON

The Board of Directors of the Water – en Energiebedrijf Bonaire (WEB) was informed of a serious traffic accident on the road to Rincon, on Saturday, April 22nd, in which a WEB company vehicle was involved. An internal investigation into this accident is currently underway. The Management Board will take appropriate measures internally with regard to this matter, if the unsafe traffic on site was due to the way in which this company vehicle participated in traffic.

Sea Sapphires: Glitter of the Sea

by Bud Gillan, Educator & Researcher

Say What?

Remember 20 years ago when no one knew about ostracods and their firefly-like light show each month? Sea Sapphires are like that, but weirder. I surveyed a lot of people on Bonaire, and elsewhere, including many very knowledgeable reef folks. Only two had ever seen or even heard about them. I guarantee you, once you see one, it is addictive. To make sure we are on the same page of reef taxonomy it is essential to see what I am talking about. These amazing zooplankton can manipulate the UV light spectrum to iridescent blue, red, yellow, green, violet... or become invisible. Take a quick peek to see what I am talking about.

Google Sapphirina. Go to Images and see what they really look like (or don't). There are two online articles that are helpful in our investigation and like all real science, knowledge is constructed like building blocks. First is from the American Chemical Society, The Secret to the Sea Sapphire's Colors and Invis-

ibility. Second is from Scientific American "How Do Sea Sapphires Become Invisible?"

How Cool Was That?

Everyone I showed pictures of sea sapphires wanted to know where on Bonaire they could be found. These zooplankton with their glitter-like shape, iridescent colors, and ultra-thin packaging are a challenge to find but snorkeling at the surface is my favorite way. They are also reef and benthic creatures. Sapphires require patience and stillness to see them in their "on" phase, otherwise they are completely invisible even if you are right next to them. A bit of hide and seek on their part. Once you see them stay still as any movement may make them change their emitting wavelengths. Their iridescence is spectacular!

Salps...Yum!

Sea sapphires are jelly eaters, particularly salps. They love to live on/in and



©Ned DeLoach

consume salps. Look for them in the salp chains that are so abundant on Bonaire. If salps are new to you, you are not alone. They are a major food source for turtles as well. They are gelatinous organisms that do not sting. Sea sapphires live in them so you may see them there.

Bluewater Snorkeling and Zooplankton.

Out in the bluewater (bring a flag), over and past the reef drop-off is a world of sealife few have seen in the top one meter. It is in this surface ecosystem that I find the most sea sapphires and all kinds of other creatures. Larvals (think babies), post-larvals (juveniles), and young adults thrive in this soup of life. These top surface-dwelling (neustonic is the technical term) organisms, vertebrates and invertebrates, provide a never-ending potpourri of life. Much of it is unclassified and unknown. A full-scale investigation (post COVID 19) by teams of citizen scientists and scientists working with The Smithsonian Institute, Museum of Natural History, universities, and laboratories, collecting data, pictures, specimens, to understand this microworld is underway. Magnificent new books about bluewater and blackwater creatures are emerging. Sea sapphires are part of this story...and

indeed an exciting and interesting part. Now you can be part of it too, a bluewater buddy so to speak...a citizen scientist helping to understand this new cosmos.

Neustonic Exchanges.

An incredible understanding is emerging from the surface ecosystems of zooplankton and phytoplankton. These organisms contribute to the greatest exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen in photosynthesis and respiration on the planet. It is not just the benthic, very deep zones that we don't fully understand, it is the neustonic few inches that we need to understand and preserve. Sea sapphires exist in all their beauty in a niche we can comprehend and enjoy. If you see one, drop me an email for my research. Where, when, color, and pictures too....

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@gmail.com



If you are reading *The Reporter* online, click on this photo for the American Chemical Society's YouTube video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26kus22RaTo>

Divi displays Bonairean hospitality

Last Sunday, April 23, from 12 – 9 p.m., Divi Flamingo Beach Resort brought the upcoming cultural holiday Dia di Rincon to life for their guests with a Bonairean market featuring local crafts people. Guests enjoyed traditional creole food, live music from the Foyan Boys and an evening of cultural dancing.

Divi employees Gina Aleo in human resources and Cynthia Winklaar in accounting came up with the idea of extending Dia di Rincon activities to allow guests to enjoy traditional Bonairean hospitality and culture. All Divi employees wore the traditional cultural dress and joined into the activities.

Aleo said, "We find that our guests come to Bonaire because they love our island and want to interact with the locals and enjoy the culture. Not all will be here or make it to Dia di Rincon, so we are trying to get them involved in this cultural month."

Divi employees have done something uniquely Bonairean for their guests every week of April. Next weekend the resort is sponsoring a bus for transport to the real Dia di Rincon on April 30.

Story/Photo Julie Morgan



L-R: Gina Aleo, Eladia Engelhardt, Nell Martines and Cynthia Winklaar

Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten
Building ruins

For many years, the general belief on Bonaire was, that the unlimited building of hotel rooms would lead to unlimited richness. Investors from all over the world poured their money into the island, hoping for fat profits. Low interest rates, exploding real estate prices, the Dutch government paying large sums to her citizens for Covid related losses and skyrocketing energy rates: it was all money for nothing. At first, tourists kept pouring in. But now, suddenly, the dream seems to be over. Apparently, Bonaire has to rethink her future.

It's not so much that tourists completely forgot about the island. Their numbers even showed, at least in 2022, a slight growth compared to 2019, from approx. 158,000 to 171,000 (Data: Reisbizz.nl). Deceiving? The fact that the number of visitors increased, albeit by a modest 8.2%, might give a false feeling of confidence in the market.

Based on the above numbers, the occupancy rate reached about 75% in 2019, slightly less than the 77% that is considered an acceptable minimum in the Netherlands, but still a percentage enabling you to survive. During 2022 however, the occupancy suddenly went south compared to pre-Covid, despite the growth in visitor numbers, to 65%. Predictions for the second quarter of 2023 are pointing towards a further decline, even as far as 59%. (Data: Bonhata).

In August 2019, during a conference attended by BIA-president Hillen and tourism deputy Tjin Asjoe, the participants wisely pointed out that airlift had to be increased, because '... there's room for another 600 hotel rooms ... (and they) ... have to be filled ...' (Bonaire.nu).

So, airlift went up, visitor numbers increased. The number of available hotel rooms at that time was 1700. With the extra 600 rooms the occupancy rate would hover around the mid-seventies, acceptable, the growth in the number of tourists corresponding with the increase in hotel rooms.

But it didn't stop. Suddenly everybody started building like crazy. Right now, there's 2800 rooms available, an increase of 1100, a 65% growth in three years. And there's more to come, much to the delight of the local builders. But, the occupancy rates will keep on racing down, because there's no-one to fill those rooms.

The TCB, the actual ruler of Bonaire, is, after years of effortless successes, struggling to find more visitors to the island. They probably won't succeed. Where the American market is stable, the European isn't. Americans come to Bonaire to dive. They're the repeaters.

The European market however, mainly consists of lower-budget visitors, looking for sun and entertainment, which they found, in pre-Covid years, in southern Europe. They're the ones that won't come back. They were lured to Bonaire during the first months after Covid, when the rest of the world was still off-limits to them. They were told that Bonaire was exciting, beautiful and warm.

Now, look at them when you see them walking around Playa, or the various roadsides, or enjoying their happy hour, absorbed in their respective cellphones. They all seem bored. They found out, Bonaire is, other than Turkey, Spain or Greece, far away, expensive, dead boring and way too hot. They came for the great beaches they saw on the Bonaire tourism websites, for the relaxed atmosphere, the cocktails and the food.

They must be disappointed in what they find here. Bonaire, despite the tempting pictures on the web, doesn't have more than about a mile of sandy beaches in total, the only ones still freely accessible being saturated with bottle caps, cigarette butts and sperm.

They have to pay to enter the island (75 bucks – equal to the airfare to Barcelona), and they have to pay to snorkel. Because they didn't rent a car, they have to walk roadsides that are unpassable on foot in the scorching heat over distances that looked reasonable in the travel agencies' leaflets ('... 15 minutes to the picturesque little capital'. By car, suckers! BY CAR!) but appear to be endless when you're walking in the sun. When they get their groceries, they pay twice what they're used to, and when they fall seriously ill, they're transported to Colombia.

I think the propaganda selling Bonaire to European tourists stopped working. Besides, to fill today's hotel rooms, the airlift from Europe will have to double. It won't. Bonaire was supposed to be something special, remember? Not like four planes per day.

At the same time, back home, interest rates increase, real estate sales go down, fuel prices and airfares are rising, AMS Airport's capacity is to be reduced, and southern Europe has opened up again. It's close, it's cheap, and the service is great. They don't have trainees there.

Isn't it about time to stop building hotels for guests that won't come? It's like throwing money into the ocean.

Maybe, we can turn the finished buildings into social housing projects instead. It might help solving one of the more serious problems we're dealing with at the moment.



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.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Harvesting fruits and pumpkins

I was disappointed when after the heavy rainy season there were hardly any young fruit on my fruit trees. I thought the heavy showers had washed away all the trees' blossoms and it was a bad fruit year. How surprised I was when suddenly all my fruit trees bloomed. It started with a few stems in blossom but then there were more and more and now the trees are bathed in blossoms. And it's even more than in other years. For example, I have never seen so many blossoms on the mango tree. Also the star fruit, cherry, the soursop, plantain and guyaba trees; all surprised me with the number of blossoms.

Now I am curious how many ripe fruits I will end up with. Everyday I see a whole colony of lorans in the calabash tree trying to get their beak into the hard calabash fruit to the soft part inside. But another enemy is the dry season. I know from other years that with Bonaire's drought, the fruits do not ripen well. They become small, less juicy and less tasty. Whatever I get it's always okay. I know the fruit is the best that there is.

For weeks I have already enjoyed my pumpkins. They are wonderful with beautiful, deep orange insides and a great taste. I eat everything from the pumpkin. Since I have grown it myself with no repellents or artificial stuff I can safely consume the skin and seeds as well as the fruit.

I wanted to know if the seeds had any health value so I looked it up. There is so much written about the seeds that I will never throw away any pumpkin seeds again. Here is what I learned so you don't add them to your Selibon container.



I eat them raw because I like the mellow taste and nothing will be lost by any kind of cooking process. Here are the best golden goodies of pumpkin seeds.

- May support blood sugar balance, so helpful in preventing diabetic complications.
- Heart healthy and may well be beneficial for prevention of cardiovascular disease; regulate blood pressure and improve cholesterol levels.

- Good source of antioxidants which may help protect against disease and reduce inflammation.
- Prevents or treats urinary disorders; it can help treat symptoms of an overactive bladder.
- Very high in healthy magnesium, zinc and unsaturated fats which have a big impact on the blood pressure and blood sugar level to keep your heart healthy.
- A good source of fiber which can reduce the risk of diabetes and obesity.
- May improve sperm quality because of a rich source of zinc.
- Helps to improve sleep because of the magnesium and tryptophan which are associated with better sleep.
- You can add pumpkin seeds to smoothies, yogurt, salads, soups, cereals and use in baking breads, cakes and oven meals.

Pumpkin seeds are highly nutritious and full of powerful antioxidants. My advice: USE THEM.

They say, 'Your food is your medicine, otherwise medicine will be your food.' So be smart, plant pumpkin seeds and use pumpkin seeds.

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.

Help out two major fundraisers on Kings Day, Thursday, April 27.

Kiwanis Kralendijk Radiothon & Rotary Fair

See pages 12 and 13.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Sponges, Corals, and Divers

Sponges have fascinated me for years (as you may know from reading Reef Glimpses). When I saw Gary Barrett's Did You Know piece about sponges in the last Bonaire Reporter, my first reaction was, "Woo hoo, another sponge fanatic on Bonaire!"

My second reaction was, "What happened to the detached sponge?" I wrote to Gary, and learned that the sponge ended up in a rock (not living coral) crevice. That's the perfect place; the sponge cells will attach to the rock. In a few years, Gary should be seeing new tubes emerging from the original one.

My third reaction was, "I never thought about doing any of these things!" Not that I'd know how to check salinity or chlorophyll even if I had the equipment... It turns out that the only issue I think about is, "Is there something I can do to help?" Gary's more of a scientist, I'm more of a nurturer, I guess, although Gary also worked with the original Sponge Reattachment Project way back in the 1990's. There's plenty of overlap between science and nurturing.

The Sponge Garden at Karel's has similarities to the Sponge Reattachment Project, especially in that it also uses detached sponges. One major difference is that the scraped North Pier pilings had supported life for decades, while the Sponge Garden pilings were new. Happily, though, the newness of the pilings hasn't bothered the sponges at all. Many of the earliest tied sponges are already firmly attached, and the pilings with sponges attract many more fish and crabs and other critters than the other pilings. Also, at least two small pink sponges have begun on their own.

There is nothing especially aesthetically pleasing



A scrawled filefish is being cleaned by a juvenile queen angelfish at the sponge garden at Karel's pier. Photo Dee Scarr

about sponges tied onto pilings, as you can see from the photo. That's a minor downside, though, considering that each sponge -- having detached and sunk to the bottom -- was likely to perish. In twenty years or so those sponges will blend right in with the "natural" growth on the piling, providing a base for much of it. During those twenty years or so the attached sponges will be able to filter water for oxygen and food, and to reproduce.

There isn't a lot we can do, while diving right now, to actively help the reef animals. The problems presented by coral killer diseases make the consequences of

stressing corals much worse than ever before. For the first time ever, the Dive Friends Quarterly Clean Up was held on land, because damage by the little underwater trash we have here is much less significant than the possible effects of a large group of divers.

It's astonishing to learn that -- also for the first time ever -- Florida is sending living stony corals to aquaria all over the US. The reasoning, as I understand it, is this: just in case all our corals of these species succumb to this disease, we will send what we believe are healthy specimens to be isolated until the danger from the disease is mitigated.

They're hoping to create a "captive" population of corals to preserve their different species.

The World Wildlife Fund lists 17 critically endangered species of vertebrates, from places as far apart as Africa, Asia, and the Gulf of California. Contrast that to more than 20 species affected by the coral killer disease just in the Caribbean, just in the last few years. Yikes.

"Yikes," was also what we thought when lionfish invaded the Caribbean. The Bonaire National Marine Park had a plan in place for the lionfish arrival, however, and we're doing a great job of keeping them at bay. The lionfish plan evolved in the light of experience, of course, as will the plan against coral disease, so check STINAPA.org regularly to make sure your decontamination procedures are up to date, and use them.

A tiny price to pay to visit Bonaire's reefs.



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

DCNA confirms that Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease is here

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) is a highly infectious coral disease that has spread rapidly throughout the Caribbean. First reported in Florida in 2014, this disease affects more than 20 species of stony corals, including important reef builders like pillar coral, brain coral, and star coral. Within the Dutch Caribbean, Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease has been confirmed now on five of the six islands, starting on St. Maarten in 2018, St. Eustatius in 2019, Saba in 2021 and most recently in Bonaire and Curaçao (March/April 2023). The outbreak of this coral disease may have significant ecological, economic, and social impacts within the Dutch Caribbean.



Brain Coral with SCTLD. Photo STINAPA

methods and corals can be stored in tanks for future restoration efforts. Existing management strategies to build the resilience of coral reefs to threats such as diseases are now especially important - like not touching corals, improving water quality, reducing fishing pressure and adhering to ballast water management protocols.

How to help

Residents and tourists can also help. Divers are asked to avoid infected dive sites and properly disinfect gear between dives. Please note that for different dive gear there are different recommendations on how to decontaminate. If possible, it is best to limit dives to one site per day and fully dry equipment before re-entering the water. Sightings (photo, location, date) can be reported to the protected areas management organizations or the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Program (AGRRA). *Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)*

Response Options

Various organizations are working to combat this coral disease by identifying causes and developing management strategies. The disease spreads quickly via the water or direct contact with infected corals. Time is

pressing and targeted management actions to try to limit the spread of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease include closing sites and decontaminating dive gear. Authorities can treat corals in the water according to best practice

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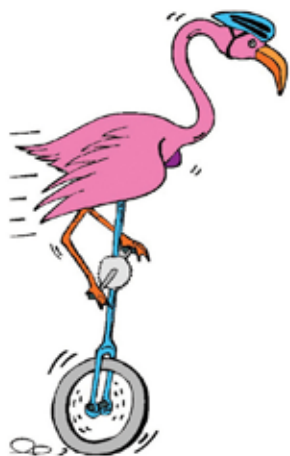
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Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Easy therapy

Recently a friend sent me an interesting app. She knows I am always interested in ideas for therapy or for just doing something useful for daycare staff.

In most daycare facilities you get to work with new and modern artifacts or contraptions. These are always hard to get and very expensive.

A young therapist wanted to be actively useful and not spend a lot of money. So he decided to use whatever was available: tables, chairs, cartons, clothes, etc. Every item can be made useful for all kinds of exercises.

A table can be made into a bowling alley. A chair can be anything you want. Needing a ball? Roll two pairs of socks into a ball and there you go. Want to play billiards? Use your cane as a cue. Want to throw a ball, but are not able to do so? Use a blanket and have the players each hold an end, throw a ball in the middle and let the players move the blanket up and down or sideward.

Want to play music? Get a lot of glass bottles, fill them with water in different heights, get a spoon or fork and play on... one can do the same with glasses

Use the table as a foosball field and use canes as sticks and apples as balls.

Fill a large rectangular pot with water, give the players a straw and use ping pong balls to “kick” the balls around the “field”.

Get into the kitchen and see what is available. Sit down to ponder what you can do with these materials and get to work.

You will see how much fun this is. And it also gets the patients thinking and stimulates them to think of therapy as work. This way therapy will be fun.

Nothing available? Use your patients. Have them clap their opposite’s hands, comb each other’s hair, etc.

Go into the garden and have a good look. Get nice stones or pebbles to paint. One can make beautiful pictures with different colors of sand and glue. Pick nice flowers, leaves and get nice pieces of wood. Dry the leaves and flowers in a book and glue them all on the backside of a big carton.

Make the therapy sessions into fun ones. Be creative and keep searching. Exchange ideas with colleagues and friends.

Make reports about the activities and invite colleagues to do the same.

And always make use of your patients. They know and want more than you know or can even imagine. It will make their sessions more fun to participate in and they will stay motivated. Take them seriously.

And when you turn some sessions into competition, it will be even more fun.

You can do with all of these activities with the elderly, kids, patients recovering from strokes or operations, etc. But also just for the fun of it. Make pictures and enlarge them to hang as posters in the rooms for all visitors to admire.

This will make you love your work even more. Have fun.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at 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

Mind your body mind and your posture

The way we stand has a literal meaning, a metaphorical meaning and a physiological meaning. The physical posture we adopt is both cause and consequence of internal processes.

Good posture respects the natural curvatures of the spine, a curve in the neck and another in the waist area, from the side the shoulders are aligned with the hips, knees and ankles. Seen from the front the vertebrae fall in a vertical line one above the other. Good posture saves energy, prevents back pain and facilitates lung function. Also, good posture influences our mood, it’s a round trip. When we feel down or helpless, we tend to slouch our shoulders and look down. If we consciously correct our posture we can have a positive effect on our mood.

In 2014, a study was carried out where two groups participated. Both were asked to read the same series of words on a computer screen. Some of the words had a positive connotation and others a negative connotation. One group had their computer placed on a desk at eye level and the other group had their computer placed on the floor, so they had to lean down to read. The ones who

had the computer on the floor tended to remember more negative words and the ones who had the computer at eye level remembered more positive words. This would seem to indicate that the position introduces a positive or negative bias into our perception of reality. Since we live in an interpretive reality, this would confirm that when we smile the world also smiles at us.

The posture influences the functioning of the endocrine system. Sitting in a chair with cross-legged, and shrugged shoulders decreases testosterone levels. This hormone has to do with self-confidence, needed to confront an enemy or face a challenge. In the National Geographic docuseries Brain Games, experts in cognitive science, neuroscience and psychology perform experiments and explore various components of the human brain. In one episode they showed some examples of how body posture affects the way we feel. Couples in Las Vegas were invited to pose for photographs. One was asked to stand with shoulders slumped, eyes on the ground and brows furrowed. The other person was asked to smile, stand with their legs apart, chest and arms open. They had to hold the posture for a few minutes. When finished, they were each paid 50 dollars and offered the chance to double their money by betting on a roulette wheel. Most of the people who had taken the expansive position decided to bet and when asked what led them to

decide that they all said they felt lucky. People who had held the shrug pose were more reluctant to gamble and said they didn’t feel lucky.

You can do the test yourself and stand with your shoulders rolled back, chest up, your eyesight leveled and your arms open for five minutes and check how you feel. Then do the opposite, holding a retracted posture for five minutes and check if you notice any difference. Don’t expect radical sensations, but if you have your internal perception tuned in, you should notice the difference.

Maintaining a good posture makes you look better, reduces the chances of pain and injury, regulates blood pressure, the secretion of some hormones and improves lung function. Remembering to maintain a good posture is an excellent “body- fullness” practice, since it brings you back to your body and to the present moment each time you correct your posture.



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.



Correction

Covid shots are available on every third Tuesday only. They are given at the Public Health office by the stadium. Appointments can be made by calling 0800 0800 any day from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-12 noon and 1:30-5 p.m. The last print issue of *The Reporter* said in error that the shots were available three days a week.

The Hague is satisfied that nature is safe from Bolivia and freight port developments

The Hague is satisfied that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect nature from being harmed by the construction of the proposed container port at Hato and the proposed large residential development in Bolivia. State Secretary Van Huffelen said that both projects have yet to submit their Environmental Impact Assessments and that other laws and regulations also apply for the protection of nature and the environment. She was replying on behalf of her own and other ministries to written questions submitted by four MPs from Party for the Animals. *DMR (File Kingdom Relations)*

Flights between Brazil and Curaçao

Azul Airline will begin weekly service in June between Curaçao and Belo Horizonte in Brazil. Curaçao is Azul’s first Caribbean destination. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Bonaire continues to get more crowded

On January 1 Bonaire’s population was 24,090, a increase of 1,517 (7 percent) in 2022. Births on the island exceeded deaths by only 73. Most of the newcomers were born outside the Caribbean Netherlands, mostly in the European Netherlands, on Curaçao, in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia and the United States. *DMR*

Sorobon pier to be renovated

The fishermen’s pier at Sorobon is being renovated and will be closed for six to seven weeks. The OLB and Stinapa have created space for some of the fishermen’s boats to tie up temporarily elsewhere.

Piskabon, the fishing cooperative, says it appreciates the alternative arrangements for securing their boats. It does want assurance, however, that the pier will be refurbished in accordance with the criteria STINAPA has set. *DMR*



Work on the solar field to be completed by the end of summer

Construction is proceeding on the promised solar farm being built adjacent to the Contour Global power plant near Bopec. After six years of planning and preparation, site clearing for the project began at the end of 2022. The 10,816 solar panels are already being mounted. The panels will supply ten megawatts of electricity, enough to supply 5,000 households. The project is to be completed before the end of the summer.

Contour Global, which owns the wind farm, is co-financier, along with Bonaire Fuel Terminals. BFT is owned by the

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK), the state participant in the project. EZK’s contribution, 10 million euros, will also pay for the large battery that’s required.

Contour Global, BBT and the OLB are also discussing the renewal and expansion of the existing wind farm, which is approaching the end of its life. The sun and the wind will provide around eighty percent of the island’s energy. WEB, the local government company, will distribute the electricity. *DMR*



Photo Brad Swanson

Brad Swanson is a little star crazy



Photo Brad Swanson

Brad Swanson never noticed the stars before moving to Bonaire in 1975. Today, 47 years later, he is called Brad the Starman by his friends. When he first came to Bonaire from New Jersey, Brad worked as a summer intern for Trans World Radio (TWR) because he believed in their mission.

“I worked at nights and would bicycle back to Hato from TWR. Back then it was so dark down south. No houses, no hotels, no nothing, it was pure starriness,” said Brad.

His interest piqued when the homeowner of a dock that is today owned by The Black Durgen Inn pointed out the constellations.

Brad said, “I learned they come up at the same time of the year. I’d been waiting to see the Big Dipper come up and the Southern Cross. Apart from all the science and physics, it’s just cool to see the seasons change.”

After graduating college, Brad returned to Bonaire to work full time for TWR in 1976. He was still on the night shift but working the shortwave and medium wave transmitters. And he was still looking at stars on his starry bike ride from down south to Hato.

In the beginning Brad enjoyed looking up at Bonaire’s stars. But by 1977 he bought binoculars and then a telescope in 1978 because there was so much he wanted to see.

Brad said, “One of the first stars people notice in the sky is Sirius Major. It’s the brightest star and called the Dog Star. I really wanted to see what that fuzzy thing was next to it. I made a whole mental list of things. Part of the challenge is just finding stuff.”

To future stargazers, Brad says, “First buy some binoculars.

They are something you can easily and comfortably hold. And some kind of star chart you can take with you.”

Brad recommends Stellarium for your computer and phone. It’s free. The user puts in their location, and Stellarium shows you your sky. There are several other good star gazing programs but they usually require a subscription. If you are interested in a telescope, get one with the “Go To” function that will automatically align with the star you point at.

In the early days as a photographer Brad tried using his film camera loaded with 400 ASA to capture the stars but wasn’t thrilled with the results. It wasn’t until digital cameras surfaced providing a viewfinder, a pretty much unlimited shot count and advanced technology that he got really interested in star photography.

Brad said, “My favorite time on Bonaire [for star gazing or astral photography] is February. It is a bit cooler, the rainy season hasn’t started and the sky is clear. July and August are my favorite times to see the Milky Way and the Southern Cross. The stuff is really dramatic. Summer is the best for photos. We get really picky. Always looking for a cloud free and moon free night.”

His favorite site on Bonaire for star viewing back in the early days was Red Slave and it still is today because as he says, “It’s always been so good.” Another go to spot is Rooi Lamoenchi.

Brad shares his ‘star’ enthusiasm with friends and most anyone. He regularly takes out groups of people interested in viewing and learning more about stars.

In 1981 Brad married his wife Sandra who he had known as the kid sister of a friend back in New Jersey. Sandra’s parents were missionaries on Bonaire in the 1960’s. She returned in the 80’s to rediscover her roots and met Brad again by accident. Brad saw her as far more than a kid sister this time and they were married.

Brad continues to work at TWR but you won’t see him riding his bike at 3 a.m. from down south to Hato. Brad has been a part of TWR for over 48 years. After holding various broadcasting and studio positions, he is now Program and IT director for TWR Bonaire.

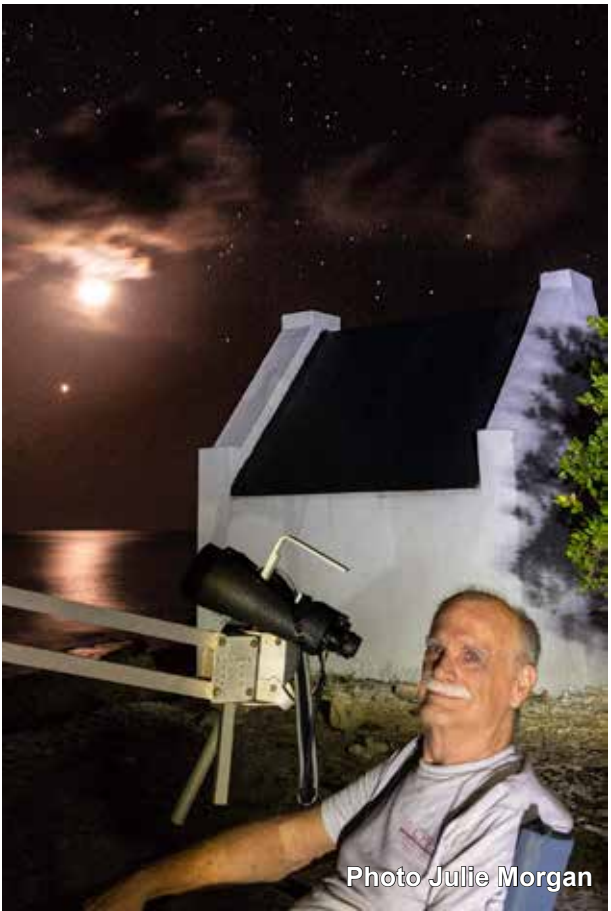


Photo Julie Morgan

(TWR) reaches 100 million potential listeners worldwide and broadcasts in 240 languages. People in Venezuela, Cuba, Columbia, Brazil and The Caribbean tune in to TWR Bonaire to listen to Christian radio programs. TWR was established in 1964.

Julie Morgan



Photo Brad Swanson

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://www.facebook.com/terrarmuseumbonaire/>

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. 25 - Apr. 30	Simadan harvest festival
Thursday, April 27	<p>King's Day Public Holiday. Much is closed. The day commemorates the birthday of Willem Alexander, King of the Netherlands.</p> <p>Rotary Club Bonaire Grand Fair in Plaza Wilhelmina 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. See poster page 13.</p> <p>Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk's fourth annual Radiothon to raise money for baby food and care packages. See below.</p> <p>Book signing of Davin Goodwin's mysteries at VIP diving 77 Julio A. Abraham Boulevard. 4 - 6 p.m. All proceeds to STINAPA'S Junior Ranger program.</p>
Friday, April 28	Shopping Night in Kralendijk 6-9 p.m 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Apr. 28 - June. 17	Terramar Museum Exhibition In Honor of the Ocean Opening April 28, 5 - 8 p.m. See page 13.
Saturday, April 29	<p>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.</p> <p>Terramar Museum Free film: The Last Human 7 - 10:30 p.m. Limited seating. Reserve: +599 701 4700 terrarmuseum@gmail.com See poster page 13.</p>
Sunday, April 30	Rincon Day Dia di Rincon is Bonaire's biggest festival of the year. As it is a legal holiday, most businesses and government offices will be closed.
Saturday, May 6	Pop up Art Galley Artist Vanessa Peralta selling her stained glass art and paintings. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Sunday, May 14	Mother's Day
Monday, May 15	Personal Income Tax deadline May 15.
Saturday, May 17	The Big Live Nature Quiz Family & Friends Edition: 6-7 p.m. for people in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. The online quiz is in English, with Dutch, Papiamentu and Papiamentu subtitles. https://dcnanature.org/quiz/
Sunday, May 28	Classical concert. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. https://classicalmusicbonaire.com

Come to the Rotary Fair on King's Day

Rotary Club Bonaire is holding its Grand Fair on April 27 from 9 a.m. to 3/4 p.m. in Wilhelmina Plaza. As always, proceeds from the fair will allow the Rotary to continue their service to Bonaire's community.

At the fair you will find new and used merchandise. Furniture, construction materials, household articles, decorations, clothing, shoes, books and lots more will be on sale at very attractive prices. The fair also offers great entertainment for the kids and family. A great BBQ is served by El Mundo.

Past Rotary projects include: • Mediabus for children and adults to support reading and writing; • "Rotary doet" to help people in and around their homes. • A yearly kids weekend at Slagbaai • support for Alzheimer's foundation and • many more small scale projects.



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. Wednesday evenings Apr. 19 - June 14 The Stoked Men and Women Doubles League.

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All playing levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (only whatsapp text messages), bridgeclubbonaire@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: 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 7:30 p.m. April 24 at VIP; May 1 at Dive Friends Yellow Submarine. **BREAK- BACK AGAIN FOR** May 22 at Divi (8 p.m.); May 29 at VIP (7:30 p.m.) 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. See facebook.

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

First Annual Yoga & Wellness Week June 19 to 25.

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

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, May 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. Apr.26	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR	0600-1400	South	530
Sun. Apr.30	CELEBRITY SUMMIT	0800-1800	North	2450
Wed. May.3	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0800-2200	South	4683
Fri. May.5	VISION OF THE SEAS	0830-1800	South	2435
Tues. May.9	DISNEY MAGIC	0700-1800	South	2834
Wed. May.10	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0730-1600	South	2852
Wed. May.24	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION (LAUNCHING 2022)	0800-2200	South	5282
Wed. May.31	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683

Terramar Museum: 'In honor of the ocean'

The grand opening of the exhibition 'In honor of the ocean' will take place at the Terramar Museum on April 28 from 5 to 8 p.m. With the musical accompaniment of Hôfi Kultural and together with various nature organizations and local artists, Bonaire's historical and intimate connection with the ocean will be presented.

The exhibition includes art, an information expo and an educational and interactive game. The interdependence and connection between people and water on Bonaire was discussed with Mangrove Maniacs, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Greenpeace Bonaire, Molten-Wolf Glass, Nukua Pottery, Sharking Daily, Hôfi Kultural, FuHiKuBo and Jong Bonaire.

Based on these conversations, each organization has designed creative ways to communicate about Bonaire's deep connection to the ocean.

'In honor of the ocean' is the second exhibition of the two-year program 'Boneiru Bibu: Bou di Awa' organized by Terramar Museum and the World Wildlife Fund. 'Boneiru Bibu: Bou di Awa' was created to remind the community how beautiful the ocean and its underwater world are, how important they are to our well-being and survival and it encourages us to take better care of the ocean. The exhibition is on view from April 28 to June 17, 2023.



Photo: Willem van de Poll National Archives

The above photo was taken in 1955. The World Wildlife Fund is looking for old and recent images of the coral around the islands for an online exhibition about the Dutch Caribbean coral reefs. If you have images or video contact ccaporusso@wwf.nl

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.

For more detailed instructions from STINAPA on how to protect the reef, see *The Reporter's* online Update Pages or facebook page.



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Shelter News

Pakus di Pruga

Don't Miss Out. Pakus di Pruga will continue to be open through May 6. The final two Saturdays (April 29 and May 6) will have a lot of new stuff thanks to a big donation. In addition, the clothes, kitchenware and Dutch books departments and outdoor plaza items will be open as usual. Please come by and buy some good stuff at our usual great low prices. We are hoping to sell a lot to keep the Shelter going until we can reopen at a new location. Pakus di Pruga is located on Kaya Simon Bolivar opposite Brandaris Cafe.

Still Looking for a Home. With only two weeks left before Pakus di Pruga has to vacate their current location, we are still desperately looking for a new

home. Sales from the Pakus are a major source of income for the Shelter and we are desperately seeking a new place to continue the operation that benefits both the Shelter animals and the local community. Pakus needs approximately 250-300 square meters of indoor space for which we can afford to pay a maximum of \$1,000.00 per month. Another alternative we are considering is empty land, minimum of 750 square meters, on which we could continue the weekly Pakus market using containers to create the indoor space needed. If you have any ideas or can help in any way please contact Paul Wichers at paulenamina@gmail.com.

Jane Disko



Animal Shelter Bonaire raked in \$290 at Dave Goodwin's book signing event at Pakus di Pruga on April 22. The 22 books he donated sold out in 15 minutes. If you were too late, Dave will be at VIP Diving on April 27 selling and signing from 4-6 p.m. with all proceeds going to STINAPA Junior Rangers. L- R seated at table: Jane Disko of the Shelter, Davin Goodwin and Leslie Goodwin Photo Julie Morgan

Janneke



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.

Hello you all.

My name is Janneke, I'm a young lady about one year old.

I was brought to the shelter because I had puppies and my former owner did not want that. And I was also not wanted anymore either.

In the months that I have lived at the shelter I have gained some weight. But the most important thing I gained is love - to be loved and give love.

I'm a medium size girl but my heart is the size of the moon.

I'm a very easy-going girl with other dogs. I like to play with humans by running around and playing with toys. I'm also very gentle with the little humans.

Are you the one who will adopt me ?

Photo/story Sanne Attevelt

Pets of the Week

Meet Sooki

Let me introduce you to the cat that has been with us for the longest time. And why??? I really don't know. Sooki is almost four and a half and is has been with us at the Shelter for almost two and a half years.

Sooki is a sweet cat but never the first one that's comes over to greet you. She has to know you before she comes for a hug. But once she knows you, she's such a sweet cat. She wants to lie next to you and loves to be petted. Sooki has a soft character and will never be aggressive to you. So she would be the perfect cat for a family with small children.

Of course Sooki is vaccinated, sterilized, and tested for FIV/ L. Do you have a place for Sooki in your house and in your heart? She won't disappoint you and that is for sure!

Photo/story: Monique Degenaar

Sooki



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



Nos Zjilea - Transferring Traditional Knowledge

SKAL, the government's culture department, will celebrate International Day of Museums on May 20. The theme, sustainability and wellbeing, will be highlighted by Bonaire's museums.

Saturday, April 29's theme for "Nos Zjilea" at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei is "Traditional Knowledge Transfer." Mrs. Gacha Coffie and Mr. Gonsalvo "Kora" Goeloe will explain how to make the traditional cactus soup. Mrs. Jude Finies-de Wolf, director of the Terramar museum, will talk about the International Day of the Museum, organized every year by the ICOM (International Council of Museums). And Kunuku Kitchen will demonstrate how to make different dishes with local products.

The cultural market will be open all day with local products: natural juices, herbal teas, delicacies and art. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m.

with a wide variety of soups and the possibility to taste various local Creole dishes. And in the afternoon, for the first time the famous "goat burger" will be available at the grill.

Nos Zjilea will have local bands "Sabor Krioyo", "Kariño" and we can expect a performance from guest star "NeaxMarie" accompanied on guitar by Franky Yanga.

Experience 'Nos Zjilea', the monthly cultural event of Bonaire, on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. 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

Izain Mercera

Dee Pedersen first winner Bonaire Friends Program

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is proud to recognize Dee Pedersen's contribution to Bonaire's tourism and congratulates her on being the first winner of the Bonaire Friend Program.

TCB's Bonaire Friend Program asks visitors to share stories about their experiences and friendships with the locals on the island. The initiative highlights the great service that people working in the tourism industry are providing to visitors and to thank them for their hard work.

Dee Pedersen and her husband Ulf own and operate the Woodwind snorkel excursions off Klein Bonaire. For the past 15 years, Dee has led these trips, making sure every guest has an unforgettable experience. Her passion for Bonaire is contagious and her knowledge of the island's history and ecology is remarkable.

To nominate someone for TCB's award, visitors are encouraged to submit their stories to the dedicated Bonaire Friends page on

www.bonaireisland.com/bonaire-friends. They can also submit photos or videos to accompany their stories. An award recipient will be selected on a weekly basis. *TCB release/photo*



L-R TCB CEO Miles Mercera, Dee Pederson and TCB's Elisier Angel

Dive Friends cleans up on Earth Day



Approximately 50 people, including Dive Friends staff, made our Earth a little cleaner on Earth Day in the Dive Friends quarterly cleanup on April 22. Due to the current coral disease crisis, Dive Friends, acting in good conscience to prevent the spread of the disease, decided to nix the regular underwater cleanup. They instead did a land based clean up on Bonaire's east coast Baby Beach site.

The group collected 1880 items weighing 315 kilograms (694.45 lbs) of trash. The cleanup yielded: 431 plastic bottle caps, 157 straws/stirrers, 103 lines, nets, traps, ropes, etc., 77 plastic bags, 55 plastic grocery bags, 45 plastic utensils, 38 food wrappers for chips, 36 plastic cups/lattes, 27 plastic lids, 26 foam packaging, 24 plastic bottles, 20 foam food containers and 14 plastic food containers along with glass bottles, beverage cans and pouches, foam cups/plates, foam dock pieces, construction materials, misc. plastic bottles, strapping

bands, strapping bands, cigarette butts and one balloon.

For their reward, other than doing their part on Earth Day, the participants enjoyed a BBQ and raffle that evening at Dive Friends Hamlet location. Winners of the raffle won a two-tank boat dive; 2x REEF towel; 6x REEF slippers; yoga class by Zest for Life (Gwen); underwater photography course by Great Blue (Pieter) and a shirt for person who found the most flip flips.

Outlet sale

The next big Dive Friends event will be a Dushi Dive Friends Flea Market, Outlet Sale in honor of Rincon Day on April 30, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their retail store at 52 Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Bring cash because some items will be priced so low it won't be worth pulling out the credit or ATM card.

Photo/story, Julie Morgan.



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