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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Papyro crew members Pam, Dan, Patrick William and Captain Enrique Gasco had fun trying to hold on. (not pictured Victoria). Photo Julie Morgan

Regatta 56 brings smiles all around

Bonaire's 56th Annual Sailing Regatta came to a close with an award ceremony on October 14 after five days of exciting sailing competition. Windsurfers, Sunfish, Optimist, micro-boats and yachts made this regatta memorable by sailing in this historical competition that started back in 1968 on a bet between island heroes Captain Don Stewart and Ebo Domacasse.

Over the past 56 years the regatta has evolved into a festival, not just for the sailors but for residents and visitors.

This year's regatta was once again organized by Aqua-speed and is regaining the audience it once knew.

Sorobon was the site of the first two days of racing October 7-8 for windsurfers and Sunfish. Heavy rains canceled the first morning competition but it resumed in the afternoon and the weather remained clear with blue skies and good winds on both days.

On Wednesday, the Parade of Nations returned to Regatta with 30 countries represented by residents flying their home country's flag while dancing from Kas di Regatta to a big party at Wilhelminaplein. Musical entertainment from October 11 – 14 got underway on the main stage in Bestuurcollege parking with DJ's and bands. And Regatta sailors were treated to a BBQ at SKAL on October 11 before the final race days. A boat party in the area from Karel's Beach Bar and the north pier was something new that attracted numerous boats, floats, pounding music and libations bringing a party spirit to the regatta.

Sunfish, Optimist, yachts and micro-boats began competition October 12 and continued through October 14 in the Kralendijk bay. The wind foils competed off Te

Amo Beach.

On the evening of October 14, the award ceremony took place at SKAL with newly designed trophies and plaques created by Storyline Productions.

Photos / story Julie Morgan



U.S. group in the Parade of Nations / For more Regatta photos visit *The Reporter* Facebook page.

WINNERS

Optimist A: CUR girls

1 – Froukje Kelderhuis, 2 – Trinity Hinkert, 3 – Tashyana Overkempe

Optimist A : CUR boys

1 – Ian Spaans, 2 – Rohan van Dongen, 3 – Iker Burrichter,

SUNFISH A / B (all BON)

SUNFISH A: Sipke Stapert, Gilbert Martis, Robbert Verboon

SUNFISH B: Sjef Van Burden, Dante Abraham, Petrie Spijkers

YACHTS RACING 2 (all CUR)

Jenk – Remco van Dortmond, Jtje – Hans van der Gulik cur, Merlin – Willem Lagerveld

YACHTS OPEN (all BON)

Wet Dream – Ton and Antje Nuuten, Air power – Leslie Lords, Paraiso – Fokke Gerrit and Cardewenel

WINDSURFERS – KRALENDIJK (all BON)

Tycho Smits M Foil, Monique Meijer Foil/wing, Barrie Sassen M Junior Foil

WINDSURF FOIL

Tycho Smits, Monique Meijer, Barrie Sassen

WINGFOIL (all BON) woman

Ladina van Swoll, Bobby Lynn, Kit

WINGFOIL (all BON) man

Finies Caesar, Charles Dasher, Pieter Sweers

MICROBOATS (all BON)

D: Fitzgerald Domacasse, Melissa Domacasse, Jermeline Domacasse

C: Everardo Janga, Fitzgerald Domacasse, Jermeline Domacasse

B: Everardo Janga, Melissa Domacasse, Jermeline Domacasse

A: Constantino Saragoza, Everardo Janga, Fitzgerald Domacasse

Bonaire has a new government

In a surprising but apparently well planned move, Bonaire's governing coalition was unseated by an opposition non-confidence vote during a long contentious meeting of the Island Council the night of Tuesday into Wednesday, October 17-18.

Clark Abraham, leader of the PDB, moved the vote of no-confidence against deputies James Kroon, Jolinda Craane and Hennyson Thielman. With three votes from Abraham's party, plus support from Daisy Coffie (M21) and Cyrill Vrolijk, the motion passed 5 to 4. Vrolijk, who began the meeting as a member of the governing coalition, promptly resigned from the MPB party, declared himself an independent, and joined the new coalition.

The new board is expected to be resistant to the oversight role The Hague has played since the people of Bonaire voted to become a municipality of the Netherlands. Abraham and the PDB have been known to chafe at the existing administrative and financial relationship with the Dutch, especially the involvement of the ministries in Bonaire's governance and the oversight of the Financial Supervision Board. The island's new governing coalition has taken office with a list of 50 objectives it intends to achieve and sincere declarations that its purpose is to serve the people.



After successfully booting the existing coalition with a no-confidence motion at a long and contentious meeting of the BC, the members of the new coalition left their party colors at home when they gathered to announce their new government. Wearing white to symbolize their unity, and holding the list of 50 objectives they intend to achieve, the members of the new coalition are (L-R) Dany Crestian, Rolanda Hellburg-Makaa, and Clark Abraham of the Bonaire Democratic Party (PDB); Daisy Coffie, M21 party, and Cyrill Vrolijk, formerly of the Bonaire People's Movement (BPM) party, now Independent. Photo via BES Reporter.

Late breaking news. According to ABC media: Former deputy Nina den Heyer will reportedly return as a deputy in the newly formed executive council. The other proposed deputies are Clark Abraham and Anjelica Cicilia. Daisy Coffie and Cyrill Vrolijk will remain on the island council, while Abraham's vacant place would be taken by Delno Tromp. DMR

Promised parking lot now to be a gathering place with some parking

According to a recent announcement, the public body of Bonaire (OLB) intends to repurpose the Brion Baracks area into an attractive square that will draw people into the downtown core. This is the site where the old prison stood, the empty dirt lot next to the FXDC Post Office, the place where so many drivers can find downtown parking, finally.



The OLB's initial announcement promised "a central square with a stage for possible performances, a play area for children and sufficient seating. It will be a beautiful square where young and old can enjoy together. An attractive square is created with greenery, shade and seating. By making the center area more beautiful and attractive, we stimulate its appeal, activity and atmosphere." Parking will be available "behind" the newly developed area, the announcement said.

The immediate public response to the announcement was largely negative. Many people believed the government had

promised to dedicate the Brion site to a parking lot, a large one. They pointed out that the surest way to attract people to the downtown core would be to assure they'd find a place to park their cars when they got there.

A second press release soon appeared. It said that only part of the site will serve as a square with greenery and the rest would provide 96 parking spaces. The announcement did not state how many additional parking spaces would be available if a plain, ordinary parking lot, with some trees planted around it, was built. DMR

Covid shots coming in November

Vaccinations will be available for those 60+, health care workers and people with chronic health issues (i.e. diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, etc.) from November 6-30. Vaccinations can be had without appointment at the following times and locations during that period:

Mondays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Centro di Bario Tera Kora
Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Centro di Bario Nort'i Salina
Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plenchi di Cocari Rincon
Thursdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Antriol Avanti Plaza Chicu Goeloe

Those who are house bound can call 08000800 to make an appointment to get the vaccination at home. If you are unable to get the vaccination during the month of November, you can call 08000800 after 30 November.

Jane Disko

Social minimum for Caribbean Netherlands approved

Agreement on amended legislation in the House of Representatives has assured a majority for passage of a social minimum in the Caribbean Netherlands as of July 1, 2024. The amendment provides that the statutory minimum wage on the BES islands will be increased on July 1 to the social minimum recommended by the Thodé Commission. Four point two million euros will be allocated for this purpose. Another 4.2 million will be available to compensate employers for higher personnel costs as a result of the increase in the statutory minimum wage to \$1,750.

DMR (Kingdom Relations)

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7

The REPORTER

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Mi ta Bunita exhibit

Kankerfonds Bonaire
Kaminda la Union 11.

See page 8

Indian food comes to Bonaire



Bonaire's culinary scene is changing with more and more ethnic, diverse and healthy options adding to Bonaire's reputation as a 'foodie' destination. One of the newest is Tandoor Palace, Bonaire's first Indian cuisine restaurant which opened in September.

The restaurant is owned, managed and staffed by the family of Shandru Kundnani who moved from India to Bonaire in 1987. The idea for an Indian restaurant in Bonaire came from his son Mojit, a graduate of a culinary school in India.

Shandru explained that they found the building during Covid. Being in the clothing business he thought he would put in a shoe store, but son Mojit with his culinary background had dreams of an Indian restaurant.

"We planned everything during Covid. We had to import everything [for the kitchen], a special Indian Tandoor oven, special utensils from India to make the bread and all the spices from India," said Shandru.

Three non-family chefs man the kitchen. Two previously worked at restaurants with three star ratings in India which is considered the high standard qualification in India. The chefs assisted in laying out many of the menu selections and are responsible for the preparation of all the Indian cuisine. A Philippine chef provides his expertise for the Indo-Asian menu choices. The menu is 80% Indian cuisine and 20% Indo-Asian.

Tandoor Palace
continued on page 5



FOR SALE Buildings Lots Vista Royal Village



- Location: Nikiboko
- Sizes vary: 805m2/8664 sq ft - 1050m2/11301 sq ft
- Owned land, zoning Woongebied II

Price starts at \$ 169,000 US Dollar



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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.

Climate change and sea level changes

I have followed the concerns in Bonaire with respect to climate change. On an island like Bonaire, it would seem one of the principle concerns might be sea level changes. I haven't lived on Bonaire long enough to know who my thoughts should be addressed to. Perhaps you do.

I would think that those whose job it is to plan for change and allocate resources to mitigate problems would want to know what is happening in Bonaire with respect to sea level. Without actual sea level data on which to prioritize need and base decisions, there is a danger that planners will work on everything and solve nothing.

There is one research grade tide gauge in the ABC islands. There are no research grade tide gauges on the nearby South American coast. Tide gauges can measure what is actually happening with sea level relative to the land. The permanent service for mean sea level [PSMSL] utilized the tide gauge data from Bullen Bay, Curacao from 2013 to 2018. Bullen Bay data showed no long term trends in sea level during that period. Today, I don't think anyone is monitoring it for long term trends but it is operating and providing regular data. It is important to know that today's information on sea level in Bonaire is obtained from estimates and models and extrapolations from Curacao. Sea level is not directly measured in Bonaire.

A study published in May 2023 is very informative if a bit technical: <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jgrc.20229>

Part of the study summary is something planners need to be aware of. [my highlights]

“Overall, the Caribbean Sea appears as dominated by sub-basin and local processes in respect of coastal sea-level trends. **Thus, global and even regional estimates of sea-level change are not sufficient to provide coastal planning and protection guidance nor for the estimation of coastal vulnerability.** Interannual variability by contrast is, to a large extent, coherent and can partly be explained by the influence of ENSO.”

Bonaire should consider installing a research grade tide gauge along with a means of determining local vertical land motion to determine absolute sea level changes. Bonaire is located on the boundary between the Caribbean and South American crustal plates. Land motion at plate boundaries should be monitored to determine if sea level changes are due to vertical land motion or sea level change or a combination of both. It is very convenient that a Galileo satellite sensor station will be operating in Bonaire near the 1000 Steps dive site. Satellite monitoring stations require very precise geodetic survey information of land motion to support high precision satellite management data. This same Bonaire geodetic data used for the Galileo sensor station could also be used to augment high precision tide gauge data on Bonaire.

Given the long term climate issues in Bonaire, precise monitoring of actual sea level changes and the ability to determine how much relative sea level changes are due to crustal motion or sea level variations would seem to be an important aid to careful long range planning and budgeting with respect to how much effort and time is put into sea level management.

Gary Barrett

Bonaire resident and long time visitor / diver

Why are food prices so high?

If you have done any shopping lately, you will have noticed that in the recent months, prices have gone up 100-300% on a lot of items.

This was blamed on the fuel surcharges, etc, but if you look at the price of fuel, it has actually gone down. Why haven't prices?

And why don't we have any support from the “Motherland” like France does.

French colonies like Saint Martin (French side), Martinique, Guadalupe, etc have a unique pricing structure.

All items must be priced the same as they are in France, and the French government subsidizes the shipping costs. Thus, a carton of milk that costs €1.00 in France also costs €1.00 in Marigot, or a sandwich made in Paris yesterday, sells for €4.00 today in Saint Martin, same as Paris, shipped in on the daily Air France flight.

Some might say that our prices on Bonaire are just as high in Holland, but I have regularly purchased and researched an item that costs €3.89 right now on the www.AH.NL website is now \$8.69 here as of yesterday, but it was less than \$4.00 a year ago, and \$6.50 a month ago. (The Euro and the US Dollar are just about equal, so it's not currency conversion that is to blame.)

So, I reiterate the question - “Why are food prices so high?” Something is Rotten in Amsterdam!

On a similar topic, BonDiGro was created to support the local population with fair prices, but has been sold, and if anyone has been in there lately, the food on the shelves are becoming sparser every day.

Will the new owners continue to support the local population or will they raise the prices like Warehouse and Van den Tweel?

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob –

I am a resident on Bonaire, and I have my sedula. I own a building lot that I haven't started building on. Do I have to pay property taxes on my empty lot?

Jeff C.

Jeff – That's a great question, and the answer is, “It depends”. First thing to remember is that the owner of record on January 1st is responsible for paying the taxes and the long lease fee if there is one.

If you own a parcel of owned ground that is UNDEVELOPED on January 1st of that tax year AND you have your sedula (you're a resident) on January 1st of that tax year, then you DO NOT owe any property taxes on your lot. In the event you do get a tax bill you can send an email to the tax office and if you have the proper paperwork they will remove the tax.

If you own an undeveloped parcel of leased ground (erfpacht) you are still required to pay the lease land fee (erfpacht canon) no matter if it is vacant or built on.

Thank you for asking,

Bob Bartikoski, Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at info@bonairehomes.com. Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

Also, Warehouse was known to be a less expensive option to Van den Tweel, yet their prices now are quite often higher than Van den Tweel, especially for fresh produce??? What's going on people???

While it's nice the wealthy tourists come here and are happy to pay \$30 for a cheeseburger, and \$10 for a Cauliflower, and \$30 for a watermelon, they only feel the pain, if any, for a short time. The rest of us who live here have to suffer daily.

So, to assist the people of Bonaire, I would like to offer up a bit of a solution. I have created a web page where we can put the product, the store, and the current price of a product so people can easily see that Broccoli is \$4.99 at Van den Tweel, and \$6.99 at Warehouse before they do their shopping and plan accordingly.

It can be used at www.BonaireFacts.com and click on the “Price Checker” link at the top.

Let's all work together to try and bring prices down to a fair level, because we know that wages and pensions have not gone up.

If you would like to be part of this discussion, have your say at <https://www.bonairediscussion.com/>

Signed, Brian Niessen - Resident for seven years.

Covid shots rebuttals

I.

Dear Editor

I was dismayed to see the letter to the editor about Covid shots in the last issue. The writer's “facts” are gross misinformation, and dangerous to public health. The mRNA vaccine--whose creators just won the Nobel Prize in medicine--is safe and effective, and highly recommended for everyone (including pregnant women). Respected institutions like Harvard, Yale, and Johns Hopkins medical schools strongly urge everyone to get this newest vaccine.

As a journalist, I understand the importance of presenting different points of view, but not presenting misinformation like that in the writer's letter. Misinformation can cost lives, and subject people to a lifetime of long Covid when it can be prevented.

Sincerely, Mel McCombie

II.

Subject: not just 10 mice

“While it is true that the updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was tested on 10 female mice, it was also tested on hundreds of people, too. Slide 12 from a Pfizer presentation to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 200 people between the ages of 12 and 55 were given the updated shot, as well as another 200 people older than 55.”

David F Colvard

POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

Oct. 15. A front bumper with its license plate was taken from a car parked at Kaya Proud between 5:30 p.m. on the 14 and 7:20 a.m. on the 15.

Oct. 11. A red and white Specialized Rockhopper bicycle was stolen. The bicycle was locked together with a number of bicycles at Kaya Pedro Luis Brion and was taken between 9 - 10:30 p.m.

Oct. 13. In the afternoon hours a brown Louis Vuitton bag was stolen from an unlocked car parked on Kaya Prinses Marie. It contained among other things, a wallet, a passport and a bank card

Oct. 13. Between 6:25 a.m. and 2 p.m. a car battery was stolen from under the hood of a car parked at Kaya Gloria.

Arrests

Oct. 19. A man, 37, was arrested on Kaya Sioux for theft and embezzlement. The suspect had taken an excavating tool without permission from a site on Kaya Sirena on Saturday, October 14.

Oct. 19. Around 9:30 p.m., a 14-year-old young man was arrested at Kaya Karpitan for assault and assault with a weapon. He assaulted a man with an iron pipe and also hit another man with his fist.

Oct. 18. The central control room received a report of an assault at a home on Kaminda Mexico. The suspect hit a woman with his fist. The victim had to be taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. When the patrol arrived, the suspect, 34, showed very aggressive behavior and did not comply with the police's request. The suspect, a 34-year-old man was arrested for assault.

Oct. 17. In the early evening hours a house on Kaya Alkmaar in Hato was searched in the context of the BES Opium Act. Three arrests were made, a man, 27, a man, 30, and a woman, 20. A quantity of suspected marijuana-like herbs, cash, two vehicles, one 'Seadoo' and a number of items important to the investigation were seized during the search.

Oct. 13. A man was reported to be heavily intoxicated and causing unrest in the crowd during a public event at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina. According to bystanders, he had recently hit another man. When approached by the officers, the man, 29, showed aggressive behavior. When the officers asked him to talk about his behavior, he refused. The officers held him by the hands and took him to a quiet place. When he was confronted about his behavior, he started to be difficult with the officers, waved his hands wildly and tried to run away. The officers grabbed him after which he started threatening and insulting the officers. His arrest was immediately initiated and he began to resist. He was arrested for public intoxication and resisting arrest.

Oct. 12. At around 5:45 p.m. the central control room received a report of a fight at a house on Kaya Kariñoso. During the

fight, one man injured the other with a rock to the head. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. A man, 51, was arrested for assault with a weapon.

Oct. 12. Around 1 a.m., a girl, 17, was arrested at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina for fencing. The suspect was probably involved in a theft case. Investigation into this case is ongoing.

Oct. 11. In the evening hours on a man, 23, was arrested at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina in violation of the BES Opium Act. Some officers patrolling the area detected a strong odor of suspected narcotics. During a check on the suspect, they found four packages of suspected narcotics and a small scale in his shoulder bag.

Oct. 10. A man, 43, with initials E.A.J.B. arrested by the Special Proceeds Group (GBO) at the request of the Limburg Public Prosecution Service, which issued an order for the suspect to be arrested and extradited to the Netherlands in connection with a robbery in September of this year.

Driving under the influence

Oct. 15. Around 4 a.m., a man, 43, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol after breath tests. The suspect was involved in a collision between two cars on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia and then tried to drive away. He also did not have a valid driver's license. The vehicle was seized.

Oct. 14. In the evening hours the central control room received a report about a pick-up driver who was probably driving under the influence. The driver was weaving on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez and almost hit a number of people. A citizen who was on the spot and who followed him managed to stop the vehicle near the Kaya Eva. The citizen managed to turn off the car while waiting for the police. Upon the patrol's arrival, a breath test was administered to him and based on the result, the 21-year-old man was arrested for driving under the influence, his driver's license was confiscated and the vehicle was also seized.

Traffic

Oct. 18. Around 1 p.m., a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Grandi. The driver of the scooter was taken to hospital by ambulance. The road was briefly closed by the police so that the services could carry out their work.

Oct. 16. Around 11:15 a.m. three vehicles collided near Kaya Korona and Kaya Neerlandia. Car #1 drove towards Antriol on the Kaya Korona. Car #2 came from the opposite direction and drove towards Playa. The driver of Car #1 stated that he experienced problems with the car's brakes that prevented him from stopping the car. He tried to avoid an accident by dodging on his left and went onto the Kaya Neerlandia. Just then, Car #2 arrived and Car #1 hit the side. Car #1 then collided head-on with Car #3, which was driving on Kaya Neerlandia towards Kaya Korona. The driver of one of the cars was checked on site by ambulance

Tandoor Palace, *continued from page 3*



As with all Indian food, Tandoor Palace uses all kinds of fresh vegetables and the food is prepared from scratch so it is always fresh. The dishes use different spices that are indigenous to India like turmeric, ginger, garlic and various kinds of chilies all of which have been proven to have medicinal and healing properties.

Shandru said, "We make our own sauces: schetzwan sauce, chutney with cilantro, mint and garlic, sweet tamarind, black sauce with chopped soy and garlic, green chile, peanut sauce and various curries. We grow our own curry from a tree. It has to be fresh, not dried. The sauces are matched to the dishes."

Diners will find traditional and favorite Indian dishes on the extensive menu.

Some favorites Tandoor Palace is quickly gaining recognition for are: Butter Chicken with garlic, Moglaai Chicken, Sweet and Spicy Koren Chicken, Bang Bang Chicken or Shrimp, Chicken Tikka Masala, and Chicken Curry.

Shandra said, "We have Hakka noo-

dles, considered a street food in India. Boiled noodles are put in a frying pan with spices, veggies, chicken or shrimp, whatever the client wants."

A very popular item for two is the Tandoor Mixed Platter which is a mixture of fish, shrimp, chicken and lamb. The menu offers many vegan and vegetarian choices, fish and five different types of kabobs. There are even burgers and fries for the kids. The traditional naan (flat bread), either white or whole wheat is served complimentary with every meal.

Shandru said, "Some people think that Indian food is supposed to be very hot and spicy but that's not true. We don't make it spicy unless the people request it."

Tandoor Palace is open six days a week for lunch 12 - 3 p.m. and dinner 5 - 10 p.m. (closed on Tuesday and Sunday afternoon). A range of both soft and alcoholic drinks are available to accompany the meal. Lunch specials are served daily for only \$15.50. Located at Kaya Grandi 67. Check the Tandoor Palace Facebook page for the daily special. +599-717-6700

Photos/story Julie Morgan

personnel. The driver of Car #2 was ticketed because he could not show a valid driver's license.

Fire

Oct. 15. Around 7:45 p.m. the central control room received a report of a car on fire on Kaya Grandi. The road was temporarily closed by the police so that the fire brigade could carry out their work. The fire brigade extinguished the fire and no one was injured. The fire, which started from under the car, was caused by a short circuit.

Public Order

Oct. 17. At around 10:20 a.m. the central control room received a report that a person who showed no signs of life was found in a home on Kaya Commerce. The medical examiner who arrived on the scene diagnosed a natural death. The man with initials J.M.M., was born on December 10, 1953.

Have you seen or heard anything that could help the police? You can report this via 715 8000 or anonymously via the anonymous tip line, 9310.

Ferry Bakx will be honoured in the Garden of Reflection

During the next ceremony in the Garden of Reflection in Warnsveld, the Netherlands, which will take place in June, Ferry Bakx's name will be added. Former colleague Ferry Bakx died in 2016 while working as a police officer for the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) on Bonaire. He was shot when he arrived at the scene of a home invasion robbery.

There is a memorial for Ferry in front of the police station on Bonaire. Yet it was a long-cherished wish of relatives and colleagues to also add his name to the Garden of Reflection in Warnsveld.

KPCN

Bonaire's first ever debate team takes first

Less than two months ago the Bonaire Debate Team of teens from Liseo Bone-riano didn't exist. Organized just weeks before the debate, the 15 and 16-year-old student team competed at the Building Bridges 2023 debate in Curaçao on October 14-15 and won.

Sixteen-year-old captain and founder of the team Noah Herlaar-Hassan said, "I was going to start a debate club on my own. I contacted Paul Bouman [Liseo teacher] and the timing was perfect as there was a debate in Curaçao."

Bonaire's first ever debate team is made up of five talented students: Herlaar-Hassan, Noah Martha, Jasmine Martilia, Corbin Pourier and Gene Jabini.

To make this happen, contact was made through several exchanges with the European Union, Youth Representative of the United Nations and the Debate Union of the Netherlands and the team was established. The kids headed to Curaçao on October 7 with their coach/teacher Paul Bouman and prepared for a contest of inspiration, teamwork, critical thinking and building speaking skills.

All teams consist of five members. Bonaire went up against Curaçao's four teams, Aruba's two and Surinam's one.

In the four rounds of debate, Bonaire won three and lost one round in the qualifying round but won the qualification against Curaçao and ended up winning across the board unanimously.

Debate subjects discussed:

**Climate Change: Every country should take on a large amount of debt to fight climate change and have the younger generation pay for it.*

**Official reparation cost for slavery: Final reparations should be paid by the Netherlands for 40 years of free higher education for the Kingdom Islands and Surinam.*

**Only public schools: All private schools must be closed.*

The teams were judged on the quality of the debate and the actual debating: Judges found for Bonaire 93.1 points; Curaçao (A) 91.5, Suriname 91.2 and Aruba (A) 88.5.

The students are working to make the debate team a part of the Liseo school curriculum structure allowing it to be scheduled during school time as a course



or club so debating has a larger audience.

The team says debates can stimulate the entire island as it teaches great skills in learning to build arguments, think critically and look at different perspectives. It teaches the fundamentals of what you do in higher education and allows you to get the most out education.

The students continued, saying if we try to understand each other we will improve our society. We want it to be for everyone.

In regard to Building Bridges, Herlaar-Hassan said, "We did raise our own awareness.... It opened our eyes. Youth getting together and talking about things. Youth get together and letting their voice be heard. We learned we are able to do this..."

The students are hoping to establish a Youth Parliament and Dutch Youth Council and know it can be done as Curaçao and Aruba have one.

Bonaire's debate champions have been invited to compete for the finals of the Beneluxcompetitie at The Hague. Over 1000 students will have competed to qualify for this contest.

The team explained that this is an investment in our island, and we want to

L-R: Gene Jabini, Jasmine Martilia, Paul Bouman (teacher), Noah Herlaar-Hassan, Noah Martha, Corbin Pourier. Photo Julie Morgan



Victorious: L-R: Gene Jabini, Jasmine Martilia, Noah Herlaar-Hassan, Noah Martha, Corbin Pourier. Photo Building Bridges Debate

win, not just participate. We will try our best to win. We are the future of the island.

Bonaire Debate Team will need fund-

ing and sponsors for the trip. Contact bonairedebateclub@gmail.com for more information.

Julie Morgan

New childcare subsidy to be determined by caregivers' costs

A proposed new BES Childcare law declares that the central government will pay a large part of the costs of childcare, and that amounts paid should be based upon the exact costs incurred by childcare facilities that meet all the government quality requirements. A study of more than three quarters of all the childcare organizations in the Caribbean Netherlands has now been completed. Commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW), the study's purpose was to determine those costs. Now the funding system for future childcare compensation can be determined with the as-

sistance of the research agency Amsterdam Bureau for Economics (EBA).

The funding system and the childcare allowance (including parental contribution) should be in place by the autumn of 2024. By then the proposed new BES Childcare law will have passed through the House of Representatives and the Senate. Until then, the temporary subsidy scheme for childcare organizations will remain in force. The intention is that the current subsidy amounts will be adjusted as of January 1, 2024. The maximum parental contribution will remain the same.

EBA concluded that for many organizations the costs of providing quality childcare services were not being covered by the existing subsidy and parental contribution. It also determined that shortfalls differ from one organization to the next, depending upon the number of children looked after, the salary costs, and the number of additional staff members employed for work such as cooking, cleaning, transport and odd jobs. The organizations all spend about the same for housing and materials, however.

The researches therefore recommend a

remuneration system based on such objective criteria as the prescribed number of children per carer and the training requirements. They propose an allowance per day made up of separate amounts for staffing, housing and other costs.

SZW, in collaboration with the public entities, will present a proposal for the system by the end of this year. The proposal will be discussed with childcare organizations and parents during consultation sessions on the three islands and then submitted to the Minister for a decision. DMR

Curaçao Airport negotiates snake oil refund for over-charged passengers

The pressure group Airport Tax Busters Bonaire (ATBB) recently won what at first appeared to be a major concession from Curaçao Airport Partners (CAP). At a meeting with CAP, ATBB pointed out that the relevant ordinance stipulates that through-transiting passengers should be taxed only \$15. However, airlines like Divi Divi and EZ Air add a \$30 tax to their tickets. And if a passenger is traveling via Curaçao to a foreign destination, another \$63 tax is added for CAP.

CAP acknowledged the grievance and has set up a link on their website where passengers can reclaim overpaid taxes for transits through Curaçao. (<https://curacao-airport.com/passenger-facility-charge>) Retroactive applications will be accepted too.

However, passengers will continue to be overcharged \$63 when they purchase their ticket, but they can use the CAP link to reclaim their \$63 afterwards. They just have to submit either a boarding pass or a ticket that shows they arrived from Bonaire and traveled onward to a foreign destination on the same day, and provide a bank account number. The excess charge will be refunded to them “after some time.”

A few month ago Airport Tax Busters Bonaire (ATBB) criticized the Bonaire OLB for continuing to charge arriving passengers the \$75 Visitor Entry Tax (VAT) on every visit rather than only once per year. The island government has

responded by explaining that such a revision is complicated, but they are “working vigorously” to get one done. *DMR (BESreporter)*

OLB and ZJCN disagree over fate of BONLAB

Youth and Care Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN), which administers government health insurance on the island, wants BONLAB to be absorbed into Fundashon Mariadal. The island council of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB), the owner of BONLAB, wants instead to keep the laboratory independent. It has proposed to transfer \$2.5 million from the general reserve to the designated reserve to safeguard the lab’s salary costs. The proposed budget amendment requires emergency advice be requested from the Finance Department (CFT), and the CFT must respond within three days.

BONLAB employees stopped work for a short time on Tuesday morning last week to protest the stressful uncertainty surrounding the continued existence of the local laboratory. While the laboratory remained closed to potential customers, the staff met inside with representatives of the AFBW trade union and deputy James Kroon. The laboratory reopened as usual on Wednesday morning. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*



The Royal Military Police and the Dutch Caribbean Police Force have a new vessel for Multidisciplinary Maritime Hub Bonaire (MMHB). It will be used for border police tasks at sea, monitoring and carrying out water surveillance and ship checks. The services can also support the Caribbean Coast Guard at any time in cases of search and rescue operations or suspicious situations. The boat will be christened in a ceremony on October 25.

Political foot dragging costs Curaçao and Aruba big bucks

Back in May, the cabinets of Pisas (Curaçao) and Wever-Croes (Aruba) knew the covid liquidity loans from The Hague would come due this fall. And they knew that if they defaulted the loans would be extended, but at market rate interest, which would be higher than the 3.4% they were had been paying. They also knew they could renew the loans now at 3.4% if they agreed to meet certain financial reform conditions. They dithered, however, and their opportunity to save their public bodies millions in unnecessary interest passed, especially now that international borrowing rates are climbing.

According to State Secretary Van Huffelen, they were fully informed in plenty of time, so the consequences of their inaction are entirely their own fault.

According to the minister, Pisas and Wever-Croes knew exactly what was expected of them as early as May. “I was surprised that the countries only started working at a late stage. This led to unnecessary pressure on the process and ultimately it was partly why it was not possible to complete everything in a timely manner, resulting in higher interest rates for Aruba and Curaçao. I hope that we have all learned from this not to wait until the last minute to tackle important matters.”

DMR (Kingdom relations)

TCB installing “In Our Nature” toilets

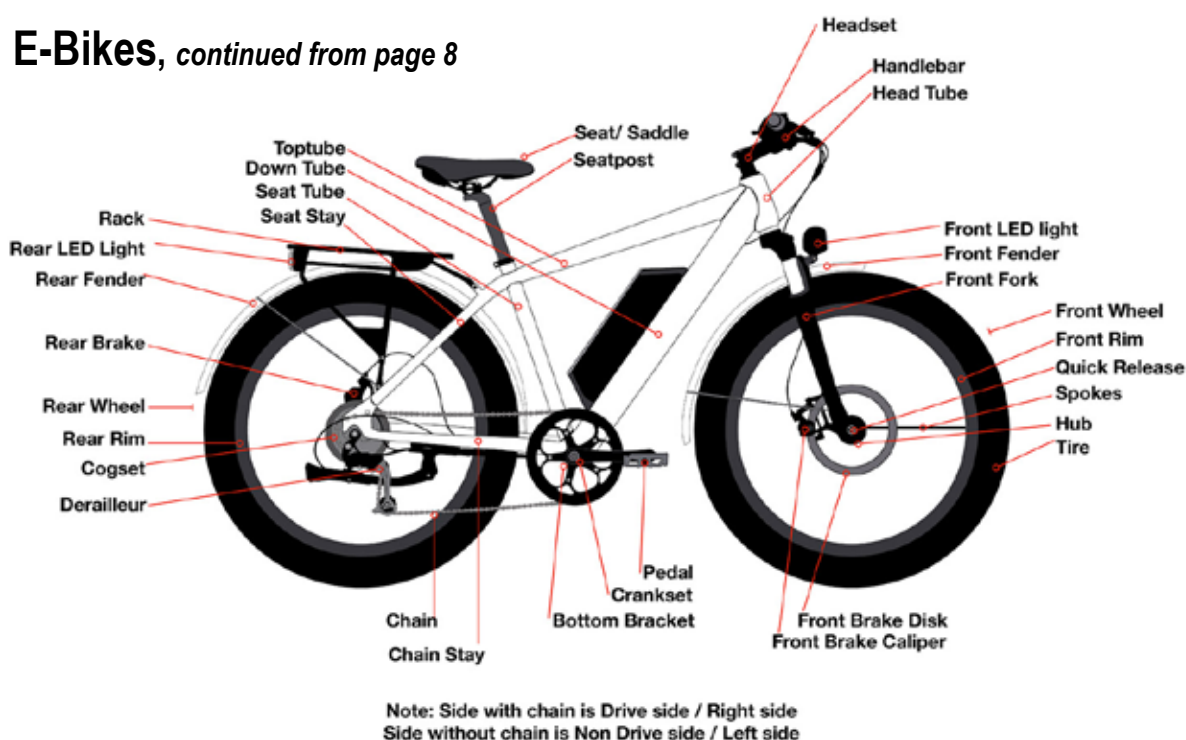
Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has built a public toilet at South Pier to launch a pilot program aimed at enhancing the experience of visitors and residents alike. Branded “It’s in Our Nature” toilets, the public toilets are designed to cater to the diverse needs of all individuals, with wheelchair accessibility and the highest sanitation standards.

The pilot program, which will run until December, will gather information regarding usage patterns and operating hours that will help identify locations for installing additional public toilets beginning in the new year.

In the first phase of the pilot program, these public restrooms will be open during the cruise season, specifically during port operating hours. They will be accessible free of charge for cruise visitors and all cruise stakeholders with an official cruise badge who work at the cruise terminal, such as taxis, tour operators, cruise terminal agents, and security.

As more “It’s in Our Nature” toilets are installed, they will be readily available to stay-over visitors and the local public also. *DMR*





Approximately 500 brands are made worldwide with 350 in the U.S. of which Trek, is number three even though they denounced Benjamin's idea back in 1995

E-bikes have a small electric motor that assist in pedaling and some have a throttle activation. Main parts include a battery pack, electric motor, controller, throttle, Pas & torque sensor, e-brakes, display, torque arm and hall sensors.(Precedence Research). The Mid drive motor is located at the center of the bike's frame or the Hub Motors are within the front or rear hubs.

Regarding the carbon footprint for e-bikes versus a manual bike. The e-bike is dependent on the electricity source whether it's wind, solar or coal. But if a human rider on a manual bike eats only meat, then they have a higher carbon footprint, explained Benjamin.

Electric bikes are charged with 110-120 or 220 (2 amp) and usually take four hours for a full charge. Range of distance can be 20-50 miles (32 -80km). Average cost for a good e-bike ranges from \$1800 to \$3000. Cost for a manual bike is \$100 - \$10,000.

Benjamin said," Electric bikes help the older rider continue riding. The bike climbs better, and you have to pedal a little. Many say it's better exercise than a manual bike because people will ride it more and get more exercise."

Edward Benjamin has been riding a bike since he was six, worked in a bike shop as a kid and owned four bike shops in Florida with his father. In addition to his eCycle and LEVA responsibilities, he is an eCycle technician trainer and Master Scuba diver instructor. He has been visiting Bonaire since 2014.

Julie Morgan

Creating optimal health by Irene da Cunda Costa Singing brings happiness

In previous issues I have written about the role of music and dance in our health; singing completes this well-being trilogy.

It is difficult to trace the origin of music, dance, and singing in the history of our species. Some claim that these were developed for social bonding long before language. It is not difficult to adhere to this hypothesis when we experience the universality of musical rhythms daily. Today we can listen to rhythms from all corners of the planet and in most cases, we can recognize their emotional message, even when the lyrics are in a foreign language.

The practice of singing can be a source of well-being for many reasons.

Singing is a form of aerobic exercise; the whole body is involved, and the breathing is regulated. When we sing, we voluntarily manipulate our breathing and we improve our lung capacity. As an aerobic exercise, singing presents the benefits of the release of endorphins, which are hormones of well-being promoting feelings of happiness. Vocalization exercises strengthen the oropharyngeal region and can help in cases of sleep apnea and in people who snore excessively. The respiratory control carried out in a singing session also serves to manage anxiety and to reduce the effects of stress.

Body posture is also involved in singing. Good posture will improve singing. As a collateral effect, improving body posture can improve self-confidence.

Singing also promotes cognitive functions, mainly memory and concentration. And learning a new language is also facilitated through singing. Singing is an excellent practice to counteract the effects of aging.

Singing is a form of expression and allows us to creatively process feelings and emotions. Through singing, grief and repressed emotions can be processed.

In these times when the general trend is towards social isolation, participating in a choir generates a feeling of social cohesion that helps counteract feelings of loneliness. Singing unites the community, and it is for this reason that most religious cults include singing in their services.

One of the great advantages of singing is that it can be practiced by almost everyone. It is not necessary to be a prima donna to benefit from the afore mentioned effects, you can sing in the shower, in the car, in a choir or also be a stage artist. No special infrastructure is needed either.

Singing is a distraction, an entertainment, it is something enjoyable, it has no added cost and it does not generate a carbon footprint. There are even studies that indicate that singing improves the immune response and helps in the management of chronic pain, reducing its perception as well as the consumption of analgesics.



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.

Final 2023 quarterly cleanup yields big results

Dive Friends Bonaire did their final quarterly cleanup for 2023 on October 21 at the south pier. Some 80 divers and shore assistants recovered approximately 350 kg (771.61lbs) of underwater trash in the area. The survey is reported to PADI's AWARE Foundation as part of the Dive Against Debris project. Although Bonaire has implemented a single use plastic campaign, plastic trash is still very much a problem as is fishing line.

Fishing line numbered 458 pieces; plastic fragments 166; plastic cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons were tallied at 74; plastic beverage bottles 28; plastic caps/lids 27; fishing lures/poles 10; plastic bags 8; fishing net pieces 5; PVC (plastic) 3; plastic food wrappers 3; food containers 3; a cigarette lighter, ball and carpet.

Glass items: beverage bottles 62; ceramic fragments 22; cups/plates 16 and jars 5.

Metal pieces included; metal fragments 32; metal caps/lids 11; barbed wire 6; rebar 3 and a scuba weight.

There were rubber fragments 15; rubber bands 9; inner tubes 4 and tires 8.

Other items: rope and string 78; clothing 20; wood fragments 15; a cloth bag; bricks/cinderblock 2; computer equipment/electronics 3/ shoes/flip flops 13 and vapes 2. The most unusual item was a LED light from a construction site.

Debris can be attributed to cruise ships and freighters.

For 2023, Dive Friends cleanups had a total of 255 participants, collected 1,015 kg (2,237 lbs) of trash in three underwater cleanups and one beach cleanup.

Congratulations and thank you to all the participants for helping preserve Bonaire nature. Look for news of the next scheduled cleanups in *The Reporter* on our events page.

Photo /story Julie Morgan



Reef Glimpses - Butterflyfish

by Dee Scarr

Butterflyfish live modest lives, flitting about the reef like the butterflies for which they're named. One way to recognize butterflyfish is by their pointy mouths, which make them look ready to bestow a kiss. However, that pout enables butterflyfish to capture the tiny animals they eat, who live in the cracks and crevices of the reef. Plus, the butterflyfish's side-to-side flattened shape lets it swim into narrow reef crevices where more food is available because other predators can't fit! Butterflyfish also munch on living coral animals and anemones, especially when they can avoid their stingers.

The butterflyfish who lives closest to shore, foraging around reef, rock, or sand, is the Banded Butterflyfish. Growing to 6" (15 cm) or so, the Banded is our largest butterflyfish. Not surprisingly, they display black vertical bands on a white body and tail. A black band passes right over each of the fish's eyes, not at all by accident. Since predators use the eyes of prey fish to predict in which direction the prey will flee, if a fish's eyes are hidden, that fish is tougher for predators to predict, and thus more difficult for predators to catch. We can think of this as the missing-eyes defense.

The Four-eye Butterflyfish has the black stripe disguising its eyes, and, in addition, it takes the *missing-eyes* defense one step further, to the *misplaced-eyes* defense. Just in front of its tail, on both sides, the Four-eye has a round, black spot about twice the size of the fish's actual eye, surrounded by a bright white ring, the whole thing screaming **THIS is my eye and I will certainly swim with it at the front of my body!** Any predator aiming to grab these butterflyfish as they flee is likely to end up empty-mouthed because the Four-eye escapes in exactly the opposite direction from the one that the predator expects!

The Spotfin Butterflyfish is the third type of butterflyfish who lives in shallow waters around Bonaire. The Spotfin, like the Four-eye, has both a disguised eye and a false eye, but its false eye is just a smudge of black, much less flashy than the Four-eye's eyespot.

Butterflyfish pair off as juveniles, and

are thought to keep their bonds for life. For most of their lives they're within actual view of each other and a snorkeler can easily see both, but once in a while the second fish doesn't show itself right away. Keep the faith; it will soon pop out from a crevice or under a rock, clearly knowing the whereabouts of its buddy.

One of the benefits of this buddy system is that your mate is always around when it's time for ... well ... mating. With butterflyfish, as with many reef fishes, this event takes place at dusk. Just before spawning, the female of the pair finally can be distinguished from the male, by the swelling of her abdomen. He swims behind her, nudging her swollen belly, as they spiral upwards as much as thirty to forty feet until, with a final dash, she releases her eggs; just behind her, he releases his sperm into the egg cloud. The two future parents then dart back down to the bottom.

As you'd expect, eggs are a favorite food of fishes who hang out in the blue water, such as brown chromis (in the daytime) or soldierfish (at night). Since twilight is in between plankton-picking shifts, spawning at twilight gives the eggs -- drifting around near the surface with no defenses whatsoever -- a greater chance of survival. Spawning at twilight is, by the way, the sum and total of parental care that butterflyfish (and many other reef fishes), provide to their offspring. They make up for it by numbers: a female butterflyfish may release as many as 20,000 eggs in a single spawning!

The butterflyfish eggs hatch about a week later. At that time the yolk is so buoyant and so large that the larval fish is forced upside down! Eventually, of course, the fish utilizes the nutrients in the yolk and is able to turn right-side up. For the next few weeks, the butterflyfish drift near the surface. When the time is right, larval butterflyfish settle from surface waters to the reef and become recognizable baby butterflyfish.

Not all larval butterflyfish make it to a coral reef, however; some are swept North by the Gulf Stream and end up near, of all places, the New England coast of the U.S.



Banded butterflyfish often hang out around sponges, as this pair is doing.
Photo Julie Morgan

If Nature were solely in charge, every one of these babies would be doomed by the climate. Instead, thanks to diver-aquarists such as Cathy Guiheen (who told me about this), many baby butterflyfish are collected up there, kept in the collector's aquaria until they grow up and pair off, and are then shared with public aquaria. Since the collected butterflyfish couldn't have survived a New England winter, their lives are saved. In addition, collecting butterflyfish from the Caribbean becomes unnecessary since the aquaria have New England-caught butterflyfish.

Don't you just love those win win situations?



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." We are delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge through touchthesea.com.



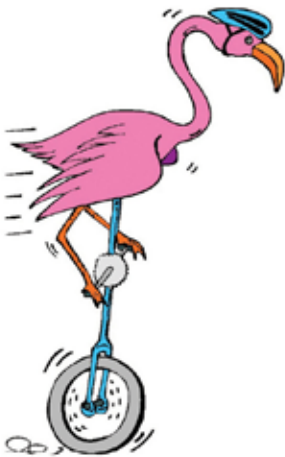
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Grant awarded for studying shore birds



Regenwulp_Bonaire_photo WildConcience.

enormously helped by this contribution, which now allows us to start counts with local partners, volunteers and students in Suriname and to get a good idea of the thousands of shorebirds here and be able to compare this data with observations from the eighties and nineties,” says Arne Lesterhuis of Manomet.

Mangroves of great importance

The American distant cousins of the European shorebirds do not rest on land at high tide like their cousins, but mainly in mangrove trees. These form forests that grow on mudflats along the low and flat tropical coast, which does not experience strong wave action. Mangroves depend on the warm seawater that wash over their roots by the tides. They create nutritious mud banks and coastal creeks for fish and birds, which also provide them with shelter. In both Bonaire and Suriname, mangroves are under pressure from illegal farming, fishing, logging, oil extraction and climate change. The conservation of the mangroves is of great importance for shorebirds and biodiversity in general. The WWF has already carried out several mangrove restoration projects on the six Dutch Caribbean islands and Vogelbescherming Nederland is committed to protecting shorebird habitat with organizations such as DCNA and STINAPA on Bonaire.

The surveys and training of volunteers have now started. The data will help to evaluate the status of shorebirds and their habitat. In this way, in the long term, protection and awareness of the importance of preserving coastal areas and mangroves can be increased. “The impact

that Manomet can make with this project is great, given their years of expertise and extensive network,” says Henk Atze Dijkstra, director of the Dinamo Fund.

In the near future, the fund will actively work to connect with parties that also strive to preserve these special shorebirds in the Caribbean and Suriname in order to guarantee sufficient financing in the long term to further increase the impact of the research and bird surveys

About the Dinamo Fund. Due to declining biodiversity, populations of animal and plant species are weakening and are in danger of becoming extinct. This causes ecosystems to disappear and the climate to change, with major consequences for people and animals. The Dinamo Fund is committed to restoring biodiversity and the landscape in the Dutch Kingdom (including The Netherlands and the three countries and three special municipalities in the Caribbean).

About Manomet. Manomet is US-based nonprofit conservation organization specializing in bird conservation and science education. Manomet is also home to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), a conservation initiative established in 1985 to protect the millions of shorebirds and their habitats within a network of important sites along their migration routes in North and South America. The network consists of 119 sites in 20 countries, working with local partners to protect millions of hectares of habitat for shorebirds. One of these sites is located on Bonaire and three along the coast of Suriname

[\(https://whsrn.org/whsrn-sites/\)](https://whsrn.org/whsrn-sites/).

Sharply declining populations

In recent decades, shorebird populations along the Atlantic coast of the Americas have declined by more than 50%. Bird surveys and research are key to gain more insight into the current status of shorebirds and their necessary habitat to turn the tide for these birds. By training local partners and volunteers, capacity is built up to conduct shorebird research along the entire coast of Bonaire (390 km) during the migration season (August-October) in order to gain more insight into the importance of this island as a stopover site during migration. In the same period, a simultaneous count will be carried out along the 385 km coast of Suriname. “We have been

tomatoes, but because of the rain, I'm in the mood to try again.

A question many people ask, is a tomato a fruit or vegetable?

According to research, botanically speaking, tomatoes are fruits that are considered vegetables by nutritionists. Fruits are a ripened flower ovary with seeds.

The same can be said for cucumber, plums avocado etc. Fruits are described as sweet and typically served as a dessert whereas vegetables are not so high in sugar and used as the main course or side dish. Because the tomato is not used in desserts and related to eggplants and peppers it could be classified as a vegetable. (*Britannica*)

There are huge varieties of tomatoes in size and shape: round ones, ones that grow in bunches, large beef tomatoes, cocktail and cherry tomatoes. The colors are green, yellow, red and orange with different flavors and uses.

Tomatoes are packed full of vitamins and minerals such as vitamin C, zinc, calcium, iron, phosphorus, magnesium, antioxidant, fiber and water. They are naturally full of lycopene which gives the red pigment colour. The more red, the healthier it is. Tomatoes have a high anti-



Photo Elissey Kostsov

oxidant content which can eliminate free radicals that damage our cells and impact the aging process. It is said that eating 10 spoonfuls of tomato puree on a daily basis, mixed with some olive oil, can give your skin a more youthful appearance and assists with overall anti-aging. Lycopene has shown to protect against heart and circulation issues. Tomatoes also stimulate the making of pro-collagen, a protein that helps to correct skin structure and protect against damaging effects of UV rays.

Tomatoes are good against headaches, sleeplessness and tiredness because of their high alkaline content that can counteract the acidity in the body. They are a good source of folates (B-11) that make red and white blood cells. Tomatoes assist with strong bones due to the presence of Vitamin K. Some say eating raw tomatoes assist in weight control. Also in

particular interest for men, the tomato is a good boost for the fertility.

When the tomato is lightly sauted, the lycopene content increases even more than in the raw tomato. So cooking it lightly and adding it to your recipe has great benefits. Ketchup as an example could be very healthy, although manufactured ketchup is full of sugar and other ingredients that make it unhealthy. So making your own ketchup, paste or sauce from your own tomatoes is for sure a great, healthy boost.

With all this interesting information, I'm sure you want to start planting your own tomatoes and have them in just four months on your menu.

Start now, 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.

A Garden? Just Do It! by Angliet, Nature Lover Tomatoes

What a great feeling it was when two weeks ago heaven sent us rain. The plants were singing, animals were dancing (I heard the iguana on my roof beating with his tail) and gardeners were elated. The water I collected in buckets had more than enough to clean my dusty porch and walls and the plants drank the remainder. I thought that all those seeds I saved could now be planted with a chance for success.

Weeks ago, in anticipation of such a rain, I had already prepared my containers to sow the seeds with black and red dirt, mixed with dry leaves, ashes, used charcoal, egg shells and goat manure. I covered them with old screen material (recycle and reuse) so when the new sprouts come up, the lizards couldn't eat them. Among the variety of seeds, I planted tomato seeds too. Oh yes, I wanted to try tomato plants again. I had tried so many times and something always happened. They were eaten by animals, diseased or dried out. I had so many disappointments I decided to stop planting

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Duo Xtreme is October 29



Bonaire's toughest mountain bike race, the Duo Xtreme is just days away on October 29. And it's still not too late for your team to sign up for either the Elite 77km or the Pro 55km competition. This mountain bike race proves difficult for even the best of riders and what makes it truly unique is it has to be completed as a 'duo.' The team's last rider crossing the finish line is the recorded team time.

This year's Duo course is new. It is made up mainly of narrow dirt roads or rugged paths with many bends, occasional steep inclines and declines. Riders will start at Karel's Beach Bar and travel through new paths in Bakuna, Rooi Lamenci, Punto Blanku, Washikemba, Lagoen, Bolivia, Mexico and Gurubu with a final upward climb to Seru Largu and back to Karel's.

Bike problems must be solved by the Duo team with no outside help, so be prepared. The Red Cross and police will be available along the route for emergency assistance. Volunteers will be set up at water and sports drink

stations to keep the riders hydrated.

At the finish, riders will enjoy lunch and drinks followed by the award ceremony with cash, prizes and trophies for the winners. All riders will receive a commemorative t-shirt and medal.

In addition to the main sponsor, Karel's Beach Bar, there are several sub-sponsors including: Sunbelt Realty, De Freewieler, Alcon/Freixenet and GAIA. Other sponsors are Olvoka, Pink Coral iT, El Mundo Bonaire Office Systems and Napa. Body-fit, Timbo/Genkoo and Logistics are providing the water and sports drinks and Rocargo is donating the medals.

Duo Xtreme still needs volunteers for the race. If you would love to be involved but think the course is a bit too much for you to ride, then sign up to volunteer and help the cyclists. To volunteer or sign up to ride contact www.bonairextreme.com or de Freewieler or on facebook.com/Bonairextreme.

Julie Morgan

Fr. Marc's first visit to the United States

by Alan Zale

Delayed three years by Covid, Fr. Marc Hooijschuur, Pastor of Our Lady of Coromoto Church, recently made a trip he had been dreaming of for a long time. His first visit to the United States and New York City.

On his very first full day in the United States, friends had arranged for Fr. Marc to concelebrate mass at St. Patrick's Ca-

thedral in New York City, one the most famous churches in the world. The principal celebrant of the mass was Fr. Edward Dougherty.

After mass, he toured Rockefeller Center, site of the iconic Christmas Tree,

Fr. Marc, continued on page 14



Top: Fr Marc concelebrating mass on the main altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City with Fr. Edward Dougherty. St. Patrick's Cathedral is one of the most famous churches in the world.

Left: Fr Marc visits Liberty Island with friends Alan and Joan Zale

Fr. Marc's first visit to the United States

continued from page 13



Fr. Marc overlooks Our Lady of Shkodra Church in Hartsdale, NY from the bucket of Hartsdale Fire Dept's Tower Ladder 15.

and Times Square, the crossroads of the world. The following day, Fr. Marc took a ferry to see the Statue of Liberty and later that afternoon he paid his respects at Ground Zero and toured the 9/11 Museum. Fr. Marc also toured Westchester County, a suburb 40km north of New York City, where he was staying with friends, Joan and Alan Zale, who regularly attend mass at Our Lady of Coromoto, when they are on island.

In Westchester, Fr. Marc visited St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY, where men study for the priesthood. He also concelebrated mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in West Harrison, NY. The Hartsdale (NY) Fire Department was kind enough to demonstrate their tower ladder. Firefighter John Lombardo raised Fr. Marc 28 meters into the sky, giving him a bird's eye view of Hartsdale, NY

and the New York City skyline 40 km to the south.

When asked about his trip Fr. Marc said, "I have so many good memories of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The entire trip was a total experience. Ground Zero and the 9/11 museum impressed me a lot."



Alan Zale spent 25 years shooting for The New York Times as both a freelance and temporary staff photographer. He is a contributing photographer to Catholic

New York, the official paper for the Archdiocese of New York and The Scarsdale (NY) Inquirer. Alan is also the photographer for the Hartsdale (NY) Fire Department.

Inflation RATE going down Prices still going UP

The inflation rate is going down in the BES islands. In the third quarter of 2023 (Q3), consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 1.9 percent more expensive than in 2022. But Bonaire's Q3 inflation rate is lower than the high of 4.6 percent recorded in Q2, 2023. On St Eustatius, prices decreased by 1.1 percent year on year in Q3, while they increased by 3.3 percent in Q2. On Saba, inflation amounted to 2.8 percent in Q3, down from 5.2 percent in the previous quarter.

Bonaire. Relative to Q2 2023, prices on Bonaire rose by 1.0 percent in Q3. Transport was the main cause for this rise; airline ticket prices went up by 15 percent relative to the previous quarter. In addition, prices of clothing and footwear increased by 2.8 percent. Food prices rose by 1.0 percent in Q3 relative to the previous quarter.

down by the cost of energy, which fell by 14.2 percent relative to the previous quarter due to a reduction in the variable energy tariff as of July 1.

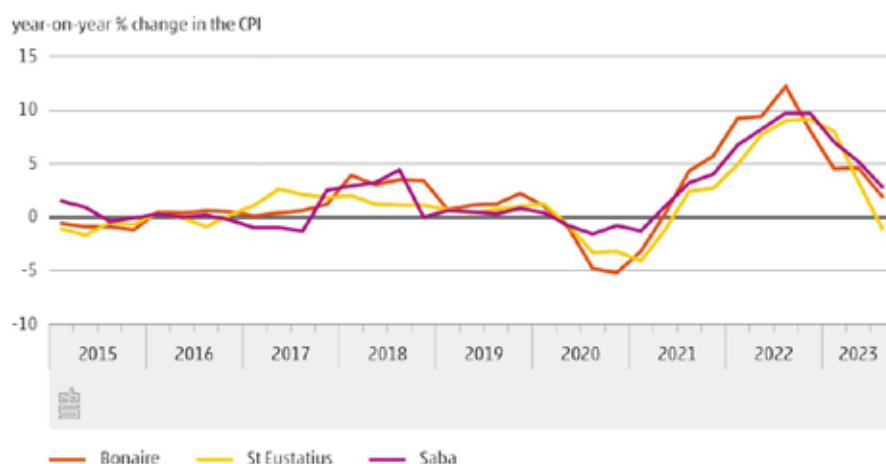
St Eustatius. Consumer prices on St Eustatius fell by 1.6 percent in Q3 2023 relative to Q2, a decrease mainly caused by lower energy prices. The variable energy tariff was lowered, airline ticket prices fell by 3.9 percent, and petrol and diesel were cheaper. Clothing and footwear increased in price by 9.4 percent.

Saba recorded 0.8-percent price increase relative to Q2. Prices of clothing and footwear rose by 6.5 percent and airline ticket prices by 7.3 percent. Home maintenance products fell by 6.0 percent. The price of electricity was down by 8.0 percent.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)

The rise in the third quarter was slowed

Inflation Caribbean Netherlands



Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Home, Sweet Home

It can happen at any time to anybody..... you have a stroke, and you need constant care but all of your family has passed away and you are all by yourself. In other words, you need help from others to live your life. And that is a situation almost everybody fears.

Nowadays there is help in many ways. The only thing you need to do is think about what exactly it is you need, be realistic and appreciate all help offered.

When my late husband and I came to live with my Mom, she looked fine. But we both worked and did not really observe how she was doing. When we finally did, we noticed that she changed her ways. She had become a bit sloppy

and got angry when she felt misunderstood. So, we had the talk with her and she agreed that she would go to a day-care facility for a few days a week. And she loved it. She had no responsibilities and only had fun. But after a few years we noticed that we needed to find her a place to live permanently, in a care facility. We were all very sad as was Mom. We visited her every day until she passed away. Later we learned that we could have placed her in an assisted living flat (aanleunwoning). She would have lived on her own, but the flat was built next to the care facility, and she could have as much help as she needed from "the big house."

When my husband suffered from a stroke and was dismissed from the revalidation program after one year, we asked if the municipality would adapt our house for him to be able to live at home. That was not an option. So, we were asked to move into an assisted living flat and it was the best choice we could have made. We were independent and but if we needed personal help and assistance, we could call on the Big House. We lived there till we emigrated to Bonaire.

We were so lucky to have friends who helped us to get a nice house in Bonaire and adapt it completely to my husband's needs.

On Bonaire we do not know of any assisted living facilities, but there should be this option. A row of small flats could be built close to the kas di kuido, so help would be right next door.

If you do not want to live there, your family could get a shipping-container and adapt it to your needs. Or the family could get a large garden-shed (tuinhuis-

je) and adapt it. Another option would be to build a small apartment in the garden.

The main goal should be a place that is safe, adapted and have easy access for family and help. Fundashon Kas Bonairiano should play a big role here. After all, our population is growing older in a fast way (hence Babyboomers).

Our government, the ZVK, Fundashon Mariadal and Z & W Group should be very aware and have plans already at hand.



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.

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Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Missed opportunities

I.
Usually, I don't believe in miracles.

Right now, however, observing the pace in which Bonaire's roads are changing from suspension hell holes into shiny black surfaces that are actually suitable to be driven on by other means than tanks and tractors, I start believing there's some force at work, that, short of being divine, actually is able to crack Bonairean bureaucracy and get things done.

Hurray.

And although the quality of the tarmac doesn't meet European norms of, among others, skid resistance (that's what you need when you're riding a real motorbike), the surface becoming as slippery as ice the moment a drop of rain falls, history has proven, that the quality of the asphalt that is used might be pretty sturdy.

The Southern part of Kaya Korona, reconstructed in 2005-2006, still looks, according to local standards, more or less acceptable. After seventeen-odd years of service, it's still in a decent state, although a shorter life span for the now new roads is likely, considering the growth in traffic, and, especially in the growing number of 70-ton dump trucks that have the new blacktopping for breakfast.

So, let's start earmarking the budget for the 2033 re-reconstruction, oh, cunning custodians of Bonaire's mobile future!

Of course, there's always a small point to nag about. The hastiness of the reconstruction, combined with the lack of physical space on most roadsides, has resulted in a number of roads that lack anything looking like 21st century's road design. They're just a slab of asphalt, nothing else.

Supposedly, the electoral urgency to get the job done,

and a certain amount of administrative unwillingness, as some of the involved officials at the OLB calling modern time accessories like bike lanes, speed reducing measures and slip lanes, 'Makamba frills' they decided they could do without, have attributed to the 'traditional' appearance of road design.

Let's, for the time being, forgive them, and trust that the future (or any other available Higher Entity) will pass judgment on their short-sightedness.

There's more.

II.
Sleek as the new appearance of Bonairean roadworks seems, the reconstruction as such is not going to solve the congestion problem the island has to deal with. It's probably going to worsen, faster traffic causing denser jamming at junctions and traffic circles, and insecure drivers and slow-moving vehicles (golf carts!) blocking the fluidity of circulation, thus deteriorating the prospect on a solution.

There has been, according to Bonaire.nu (25-8-23), some cheering about developing a 'sustainable vision on mobility' by the OLB that should address the problem. That puzzled me a bit: during my Dept. of Infrastructure days, a long time ago, we tried to develop a 'vision on sustainable mobility' (not the other way around), with the purpose of describing and visualizing how we thought traffic in a certain area should look like in ten, thirty, fifty years. It was a fun thing to do, mainly developing IT-applications that could mimic any possible scenario.

Considering the decades that it took to organize the blacktopping of a few roads, it probably would have taken the (previous) government a couple of centuries to transform a number of abstract ideas into a 'sustainable vision', into really functional solutions.

A golden opportunity to solve a few of the most persistent problems – this suggestion is entirely free - lies in the demolition of the stadium, opening the possibility to connect Kaya Internashional directly to the traffic circle at the church and to Kaya Korona, having to deal with only minor obstacles. But then: maybe expropriation of a couple of lots, necessary to take some positive

steps towards solving the congestion, is still a bridge too far. Remember: they still think bike lanes are a bit far-fetched...

III.
A damaging feature of the new roads has already popped up, as a direct consequence of the absence of potholes. To cite the famous cultural pessimist and chain smoker Johan Cruijff, famous for his inimitable (and mostly incomprehensible) statements: every benefit has its disadvantage (or was it the other way around?).

With the completion of the new roads, the number of accidents has increased sharply, as has the claimed value of the damage caused by speeding drivers. Obviously, being able to drive at higher speeds without ruining your car comes with a downside. It's a pity building a speed bump or two, especially on 40-km roads, is still considered a Makamba-frill.

Only last week, coming from work, I witnessed a pick-up truck doing something in the vicinity of 150 kph, almost 100 mph, driving North from the traffic circle towards Hato on Bulevar Debrot, a road boasting over twenty side streets and resort exits in slightly over half a mile.

Lucky was the donkey that decided the grass on the other side wasn't green enough...

In Motherland, a violation like that would result in a criminal record, a fine of almost three thousand Euros, and a foreclosure of the driver's license for up to a year.

But then, on Bonaire, driving without a driver's license: who really cares?



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.

Parrots and People

The Awkward Age

by "Mel" McCombie



Being a young teenager is tough. The same goes for our Loras. As the breeding season draws to a close, you may have noticed some clumsy fliers, or seen a young Lora beg for food from its parents. Though the birds are fledged, fully feathered and ready to leave the nest by their eighth week of life, like human teenagers, their physical skills don't always match up to their ambitions!

Lora parents continue to teach their offspring life skills until they are about twelve months old. How to choose food, how to forage effectively, how to communicate with the flock, how to care for their lovely plumage—there's a lot for young parrots to master in order to thrive—all while the young Loras are growing into their adult bodies. I remember being a klutz at age thirteen, all arms and legs. My cockatiel Ducky was so unsteady on her feet at age four months that she fell off my shoulder and hurt herself. As time went on, our motor skills improved. The same is true of our Loras.

How can you distinguish a teenage Lora? You'll notice awkward flight, maybe even accidents like flying into windows or power lines. If you find an injured Lora or prikichi, be sure to call Echo at +599-701-1188. Young birds also make a particular begging sound soliciting food. The sound is remarkably annoying, a sort of screechy whine, and many birds continue to make the baby begging noise for months. Though aggravating, begging reaffirms the bond between Lora families and

their larger flock. And think of your early teenage years: I bet you were always hungry, too!

Echo with the help of dedicated volunteers has monitored 17 successful Lora nests this season, with 14 chicks fledged. Some baby Loras are killed by bees, rats, or feral cats. The worst are poachers who grab chicks for the pet trade; if a poacher with chicks is caught by law enforcement, the poor little chick is either euthanized or held, not returned to its parents. It is far better to leave these charismatic emblems of the Bonaire we love in nature.

Lora parents are devoted to bringing up their offspring (see my earlier column, "Bringing Up Baby," in issue 14, 5-26 July 2023). Let's do all we can to help our natural treasures by participating in roost counts with Echo, by planting endemic greenery, by combatting poaching, and by enhancing our knowledge about Loras and prikichis. Lora parents are working hard to help their awkward teens turn into magnificent adults, and we can help in this important work.



Mel McCombie is a retired professor, and conservation activist, and has lived part-time in Bonaire for 30 years.

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: Tues.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 8-noon

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

Marshe di Playa Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market.): Pakus is closed until we build on our new location. We can no longer accept donations because all our containers are full including at the Shelter.

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. After hours: +599 777 8444.

Washington Slagbaai Park: Closed on Mondays Apr. 3 - Nov. 27. Otherwise open daily. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.) \$40 (Free with proof of Nature tag)

Open now July 2023 - July 2024	Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
October 14 - November 18	Cancer Funds Bonaire photo exhibition. Open to public Mon. to Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4 - 8 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Location: Kaminda la Union 11. See this issue page 8.
Saturday, October 28	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. See page 15
Sunday, October 29	Duo Xtreme bike race The Elite route is 77 km and the Pro is 55 km. http://www.bonairextreme.com See page 13. Animal Shelter's Halloween fundraiser. At 5 p.m. you can don a costume, get on a stand up paddle board (SUP) at Chachachá beach. See page 19. Classical Music Board Concert in the new Art Center Antriol (SACA). 4:30 - 6 p.m. Pianist Claudia Cassier, saxophonist Alan Bowen and tenor singer Bradly Howard, will present a musical program inspired by Bonaire.
Thursday, November 2	Big Live Nature Quiz - Kids Edition 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. See page 17.
Saturday, November 4	Rincon Barrio Festival 6 - 10 p.m. Visitors can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.
Sunday, November 5	Book Market and small flea market including Christmas items presented by Pakus di Pruga and Animal Shelter Bonaire, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26. See page 19.

US Consular officer coming to Bonaire

The Consular Officer of the United States Consulate General Curaçao will be in Bonaire for American Citizen Services Friday, October 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Location: Trans World Radio Station, 64 Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, email ACSCuracao@state.gov.

Available Services: • U.S. passport applications • Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) applications • Notarizing documents

Fees: Minor passport (under 16 yrs) \$135; Ages 16 , 17 and 18 \$165; First time Adult passport \$165; Adult passport renewal \$130; Report of birth abroad \$100; Notary services \$50; Each additional notary signature \$50

Delivery of U.S. Passports and CRBAs: Applicants must arrange delivery of U.S. passports and CRBAs by submitting a pre-paid airway bill for DHL courier service (only) at the time of their appointment.

Visa-Related Services: The Consular Officer will be providing ACS Services only and cannot discuss visas, accept visa applications, or offer visa advice. More about non-immigrant visa applications at the U.S. Consulate General in Curaçao, at <https://cw.usconsulate.gov/visas/>

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps 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.

Art Gallery Sobremesa Bonaire View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Opening hours are Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. and Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10.

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 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>

Cyclovía 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: Nov. 5

Racing / Fevering. The Onima fever platform is available every Tues. Thurs. Sat. and Sun. 4 - 7 p.m.


Noodling in the sea. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9-10 a. m. across from Parke Tului on the waterfront. See Facebook [Bonaire Free Noodlers](https://www.facebook.com/BonaireFreeNoodlers)


Pickleball. Wednesdays & Fridays 6 – 8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. Come join the fun. A sport for all ages.

Free Tennis Lessons for kids age 6 - 12. Every Saturday. Courts at Eddy's. Email info@bonairetennisassociation.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bonairetennis/> Paul Ruijs +599 782 4569.

 **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 / Tuesday** - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Presentations. Mon. Oct 30 7:30 p.m - Divi Resort. 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.

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, Nov. 12	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
Thurs. October 26	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	South	2668
Sun. October 29	WORLD VOYAGER	0830-2100	North	172
Tues. October 31	WORLD VOYAGER	0830-2200	North	172
Mon. November 6	ROTTERDAM	1030-1900	South	2668
Tues. November 7	BRITANNIA	0700-1800	South	3674
Thur. November 9	ROYAL CLIPPER	1300-1900	North	246
Fri. November 10	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	1300-2300	North	730
Mon. November 13	AIDAPERLA	0800-1800	South	3286
Tues. November 14	EURODAM	0730-1700	North	2731
Weds. November 15	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. November 16	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	South	2668
Sun. November 19	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1600	South	3260
wed. November 22	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	1300-2100	North	2076
Thur. November 23	CARNIVAL FREEDOM	0800-1600	North	3783
Fri. November 24	STAR CLIPPER	0800-1700	North	180
Sat. November 25	CLUB MED 2	0800-1800	North	439
Sun. November 26	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-2200	South	2852
Mon. November 27	ROYAL CLIPPER	0800-1500	North	246
	AIDAPERLA	0830-1800	South	3286

Nature Quiz-It's the kids turn



BLNQ Host Merietza Haakmat - photo credit DCNA and DC TV

On Thursday, 2nd November 2023, from 8:30 a.m to 9:15 a.m (AST), the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) will host the Big Live Nature Quiz (BLNQ) Kids' edition. This online nature trivia game is open to all students in primary school in grades 5 and 6 (group 7 and 8 in the Dutch school system) on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten.

The BLNQ is created to teach students about nature in a fun and interactive way, to instill pride in the islands' wildlife, support nature-friendly practices, support the projects of the nature parks, and to bring kids of the Dutch Caribbean into contact with each other.

Hints and Tricks

This year's theme is "Marine", anything that has something to do with the ocean or sea. All the questions will be taken from DCNA's 3rd Edition BioNews magazine for which hardcopies are available in English, Dutch, Papiamentu and Papiamento for all schools. The questions will be multiple choice and bonus points will be given based on speed. Studying is not required, but links to the online version of the magazine can be found via www.BigLiveNatureQuiz.org

Want to play?

Participation is free, but registration is required. Teachers can register their class online: www.BigLiveNatureQuiz.org

October's Nos Zjilea

Traditional Healers

On the 28th of October Nos Zjilea's theme is "The Traditional Healers of Bonaire."

Various healers will share their knowledge about traditional healing. Boi Antoin from FuHiKuBo will explain what a healer is and their importance to our cultural heritage.

When a child is small, healers would say you need to rub the child with a special ointment called 'blouse.' This was to prevent the child of catching a 'bad eye' or bad spiritual energy. Raimunda Martis will explain when you can detect that someone gave your child a 'bad eye' and how this can be treated.

As humans we have our private, physical part which is bounded to our spiritual part. For a woman this part is called 'madreon' and for a man it is called 'padreon.' Ernest De Lanooy will explain how these parts can be treated when they cause pain. Ernest will also give information about the disease erysipelas and how to treat it.

To treat certain diseases the healers need to make their own medicines. A medicine you do not hear about in recent years is the medicine to cure erysipelas. Mavis Abrahams will show how to prepare this medicine and how the disease can be cured.

The use of traditional medicinal herbs forms an important base for the healer. Felomena Beaumont will share her knowledge about different medicinal herbs and their benefits.

The month of October is considered health month and it is also Breast Cancer



(also known as 'Mother Cáncer') Awareness month. The participants of Miss Teen Bonaire will share information of their campaign support of "Mother Cancer" of Prinses Wilhelmina Funds Foundation.

Don't miss the cultural market with its local fresh products such as natural juices, herbal teas, delicacies and art. The kitchen opens at 10 am with a wide variety of soups, various local Creole dishes and a delicious grill. Live musical performances will be from the group "Melody" and the local band "F.M.K.". The entrance is free.

Experience 'Nos Zjilea', the monthly cultural event of Bonaire, 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.

Izain Mercera

Classical Concert October 29

On Sunday, October 29, the Classical Music Board Bonaire has organized a new and very special edition of Podium Bonaire. As a special honor we have been able to organize the first concert in the new Art Center Antriol (SACA) with three very special musicians!

Pianist Claudia Cassier, saxophonist Alan Bowen and tenor singer Bradley Howars will present a musical program inspired by Bonaire. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the classical program at the Art Center at Kaya Korona 74. Welcome drinks will be available beginning at 4:30 with the concert at 5 p.m.

Tickets for \$15 can be purchased at the Del Mar bookstore, Kaya Soeur Bartola 13a. The welcome drink at the on-site Zara's restaurant is included in the price. We look forward to your arrival! Please note that the number of places and therefore the number of tickets is limited.

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Bonaire has five new tennis teachers



Bonaire Tennis Association (BTA) welcomed five new tennis teachers recently. BTA in collaboration with ITF (International Tennis Federation) organized a basic skills course for volunteers to teach tennis. The course was led by John de Goede of ITF. The newly certified tennis instructors

received certificates from BTA's Robert Martis and John de Goede. The teachers can now assist with the free weekly tennis clinics for youth on Saturdays and tennis lessons at school.

Pictured are L-R John de Goede, Aldrish, Daniel, Jevon, Earl and Paul.

For more information, email info@bonairetennisassociation.com or app 599 782 4569.
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Pet of the Week

Jan/ Rooie Jan

Jan is a neutered male cat of about 1 year and 8 months old.

Jan just showed up at a house and wanted to stay there. But, the cats that already lived there didn't like that idea so the owner brought Jan to the shelter.

Jan is a very friendly cat, enjoys your attention and will come for a hug.

He is easy going, sweet and loves to be in your arms but he's not really demanding.

Jan tested negative for FIV/L, had his vaccinations and will be chipped the moment you let him in your heart and home.

He's been at the shelter 265 days now and thinks it's time to be adopted. Don't you agree with him?

Come and meet this sweet ginger boy, he won't disappoint you. *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



Jan/ Rooie Jan

Shelter News

Save the Date!

Pakus di Pruga and Animal Shelter Bonaire will present a Book Market, small flea market and Christmas items on Sunday, November 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Come out and shop...the more you buy the more funds we raise to get Pakus di Pruga back in business at their new location (to be announced soon!).

It's also a great opportunity to "speed date" with all our wonderful cats and dogs. You just might find your fur-ever friend! Join us on Sunday, November 5 at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26.



COMING SOON TO A BEACH NEAR YOU.

The Get Wet and Support Animals Halloween Fundraiser



Join in the Animal Shelter's Halloween fundraiser on Sunday, October 29.

At 5 p.m. you can don a costume, get on a stand up paddle board (SUP) at Chachachá beach, then drift/paddle to the waterfront to the Something Special dive site. Sundowners and snacks will be waiting there. A costume contest will follow, with prizes for the scariest, most original and wettest participants.

Entry fee \$15 (please bring exact change).

Reserve your spot by WhatsApp Kelly 599-701- 0110 or Charley 599-700-2696.

Rides back to Chachachá beach will be provided. Not up for the SUP? Come cheer us on from the Boulevard and join in the fun.



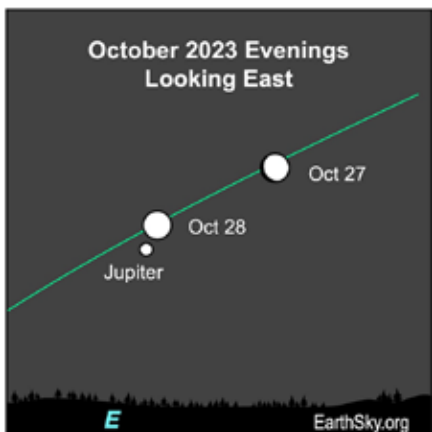
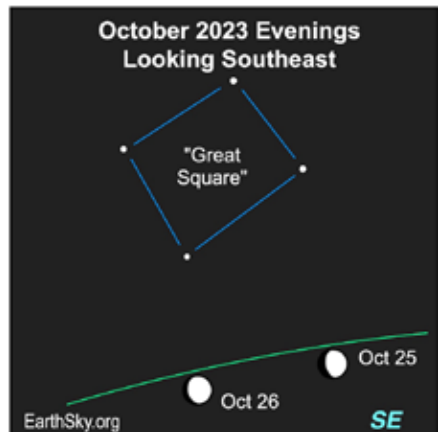
Bonaire's sky park

Anne Buckle and Vigdis Hocken of <https://earthsky.org>: 2023's Hunter's Moon is also a Harvest Moon. Because the astronomical seasons do not match up with the lunar month, the month the Harvest Moon occurs in varies. Most years it is in September; however, every three years or so, it falls in the month of October.

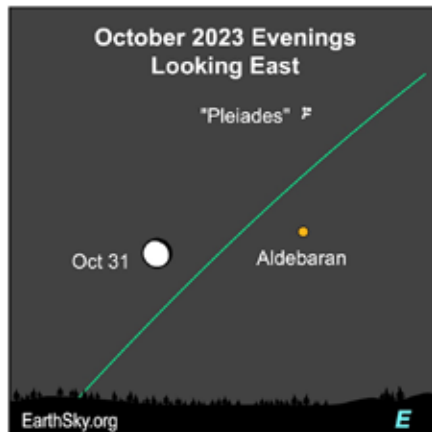
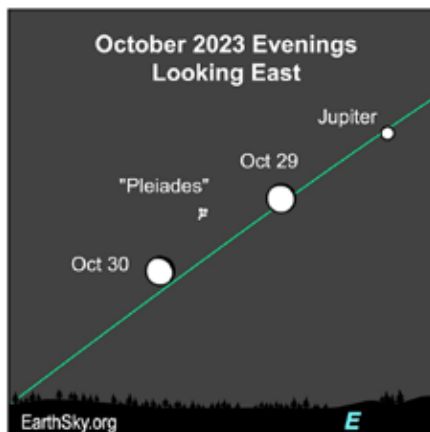
So every three years, the October Full Moon is also the Harvest Moon. This particular name is given to the Full Moon closest to the September equinox, which is the start of fall in the Northern Hemisphere.

Square of Pegasus. The moon will reach perigee – its closest point to Earth in its elliptical orbit, when it's 226,720 miles (364,872 km) away.

Late on the evening of October 27, the moon will shine near the bright planet Jupiter. The planet is at its brightest for the year because it is nearly at opposition, that is, opposite the sun to us.



On the evenings of October 25 and 26, the moon will glow brightly below a group of four stars called the Great



On October 28, the full Hunter's Moon will rise opposite the setting sun and light up the sky all night. It will lie close to Jupiter forming a conjunction that will last the night.

The bright moon will pass the glittering star cluster Pleiades, or Seven Sisters, late on the evening of October 29.

Thanks to earthsky.org

Boneiru's quail egg

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis



The "eggs"

6 fresh quail eggs • 100 g (3.53 oz) lamb sausage, raw • 100 g (3.53 oz) chicken sausage, raw • Garlic powder • Onion powder • Cayenne pepper • Cumin powder • Paprika powder • Pepper and Bonaire sea salt • Flour • 1 egg • Bread crumbs

Boil the eggs for 2 1/2 minutes and cool them in ice water.
Cut open sausages. Remove minced meat. Mix it with pinches of all spices.
Peel the eggs and pat them dry.
Dip eggs in a little flour. Wrap in the minced meat. Let it firm up in the freezer.
Model them into the shape of an egg. Dip them in the beaten egg and roll them in the breadcrumbs.

The sauce

70 g (2.5 oz) mayonnaise • 30 g (1 oz) thick yoghurt • 1/4 red pepper, in small pieces • 1/2 clove garlic, minced • 4 slices of sushi ginger, finely chopped • 1/2 teaspoon coarse mustard • Sambal or Harissa • Black pepper & Bonaire sea salt

Deep fry the breaded quails at 175 degrees C until they are nice and golden brown.
Serve them on some strings of cooked string beans (nest) and serve with the sauce
This can also be done with chicken eggs, but the yolk may remain a bit soft
This dish is derived from Scotch eggs.



Each month Chef Corjan Hoogerheide of Lekker Thuis will be sharing the recipe for one of his personal dishes created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients.



At first glance you might think these pieces of art are carved of colorful wood. But a closer look reveals they are made of flip flops. Upcycled flip flops washed ashore on the beaches of Kenya have been transformed into creative pieces of art called Ocean Sole. The art cleans up the ocean soup that threatens every animal on the planet and creates employment. Ocean Sole animals are available at Multi-Shop at the Hato roundabout.



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