



Dr. Havisser at the archaeological site with group
 Photo by Julie Morgan

Making Bonaire Heritage Together

Recently six students and two professors from the Netherlands' Utrecht University visited Bonaire to delve into the history, experience the culture, explore the local heritage and learn more than any book could tell them. This venture is part of a new citizen science project by Terramar Museum in collaboration with Utrecht University, "Making Bonairean Heritage Together." The idea is to use archeological research, scientific research and the Bonaire community to underline that heritage is still alive in the people.

And with anything archeological on Bonaire, Dr. Jay B. Havisser comes to mind. As a friend to Bonaire for the last 40 years, and author of countless archaeological publications, including his book, *The First Bonaireans* (1991), Terramar invited Havisser to enhance the Utrecht group's Bonaire experience with a tour of archaeological sites and as a commentator at the project's New's Café.

The heritage project will bring the people to the forefront rather than trying to reconstruct the history. In this collaboration, history is told with artifacts and stories that recount the difficulties of the past with a personal touch.

Havisser said, "The concept is bigger than trying to reconstruct the history. How do they [the Bonaireans] feel about it, how do they understand it?... How can we unlock the history as perceived by Bonaire?... These are the kind of questions we need to ask so we can properly understand and appropriately present history...."

During the News Café, moderator Daya Menshche questioned how the relationship with the Dutch Kingdom can be improved.

Utrecht professor Gertjan Plets said, "First more attention in education must be given to the Caribbean part of the Dutch Kingdom. Not a single source is offered on the Caribbean. Second, in light of the research, we wanted to find a good way to teach post-colonial heritage. All the museums are full of objects that we don't know anything about. How do we collaborate and build bridges with a culture we don't know anything about other than flamingos?"

Havisser said, "We have a common heritage with the kingdom like it or not... just like slavery we have to deal with them... I think that

communication is the first important means to break down these remaining systemic colonization structures and we may never get rid of all of it... What we have to do is learn tolerance communication honesty and respect."

Regarding the dysfunctional 'marriage' between the Dutch and Bonaire, Menshche said, "The marriage is dysfunctional because the other party thinks they are losing something when leveling the playing field in analyzing equality. One party knows very little about

the other part. The Dutch think Bonaire is only flamingos, KLM and cruise ships but some Bonaireans only know Holland as cheese and wooden shoes."

Havisser led two tours, one in English and one in Papiamentu for the Utrecht group and others. The first stop was the archaeological site excavated 21 years ago at the high school. The site was first explored with Bonai (Bonaire Archaeological Institute) which he created for young Bonaireans to bring a conscious awareness of the value of archeology, heritage and culture. On the 5-6 acre pre-European and pre-Colombia site, 1/4 of a village with seven house structures were unearthed. The dig revealed 14 burials near the houses, one buried under the floor of a house, four skeletons and many artifacts including pottery, tools made of teeth, bones of fish and turtles. A discovery of jade and a spider monkey (presumably a pet) revealed trade with South America. The new indigenous styled high school will be built at the site, partially covering it but leaving as an homage an open area to mark the excavation and to make future digs possible. The tour next visited the rock art at Onima. Havisser explained the same designs were found in Aruba and other islands. The markings are from the Ceramic age (600 AD). The paint used was made from a tree resin and red hematite.

Nearby is Plantage Fontein where the Onima rock painters most likely lived. Fontein has 60 m high rock shelters, a former agricultural site, caves, a natural spring and aquifer and pre-Colombian rock inscriptions. Fontein was recently returned to Bonaire after an acquisition by the Bonaire and Dutch government for 3.4 million dollars. The OLB (local government), TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) and LVV (agriculture agency) plan to restore it to its natural beauty, make it accessible to the residents, provide balanced tourism and agriculture.

"Making Bonairean Heritage Together" project will culminate with a collection presented at Terramar in June. For more information visit Terramar on Facebook or their website <https://terramarmuseum.com>

Julie Morgan

More photos on The Reporter's Facebook page.



Havisser points out a rock inscription of questionable origin

Hospital takes Abraham to court and wins



Clark Abraham

On December 20, the Court of First Instance on Bonaire convicted deputy Clark Abraham for breach of contract. Abraham leads the PDB and the new governing coalition that has been in power since October 2023. The Court ordered Abraham to reimburse Fundashon Mariadal \$17,984.16 and pay Fundashon Mariadal 16 months of statutory interest. He also has to cover the legal costs. The court ruled Abraham guilty by default after he failed to show up twice for hearings to plead his case. He was representing himself.

According to the charges, Mariadal placed an order for 1,000 bed sheets with a purported company owned by Abraham called Yo! Branding & Productions. The company collected \$19,548 in advance. Then Abraham allegedly delivered only 80 sheets, refused to reimburse the overpayment, would not engage in settlement discussions with the hospital, and did not acknowledge the intervention of the Bailiff. When it became clear he did not intend to deliver the remaining 920 sheets, Mariadal took him to court.

In his ruling, Judge Veerman noted that further charges may be appropriate. No company named Yo! Branding & Productions is registered on the island, so doing business under that name would be illegal. Dealing as a non-registered business could also hide a failure to pay ABB, the sales tax. So both the Chamber of Commerce and the Tax Authorities may have matters they want to discuss with Abraham.

When local media first reported the issue in September, Abraham responded that he "regrets that apparently an attempt is being made to create a confusing picture for political purposes in order to obscure matters that may be of public interest." Earlier this month Abraham acknowledged the guilty verdict in conversation with ABC Online Media and said he will comply with the order. He also said that he considered "the file closed" because "the dispute occurred in the business arena, and not in the political or administrative arena."

Flak flew on Bonaire following the announcement of Abraham's conviction. And he was not the only target.

Satelliet Curaçao pointed out that if Fundashon Mariadal had reported Abraham to the Public Prosecution Service for fraud, a felony conviction might have resulted. A felony conviction could have political consequences. *Satelliet Curaçao* also pointed out that Abraham's portfolio includes finance, a close point of interaction between the island's economy and business community and its political leadership.

Dr. Willem A. Cecilia, the widely respected former island clerk of Bonaire, released a major and lengthy public statement that took the whole Public Body, past and present, to task for timorousness in countering government corruption on the island. Cecilia pointed out that history "appears to be repeating itself." In 2017 "this person [Abraham] was arrested as an island representative and later convicted of trespassing, stalking and violation of the restraining order....The political opponents of this island deputy urged his resignation. He made his position available to the island council, but it took no action."

Cecilia also said that when, in 2019, the island council decided the time had come to promote administrative integrity, the best it could come up with was a voluntary "Gentle Agreement" to refrain from corruption and encourage others in government to do likewise. "Every new council is therefore asked to endorse the gentle agreement and to enforce it themselves," Cecilia said. "After almost 10 months into the new term of office, the Island Council has largely failed to adopt this Gentle Agreement, which reflects on the commitment of the current council members regarding integrity issues."

Cecilia also blamed the Mariadal Foundation, and indirectly the Dutch Ministry of Health & Sport (VWS), for enabling Abraham's transgression. He said Mariadal Foundation bypassed the government's competitive bidding rules, and even failed to make sure it was paying almost \$20,000 to a legitimate business.

Recently the new government has broached the "sovereignty" issue again. Cecilia's comments provide a context for the suspicions being voiced on the island over the OLB's insistence that The Hague should restore its spending powers as well as its authority to issue permits.

Needless to say, members of the opposition parties had opinions they felt needed to be expressed when news of the judge's ruling broke.

MPB party leader Hennyson Thielman accused Abraham of theft. Interestingly, according to reports, former deputy James Kroon seemed to object that he had been criticized of transgressions in past, but they were no worse than what Abraham had been convicted of.

Thielman also accused members of the PDB coalition of not speaking up. "Where is M21 now," Thielman said, "and why are we not hearing from Daisy Coffie?" Thielman also accused party colleague Cyrill Vrolijk and Lieutenant Governor Nolly Oleana for being "invisible" in the discussion.

Humphrey Wout (MPB) and Benito Dirksz (UPB) submitted written questions to interim governor Oleana of the Public Entity of Bonaire concerning "Subject: Lack of integrity by deputy C. Abraham." DMR

Arrivals at Flamingo continue to increase

A record number of passengers, 436,914, deplaned at Flamingo International in 2023, up 3.1% from 2022. Round trip North America passengers numbered 84,852, about the same as in 2023. Even more North American visitors are expected this year because of the new scheduled service from Toronto and increased flights from several existing American airports.

DMR; JM photo



This Issue's Stories

Archaeology tour and news cafe	1
Wilson Pop-up Art MoltenWolfGlass	3
Coming January's Nos Zijle	3
Expedition to Yari	4
Clean Coast statistics 2023	5
Climate lawsuit filed	6
Island economy minimum wage	7
Pre-show Miss Bonaire 2024	11
Book: The Golden Traitor figurehead	13
Daily Fresh changes	16

Our Facebook page and

The Reporter's Online Updates

bring you news that arrives between issues

Columns

Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Island News:	
• Abraham loses hospital lawsuit; Arrivals increase at BIA	2
• New runway lighting; Europark/Sunset/Starreveld; OLB & van Huffelen	4
Ask Bob (Erfpacht fees & property taxes)	4
Police Report	5
Corjan Recipe (Smoked Marlin Mousse)	6
Parrots & People (Featherheads)	7
Reef Glimpses (Fishing line)	8
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Piss & Vinegar (Blackouts; Freedom Party)	10
Garden (Orchids, part 2)	10
What's Happening (Events; Cruise ships; Clean ups; Ride for Roses)	12
Accessibility (Read me a story)	13
Optimal Health (Complicated humans)	13
Business Directory	14
Pets of the Week (Cats Bilbo & Chika)	15
Shelter (Pakus plans & construction)	15

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Wilson displays unique art at MoltenWolf Glass POP-UP Gallery



in her work. She still loves to experiment to this day. Whether that means throwing paint, using unusual markers, or mixing crazy colors - she works freely and loves happy mistakes. Her free-spirited approach to creation gives her work an organic, spontaneous and vibrant quality.

Visitors to MoltenWolf Glass on January 20 will witness Gabrielle's extraordinary creations up close, and may purchase them. The POP-UP ART Gallery lasts one day - and one day only from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Address: Terramar 8, Playa, Kralendijk.

Gabrielle Wilson Art Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063482199427>



On Saturday, January 20, art enthusiasts in Bonaire are in for a treat as MoltenWolf Glass hosts its first POP-UP ART Gallery of the year. This special event showcases the talented Mixed Media Artist Gabrielle Wilson, who will be partly taking over the store to display and sell her stunning creations throughout the day. With her distinct style, Gabrielle brings a breath of fresh air into Bonaire's ever growing art scene.

Gabrielle's artworks encompass a variety of subjects, yet they consistently give off a dreamlike essence. Influenced by her history of traveling and living in different places in the world, over time, she discovered that the uniqueness of an area is derived not only from its people and culture, but its architecture and natural resources. She enjoys exploring new areas through that viewpoint, in both her life and in her work.

Gabrielle independently developed her distinctive style - a harmonious blend of mixed media, collage, and painting. During her formative years, she immersed herself in experimentation with an array of tools and colors, gradually refining her skills to attain a level of mastery that has become evident

Coming January 27th Nos Zjilea - A tapa for your neighbor



*"Bring this 'tapá' to your neighbor.
Tell them, 'Mom sent it.'"*

People used always to cook more than they needed, so they could share with others. The 'tapá for your neighbor' was part of social life and a demonstration of appreciation and empathy. This tradition is still practiced today on Bonaire.

This coming Saturday, January 27th, the next edition of the cultural event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei will be "A Tapá for Your Neighbor." Wesley "Wèwè" St Jago will explain how slavery influenced our community norms and values. This 10 a.m. presentation will be simultaneously broadcast on Facebook by the youth group Talento Kultural. This first podcast is named 'Lag'e brota.' The broadcast will occur each month with a special guest.

Maximo "Tio Chong" Theodora will discuss the beauty of our norms and values. Tio Chong practices what he preaches. He is the gentleman who always rises from his seat when

Nos Zjilea continued page 15

FOR SALE! Sabal Palm 14 Well Maintained Family Home



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First expedition to Yarari Sanctuary



L-R Casper, Indy and Cora Duoma

Blue Defenders completed their first three-day expedition of field research in the Yaraí Marine Mammal & Shark Sanctuary with a team of eight on January 13.

Although the team did not encounter any wild marine life, co-founder Cora Douma-Knopper said, “In the past few months, we haven’t received any notification of sightings. Although seeing no wildlife isn’t what you aim for, it’s still a measurement.”

The crew on this first outing: Bonaire Yacht Charter; Johan Duits, Rowan Beenackers, Jeanne de Vries. Spotters were Christa Burger, Nicole Pelletier and Indy, Cora and Casper Duoma.

Blue Defenders hopes to run expeditions three to four times a year. The NGO welcomes funding in hopes of pur-

chasing an advanced hydrophone and support.

The not for profit group was co-founded by photographer Casper Douma after a Bryde’s whale and shark encounter two years ago approximately 1.5 k (0.93 mi) off the east coast of Bonaire. This encounter motivated Duoma to contact Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) to do more field research.

With the growing threats to marine life the need for protection is ever present and extensive research and data collection is necessary. Blue Defenders hopes to create alliances with other marine partners including universities in the future.

Visit [BlueDefendersofOceans](#) on Facebook for more information. *Julie Morgan*

ISLAND NEWS continued

Flamingo International to get new runway lighting

New runway lighting will be installed this year at Bonaire International Airport NV (BIA), the fourth busiest airport in the Netherlands and the only one besides Schiphol that receives intercontinental wide-body flights every day.

The Airfield Ground Lighting (AGL) installation will include runway lighting, approach lighting, cables, wells, an emergency power supply, and control systems. Almost 100 kilometers of cable will be buried and several hundred LED lamps and fixtures will be installed. Construction will be carried out at night. The new system will be built next to the existing system and switched over when completed.

Bonaire International Airport NV (BIA) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W) will share the costs. *DMR*

EuroParcs bails on Sunset Beach Resort

Construction of the planned Sunset Beach Resort having stalled over disputed building permit issues, part owner EuroParcs Group has decided it’s really more interested in doing business in Europe anyway. It has announced it is transferring its 50% interest in Bonaire Resort to Dutch businessman and long-time Bonaire resident Peter Starreveld. Bonaire Resort, already established, owns the Sunset Beach Resort project.

No plans have been announced for resurrecting a new development on the small Sunset Beach site. That project hit a brick wall in 2022 when a faction in the Executive Council of the OLB followed questionable procedures and issued a building permit. Subsequent investigation revealed the permit allowed construction of a building of more stories, and of far more rooms, than existing regulations allowed. Island Governor Edison Rijna subsequently resigned. *DMR*

OLB and Van Huffelen won’t say what they’re not talking about

(An opinion piece)

During State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Van Huffelen’s brief mid-January visit, she and the Island Council discussed the process for appointing a new island governor. And they talked about supervision and enforcement and spatial planning. They also talked about affordable housing. But they did not talk about negotiating a new Administrative Agreement, an agenda item that was announced accidentally online, then quickly deleted. They acknowledged only there’s a remaining issue that needs to be discussed.

Bonaire’s OLB constructively and to date successfully responded to the Dutch offer, following 10-10-10, to help it build financial accountability into the local government. (In sharp contrast to the resistance continuing to be put up by the larger islands.) It’s no secret, however, that some among Bonaire’s political leadership still miss the good old “you send it, we’ll spend it” financial relationship between the Caribbean islands and the Netherlands that 10-10-10 and the pandemic brought to a close. They long to win back some of the island’s surrendered “sovereignty.”

It’s also no secret that under the leadership of the conservative icon Geert Wilders, the new ruling coalition in the Netherlands will not be nearly as generous and supportive of the islands as Rutte IV was. Some in the OLB may aspire to assertively renegotiate the WolBES and the FinBES agreements in their favor. They can be thankful, though, if they get to negotiate with Van Huffelen. Given her mild temperament and strong negotiating skills, she has a knack for skinning opponents alive, then sending them away feeling they almost won, considering the circumstances. *DMR*

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob

I have an apartment in a resort on Bonaire. Last year, I paid land lease fees for 2021, 2022, and 2023, AND another land lease for 2022. Our management office told me three of the land leases were for ground tax, and the second one for 2022 was for property tax. Is this normal? I thought property owners paid property tax and leasees paid the land lease. Do I pay both because of the resort is considered a condominium?

Sarah S.

Sarah - That’s a great question.

A lot of condo projects on Bonaire have been built on leased land so it’s normal you would get two property tax bills, one for the “Vastgoedbelasting” (VGB) and one for the “Erfpacht Canon”. The local government of Bonaire sends out the bills for the Erfpacht fee and the RCN sends out the bills for the VGB. If you own a condo you are paying the VGB based on the assessed value of your condo AND a prorated share of the erfpacht fee for the land your condo building is on. For example if there are 10 units in a building, each owner will be charged one tenth of the total erfpacht fee.

If you are a Bonaire resident, then you would still pay the erfpacht fee, but you would pay Grondbelasting (GB) instead of the VGB tax. The VGB tax is 0.91% of the value of your condo or house, and the GB tax is 0.345% of the value of your property.

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



**BONAIRE
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

Bonaire Human Rights welcomes passionate individuals to contribute to the advancement of human rights on our beautiful island. We are dedicated to creating a positive impact, and need your unique talents in: Communication, Graphic Arts, Administrative, Writers, Counselors and Advocate and Media. Our special consultative status with the United Nations speaks volumes about our dedication to making a global impact from our local roots. We are committed to fostering a culture of respect, understanding, and equality on Bonaire. Contact +599 786 4576, or email: organizationbonairehumanrights@gmail.com

POLICE REPORT

Police are requesting help from the public in connection with a 'hit & run' collision that took place around 10:45 p.m. on Saturday, December 30, 2023, on Kaya Amsterdam. On this day, a vehicle hit a cyclist and then drove off.

A gray-colored Mitsubishi pick-up may have been involved in the collision. The Dutch Caribbean Police Force urgently requests this driver to report to the police station on Bonaire, at Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #4. In addition, the police ask anyone who has seen, heard or has more information about the above case to contact the police on 715 8000 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

Property

Jan. 4. Between 1 and 1:15 p.m. a white and pink striped beach bag was stolen from Kite Beach on E.E.G. Boulevard. The beach bag contained, among other things, a blue wallet with cash, a pink metallic iPhone 15 with a pink-red case, a room key, a pink diving mask, women's Rayban sunglasses and a reading book.

Dec. 29/30. Between Friday, 10:30 p.m. and Saturday, around 10 a.m. persons destroyed a fence to gain entry to a company located on Kaya Korona. They forced a cash register and took cash.

Arrests

Jan. 4. Around 12:45 p.m. a man, 56, was arrested at Kaya Industria for serious assault and attempted manslaughter. The suspect hit a man with a septic tank truck after a collision and then drove away.

Jan. 3. Around 11:30 a.m. the central control room received a report of a fight at a company on Kaya Industria. An employee had been attacked by a customer. The customer, a man, 48, was still present and was arrested for threats and assault.

Dec. 31. Around 3 p.m. a man, 34, was arrested for theft occurring Wednesday, October 18, 2023 in the yard of a company on Kaya Petra. Video footage from a security camera showed several commercial vehicles being searched by a man and money being taken. The man was recognized and arrested.

Driving under the influence

Jan. 8. Around 8:15 p.m. two scooters were spotted on the Kaya Maria, one driver riding without a helmet. As a result, both drivers were ordered to stop. The driver without a helmet received a ticket and the other driver could not show a valid driver's license. A breath test was taken from the second driver because an odor of alcohol could be detected on him. The man, 21, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and banned from driving for three hours.

Jan. 7. Around 8:50 p.m. a man, 43, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was swaying on Kaya Ing. R. Statius van Eps towards Belnem. A police service vehicle approaching from the opposite direction tried to avoid a head-on collision but the approaching vehicle struck the left exterior mirror of the service vehicle with its side mirror and continued driving. The patrol turned around and chased him, asking the driver to stop. He was taken to the police station for a breath test and, based on the result, his driver's license was confiscated.

Jan. 1. Around 6:50 p.m. a man, 34, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He drove his car into the mondi off Kaminda Onima. He was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel for minor injuries. The suspect's driver's license was confiscated.

Jan. 1. Around 6:15 p.m. a man, 62, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was involved in a collision between two vehicles on Kaya Korona. The driver of car 1 stated that he was driving towards Playa and saw that car 2 was coming from the opposite direction when suddenly car 2 collided with his vehicle. The driver of car 2 was arrested and his driver's license was confiscated.

Dec. 29. Around 3:35 p.m. a man, 69, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was involved in a two-vehicle collision on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez.

Traffic accidents

Jan. 10. Two vehicles collided on Kaya Nikiboko South around 5 p.m. The driver of car 1 was unable to brake in time, and rear-ended car 2. The driver of car 2 suffered minor injuries and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Jan. 8. A single-vehicle accident occurred around 2 a.m. on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. The driver traveling from Playa towards Hato lost control in a bend and crashed into a pillar. A long skid mark was visible on the road surface, indicating the car's high speed. A breathalyzer test showed that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. Because the driver was injured and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance, he was not

arrested for driving under the influence. He was fined because he could not produce a valid driver's license.

Jan. 1. Around 7:10 p.m. on E.E.G. Boulevard a pick-up truck collided with the back of a car. The driver of the car suffered minor injuries and was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel.

Jan. 1. Around 11:10 a.m. a scooter and a pick-up collided on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver of the pick-up stated that the driver of the scooter lost control and crashed into his pick-up. The driver of the scooter fell to the ground and was injured. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Jan. 1. Around 5:40 a.m. a car and a pickup collided on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot near the intersection with Kaya P.N. Antonio Neuman due to failure to give way. One driver suffered minor injuries and was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel.

Dec. 30. Around 10:45 p.m. a Hit and Run took place on Kaya Amsterdam. A pickup truck hit a cyclist and then drove off. When the patrol arrived they saw a bicycle with a damaged rear wheel and further away the injured cyclist on the ground. He was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. As a result of this Hit and Run, a right mirror that had been left on the ground was confiscated. The victim's bicycle was taken to the police station for safekeeping. The case is under investigation.

The person who commits a 'hit and run' has three hours to report himself to the police station. If the perpetrator does not report within three hours, the victim can report a violation of Article 31 of the Bonaire Road Traffic Ordinance. At that point, the police will start an investigation that could lead to criminal consequences.

Dec. 29. Around 7:30 p.m. two scooters collided on E.E.G. Boulevard. The driver of scooter 1 stated that he was driving in the southbound direction and that scooter 2 was driving in the northbound direction but on the wrong side of the road. When the driver of scooter 1 saw scooter 2, it was too late to swerve, resulting in them colliding head-on. The driver of scooter 2 was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Traffic checks

Jan. 8. Traffic checks were held at Kaya Grandi and Kaya Korona. Of 120 vehicles checked, 10 fines were issued. A breath test was administered to two drivers. Both drivers had a good result. The fines were for driving without: valid insurance 4x; a valid driver's license 2x; a seat belt on 4x.

During the Kaya Korona inspection, a car was thoroughly searched in connection with the BES Opium Act because an odor resembling narcotics was detected by a number of officers. The driver stated that she had just finished smoking a joint. Nothing unusual was found during the search of the vehicle and the driver's shoulder bag. She was warned for driving under the influence of drugs and also without a child seat for her child.

Between Jan. 1 and Jan. 8 tickets were issued during routine traffic checks for driving without: a valid driver's license 4x; valid insurance 1x; a seat belt on 6x. Tickets were also issued for holding a phone while driving 2x and riding without a helmet 1x.

The fines for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

Public order

Jan. 11. Around 11 a.m. a cruise tourist became ill while snorkeling at the Andrea 2 diving site. A boat delivered the man to the coast. He was treated by ambulance staff and taken to the hospital where he died. The man was born on May 2, 1963 in the United States.

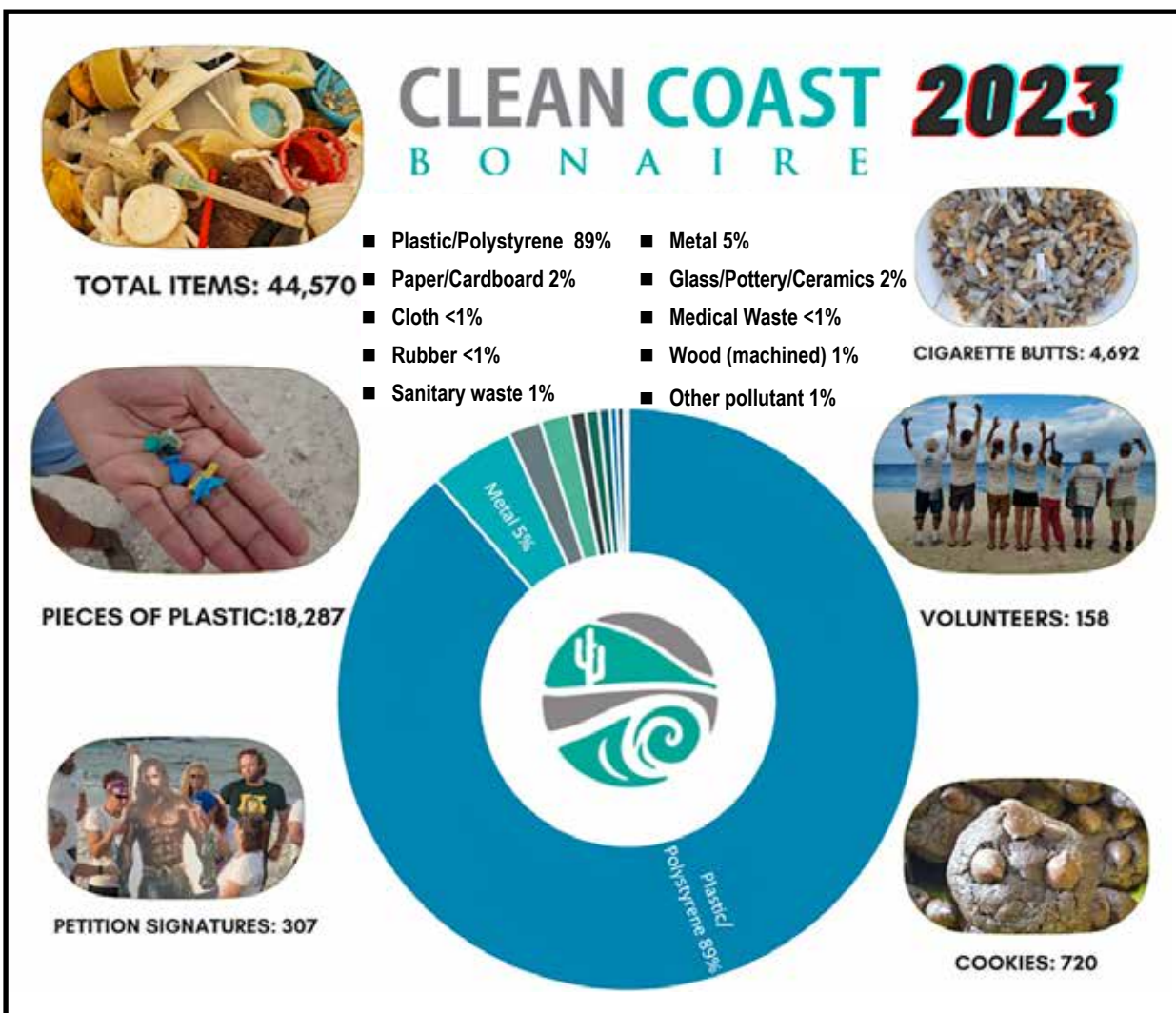
Jan. 8. Around 5:15 p.m. the central control room received a report of a man being stabbed near a bar on Kaya C.D. Crestian in Rincon. A fight had occurred between three people. After the incident, the suspect left the location. The victim was taken to hospital by passenger car for medical treatment. The investigation into this case is ongoing.

Jan. 1. On New Year's Day around 4:30 a.m. a patrol of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) stopped various activities at catering establishments because they did not have a permit to remain open. An event in Lagun was stopped; two catering facilities, one on Kaya Nikiboko Noord and one on Hanchi Amboina, and one mobile dining establishment were closed. The owners of the establishments were kept under strict supervision and received a warning.

Fire

Jan. 12/13. Four vehicles have been found on fire: a van at Kaya Industria Pariba; a flatback truck about 100 meters away on Kaya Industria South; a car outside a garage on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt; and (found two days later) another vehicle parked behind a garage on Kaya Industria.

Jan. 10. Around 11:45 a.m. the central control room received a report of a fire at a house in a kunuku on Kaminda Tras di Montaña. A generator was on fire in the kunuku's yard. The officers together with the caller tried to extinguish the fire with a garden hose until the fire brigade arrived on site to extinguish the fire. No one was injured.



Greenpeace Bonaire files climate lawsuit



A lawsuit against the Netherlands was finally filed January 11 by Greenpeace Bonaire and Greenpeace Netherlands after a nine month+ campaign to enlist action regarding climate change on Bonaire.

Previous attempts to reach out to the government in a more hospitable way did not

seem to work. The group demanding climate justice for Bonaire sent a letter to the Netherlands' former prime minister Mark Rutte, several meetings were held and more 'warning' letters were sent to give the government an opportunity to act positively.

One of the plaintiffs in the case, Danique Martis said, "... we are going to the court, so they have no choice but to act."

The summons lists two demands:

1. The Dutch government must make plans and take concrete measures, developed together with inhabitants, to protect Bonaire from the consequences of climate change.
2. The Netherlands must do their fair share to keep global warming below 1.5°C degrees Celsius and therefore reduce carbon emissions faster. Ten years earlier than in current plans. The Netherlands must reach zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 at the latest.

Director of Greenpeace Netherlands Andy Palmen explained the government needs to speed up all the measures to reduce climate change: reduce aviation, pollution from live-

stock, switch from gas to electric in homes and vehicles. There is already some movement in all these different factors. If they postpone the movement, it's going to be more expensive in the long run. Permits with the government and manpower are the real challenges not technical or financial.

"Today is an important step for the future of what we know for Bonaire. We have a responsibility; the case speaks for itself. We need action now rather than yesterday," said Palmen.

Plaintiffs are: Onnie Emerenciana, Jackie Bernabela, Angelo Vrolijk, Danique Martis, Judmar Emerenciana, Helen Angela, Kjell Kroon and Daniela Simal.

For more information visit Greenpeace Bonaire Facebook. The complete summons is on our Update pages <https://bonairereporter.com>

Photo/story Julie Morgan

Smoked Marlin Mousse

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant

Mousse: 100 gr (3.5 oz) smoked marlin (can also use smoked mackerel or smoked trout) • 1 dl (1/2 C) Fish Stock • 1/2 Lemon • 3 gr (3/4 tsp) Gelatin, worked in cold water • 1 1/2 dl (5 oz) cream, whipped to a yoghurt consistency • Pinch of cayenne pepper

Heat the fish stock slightly and pour it into the blender jar and blend it together

with the smoked marlin until smooth, use more fish stock if it does not blend well. If necessary, rub through a fine sieve to remove tendons.

Dissolve the soaked gelatin in it and let it cool so that it will gel. Now fold in the whipped cream and season with some lemon juice, cayenne pepper and salt.

Divide the mousse into glasses and let it set in the refrigerator.

Salad: 50 gr (1.7 oz) Smoked marlin, cubed • 1 Radish, cubed • 1/4 red onion, chopped • 1/4 red bell pepper, diced • 1 Gherkin, cubed • 10 blades of chives, finely chopped • 2 T Mayonnaise • Pinch of Cayenne pepper • Freshly ground black pepper • Bonaire sea salt

Mix all ingredients and season. Place some salad on the mousse in the glass and garnish with, for example, a piece of toast, radish, lettuce and green asparagus.



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



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Parrots and People

Becoming a featherhead

by Mel McCombie

When I was asked to write about parrots for the Reporter, it was easy to say yes because I love, love, love parrots (in case you couldn’t tell). What makes someone into a featherhead? I’ve always liked birds, and as a college student yearned for a pet cockatiel. When I began graduate school and had my own apartment, I went to a pet store in Palo Alto, California, and adopted a male cockatiel whom I named Bruce (for my brother). Bruce was my gateway drug, and I was hooked!

I should say up front that cockatiels, originally from Australia, breed prolifically and are in no way endangered or threatened. They thrive in the wild, and are bred extensively as pets, as are budgerigars or parakeets. It is legal to own them (unlike our Lora), and they live about 15 years.

Cockatiels have lovely faces. Their beaks are shaped in what looks like a smile. Their eyes are lustrous dark brown with barbless feather “eyelashes.” And they have expressive and charming crests, feathers that they raise and lower to express emotion. Their bodies are sleek and aerodynamic, and their coloration can be striking or subtle. Most male cockatiels have vivid circular orange cheek patches against a yellow head, and most hens have a softer version of the cheek patch. ‘Tiels in the wild are gray, white, yellow, and orange; domestically bred ‘tiels can also be white, pied, white-faced, or covered in yellow dots or pearls.

Being a parrot parent is a commitment of time and some treasure. Companion parrots need specialized veterinary care, comfortable clean cages, healthy food, and most importantly, lots of interaction with their humans. Since all parrots are social creatures, a companion parrot depends on its humans for the communication, affection, and interaction that it would otherwise get in its flock. It is a responsibility, but one that yields deep rewards.

Bruce ate off my plate, and particularly relished butter. He whistled and sang, took showers with me, and kept up pleasant chatter when I was churning through books. My little studio apartment was so much happier with him in it. I learned that he liked the cage door open during the daytime while I was there, and Bruce had fun poking around the apartment.

Nothing last forever, and after Bruce died at age 18, I adopted Fozzy, a young hen. It was Fozzy who taught me that parrots prefer one sex in humans over the other. The Fozz was my baby and loved me, but she really loved men! When she met my husband Harris, she fell in love! Her devotion to Harris was uniquely expressed: she laid eggs in his shoes. The first time he slipped on a shoe without looking was weird!



Dickens Photo Mel McCombie

Harris and I loved Fozzy so much that after she died, we adopted another hen, a beautiful pied hand-raised cockatiel whom we named Ducky. If she had been a human, Ducky would have been a head of state, a superheroine, or a ruler! She awoke every day with the ambition to be Top Bird, and every day, I had to remind her that I was Top Bird by giving her a lesson of stepping up and down on my finger. Ducky felt that our food was her food, and she relished everything from lobster to veggies to om-elets. We learned that it was easier to give her a bowl of unsalted popcorn all to herself; otherwise, she would hop into our bowl and have a tails-in popcorn party. Ducky loved to be scratched and cuddled and adored showers and being gently blown dry. When I showed her a mirror, she walked around to its back, realized that it was an illusion, and never looked at one again! Smart girl. Sadly, Ducky died from love: she had an egg burst inside her, unable to pass it, and it killed her.

So after Ducky, I thought it might be safer to adopt a male. I fell in love with Dickens, a little white-faced hand-raised male whom we brought home just after he was weaned. We named him for Charles Dickens, one of Harris’s favorite authors, but Dickens turned out to be mine, all mine—once he hit puberty, he decided that Harris was the enemy, and I was his primary companion. After being adored by Ducky, this was a low blow for Harris! For 15 years, Dickens and Harris existed in a state of barely civil toleration. But Dickens loved it when I kissed him, scratched him, turned him on his back and blew on the belly. He loved me, and he loved other human women.

Every morning when I uncovered his cage, Dickens said “good morning, I love you.” We called him Chicken Dickens, and when he was contented, he’d say “Chick-en Dickens, good boy” over and over. His imitation of the microwave oven was pitch perfect, and he sang along with the house alarm and vacuum cleaner. And his wolf whistle was clear and loud.

Dickens came to Bonaire three times during our summer stays. It’s a big bureaucratic process to bring a parrot overseas, but I became expert in the USDA and customs paperwork. The highlight for Dickens’s Bonaire experience was going out to dinner at Capriccio’s old location. Lola always made him his own bowl of pasta, and when he saw me bring out his little travel cage to transport him to Capriccio, he danced because he knew he was going to see his Auntie Lola and eat great Italian pasta!



Bird lover the late Jack Chalk and Dickens Photo Mel McCombie

I’m not a parrot parent, now that I am retired and traveling more, but look forward to becoming one again. For now, I indulge my love of parrots by writing this column and admiring the wild Loras and prik-ichi of Bonaire.



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

Island economy braces for minimum wage hit

When the minimum wage kicked in on January 1, a huge increase in purchasing power began building on the island. Bonaire’s economy is being hit with a flood of money, a flood of new opportunities, and a flood of increased risks all at the same time. Some careful balancing acts and good timing will be required if entrepreneurs, and the economy generally, are to weather the transition.

The minimum wage jumped from \$1,236 to \$1,570 a month on January 1, and will increase to \$1,750 on July 1. Therefore lower wage workers, a significant portion of the employed on Bonaire, are benefiting from large increases in their personal incomes. The tax-free amount was increased significantly too, so even people who were already working for wages just under the new

legal limit suddenly have \$334 more to spend every month. People with full AOV are getting \$288 more per month, with a second large increase coming in July.

That’s the good news. The bad news is that inflation, already high, could spiral out of control.

Entrepreneurs are under heavy pressure to be “socially responsible” and moderate their price increases. But in these uncertain times entrepreneurs can predict only one thing for sure: their labor costs will skyrocket immediately. Many of their other costs of doing business are likely to increase soon after. The burst of new wealth on the island does promise them increased revenue. But how much, how soon, and in return for what new business decisions and new investments are difficult to predict.

In addition to price increases, troublesome spending habits may turn up too. People with more to spend may be tempted to accumulate debts, for instance, or to start spending more freely than they can actually afford.

The central government, the OLB, the Chamber of Commerce, and the two Consumer organizations, Tien-da pa Konsumidó and Unkobon, are ready to step in and promise to monitor the situation. They say they will provide advice to business people and consumers. And they will try to figure how to enforce price controls. There has been talk of federal government plans to cushion businesses from the impact of the minimum wage, but nothing official seems to have been announced. Loosening import restrictions on fruit and vegetable imports from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic have been mentioned. *DMR*

Reef Glimpses

Fishing Line

by Dee Scarr

Fishing provides the essential ingredient for many fish dinners, keeping piscivores healthy and happy.

One essential for fishing is fishing line, which -- because of its function -- cannot be biodegradable.

As a result of these two facts, divers anywhere -- divers everywhere -- are likely to come across fishing line underwater. Mostly it looks harmless, just lying there on the bottom. We don't think of it as the killer it can be.

Because I did a lot of diving around our piers, I've seen some consequences of fishing line. The worst I've found was a triton trumpet snail, which had apparently been crawling along and run across some fishing line. Its attempts to free itself only made things worse: when I came across the trumpet, it was thoroughly entangled, going nowhere, and looking at a future of death by starvation. Luckily, I had shears, because I had to cut the line in multiple places to free the snail.

The easiest consequence of fishing line for us divers to handle -- providing we have shears or some other kind of line cutter -- is fishing line that's attached to a hook that's attached to a fish. As long as there is enough line attached to the hook, a diver can sometimes sneak up on the fish and grab the line. If you're able to do this, BE PREPARED for the fish to be stronger than you expect! If you have "civilized" (unused to manual labor) hands, you may be cut by the fishing line as the fish struggles, so be prepared for that, too. Otherwise, it's just a matter of pulling the fish in and cutting the line as close to the hook as possible. The hook has to be annoying to the fish, but it will eventually rust out.



Photo Julie Morgan

On a snorkel one day, I saw a schoolmaster snapper struggling to swim, with a hook in its mouth and about 30' (10m) of line attached to the hook on one end and the reef on the other. Once we got our scuba gear on, it was simple to follow the line to the fish, cut it near the hook, and collect the line. (Oh sure, the snapper might have freed or broken the line without our help -- but then, the line might have gotten entangled again too.)

The absolute worst consequence of fishing line is that turtles can become entangled in it and drown.

For years, on every dive at our Old (now called North) Pier, I'd take what fishing line I could. No matter how much line I removed, I could never see any difference; line seemed to be everywhere, draped along the dropoff and from one outer piling to another to another. Then the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) group inaugurated their fishing

line collection program. After every one of their line collection dives around the North Pier, the difference is amazingly, wonderfully, beautifully obvious: no fishing line.

If you're a Bonaire diver, chances are good that you already collect fishing line you come across. If you've seen line and wondered about it, join us in removing it!

Here are some hints:

A line-cutting tool is essential! The cleaner the line, the more dangerous it is, because the critters can't see it. Find an end of the line, or cut one, and follow it, coiling it loosely around your hand (take care not to entangle or lose your rings!). If it goes under something and you can't follow it, cut the line. If you follow it to the end, look for the hook before it hooks you!

Note 1: If you don't coil fishing line neatly, you'll end up becoming entangled

in it -- seriously embarrassing if not actually dangerous.

Note 2: Please do NOT pull the line to you! The line may be wrapped around coral or sponges, so pulling it can damage them, or even dislodge them and cause an avalanche.

One nice thing about fishing line is that it doesn't take up much room. If you carry a small bag (we call it a Pocket Cleaner Station) you can put the line in that. Otherwise, neat coils can be stored in your BCD pocket (protect your BCD from hooks, though) or even in your booties or under the edge of your wetsuit. Tucking the hook into the hole in the fishing weight sometimes disarms the hook perfectly.

Are you ready to try your line-collecting skills around one of the most amazing artificial undersea environments in the world? Join STCB's next scheduled line-removal dive at the North Pier on Sunday, 21 January. Sign up by sending an email to cepa@bonaireturtles.org. Meet at Dive Friends at Cha Cha Beach to register. Dive Friends provides tanks for volunteers!

Amazingly, STCB participants generally collect a full bin of fishing line. This line does NOT go to the landfill (nor should any other line), since it can be as dangerous to terrestrial creatures as it is to undersea creatures. STCB is saving fishing line at their offices until someone figures out a safe way to reuse, recycle, or dispose of it.

Will that someone be you?



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*; in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in *The Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses." through touchthesea.com.

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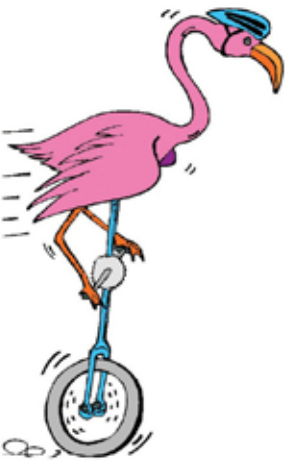


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An advertisement for Buena Vista Optics featuring a close-up of a person's face wearing large, dark sunglasses. The text "Buena vista" is written in large, pink, stylized letters across the bottom of the sunglasses. Below the sunglasses, the text "Perfect service and Quality. Our Passion!" is written in a smaller font. Further down, a list of services is provided: "Experienced Staff • Eye Exams on Site • Insurance Accepted • Advanced Equipment", "Lens Fabrication • Over 1000 different frames and sunglasses:", "Ray Ban, Oakley, Maui Jim and more. Mon-Fri 9-12; 2-6". At the bottom, the text "Kaya Grandi 36" is followed by the "Optics" logo and the phone number "Tel: +599-7179181".

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Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

The learning curve of a blackout

Last week, Bonaire was once again covered in darkness due to the umpteenth power outage in a couple of years. In metaphorical darkness this time, as it happened during the afternoon, meaning that virtually all economic activity on the island ground to a halt.

To point out the difference between WEB’s planned (‘rolling blackouts’) and unforeseen outages: Tuesday’s outage was a spontaneous one, probably caused by a blowing transformer or something similar. Rolling blackouts are man-made, a way in which WEB tries to deal with capacity problems (read: too high a power consumption vis a vis the production).

A couple of days later, WEB issued a press release, in which it stated, it ‘... wants to learn from the recent incidents in which the power was partly or completely lost.’ (...) A proper and thorough investigation is of the utmost importance to determine the cause of this unfortunate event’ (Bonaire.nu, 11-1-24).

Now, I don’t know anything about the peculiarities of WEB’s learning curves (I suspect it to have the characteristics of a classic x-axis), or whatever they are planning to investigate, or even how they plan to construct a trouble-free power network. All I know is that I’m getting slightly sick and tired of end-

ing up in the dark in the middle of a movie, of losing my home Wi-Fi connection, in the meantime (using a flash light) seeing the contents of my fridge deteriorate, and having to sleep in a tropical bedroom with no A/C.

That’s apart from having to adjust seventeen digital clocks the moment the power comes back on, AND being very fortunate that I don’t own a restaurant business. For them it’s even worse.

I’ve been doing some research on Bonairean power outages throughout the centuries, and I’ve found out we’re on a downward slope. Looking at the years 2015 – 2017, we see an average of slightly over three longer lasting outages per annum. In 2018, we had six, and, after a couple of relatively calm years (2019: 1; 2020: 1; 2021:2) we’re back on track down the abyss again, with five outages in 2022, and three in 2023, all in November.

That means that none of the improvements on the power grid achieved in the last decade – underground power lines, newly built transformer substations, things like that – have contributed to a more reliable network. I lament the service guys, having to fix the problems, dangling high up in their little boxes, in the pouring rain on a Sunday morning.

Rumor goes, the increasing number of outages is caused by a structural, and still growing deficit in capacity because of the relentless building of resorts and houses. So, we may conclude the all-you-can-eat issuing of building permits, without devoting a second

of consideration about the infrastructural consequences of the building spree (and not just power wise. Roads, water, sewage, data lines are equally important) underlies the problems we’re dealing with right now. A permanent situation of rolling blackouts awaits us – at least until WEB finds out how to solve the capacity problems.

That kind of brings us back to the months following the February 2005 fire, that wiped out the generators at the Hato power plant. I suggest WEB starts ordering a bunch of the rental generators in the 20ft. containers that we’ve worn down back then.

And this time preferably BEFORE we’re confronted with the necessity of rolling blackouts. Thank you.

Freedom Party

Geert Wilders, the winner of Motherland’s 2023 General Elections, has, as a token of his deeply constitutional disposition (and, of course, in an attempt to prevent the destruction of his prospects on a long-awaited PM-ship), withdrawn a number of draft laws he submitted in the recent past. They were meant to be adopted by Parliament (it didn’t), but, as a goodwill gesture towards his intended coalition partners, he recently declared, to have put them, until further notice, ‘on ice.’

The first one of these bills aimed at ordering a ban on ‘Islamic manifestations,’ designed to prohibit (the existence of) mosques, of the Coran, and of (people wearing) chadors and niqabs (personally, I think it’s a pretty

good idea to make the wearing of niqabs, in selected cases, mandatory. There’s so much ugliness in the world...). Visiting an Islamic school will become a crime.

The second draft law he revoked, implicating the creation of ‘administrative detention’, enabling the precautionary incarceration of ‘terrorists and other people forming a threat to national security’ (Muslims, he means), even before a crime is committed, or someone being sentenced by a real judge.

The third one prohibited the bearer of a double nationality (he means Muslims) to hold public office, thus directly affecting his intended coalition partner Yesilgöz, who has a Turkish passport.

Now, just for fun, replace ‘Islamic,’ or ‘Muslim,’ by ‘Jewish,’ ‘Antillean,’ ‘Catholic,’ ‘Adolescent’ or ‘Female.’

Is this guy a textbook fascist, or not?



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. Currently retired.

A Garden?

Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Orchids, Part 2.

Special something in the air triggered the orchids bloom and I felt as if it was a New Year’s gift. All of the plants in the collage has a special story which I will share but first some little known things about Orchids.

Did you know that Orchids are one of the largest family of flowering plants spread all over the world except in Antarctica. Worldwide there are some 25-30,000 species. There is the Bulbophyllum (2000 species), Epidendrum (1500+ species), Dendrobium (1800 species), Pleurothallis (previously 1240, now 540 species), the Vanilla genus with 132 species and the cultivated Venus Orchids Paphiopedilum and Cattleya. The tropics contain the biggest diversity of orchid genera and species. Orchids come in a variety of colors and shapes and that has made them a much beloved flower plant.

The first photo is an Orchid attached to my coconut tree. This Bonaire Orchid grows pseudo bulbs which are actually swollen shoots that the plants use to absorb and store moisture. They get their nutrients from the stored water so that they can survive long periods of drought. Orchid roots are covered with a white moisture absorbing substance that must be exposed to air. The other blooming orchid photos are also anchored on trees or live in baskets which I hang from tree stems to get the shade they need. Some orchids grow on the ground requiring rich organic soil with perlite or sand for good drainage.

When I lived in Hato there was a huge orchid plant growing in a large tree. One day I noticed not one, but many stems popped out of that orchid plant and for many months created a fiesta of flowers when it bloomed. Many times I would stop to look at this beautiful example of nature’s beauty. One day the owner asked me if I was interested in a piece



of the Orchid plant. Now I have an Orchid in my garden that flowers many times a year and lasts for months. One can say that it’s almost always full of flowers - a queen flower of Bonaire.

The other white one I got from an older lady around the corner and hooked it on a Coco tree. She used to sit every afternoon on her porch and when I passed by we often talked and soon became friends. We used to exchange plants and this is how I got the little orchid which flowers a lot. She used to call the flowers her birds’ beaks. The plant looks fragile but I was surprised how tightly it was attached to the tree when I tried to take a piece. It was a bit damaged due to my pulling so hard so I was very happy to see its first roots hook onto the Coco tree. The first flowers appeared shortly after the older lady’s death. Now every time it flowers I have her on my mind.

The orchid with purple flowers is from Medellin, Colombia. Everyday I used to pass a square where people sold food and plants. There was a man selling non-blooming orchid plants and so I couldn’t see the flowers, but he mentioned its name and people were buying them. One day, after he was sold out, he emptied a bucket with some dirt right there and left. In that dirt there was a tiny piece of an orchid. I took it with me and kept it on the kitchen counter until I returned home to Bonaire. After four days I planted it in a basket of coconut shells and hung it in the tree and look what I got. I was astonished. First because it started to grow and second when it bloomed such outstanding flowers, many times; it’s a jewel in my garden.

My Surinam neighbor has a good number of orchids and I saw this orchid among her flowers. One day I asked her if it was a special type, and she gave me a plant. It flowers many

times a year and has caught the eyes of others because of her long stems full of virgin white flowers.

Last story tells of the beginning of my love and interest in Orchids. While living on St. Eustatius, an Orchid collector asked me to bring Orchid plants from Suriname when I was there on holiday. So during my last days in Suriname, I collected a lot of Orchids from friends and bushes because in Suriname there are a lot of species and rare ones too. At that time, I had no knowledge of Orchids, so I wrapped them in plastic bags and once home I put them in buckets of water thinking they needed a lot of water to survive. I called the collector to pick them up and I was excited to make him happy with the big collection and see his reaction. But when he arrived and saw them in water, he turned angry and disappointed. Poor me, I didn’t know why he reacted that way and I was in shock. For a while he didn’t talk to me but later he explained that soaking them in water was like killing them and the very rare ones were spoiled. He was able to save some with special care. That is how I learned about orchids special needs.

I hope that this article will bring you into the mood to grow Orchids. They are easy to handle with just a tree trunk or basket and shade and for years you will enjoy mind blowing flowers.



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.



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Pre-show held for Miss Bonaire 2024



Top. Miss Culture: Miss Rincon, Maria Luisa Troncon

Below. Best Creative Wear: Miss Tera Cora, Mireska Winklaar



Bonaire is one step closer to crowning Miss Bonaire 2024 following a beauty extravaganza pre-event on January 13 at the Courtyard Marriott Bonaire. The candidates representing five Bonaire barios were presented to a full crowd of formally attired guests who supported their favorite Miss Bonaire candidate with signs and noise makers. The young ladies competed in a variety of fashion apparel, swim wear, speech and creative cultural outfits.

When the young women weren't on stage, the crowd was entertained by The Flash Dancers and cultural singer Luis Moka who brought a level of excitement for the upcoming Karnaval in February.

The eight judges awarded the candidates in each category of competition used to determine Miss Bonaire 2024. The judges were: Ruby Pouchet, current Miss Bonaire; Juan Hidalgo, Venezuelan Model and male pageant contestant and title holder; Stephany Pabon, owner of Elegance Spa and fashionista; Jeaniro Doro-tea, speech specialist and school drama coach; Caroline Porras, current Miss Tourism; Greg Robles de Medina, fashion designer/ photographer; Rosalba Figaroa, former model, pageant winner and costume designer and President Judge, Carlos Lopez. pageant coach and entrepreneur.

The competition is organized by Foundation Miss Bonaire president Roderick Beaumont. The crowning of the new Miss Bonaire will be March 9 at Courtyard Marriott Bonaire. *Photo/story Julie Morgan*



Top. Best in Swimwear: Miss Kralendijk, Zahira Avila

Below. Miss Fashionista: Miss Noord Salina, Samantha Chacon



Miss Runway: Miss Nikiboko, Angie Daza

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.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.

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: Open Tues. - Sun.. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

Open now July 2023 - July 2024	Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday, January 19	Exhibition opening. If stones could speak. 5 p.m.Sobremesa, J.A. Abraham boulevard 10
Saturday, January 20	Pop-Up Artist – Gabrielle Wilson at MoltenWolf Glass – In the store 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 25	Open Day Cervical Cancer Screening. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Are you between 30 and 60 years old and have you not yet participated in the population screening? Do you have questions or doubts? Then come to our Open Day at Fundashon Mariadal.
Saturday, January 27	Annual Parrot Roost Count from 6 - 8 a.m. Volunteers are always welcome to help count Bonaire's parrots. Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Learn about Bonaire's traditions. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 3. BBQ with Jazz jam session. 5 – 8 p.m. Kaya Irlanda 19. Free entrance. Food and drinks for sale
Sunday, January 28	Ride for the Roses January 28. Ride, Walk, Swim or Sail to support the fight against cancer..
Monday, January 31	Open Bonaire Bridge Championship 2024. Participants can register via the email address bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com .
Friday, February 2	World Wetlands Day event Mangrove Maniacs. 6-9 p.m. Wilhelminaplein.

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: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, Jan. 21	STCB fishing line cleanup. North pier. See <i>Reef Glimpses</i> on page 8.
Sunday, Feb. 11	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

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule				
DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Fri. January 19	VENTURA	0615-1800	South	3597
	SILVER DAWN	0800-2300	North	623
Sat. January 20	SIRENA	0700-1700	North	824
Mon. January 22	AIDAPERLA	0830-1800	South	3286
Wed. January 24	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-1700	South	2852
	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Thurs. January 25	STAR PRIDE	1330-2200	South	312
Mon. January 29	EURODAM	0830-2300	North	2731
Tues. January 30	BRITANNIA	0700-1800	North	3674
	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0830-1800	North	2417
Wed. January 31	ROTTERDAM	0730-2100	South	2668
Thurs. February 1	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	0730-1800	North	2440
Fri. February 2	NORWEGIAN SKY	0600-1300	North	2480
	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852
Sat. February 3	AIDAMAR	0730-2100	North	2686
Mon. February 5	AIDAPERLA	0830-1800	South	3286

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>

Cycloviva 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

Diver Safety. Presentations with Jason Buttenshaw held the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

Noodling in the sea. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9-10 a. m. across from Parke Tului on the water-front. 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.

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

Tennis Lessons for kids age 6 - 12. Free. 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: 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.

Are you ready to



Ride for the Roses 2023, Photo Julie Morgan

Help in the fight against cancer by joining the eighth edition of Ride for the Roses. Ride for the Roses is not just a ride. You can choose to walk, swim or boat for the Roses. (See our online update pages for the schedule.)

Tickets are just \$20. Registration is either online www.ridefortheroses.org or purchase a ticket at the Rincon gas station, de Freewieler, Yogarriba, Bon Bida or from a board member. T-shirt and bag pick-up Jan. 25, 26, 5 – 7 p.m. and Jan. 27 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. at Orco Bank, the main sponsor.

Volunteers for the event can sign up at: signup@ridefortheroses.org.

Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Read me a story

The last few weeks I have been very sick. And as you know I am an avid reader. But I was too sick to hold a book or to at least read a few lines. It would have been very comforting to have somebody come and read to me. It would not have mattered at all what: a short story, a few poems, cuts from a magazine, anything...

I realized that there are so many people that are analphabetic and wonder how they cope? They always need somebody at hand to read for them, or think up fake reasons why they cannot read at that moment.

From the days that I worked with children with mental retardation, I like to recall when they were very restless, I would take a book with rhymes, lay down on a round carpet and start to read out loud. Using a nice slow rhythm I would pick rhymes that had a lot of sentences and words repeated.

Soon they all came to lie by my side and grew quiet and listened. We could do so for about an hour, which was pretty long, considering their diagnosis.

In those days that I studied to be an infant teacher at a kindergarten we were taught to work with certain programs and projects. The programs started with a theme. The teacher began by starting a group conversation. Everybody got the chance to pitch in. This was followed by reading a story, play or a puppet game. Then all the children went to their seats and were offered materials to craft something according to the theme. The last activity was motor activities. All this action was very popular, but the stories were a favorite.

I also remember the times when I was very little, sitting on grandma's lap and we would listen to a radio show.

And who does not remember all those bedtime stories with Mommy or another adult sitting on the bedside. You are snuggling in your cozy and warm bed covered by nice smelling blankets and listening to that soft voice telling the favorite stories or reading from a favorite book.

So, I started wondering... would it not be awesome to

set up a group of storytelling volunteers? People with good voices and a big heart. Well known citizens would also be very good readers. In the local library one can pick up wonderful reading books to use. Maybe these persons could make good use of the expertise of the library staff and have them set up the program. Contact the organizations that offer care to the elderly to get names of elderly citizens who really would love to be read to. Do not forget about the elderly with mental retardation. Also organize that the stories being read, are kept on tape, to use and re-use.

This is a perfect program for the elderly, especially the lonely elderly. Because they get regular visits, they are read to and have something to look forward to. You can sign me up... come read to me. I can also read on tape.

Have a happy, healthy and cozy new 2024, everyone.



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.

De Goulden Verrader van Bonaire is now a book

Bart van Oost, best known for his Bee Caribe Island Escape and Sightseeing Games, presented his new non-fiction book *The Golden Traitor of Bonaire (De Goulden Verrader van Bonaire)* at Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKubo) on January 12.

While researching his first game Diver's Paradise Bonaire, Oost discovered a connection between Captain Don Stewart and the ship's figurehead, the Golden Traitor. Anyone who has read Captain Don Stewart's books or knows his history, may already know a little about his love of the ship figurehead.

The book delves into the mystery of the Traitor and how she came to Bonaire. For many years she was thought to

have been the figurehead from the coal carrying vessel, Memory. Memory sank near Venezuela in 1882 but then the figurehead mysteriously showed up on Bonaire days later. She was rediscovered in 1930 and later found in a closet at Landhuis Jato Baco in 1935 by L.D. Gerhart. The Traitor eventually ended up attached to the bar at Hotel Zeebad, the former internment camp turned resort, Flamingo Beach Hotel.

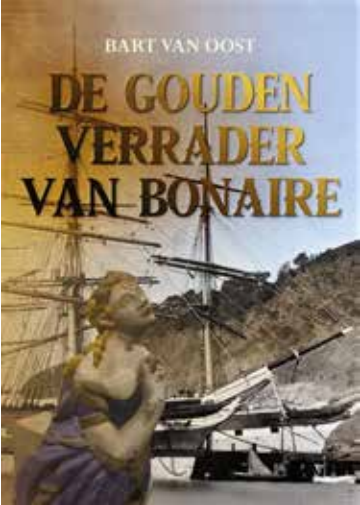
According to Robert Domacasse, a young Dutch marine at the time, and son of dive great Ebo Domacasse, the Traitor was highly coveted by visitors, sailors and pilots.

Domacasse said, "She was stolen on five occasions in 1950, 1953, 1958, 1962 and 1965 and was somehow, ... returned to her owner in Bonaire."

In 1968, Captain Don fell in love with the Traitor and named himself her protector and called her Annieke.

The *Goulden Verrader* covers 150 years of history. Part one covers the 'birth' of the Traitor. Bart digs deep in part two exploring its true origin with possible links to the ship the Mairi Bhan (the Windjammer) that sank in 1912, roles of prominent figures of Bonaire and surprising discoveries about the prized figurehead.

The book is in Dutch. It is available locally at Bruna and Van der Tweel, and in Holland and Curaçao. Bart has made the book into a game that is free to try. Contact Bart at +599-777-0046 or email info@caribeebooks.com or www.becaribe.com. English and Papiamentu versions are expected in late spring.



Bart van Oost with the Golden Traitor (Annieke)
Photo Julie Morgan

Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Humans, both complex and complicated

According to professor and psychologist Dan McAdams at Northwestern University, Illinois, in his research of narrative psychology, we are the stories that we tell to ourselves and to others. He traced the development of three distinct layers of personality, one is the social actor who expresses emotional and behavioral traits, the next is the motivated agent who pursues goals and values and the third is the autobiographical author who constructs a personal story for life. According to many behavioral gurus, if you change the story you tell yourself, you also change your internal dialogues, your mindset and your life. This is partially truth.

According to many nutritionists, we are what we eat, more precisely, some say, we are what we absorb. Our digestive

system is sometimes called our second brain, so what we eat and absorb will determine our mood and energy levels. This is also truth.

Geneticists used to say, we are our DNA, now we know, thanks to epigenetics, that we are those genes that are allowed to express. This is a process ruled by environmental factors, both emotional and physical.

So, as we can see, depending on the discipline, the definition of who we are varies. The truth is that we are complex beings. Complexity refers to the inherent nature of something that is composed of many interconnected parts, but these parts exist within a frame of constants or dependable characteristics. Edgar Morin (born in 1921 and still going) is a French philosopher and sociologist who has been recognized for his work on complexity and "complex thought." Complexity characterizes the behavior of a system or model whose components interact in multiple ways and follow local rules. He was also one of the main contributors of the concept of Transdisciplinarity which is an approach that crosses several disciplinary boundaries fostering collabora-

tion and communication to address complex current issues. So, when we address health, wellbeing, illness, healing, human existence, nature, biology, ecology we are always in the realm of complexity.

But that's not all...complications add to the scenario, altering the many factors that create a complex process in any number of ways making it more difficult to understand or navigate. It is important to always have in mind the complexity of our existence and elegantly drift away from simplistic solutions. This way of approaching reality, will keep us safe from fundamentalistic thinking and linear causality and bring us closer to creating optimal health.



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.

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Shelter News

Constructing Pakus di Pruga

The construction of Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga is underway and making progress!

A simple and practical design using shipping containers with a covered area between them will result in a customer friendly place with lots of space.



There is still much to do and volunteer help and monetary donations would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer to help please contact paulenamina@gmail.com.

You can make donations to our local MCB account, Stichting Dierenasyl Bonaire, Account #10237800; to our NL account Rabobank (Dongen Netherlands) Account number: NL40RABO0137748744; or via PayPal on our webpage <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com>, just click on the yellow "Donate" button.

We are hoping to be open by the beginning of February.

Stay tuned to the Shelter's Facebook page and The Bonaire Reporter for details.



Nos Zjilea

continued from page 3

receiving a visitor. Etiquette is also part of our norms and values, and Denise De Jong – Rekwest will tell us how to give appropriate attention to our elders and what is proper "church attire."

As part of our current events section, Sherine Loozen from the Health Department will introduce the book "Plant Now for Tomorrow's Harvest." The book contains many recipes you can make with local vegetables such as spinach and eggplant. The book will be available at the end of the presentation.

UNESCO gave its "Memory of the World" award to FuHiKuBo for its 'Heritage' program. This beautiful recognition is a great achievement for Bonaire. Boi Antoin will explain what FuHiKuBo has done to achieve this significant milestone.

With all these amazing presentations don't forget to take advantage of the cultural market with local natural juices, herbal teas, delicacies and art. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of homemade soups, Creole dishes and delicious grill.

All this in a cozy atmosphere with "LIVE" performance of the local bands "Kulturando" and "Kariño."

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

*Izain Mercera
Photo credit Julie Morgan*

Pets of the Week



Hi! My name is Chika and next to me is my brother Bilbo.

Such a strange thing happened to us...I happily lived my life for 15 years with my human family. My brother has lived with us a bit shorter time. He is now 12 years old. And then suddenly, one bad day, our family brought us to the shelter.... Because of our age.

The people at the shelter are very sweet to us. We even have our own apartment. The shelter people thought it

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

would be too difficult for us to get used to 38 strange cats in Cat Palace.

But living in our apartment is not the way we want to spend the last years of our lives. We are urgently looking for our REAL forever home, where we can spend our last years together.

We are healthy cats, tested NEG on FIV/ L and have had all our vaccinations. We are neutered and ready to go. Do you have a place in your house and your heart for me and my brother?

Monique Degenaar



Bonaire DailyFresh announces changes

DailyFresh, Bonaire's first Aquaponic grower and most popular source for fresh, sustainably grown leafy greens is making some changes. Founders and owners Bob and Lauri Janssen are passing over the keys to Edward van Wonderen and Erik Koster of Curaçao.

Last year climate change caused record high and prolonged heat of 35°C (95°F) from June to late October. Production was down proving the heat wasn't compatible for Aquaponic growing. With the new ownership, Daily Fresh will be switching to a Hydroponic system which provides more control in cooling the water where the plants grow.

So, what's the actual difference? Both systems grow plants in water but the nutrients for the plants derive from different places. DailyFresh Aquaponics grew Tilapia and cycled the fish water to feed the plants while hydroponics uses added nutrient solutions to the water.

Other changes will include a new 1500 sq m wing bringing the size of the green house to 3400 sq m and roughly 5000 sq m of growing space. When fully realized, Daily Fresh will be able to grow approximately 900,000 crops per year in the next few years.

Wonderen explained that the greenhouse will be divided into three phases: germination of the seeds, intermediate phase for the plants with roots and production phase for the plants to reach maturity. The entire process takes approximately four weeks.

With hydroponics, the plants are grown on rafts or water floaters. A list of 12 different organic nutrients are added in the second and third phases. Some 20,000 L of water per hour recycles through with part of it consumed by the plant. It drinks from the water providing hydration and evaporates from the leaves. To keep things cool a micro climate is created with fans in the growing area across the top and bottom stabilizing the tanks at a constant temperature.



L-R: Edward van Wonderen, Bob Janssen, Erik Kostner and Uribe (JJ) Jhoan Photo Julie Morgan

As for the fish used for Aquaponics, Wonderen said, "Equipment is already here for the fish so we will raise for production."

DailyFresh plans to feature 10-12 types of lettuce, arugula, basil, celery and some new varieties. The owners say it's important we can give constant delivery and guarantee some quantity throughout the year for the restaurants, resorts and supermarket consumers.

"To be profitable and sell at a reasonable price we need to scale up the system. With hydroponics we can grow on a larger scale," said Wonderen.

Bob Janssen will stay involved as he is still very passionate about the business.

Wonderen said, "We are happy Bob will stay in certain parts of the business. He established a beautiful base for us to grow."

Wonderen and Koster are currently building a hydroponic business in Curaçao, Bon Hydroponics or Kunuku Sol. Opening is scheduled in April.

Delivery of the new DailyFresh hydroponic greenhouse is expected in February with a finish date of three to four months. During that time Daily Fresh will continue to grow. To keep up to date visit Bonaire DailyFresh on Facebook or <https://www.dailyfresh.eco> Julie Morgan



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