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Crowds celebrate the opening of Isidel Park Photo Julie Morgan

Isidel Park is the people's park

On May 18 and 19 the people of Bonaire celebrated the opening of Park Isidel, a beach park with access to the sea for all people. The public has awaited the opening since it was announced on September 9, 2022 by BOG's (Bonaire Government Buildings NV) director Adely Susan Jansen.

"The intention is and always was that the beach in front of the resorts would remain free and accessible for the Bonaire community. And this project will create the accessibility for one and all to this beach. I put emphasis on one and all," said Jansen. (see Reporter issue September 14, 2022)

The 26,000 sq. meter park is amazing

with everything that was promised. The builders have stayed true to the original forecasted plan with only a few minor adjustments for safety concerns.

Initially the park had the temporary name of Sunset Beach Park, for the hotel that previously occupied the area. But in January this year it was decided recognition should be given to the seven people aboard the ship Isidel that disappeared in July 1978. This park serves as a fitting memorial to their names.

The ship Isidel, owned by the De Jongh family was traveling from Curaçao to Bonaire, captained by Marti Patricio (Tishi) Abrahams with crew members Mirlo and Daniel De Jongh, Abrahams broth-

ers Patrisio and Bernardo, Angel (Bubu) Janga, Elio Anthony and a passenger Ernesto De Lanoy. It is unknown how the ship was lost. Within the park seven palapas were constructed for the seven people aboard the Isidel to pay tribute to each individual.

Isidel is set up to encourage physical activity. Of course, swimmers, snorkelers and divers can easily access the ocean via the sloping sidewalk, but it was built to be accessible for the disabled too. Unfortunately, some adaptations need to be made at the end of the ramp for it to be truly safe according to Ingrid Havermans who is experienced in disabled accessibility.

Two exercise playgrounds built of treated wood, not plastic, are in place for the kids to enjoy and there is even one for adults.

The memorial palapas can be used as picnic areas where you can enjoy goodies from the vendors or bring your own. There is a place for grilling. A variety of food, drinks and other items including reef safe sunscreen are available at three kiosks. A contest between 12 local commercial vendors was held by the park commission several months ago to determine who would receive these prime spots. The winners were: Placito Lima from Zaida Meneses, Despues chielo ta

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On July 25, 1978, the ship Isidel disappeared during a trip from Curacao to Bonaire. Aboard the Isidel were L-R: Marti Abraham, Bernardo Gregorio Abrahams, Daniel Jose Dominico De Jongh, Angel Angelico Janga, Theobaldus Eio Anthony, Mirlo de Jongh and passenger Ernesto Dominico Delanoy.

OLB makes the news

Executive Council says Bonaireans not ready for self-government

A bill is passing through the legislative process at The Hague that will strengthen citizen participation in local government throughout the Netherlands. That would include the Caribbean Netherlands. The Executive Council has asked the Senate to delay passage until an "impact analysis" can be carried out on Bonaire. The Executive Council says Bonaire is not ready yet. Citizen participation on the island is still "in its infancy" the councilors say.

Abraham misled Island Council on budget change Van Huffelen says

Acting in his role as Finance Commissioner, Clark Abraham (PDB) convinced the Island Council to adopt a budget amendment (BW) on April 19, 2024 that is not legally valid. State Secretary Van Huffelen reported that information in a letter to the council.

The Financial Supervision Board (Cft) had informed Abraham in advance that the amendment would not be legal, according to Van Huffelen. The Cft also informed him how to correct the deficiencies. But Abraham proceeded despite their advice and later blamed communication delays and claimed the amendment regarded only "a technical matter."

Van Huffelen said she had no choice but to withhold her approval of the budget amendment, so it is void. She scolded Abraham and told him not to do it again. Commentators have noted that interim clerk Arjen de Wolff failed to warn the Island Council that the proposed budget amendment did not comply with the law.

Opposition says Abraham took illegal personnel actions

The opposition has charged Clark Abraham with illegally bundling three incompatible personnel decisions, then presenting them to the Island Council for a single vote. Abraham's actions violated other legal requirements as well, according to H. Wout, leader of the opposition party Movementu di Pueblo Bonariano (MPB), in a May 13 letter to the chairman of the island council.

The proposed actions were the appointment of a clerk and a deputy, plus an extension of the appointment of the current interim clerk, Arjen de Wolff. De Wolff, as interim clerk, is the official in government who is charged with warning the island council if they are proceeding in violation of legal requirements.

In his letter Wout pointed out that the interim clerk is under preliminary investigation for allegedly performing an illegal act and falsely claiming he did it on the instructions of the Island Council, which he has admitted.

Bonaire likely to lose unspent millions

According to the Financial Supervision Board (Cft), Bonaire started 2024 with \$40.1 million from The Hague that was intended to "strengthen the executive power of the public body Bonaire." The money was earmarked for 44 projects. During the first quarter, however, the OLB spent only \$1.8 million of those funds.

The Cft has asked the OLB for a plan for catching up, but has not received a reply. The Cft also complains that the OLB is not fulfilling its financial reporting obligations.

Island council pressured to reduce faction compensation

In May, during a fast-track, two-minute debate session in Parliament, seven of nine motions on BES matters, all of them generous, were adopted with a large majority. The motion feared by Bonaire was postponed. That motion would have cancelled a substantial increase in the Bonaire's Free Benefit. But its sponsors say it can be revived at any time for another vote, and will be if Bonaire fails to reverse or at least revise the very generous increase in the faction compensation the Island Council awarded to local political parties.

Van Huffelen pointed out that the Island Council has a right to decide how much money it will give its political parties. But Parliament gets to decide how much money it will give Bonaire.

OLB outed by techies for failure to comply with privacy rules

The Commission Supervision Personal Data Protection BES (CBP BES) has published an investigation report concerning the Public Entity Bonaire because of the OLB's failure to comply with policies on information security.

An audit conducted in March, 2023, revealed the clean desk and clear screen policy was inadequately implemented within the OLB organization. Consequently personal data were left unprotected. Despite subsequent understandings, the OLB missed crucial deadlines in October 2023 and March 2024 for incorporating the recommendations into its processes. The OLB also failed to respond to a CBP BES follow up query by the April 2024 deadline.

CBP BES emphasizes that OLB must meet its obligation to protect the fundamental rights of Bonaire's residents by taking the applicable rules seriously. CBP BES is currently investigating its enforcement options, including the use of sanction.

The report has been published on the CBP BES website and can be downloaded from www.cbpbbs.com.

DMR

Bonaire being smoke poisoned by its own garbage

Back in the 1990s Playa was polluted by smoke almost daily when the trash at the landfill was set afire. Then Bonaire created what became famous as the best landfill in the Caribbean. Officials from other islands came to study it. Now, with the population tripled and the volume of waste probably multiplied several times that, Bonaire has to burn its garbage again. People are being exposed to acrid smoke pollution that can't be lived with and that poses health risks, known and unknown. As the two recent uncontrolled fires at the landfill have demonstrated, neither the OLB nor Selibon can cope, given their existing resources and the existing disposal infrastructure. DMR



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Casa Bizarro - something for every taste



Manager Amaro Gerard mixes a specialty drink at the Bizarro bar Photo Julie Morgan

Bizarro – bizarre, fantastic or unconventional approach

- Webster's dictionary

mix is a perfect offering with something for most every taste. And the atmosphere seems to mirror the unique menu with dark walls painted with a jungle of large palm fronds with accents of bright colors.

Casa Bizarro has three levels of dining with high tables and fuschia chairs in the bar area almost declaring this is the place for some drinks. The regular seated dining area is half booth and half chairs for another bizarre choice. And if you prefer the fresh air of Bonaire there is an outside patio area.

Manager Amaro Gerard said, "The idea was to create a hot kitchen with sushi bar and a lot of atmosphere. It's surely different than what everyone else has."

Gerard has only been on board since February and is making a lot of changes to the restaurant that opened last November. With 27 years in hospitality and F&B director at Hyatt for 14 years, he has the experience and has hired and trained new staff in stand operating procedures for restaurant service.

"Service and quality – if you don't have both then it doesn't work," said Gerard.

Sakura Sushi lovers will recognize the menu with their sushi starter, nigiri and

16 different rolls. The salmon is from Canada and the tuna is freshly caught on Bonaire. On the hot side of the menu there are starters and mains with a 7.5 oz Argentinean tenderloin steak, chicken sate, grilled chicken, meatballs and a mixed grill with two different crossover sauces, mushroom and Chimchurri. And there is a Caesar salad and four different pasta dishes.

The bar features Happy Hour every day from 5 – 6 p.m. with everyone's favorite liquors, aperitifs and a complete wine list.

Beginning May 29, Casa Bizarro will feature a new Wednesday Vibe special

three course menu with the perfect 'bizarre' menu of Bizarro tuna tartare, a main of grilled ribeye with Bizarro Chimichuri and a homemade brownie with vanilla ice cream for dessert for only \$39. And, remember the five different types of Mojitos are only \$8.

Casa Bizarro welcomes special events and private parties during the day. If you need a little bizarre in your life, visit their jungle inspired haven in the heart of Kralendijk. Open Tuesday – Saturday 5 to 10 (bar till 11pm). Reservations are suggested through either Whatsapp +599-701-3884, Google reservations app, Facebook or Instagram.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



FOR SALE! Kaya Rotterdam 13 2 Homes Close to the Ocean



- Location: Hato
- Lot size : 1546 m2 / 16,639 sq. ft. lease land
- Home 1: 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms

- Home 2 : 2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
- Large mature full grown garden
- Roof terrace, storage container



Asking price \$595,000 US Dollars

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KPCN presents 2023 police statistics

On Friday, May 10, 2024 the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) presented the department's 2023 statistics. Overall, the numbers show a slight decline from previous years; crime in some categories has increased (vehicle theft) and in other categories decreased (theft from dive sites).

According to Harald Linkels of the BES Reporter, KPCN Chief Alwyn Braaf expressed cautious satisfaction with the figures from the past year. "When it comes to crime, it always sounds strange to say you are satisfied. After all, every case is one too many," said Braaf. Nevertheless, the head of KPCN is pleased that various types of criminal activity on the island are showing a declining trend.

2023 INVESTIGATIONS	
PROPERTY OFFENCES	Theft 310
	Property crimes 95
VIOLENT CRIMES	Abuse 80
	Murder/manslaughter 1 <i>1 case of murder/manslaughter, but 8 cases of attempted manslaughter reported.</i>
	Child abuse 11
	Domestic violence 69
	Open violence 10
	Serious abuse 9
	Abuse with a weapon 27
	Destruction 111
	Threats 114
YOUTH & SEX OFFENCES	Sexual offenses 28
	Juvenile cases 13
	Domestic violence 69
	Child abuse 4
OTHER INVESTIGATIONS	Incident targeted investigation 113 Solved 42%
	Problem targeted investigation 27
	Drug smuggling 27 kg cocaine & 1103 kg marijuana
	Violation of BES Opium Act 18 Solved 64%
	Cyber crime 45 One case sent to Dutch police
	Financial crime 6
<i>Team Digital Investigation has supported 129 cases in 2023</i>	

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob –
My home is an older home and I am thinking about making some improvements to it on the inside. What interior improvements are best for increasing the value of my home?

Pete B., Toronto

That's a good question. Most of the older homes on Bonaire are very well built, but a new owner might think that they need updating. The best updates for increasing the value of your home are:

- **Updating bathrooms** – This is usually the least expensive of the updates I am suggesting, while also being the most cost effective. If you are updating your bathrooms, expect to replace all of the plumbing fixtures, sink, vanity cabinet and shower enclosure. Most people will also remove/replace the wall tiles in the bathroom. Replacing the floor tiles in the bathroom may or may not be practical.

- **Updating your kitchen** – This is usually a more expensive project, while also being a cost effective investment in your house and your lifestyle. If you are updating your kitchen, expect to replace all of the plumbing fixtures, sink, cabinets, lighting and counter tops. You might also want to consider updating the electrical service in the kitchen at the same time as most older kitchens do not have as many outlets as are required by all of our modern appliances. Most people will also

remove/replace the wall tiles and backsplash in the kitchen. Replacing the floor tiles in the kitchen may or may not be practical depending on your floor plan.

- **Updating doors and windows** – In an older home the exterior doors and windows might be 20 or 30 years old. Installing newer double pane windows or louvers can help keep your house cooler and they often improve security as well.

Regards, Bob
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

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Bonaire: +599-717-7362.

Toll free from US:

1-866-611-7362

2023 BASIC POLICE CARE	
FREQUENT CRIME	105
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS	778
TRAFFIC FINES	1731
STREET RACING/FEVERING	Street racing (8) Fevering (96)
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	169

More airplanes coming

Corendon Dutch Airlines will begin service to Bonaire in November, and in December American Airlines and JetBlue will add more U.S. flights.



Corendon Dutch Airlines will fly AMS-CUR-BON-AMS on Wednesdays and Sundays, with a stopover and crew change on Curaçao.

American Airlines will upgrade its current three-times-weekly winter-service from Miami to a daily schedule, and add a second flight on Saturdays.

JetBlue has announced its first year-round non-stop service from New York (JFK) to Bonaire. DMR

POLICE REPORT

Theft and property crime

May 24. Two men aged 20 were arrested for attempted theft. The men tried to take a dinghy attached to a sailboat. The sailboat's owners were sleeping when they were awakened by a noise outside and saw both suspects in the dinghy. When the suspects were caught, they jumped into the sea and swam towards the coast. They were stopped and arrested by a patrol when both wanted to flee on their scooters.

May 21. An amount of cash was taken from a company on Kaya Industria.

May 18. The central control room received a report of a burglary in a restaurant on Kaya Korona. When the patrol arrived, the burglar was still in the building. A man, 37, was arrested for burglary, vandalism and theft.

May 18. Thieves targeted dive site(s) at Bulevar E.E.G. Between 9:30 - 10:30 a.m they took from a vehicle a purple iPhone 8, an orange first-aid kit and a small phone. Between 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. two bags were stolen that contained black Rayban sunglasses, an MCB Moneycard, white earpods generation 3 in their case, a white and a floral Corcicle drinking bottle, two dark gray ScubaPro backpacks, various items of clothing and a blue cooler with food. Between 12:30 - 2 p.m., some items were stolen from a third car that was unlocked.

May 16. A black Cube mountain bike was stolen when it was standing next to the building of a diving school on Kaya Playa Lechi.

May 16. Around 6:40 p.m. a man, 34, was arrested at the police station for theft and fencing. On May 14, the suspect took a black Land Rover without permission from a site located on Kaya Gresia. **May 14.** Between 2:45 - 3:00 p.m. three bags were stolen from the beach at Bulevar E.E.G. while the owners were snorkeling. Taken were: a small black bag containing, green sunglasses, a Dutch driver's license, a dark gray Xiaomi Redmi Note 12 mobile; a blue-black Eastpack U.S.A shoulder bag containing a red T-shirt, a towel, a wallet with cash, a gray JBL speaker with a pink rubber cover, a set of keys, and a glass-like light green Samsung A14 telephone; a small black bag containing a black wallet with cash, a passport, green Melimelo sunglasses and a light blue Samsung Galaxy A53 mobile phone. A black mobile Oppo type A54 phone was also taken.

May 14. The theft of a black Land Rover Rage vehicle with license plate B-15663 was reported. The car was parked on a site on Kaya Gresia. When the owner was in a meeting, he suddenly saw that the car was driving away from the site. The car was unlocked.

May 9. A black La Souris City S 49.9 CC scooter with license plate MF-3175, was stolen the yard of an apartment on Kaya Arauco between 7 p.m. Wed. and 9:30 a.m Thurs.

Arrests

May 22. In the morning hours, two men aged 22 and 31 were arrested in connection with arson at the garbage dump. The arrests led to two house searches; one in Tera Cora and one in the Lagoen Hill area. During the searches, several devices and digital documentation relevant to the investigation were seized.

May 21. Around 8:30 a.m., a man, 29, was arrested at the police station for assault and serious assault.

May 18. Around 3:30 p.m. a man, 28, was arrested on Kaya Nikiboko South for assault.

May 18. Around 5:20 a.m. a man, 31, was arrested on Kaya Lelie for assault.

May 18. A man, 28, was arrested on Kaya Maximiliana Rosario. He was driving dangerously when he was ordered to stop by the KMar. At first he did not respond, but eventually stopped on Kaya Maximiliana Rosario. The driver was unable to produce a valid driver's license. Because it turned out that the driver had already been stopped several times for driving without a driver's license, he was informed that the car would be seized. The driver refused to hand over the car keys after several requests. He was then arrested for failing to comply with a demand. The car was confiscated.

May 17. Around 9:55 p.m., a man, 62, was arrested for threatening with a weapon and violation of the BES Weapons Act. He threatened to kill a man with a knife.

May 13. Around 1:15 a.m. a man, 37, was arrested on Kaya Korona for vandalism. The suspect destroyed the front door of a bank and gave himself access to enter the building because he had no place to sleep. The case is under investigation.

May 11. Around 6:25 p.m. a man, 21, was arrested at Kaya Pueblo for assault, assault with a weapon and threats.

Driving under the influence

From May 9 to May 18 12 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence. Seven drivers had been involved in a collision. Six drivers had their driving licenses revoked.

Traffic accidents

Between May 14 and May 23 police sorted out six major accidents, four of which were on Kaya Djabou: a car and a scooter collided when the driver of the scooter failed to give way; a pickup truck collided with a septic tank truck; car 1 ran into the back of car 2 when car 2 suddenly braked; the patrol found a car with a broken windshield and a dented left front side. The driver was lying a few meters further on the road surface; a hit & run took place when a car dangerously overtook another car and hit the front end of the car; Both drivers were injured when a scooter and motorbike collided on Kaya Nikiboko South.

A person who commits this act and drives away has three hours to report himself to the police station before 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.

May 14. Both drivers were injured when a scooter and motorbike collided on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver of the motorbike was taken to hospital and the driver of the scooter was treated on the spot. The motorbike was taken to the police station for further investigation.

Traffic control

May 22. Two speed checks were conducted. On Kaminda Tras di Montaña the maximum allowed speed is 60 km/h. During the speed control, 48 vehicles were checked. Four drivers received a fine for exceeding the maximum permitted speed, driving between 60 and 88 km/h. On Kaya Amsterdam, 40 vehicles were inspected. Four fines were issued for exceeding the maximum permitted speed of 40 km/h, driving between 40 and 87 km/hour.

May 8. Planned traffic checks were held on Kaya Korona and Kaya Industrial. 45 cars and two scooters were checked. Drivers were ticketed for driving without: 4x a seat belt on; 5x a valid driver's license; 4x valid insurance, and 1x for not transporting children in a child seat.

A car was taken to the police station for safekeeping because the driver had already received two fines for driving without a driver's license.

Fire

May 21. At around 1:40 am a parked in front of a house on Kaya Timbal car was reported on fire. When barking dogs woke the resident he smelled burning, went outside to look, and found his wife's car on fire. He was able to put out the fire himself.

May 16. A fire was reported in a house on Kaminda Tra'i Montaña. A storage container was on fire in the yard of the house, and had spread to an old car parked next to it. The resident suddenly saw smoke coming from the container. He tried to put out the fire with water, but the fire spread quickly. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. The resident suffered several burns on his right hand but refused doctor/ambulance assistance. The cause of the fire was probably some old solar panels and batteries that were kept near the container.

May 15. Around 10:35 a.m. a fire was reported in a car in front of a tourist accommodation on Gobernador N. Debrot Boulevard. When the patrol arrived, bystanders had extinguished the fire with a fire extinguisher. The fire brigade checked that the fire had been properly extinguished. There were no injuries.

May 10. Around 3:10 p.m. the central control room received a report of a fire at the landfill at Kaminda Lagun. The patrol and fire brigade saw it was a large fire consisting of wooden pallets and car tires. The fire caused large clouds of smoke that spread over the island in the northwest direction. The fire brigade made two attempts to get the fire under control, but they were unable to do so due to the large flames and the heat emanating from the fire. Since there was no danger of expansion, the fire brigade decided to let the waste burn out. Police remained on site to send away curious bystanders. Residents who suffer from smoke have been asked to close windows and doors. The cause of the fire is unknown and is being investigated.

May 10. The central control room received a report about a bus that was on fire in front of a house on Kaya Eindhoven. The owner stated that when he went to start the vehicle he heard a strange noise and started to smell smoke. When he got out of the vehicle he saw fire coming from the hood. He then quickly turned off the engine and tried to extinguish the fire himself, but to no avail. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was injured. The bus suffered material damage. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Public order

May 22. Patrol spotted a scooter with two people not wearing helmets on Kaya Caribe. The driver of the scooter ignored a police stop sign and came to a stop at a house. The driver, 17, could not provide a driver's license, but he did have a permit to drive the scooter. The passenger was a 14-year-old boy. The mother of the 17-year-old was not happy with the presence of the officers who explained to her that her son (the driver) was driving without a helmet and ignored a stop sign, and as a result, would receive a warning. The driver indicated that the scooter belonged to a friend. The owner indicated that he does not have a driver's license and that the scooter is not insured. It was concluded that the scooter was probably stolen and it was taken to the police station. While the officers were standing in the yard of the home, they saw several marijuana plants. These were all confiscated.

May 22. Around 9 p.m. the police received a report of a missing boy. A press release with a photo of the 18-year-old boy, Anyelo Orozco, distributed. Around 9:40 a.m. on Thursday, May 23, the central control room received a report that the missing boy was found in one piece on Sorobon. The police would like to thank everyone who contributed to the search for the boy.

May 11. The central control room received a report of a fight on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. During the brawl, glass bottles were also thrown and shots were fired. When the patrol arrived, traces of blood were found, but no victim. No victims with gunshot wounds were reported to the hospital. The bystanders told the police that they saw and heard nothing.

Dogs.

May 13. Around 2:25 p.m. the central control room received a report that two dogs had attacked a man on Kaya Irma. Upon the patrol's arrival, the man stated that he had to run for his life when a brown and a black dog attacked him. He was bitten on his left leg. While running, his phone fell on the ground and broke. When the officers went to the home of the dogs' owner, the two dogs were found running aggressively back and forth on the public road. The owner of the dogs received a fine for violating the dog ordinance. He was also willing to pay for all damages.

May 9. A woman reported that her neighbors' dogs in the Bario Kibrahacha had attacked her and other residents. The patrol saw four dogs on the neighbor's property, including three pit bulls. When the owner of the dogs was confronted, he said that the reporter's dogs also attack people on the street. During this conversation, two dogs started fighting and did not separate despite being sprayed with pepper spray and water. During the fight, officers stopped a third pit bull from jumping the fence. Finally, the dogs were separated by the owner and all tied to a chain. Mediation took place between the neighbors. Both received a written warning. Clear agreements were made and both neighbors were informed that if the police receive another report about the dogs, measures will be taken.

May 8. A man reported that his neighbor's dogs had mauled one of his goats to death. When the officers went to Kaya Jivaro it turned out that the goat had entered the neighbor's yard where it was bitten to death by the dogs. The owner of the goat was reminded that goats were not allowed to roam freely. The owner of the dogs was told that his yard was fenced considering that he has about eight dogs, two of which are not attached to a chain. Mediation took place between the neighbors.

May 8. A woman reported that a dog attacked nine sheep in a kunuku near Kaminda Lagun. Three of the nine sheep were killed. The reporter called the vet. The patrol searched the area for the brown dog she saw but without the desired result.

May 8. The police received a report about a dog on Kaya Pos di Amor attached to a long cable ending up on the public road outside so it could attack people walking there. When confronted the owner secured the dog so it no longer leaves the garden.

May 6. A man reported that a dog killed four lambs on his kunuku near Lagun. When two days later he saw a dog eating the dead lambs he chased it with his car until the dog walked into the garden of a house on Kaminda Lagun. He then requested police mediation between himself and the dog's owner. Clear agreements were made to, among other things, keep the dog on a chain. Because there was no evidence that the dog had bitten the lambs to death two days earlier, the owner was also informed that if the police receive another report about the dog, action will be taken.

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.

Biodiversity Conservation: A Vital Path to Achieve Sustainability

The Sixth Mass Extinction: Humanity's Unprecedented Crisis

In recent decades, the acceleration of species and habitat loss has reached unprecedented levels, marking what scientists dub as the sixth mass extinction. This unsettling trend is predominantly attributed to human activities, poised to extinguish three-quarters of the species we know within a mere few decades. Sixty-nine per cent of Earth's wildlife has vanished in the past 50 years. While some debate lingers among scientists regarding the classification of this event, the undeniable reality remains: Earth confronts a profound crisis of biodiversity loss, aggravated by climate change and environmental contamination.

The Perceptual Challenge: Understanding the Scale of Species Decline

The scale of this species decline often eludes immediate perception, unfolding across vast expanses of space and time. Consequently, the gravity of these ecological challenges often remains obscured behind abstract data and research findings. Regrettably, policymakers may choose to overlook this inconvenient truth if it contradicts their political agendas.

Resistance to Alarm: The Challenge of Acknowledging Crisis

Despite scientists consistently highlighting alarming findings, they often encounter resistance, being admonished not to perpetuate panic with their labeled 'alarmist reports,' which downplay the severity of the situation. Such dismissals only serve to perpetuate inaction in the face of impending ecological catastrophe. Up till now, the world is failing to address a catastrophic biodiversity collapse. In other words, humanity is running an ecological Ponzi scheme in which society robs nature and future generations to pay for boosting incomes in the short term.



The Prevailing Mindset and Bonaire's Approach

The way Bonaire approaches the biodiversity and climate crisis is sadly no exception to the prevailing mindset that prioritizes growth and short-term gain, a stance shared by the majority of political leaders around the world.

News headlines in the local press celebrate the increasing number of planes and tourists visiting the island, and cruise passengers estimated to reach 400,000 in 2024 (*). However, amidst this push for growth, little consideration is given to the ecological capacity of the island, disregarding the long-term sustainability of the island's ecosystem.

Habitat Destruction: A Key Driver of Extinction

At the heart of the sixth mass extinction lies habitat destruction, propelled by the exponential growth of the human population and our insatiable consumption of resources. This relentless expansion exerts immense pressure on ecosystems worldwide, driving countless species towards the brink of extinction. Numerous studies now document how natural soundscapes are changing, being disrupted, and falling silent. Sounds of the natural world are rapidly falling si-

lent and will become 'acoustic fossils' without urgent action to halt environmental destruction.

Biodiversity Crisis: A Race Against Irreversible Loss

The loss of biological diversity could ultimately become the most pervasive global environmental change our species will face, as all taxa that disappear from Earth will be gone forever. Biodiversity loss is both a cause and a consequence of global environmental change. Despite its critical importance, the biodiversity crisis has received appallingly little attention compared to climate change. Stopping biodiversity loss is nowhere near the top of any country's priorities. Consequently, none of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020, set at the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2010 meeting, were met. However, in December 2022, governments worldwide agreed on new goals to guide global action through 2030, aiming to halt and reverse loss of biodiversity. This includes targets such as protecting 30% of the planet and restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

The Role of Sustainable Development Goals

Most of the nature-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also on track for failure, largely because most SDGs have not adequately incorporated their interdependencies. Recent studies on the interactions between the SDGs identify the conservation of biodiversity as one of the most potent levers to achieve sustainability. Progress on the biodiversity-focused SDGs 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land) contributes in most cases to the achievement of multiple other goals.

Biodiversity Conservation: A Vital Path to Sustainable Development

The extent of the extinction crisis and its impacts on the loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being are still rather ignored by most people. There is time, but the window of opportunity is almost closed. Sustainable development crucially hinges on nature and in particular on its biological diversity. The loss of biodiversity is irreversible on a time scale relevant to humanity. Ecosystems can endure, evolving over millions of years to find a new equilibrium. However, we, as humans, can't afford it. We are dependent on ecosystems, while they do not depend on us. What is at stake, the fate of humanity and most living species. It is essential for future generations to inherit a world where nature flourishes, and where humans coexist harmoniously with the natural environment.

We still have six years to meet the SDGs lets take the urgently needed actions to correct the course and accelerate the implementations of the SDGs. A sustainable future is only possible with healthy nature at its core.

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia

*Note: * with still a meager tourist tax of \$2.00 (head tax), plans to increase it to \$10.00 have been indefinitely postponed in December 2023 (Z/23/009821).*

BZK establishes two new professor chairs for the Kingdom

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK) is establishing two new professor chairs for the Kingdom. There will be a political sciences/public administration professor chair and an anthropology/sociology professor chair. Leiden University will hold the professor chair political sciences/public administration and the University of Amsterdam the professor chair anthropology/sociology.

Professor chair holder Francio Guadeloupe: "Almost half of the people with a Caribbean background reside in the Netherlands. At the same time, the islands are home to thousands of people whose

great-grandparents were born in the Netherlands. This reality is bigger than the tensions between the politicians in The Hague and the politicians on the islands."

Professor chair holder Wouter Veenendaal: "The Kingdom of the Netherlands has a unique structure. It consists of four autonomous and equivalent countries, but one of those countries – the European Netherlands – is politically and institutionally superior to the others. This raises questions about democratic representation within the Kingdom, which I want to investigate in the context of this chair." *RCN*



Dr. Wouter Veenendaal, Associate Professor Comparative Politics at the Institute of Political Science of Leiden University, will hold the professor chair Democratic Representation in the Kingdom for Leiden University.

Social and cultural anthropologist Dr. Francio Guadeloupe will hold the professor chair Public Anthropology of Kingdom Relations.



Visiting professor connects with ancestors during Statia visit



Last week historian Prof. Dr. Nemata Blyden visited St. Eustatius for the first time. The St. Eustatius Afrikan Burial Ground Alliance had informed her she is a descendant of the famous pan-Afrikanist Edward Wilmot Blyden (St. Thomas 1832–Sierra Leone 1912), whose parents were born on the island. Professor Blyden is a researcher and lecturer at the University of Virginia specializing in Afrikan history of the US, the Afrikan diaspora, and Afrikan history.

The Alliance made the discovery accidentally during its family heritage project, “Remember Statia: Tracing Our Origins.” The surname Blyden, or Blijden, is still common on the island. Prof. Blyden has also been researching her family history.

DMR

Search for a lieutenant governor gains momentum

Of 46 applicants for the position of governor of Bonaire, 20 were interviewed by acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond and nine of those were presented to the confidential committee of the Island Council. Helmond met with them last week at The Hague for a second round of interviews. The committee is expected to nominate one of them to Helmond in mid-June.

Nolly Oleana has been Bonaire’s reluctant governor for 13 months. The first recruitment failed twice when suitable candidates withdrew at the last minute. The second recruitment was widely advertised in both the European Netherlands and the Caribbean. Two headhunters agencies were engaged as well.

. DMR

What good did the extra money do?

A Court of Audit accountability study published on May 15 confirms that the Caribbean Netherlands spent the additional 30 million euros that The Hague made available in 2023, but the auditors cannot determine to what effect. “We see that a lot of money from the CN envelope goes to projects that contribute to the goals of the coalition agreement,” the report confirmed. “But because coordination and agreements are lacking, the additional effect of this extra money is not yet sufficiently visible.”

The report determined that “most of the money in the CN envelope has been spent on increasing free benefits and tackling poverty.” “Based on our research,” the report continued, “we consider it likely that all projects (partly) financed from the CN envelope contribute to one or more objectives of the CN envelope.” It added, however, that the effect of the extra money from the CN envelope cannot be determined.”

The Ministries spent 546 million euros on top of the Free Benefit to the Caribbean Netherlands last year. That was 15 million more than in 2022, but over 13 million less than in 2021. *DMR*

Money available for CN climate change planning

Thanks to an initial investment by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Caribbean Netherlands will have 1 million euros available for drawing up climate change plans in addition to existing investments in mitigation and adaptation.

In the Caribbean Netherlands, temperature and wind speed are expected to increase and precipitation to decrease. Sea levels will rise. Sint Eustatius and Saba will experience strong, more frequent hurricanes with lots of rain. That prediction does not apply to Bonaire.

The government is working with the executive councils to create a climate plan for each island. The plans will focus on both adaptation and mitigation and will address potential threats to public safety, health, livelihoods, the economy, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

DMR

BES Childcare Act passed

The Senate has adopted the BES Childcare Act by a large majority called the Bes(t) for Kids program, supporters described it as an example of good cooperation between the island governments and ministries and noted that the bill takes “important steps” to provide all children on the islands with access to good, safe and affordable childcare. *DMR*

Illegal stairs destroyed at Karel’s Beach Bar

Stairs at a pier on the sea promenade at Karel’s Beach Bar were demolished by the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate of the Public Body of Bonaire (OLB). They had been built on government land without a permit, and the work continued even after a construction stop had been issued. *DMR*

Fake guns seized, warning issued



The Dutch Caribbean Police Force seized several fake firearms that were sold by a supermarket on Bonaire on Wednesday May 8. The responsible employee of the supermarket has agreed not to purchase or sell any more fake firearms.

Fake firearms are difficult to distinguish from real firearms and therefore can cause dangerous situations. The police always have to assume that a weapon is real and act accordingly. Bystanders who panic might also cause a dangerous situation. People who possess a fake weapon can be arrested and fined.

The KPCN and the Public Prosecution Service urge anyone who has a fake firearm to hand it in at the police station in Playa. ; Fake firearms can be returned without further consequences until Friday, May 31. *DMR*



An STCB fishing line cleanup diver finds a pair of binoculars under the North Pier

Dive Friends and STCB cleanup

The weekend of May 11 and 12 was all about cleaning up the ocean with Dive Friends and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Dive Friends attracted 45 participants in their quarterly cleanup focusing on the area around Karel’s Beach Bar collecting approximately 100kg of debris. The majority of trash was plastic and some construction material items most likely due to the work in progress on the new addition being built at Karel’s. Some 105 plastic cups and eating utensils topped the list in addition to 60 glass/ ceramic pieces, 30 beverage bottles and 30 aluminum cans. The most unusual items were a driver’s license, a trash bin, electricity cable and a grader.

STCB’s loyal fishing line cleanup divers numbering 25 managed to collect an overflowing tub of tangled line at the North Pier. Although fishing line is the main focus for this cleanup crew, other trash is always found including a window screen, several hats, clothing, cans, bottles, food container packaging and even a pair of binoculars. Most of this debris was from fishermen and cruise ships that use the pier.

Dive Friends next cleanup is scheduled for July 20 with no date set for STCB. Thank you to everyone that joined the cleanups to keep our Bonaire water free of debris.

Photo/story Julie Morgan



Photo PWA

PWA BONAIRE YOUTH & JUNIOR SLALOM WORLD CUP WINNERS 2024

After an amazing week of racing in Bonaire with 15 eliminations completed, here are your winners.

U13 BOYS:
 Joey Ross, AR
 Tobi Korver BON /NA
 Julien Blom BON /NA

U15 GIRLS:
 Kit De Jong Bon/NA
 Lone De Jong BON/NA
 Lois Schut BON/NA

U15 BOYS:
 Arxon Gomperts BON/NA
 Barrie Sassen BON/NA
 Jaevian IJtsma BON/NA

U17 GIRLS:
 Bobbi-Lynn De Jong BON/NA
 Silke te Velthuis BON/NA

U17 BOYS:
 Tycho Smits BON/NA
 Storm Nicolai BON/NA
 Caylan Allee BON/NA

U21 GIRLS:
 Louise vd Meulen AR
 Lilia Yelland GRB

U21 BOYS:
 Brendan Lorho FR
 Bimbi Clappers BON/NA
 Joa vd Berg BON/NA

Bon Wokkie – little restaurant with big taste



Thanks to Bonaire Culinaire, my friend and I enjoyed a fun and creative dining experience at Bon Wokkie. It's a little restaurant with big taste and great service located almost on the waterfront across from Lucianos. Bon Wokkie is fast becoming a local favorite with meals at a sweet price. They sell poke bowls and Wok dishes, sushi burritos, rice bowls, loaded fries and a variety of side dishes. Their homemade ice tea is refreshing and unusual.

It's a fun dining experience because you can choose one of

the signature dishes with clever names like "Trippin Tuna" "You Make Miso Happy" and "Shrimply The Best." Or you can choose all the ingredients to go into your poke bowl starting with the base of rice or lettuce or a mixture of the two, the choose the protein you'd like, the veggies, sauce and topping. It's like a very exotic Subway sandwich shop. And yes, everything is fresh!

They also serve Randang beef rice bowls, Red and Yellow curry rice bowls. Wok dishes choices are with jakarta chicken, persian lamb, korean shrimp, bali veggie and java jackfruit. There's a lot to explore.

Regularly most dishes cost as

little as \$16.00. But with the Bonaire Culinaire special we received a starter of Udon Noodle soup, a main of build your own Pokebowl or Medium Wok dish and a homemade ice tea with a choice of mango, Pandan coconut, green elderflower or honey lemon for just \$29.

Bon Wokkie has been open for a couple years but was sold last January to Michelle Wisse who manages the restaurant with her father. They renovated the cozy restaurant for dining indoors or outside creating very comfortable spots to dine with the nightlife of Bonaire surrounding you.

It's also possible to have your meals delivered to your home by Brothers food deliv-



Culinaire special main dishes Photo Julie Morgan

ery +599-770-6559 or call Bon Wokkie for take out +599-700-0123. Bon Wokkie is open every day but Thursday from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Bonaire Culinaire special lasts for 15 days, May 23 – June 6. It's a great way to try Bon Wokkie or one of the other 22 dining experiences on the list. This is Culinaire's biggest variety of dining offerings since it

began a few years ago. There is something for everyone with choices of casual to high end dining, unique sailing tours, a bakery and even a distillery. For a list of participating restaurants visit www.bonaire-culinaire.com and follow on social media for updates: Facebook at 'Bonaire-CulinaireEvent' and Instagram @bonaireculinaire.

Ginny Knight



Bon Wokkie is located at Kaya isla Riba across from Luciano. Photo Julie Morgan



Bon Wokkie dishes are made fresh for each order. (L) Celeste van Wezel and (R) Michelle Wisse prepare a Wok dish. Photo Julie Morgan

KW agents honor Red Day

Local agents from Keller Williams (KW) did their part to celebrate Red Day with a \$10 buck carwash on May 9. The agents cleaned some 50 vehicles on this day in the parking lot of Cecilia Motors. They collected an amazing \$1100 which they donated to Bonaire's Food Bank.

Since 2009 the Keller Williams organization worldwide has been dedicated to "Renew, Energize and Donate" to their local communities on Red Day, the second

Thursday of May. The idea is to "Give where you Live". Although only established on the island a few years ago, Bonaire's KW agents are following the company's commitment to community service.

A check is presented by a few of the local agents to Bonaire's Food Bank. L-R: Suzan Stam – KW; Maarten Calijouw – Voedselbank; Renee Zeijen - Voedselbank and Francisco Zavala – KW.

Photo KW



FUNRACE RESULTS

Eye Sea Funrace held May 26 did not receive the usual turnout of avid mountain bikers due to the extraordinary sports activities of windsurfing and the Guardian Walk/Run scheduled on the same day. Some 18 Elite riders began the race with only 13 finishing and one having bad luck in the first round. Two riders joined the Fun race.

Tom Homburg finished first with 1.18.17 on the five lap x 6.2km route followed by Louis Minne four minutes behind at 1.22.54. Fons de Bie occupied the podium in third place with 1.23.29.

Finishing in the Fun race of five laps x 4.2km route was Rachella Lenten with 1.18.55 and Vera Tollen rode a few laps with her child on the front of her bike which was fun to see. The next Funrace is July 27.

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

Miracles happen and this one happened to me. It started with my tayerblad (a vegetable) dying. It just dried up, why? This is the question I ask myself everytime it dies and because I don't want it to die, I take the best care of it.

In Suriname, babies are fed a lot of tayerblad. It has a mild taste and a soft structure. The wise elderly in Suriname say that tayerblad is very good for young ones to start a healthy life and for the old ones to keep on going. So I guess, I'm at the age to have tayerblad at least once a week and I planted several plants in pots and pans.

Everytime I plant the tubers the leaves start growing nice and big but not for long. After about a half year they become smaller and soon there are only some little dry leaves and a rotten tuber at the end.

I told a friend this story and he had no answer to the problem but he wanted to help so he came one day with a nice young plant in a big pot. He said "Angliet, I got this tayerblad plant and since you are looking for one, I'm giving it to you." He looked very happy with his gift but I did not. I appreciate his loyalty but it was not a tayerblad. It was a plant that looks very similar. My friend was not that familiar with tayerblad and he couldn't see the difference. And I knowing tayerblad like every Surinamese, saw immediately that this was a plant of the tayerblad family that can cause irritation of the mouth and lips when consumed. It was a disappointment for my friend to hear that this was not the edible tayerblad but I kept the plant and it grew into a very nice plant. My



friend learned that not every tayerblad looking plant is the one you can eat.

While wondering how to get new tayerblad tubers, I ran into LVV director Maurice Adriaans in Warehouse. It was like I asked for him and there he was and that's the miracle. I told him my tayerblad problems and he had a solution - chicken manure. I asked him, but isn't chicken manure too strong for plants. He said, yes, but every once in a while just a little bit is enough to keep tayerblad alive and produce big fat leaves. So that is the secret. Adriaans promised to give me some tubers and I'm happily waiting. I hope he reads this, as a kindly reminder.

Want to try tayerblad in your garden? It's such an easy plant to grow. Tayerblad is originally from Africa and was introduced in Suriname through the slave trade. It's another type of *Colocasia esculenta*. Tayerblad have tubers which can be planted in a row 30 cm apart or six

to seven tubers per square meter. It grows easily in any kind of soil but black dirt mix with some compost and a bit of chicken manure every once in a while is the best for year round vegetables.

Water the plants when the soil is dry as too much water will make the tubers rot. The rainy season is the best time to plant the tubers with half day sun and half day shade. The leaves can be harvested year round and the more you harvest the faster the leaves grow.

Cooking tayerblad is easy, just like spinach. Cook it in a wok for three minutes. It can be used in a stoba, soups, a veggie pie and in mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes for a baby. The young stems are also good for consuming. Some people experience a kind of irritation in the mouth and when the leaves get too big and old this irritation can give a stronger sensation. Tayerblad is full of vitamin C, essential minerals, fiber and antioxidants.

LVV sells fresh tayerblad from the ground or tubers for plants in your own garden. Take a look over there. So for your baby and or older family members, this vegetable is a must in your garden. 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.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

People Glimpses

When we're diving, our main attention is generally on the reef and the creatures who inhabit it. Once in a while, though, this situation changes and we focus on the behavior of marine Homo sapiens. For example:

When I first began dive guiding on Bonaire, I heard about a young man ("Ben", not his real name) who was planning on proposing to his girlfriend ("Sara") underwater, and wanted my friend to photo the moment. Ben carefully wrapped and pocketed the ring. We swam to a sandy area where, as far as Sara knew, they were just going to pose for an underwater picture. He reached into his pocket, unwrapped the ring – and the stone was gone!

Imagine our panic!

Luckily the panic didn't last too long: it turned out Ben could feel that the stone was there, we just couldn't see it. It also turned out that the stone wasn't a diamond, but a diamond look-alike that – much to Ben's embarrassment – had exactly the same index of refraction as sea water, which is why it seemed to disappear underwater.

Sara accepted Ben's proposal, the ring looked fine out of the water, and they left Bonaire with a very unusual proposal story in addition to memories of a great dive vacation!

On one Halloween night dive, the joke was on me: I was guiding beneath the Old Pier, pointing out wonderful little animals to two friends. Suddenly one of them signaled, "Stop!" and pointed to his buddy. I dragged my eyes away from a piling to see (drum roll here) The Creature from the Black Lagoon! Solomon had brought a Creature mask that fit over his entire head, and put it on over his dive mask when he was behind me. A previously-made cut in the Creature mask's mouth enabled Solomon to use his regulator. He'd been swimming along like that the entire dive but I'd been paying too much attention to the animals to notice until Jim pointed him out.

Yikes!

This was before the Reef Environmental Education Foundation began doing fish surveys, so we didn't have to figure out how to report sighting the Creature from the Black Lagoon visiting Bonaire.



Feeding marine critters is prohibited, but this recipient is a casual diver, not a marine Homo sapiens, so his buddy is allowed to feed him that hot dog. Photo Dee Scarr

My daughter, Diane, was excited about her upcoming trip to Fiji. Having never seen a shark underwater, she was understandably a little nervous about how she would react. It turned out that she did have a bit of an incident when she saw her first shark, but it wasn't what we might have expected.

Here's what happened: we were on our first dive of the trip. I waved excitedly to call David and Diane closer, and held out (another drum roll) the toy shark in my hand, "swimming" it toward her father. Diane laughed so hard she almost lost her regulator. Being an excellent diver, she recovered quickly and enjoyed every other shark sighting on the trip (but maybe not quite as much as she enjoyed that first one).

David's original cell phone was the one called "the brick," because it was about the size of a brick and weighed almost as much. When I spotted a kid's toy that was a smaller and much lighter copy of the brick, I had to buy it. With batteries, it made a realistic ringing sound. We took it diving (without batteries) for some photos to show that David was working, even underwater. Then we rinsed it, dried it, replaced the batteries, were surprised that the toy still worked, and forgot about it.

In Singapore on the way home, we checked our gear bags and camera boxes into storage at the airport, and headed for the taxi stand. Suddenly our path was blocked by four unsmiling men in uniform, carrying firearms; David remembers the firearms were Uzis. They told us that our luggage was making strange noises, and we'd

have to go back with them to make sure we didn't have a bomb or something. We thought maybe we'd left a strobe on and it was "singing" to recharge, but the problem wasn't in our camera boxes. It was – you guessed it – the toy telephone. When the bag was moved, something got into position to trigger the ringing – which after its dives was more like a groaning -- of the toy. We demonstrated the phone and finally got some smiles from our escorts. The phone was left in Singapore.

We felt lucky to be allowed to leave Singapore!

And, in conclusion, another underwater proposal story. (This one is my favorite.) He prepared his slate in advance, with "Will you marry me?" written clearly. He swam to the sandy area he'd scoped out in advance, knelt on the bottom (he'd practiced this in secret; it's not easy!), and handed her the slate.

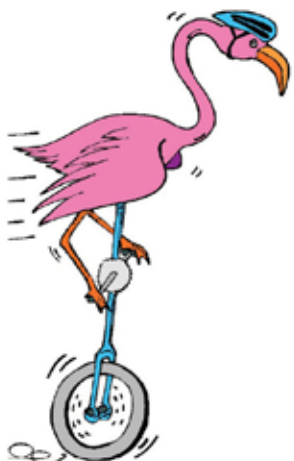
She looked at the slate, looked at him, looked at the slate – and brought out her own slate. She wrote something and handed the slate to him.

The slate read, "Let's see how the rest of the dive goes."



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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by Gijs Borsten

Enforcing the law

As we all know, Bonaire's traffic is pretty dangerous. The number of accidents is incredibly high, the number of deaths being almost three times higher (2023) than in the European part of the Kingdom, where traffic is denser, speed is generally higher and travelled distances are longer.

In *Bonaire Reporter's* last episode, according to the Police Report, a speed check by laser gun had taken place on Kaya Amsterdam, on May 2nd, during which 15 (fifteen!) drivers had been checked, and 4 (four!) had been fined for speeding. The maximum speed measured, was (hold your breath) 65 kph (about 40 mph) in a 40 km (25 mph) zone. On Kaya Amsterdam. Wow. (During later checks violations were much higher, up to 88 kph (55 mph). Lasergunning them down apparently makes sense...).

Now there's something peculiar about Bonaire's traffic police. They hold regular traffic stops – closely monitored by a user-generated Whatsapp warning system – during which they check a bunch of criteria drivers have to comply with. Driver's license, insurance, safety belt and phone use, helmets, child seats, things like that. These criteria – except holding a phone – all have one thing in common: they don't contribute to traffic safety. Insurances, licenses, safety belts: they're passive issues of road safety.

Besides, on Bonaire, the average driver is severely overestimating his driving abilities. The moment they get their license (if at all), having driven their car up and down the same street five times without wrecking

it, they think they're genuine Nikki Lauda clones. They're not. They're just lousy drivers with a deformed self esteem, compensating their shortcomings by making a lot of noise.

I have, in that respect, a few recommendations for the local law enforcement, that MIGHT contribute to a decreasing number of accidents. So:

If you want to bust phone users, the best way to apprehend them is finding a seat with clear view towards the road at Kant'i Awa. Get yourself a beer and start watching: about one out of three drivers is holding a phone. It's just because of the multitude of speed bumps that no serious accidents happen. But there's more.

A great location to watch serious speeding is anywhere on the EEG Boulevard, starting at the Van Eps intersection all the way to the Salt Pier, during the morning hours, starting about 6:45 till slightly over 7a.m.

During those twenty minutes, a bunch of cars race past, every weekday, with speeds that easily reach 120 (75mph), 140 kph (87mph). I wonder which place on earth is so great they're in such a hurry to get there.

Sometimes, a second wave can be witnessed driving from South to North, probably party-goers, road-racing home from a beach party. Same speed, this time overtaking is included.

The waiting is for both groups to meet, somewhere halfway, preferably in a curve, so they don't see each other coming. Wrenched cars and torn off body parts flying around. I'll bring coffee and cake...

On OLB's communication skills

Over the last couple of weeks, OLB sent us, subsequently, her congratulations on World Hypertension Day, a message that they won a court battle against Cuba Company's illegal flower pot, a short on the celebration of Museum Day, and lots of other extremely irrelevant news flashes. News items, designed to distract, irrelevancies, to lure our attention away from the fact that the Landfill was on fire, and a neighborhood had to be evacuated.

Three quarters of the island were covered under a layer of grime, causing coughing and headaches, and not a word was heard from the authorities. The present Executive Council (BC), after taking office, presenting all kind of great plans to boost their communications towards Bonaire's population, remained silent for days.

What's wrong with these people? Despite the great intentions, they seem to operate even worse than the previous crew. Would a larger allowance help them to operate more effectively?

The end

This was my last Piss & Vinegar column. We're leaving the island, and it doesn't seem appropriate to comment on islandic trials and tribulations without actually being there.

For us, Bonaire didn't seem to be able to give the right answer to a growing number of questions, and returning to Europe proved to offer an appropriate way out. A warm climate isn't everything.

We found a nice place as a pied-a-terre in Leiden, the old city of my Alma Mater, home to lots of my friends, housing enough watering holes to keep us wet on the inside

(the weather taking care of the outside), and, finally, birth place (which isn't quite accurate; maybe I should say 'locality of insemination'). Whichever way you want to define it, the result underlines the falseness of the new extreme right legislation on migration that's been initiated in the Netherlands: NEVER kick out your refugees, because, once gone, you can't control them anymore) of the United States of America.

Over the last twenty-odd months I had fun writing on local issues, on the failing and generally spineless respective governments. On the rudeness of New Makambas leaving Motherland because there are so many rules (good luck on Bonaire, guys!). On administrative and social peculiarities of Bonaire (take a number and wait, please). On the TCB as a terrorist organisation, destroying Bonaire, covering its beauty with loads of obese, sluggish-brained cruisaders. On the peculiar behavior of regular sluggish-brained tourists. Or, basically, on everything that I encountered in daily life on the island.

Thanks for all the comments, positive and negative, for the support and the beers I got from readers while browsing the local gastronomy, for the 'external inspiration' you guys whispered in my ears. Someone ready to take my place?

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.



Global Coral Bleaching Event Underway

The world is currently experiencing a widespread coral bleaching event, the second global bleaching event of the decade, which experts from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) and [International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\)](#) predict could be more severe than last year's event. The recurrence of bleaching events with such intensity and frequency underscores the ongoing challenge of climate change and its impact on marine biodiversity in the (Dutch) Caribbean and beyond.

Understanding Coral Bleaching

Coral bleaching is a phenomenon that affects marine ecosystems worldwide, driven by stressors such as temperature fluctuations, light variations, or changes in nutrient levels. Under these extreme conditions, corals expel the symbiotic algae living within their tissues, leading to a loss of color and vitality. While bleached coral is not an immediate fatality, it becomes more susceptible to mortality under heightened and prolonged stress.

Last Year's Bleaching Event Compared to This Year

In previous years, coral reefs experienced significant bleaching due to unusually warm ocean temperatures. This year, the situation appears to be made



Photo Julie Morgan

worse, with even warmer temperatures recorded, suggesting a potentially more severe impact on coral health and greater expansive bleaching events. The current temperature stress is already underway (earlier than usual) even though some corals have not completely recovered from last year's event.

Protective Measures in Place

Despite the challenges posed by climate change, conservation efforts offer a glimmer of hope. [Various organizations across the Dutch Caribbean](#) are dedicated to safeguarding coral reefs through

protected area management, research, conservation, education and restoration initiatives. The combined efforts of conservationists, policymakers, scientists, and local communities play a crucial role in preserving these fragile ecosystems. Explore volunteer opportunities and find contact details to get involved [here](#).

Addressing Local Threats and Promoting Resilience

In addition to global climate change, local factors such as unregulated coastal development, inadequate waste manage-

ment and invasive species contribute to coral reef degradation. Also, insufficient sustainable funding hampers conservation management. Tackling these issues alongside reef protection and restoration efforts is essential for enhancing the resilience of coral ecosystems against stressors such as future bleaching events.

Understanding the Value of Coral Reefs

Coral reefs provide invaluable services to both marine life and human communities. They act as natural barriers, protecting coastlines from erosion and storm damage, while also supporting fisheries and tourism sectors vital to the Dutch Caribbean's economy and well-being.

In Conclusion

The ongoing coral bleaching event serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to address climate change and its impact on marine ecosystems. Through collective action and sustainable practices, we can work towards preserving these valuable coral reefs for generations to come.

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) supports (science) communication and outreach in the Dutch Caribbean region.

ACE celebrates Mi Kultura Ta Uni Kos (My culture unique together)

This year's Children's Music Week by the ACE Foundation may prove to be the most impressive program yet for the Art Culture and Education program. The official opening began on May 25 at Mangazina di Rei's Nos Zjilea with a second performance in the evening at Taste of Bonaire.

The theme for 2024 is "Mi Kultura Ta Uni-Kos" roughly translated as "My culture unique together." Segni Bernardina who heads up the program said, "Bonaire is one of the unique places where all races can work together... Working together brings peace and strength to the culture. We are trying to bring new music for the kids. They are listening to adult music and becoming adults before they should, so we have created eight new songs just for the kids. Let kids be kids. Be careful not to let them become adults too quickly."

The dance group of tween and teenage girls, dressed in white and silver costumes and were totally immersed in the music and dances created just for them. They truly seemed to enjoy the performance as much as the audience.

In addition to live performances, there is a full album of eight songs written by Xechell Jacobs, known as the artist BAUCO. And performance themed videos have been created for two of the songs. The music has a pounding and driving beat the kids seem to love that works perfectly with the dances choreographed by Zoe Bernardina. The entire program was put together by multimedia expert and project leader Jasir Gressmann



who also worked as dance, music and video coach.

At each performance the organizers passed out cards with a QR code to access the album and videos by scanning the code. Lyrics are included in Papiamentu.

ACE Foundations Mi Kultura Ta Uni-Kos creative arts project is sponsored by MCB and Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire. For more information about ACE Music Week and the next performance visit ACE Foundation on Facebook.

Story/photos Julie Morgan

Isidel park from page 1

Boneiru (after heaven there's Bonaire) from Francisco Zavala and The Fat Dog from Tim Tromp.

A two story restaurant /bar with an ocean and park view is set at the shoreline. This will be operated by Robertico Bernabello and is expected to open in July or August.

Just to the right of the restaurant a ramp with a slipway for boats is still under construction. A test done with a trailer found small boats up to 21 ft (7

m) are acceptable. According to Jansen, completion is expected in three months. STINAPA and the Spatial Planning Development Department of OLB ensured the design complied with the environment and nature legislation.

Isidel has 35 parking spaces for anyone enjoying the park. If you are diving, simply tell the security guard and you can drive up to the café, unload your gear and return your vehicle to the parking lot or you can just park and walk in via the sidewalk. Later this year it will be even easier to dive at Isidel as carts will be available to transport your gear to the waterfront.



Security guard blocks the entry from Isidel Park to the sidewalk along the waterfront of Chogogo Resort

Photo Julie Morgan



Adely Jansen (BOG) and Maria Abraham, the only remaining wife of the crew of the Isidel, performed the official ribbon cutting of Isidel Park. Photo Julie Morgan

Isidel is flanked by Den Laman and Chogogo. A sidewalk extends from Isidel to Eden Beach along the coastline where you can enter the water. A prohibitive security guard is often posted at the juncture. Several people have reported that they have been illegally denied entry to the sidewalk.

The law clearly states, the 'beaches of the sea' as the beaches of Bonaire are formally called, are owned by the public body Bonaire. (Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Civil Code BES.)

Isidel has so much for everyone to enjoy but there are a few house rules:

- Camera surveillance for your safety;
- Visitors under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult;

- BOG is not responsible for any personal or financial damages;
- Parking is available between 6 a.m. - 12 midnight;
- Animals are not allowed in the park;
- Dispose of waste in the designated waste bins;
- Activities of more than 25 people must receive permission from BOG;
- No fires are allowed;
- Grilling is only allowed in designated areas;
- No playing of loud music that could disturb others;

For a complete list of the rules visit www.isidelbeachpark.com

Photos / story Julie Morgan

What's Happening

Animal Shelter: Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm as well as for the cruise ships (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 reopened May 11 at new location Kaya Gilberto F Croes. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus is raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

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 to July 2024	Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
April 26 -July 26	Terramar: SALÍ FO'R LAMAN Free. Discover importance and beauty of coral reefs. Exhibit is part of community program 'Bou di Awa' which is powered by WWF Dutch Caribbean. Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. .
Art Exhibits May-July	SACA Art Center Antriol. Kaya Korona 74. Open Wed - Sat. 3 - 10 p.m. http://www.sacabonaire.com Jozee Tjoa, May 4 - July 28.
May 23 to June 6	Bonaire Culinair Use this 15-day event to discover Bonaire's restaurants. 3-course menu \$39.50 pp. https://bonaire-culinair.com
Likely dates: May 11, 25, 31 June 7, 14, 21	Adult tennis competition for doubles. In principle, participants play 6 week-ends, Saturdays between 5 - 7 p.m. at Sabadeco and at Eddie's courts. Entry fee \$10 towards prizes. Info and registration via app with 599 782 4569 or info@bonairetennisassociation.com
Saturday, June 1	ReeFiesta celebrates World Reef Awareness Day. Divers and snorkelers of ANY skill level are welcome. Sign up is FREE, thanks to our Official Sponsors: Orco Bank, Rocargo, Hooked by Sunsets RestroBAR, Tourism Corporation Bonaire and Brandaris BV. the event includes educational presentations, guided snorkeling tours and synchronized shore dives at coral farms on Bonaire. The day ends with a celebration at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort with various speakers, small snacks and a raffle. Stand-up Comedy Bonaire: 'Tip the Comedian', with Fridge and Fernando, Saturday, June 1 at Boutique Hotel Sonrisa, 7 p.m. only \$15.
Thursday, June 6	Voting day for European Parliament elections
Sundays June 9 & 23	MoltenWolf Glass Ornaments Workshop: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$175 pp. First of three summer workshops. No experience necessary. All materials and equipment provided. Email MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com . 8 people per class.
June 16 - 23	Pride Week, 2nd Annual. On Sunday, June 16, Pride will open with a beautiful theater evening in collaboration with fundashon Kurason. "Huntu" (together) is the theme. See page 17. Order t-shirts (\$25) and tote bags (\$15) DM or +599-7869202
Friday, June 21	International Yoga Day at Seru Largu, 5:30 p.m. for a 5:45 start. Island yoga teachers and wellness presenters guide you on this Summer Solstice Celebration. Stroll through Seru Largu, then join us in yoga as the sun dips below the horizon. For info and RSVP contact Kelly +599 701 0110



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/
Saturday, May 11	Dive Friends Quarterly Clean up. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/
Sunday, June 9	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

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>

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

Pickleball. Chinese Assoc. Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m.; Jong Bonaire Weds 6-8 p.m. this week only; Sand Dollar at Eddy's almost daily 8 a.m. 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.



Echo Conservation Tours - Weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at info@echobonaire.org



Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Presentations at 7:30 p.m. June 3 - Toucan Diving. June 10 - VIP Diving. June 11 **Tuesday** - Toucan Diving. June 17 - Divi Resort. June 18 **Tuesday** - Toucan Diving. Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation 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@reefrenwalbonaire.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.

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. May 29	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Tue. June 4	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0700-1800	South	3260
Tue. June 11	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0630-1600	South	4683
Thur. June 13	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Wed. June 19	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-1600	South	6630
Thur. June 20	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1600	South	3260
Wed. June 26	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683

Keeping Bonaire's cultural music alive

Nos Zjilea's May edition at Mangazina di Rei was all about cultural music old and new with the folkloric group Kanta Orkidia and a presentation by Wesley St Jago on the significance of cultural songs. The official opening of the Ace Foundation's Music Week was a highlight at Nos Zjilea along with performances by local musicians Duo Musikal and Watapana.

Kanta Orkidia gives presentations of many of the old cultural songs not just on Bonaire but in Aruba and Curaçao. The group researched the songs by speaking to the elders of Rincon and later modified them and added music. Parts of the songs feature different voices that tell the song's story.

Orkidia member Francisca Sint Jago explained the song's meaning or why it was created prior to the group singing a short sampling. There were songs for work, protection, neighbors, planting, cutting aloe, protest, encouragement and songs of suffering. Many of the folk songs insulted the landlord and if the work supervisor heard them, he would report to him and push the laborers to work even harder.

Wesley St Jago, a member of Kanta Orkidia, explained the significance of the songs have changed because different expressions or words have changed meaning since they were written. Many of the songs were created before the



Kanta Orkidia sing the old cultural songs
Photo Julie Morgan

Papiamentu language was official and languages have blended together. Other words have died out or no longer used.

"I use an expression which is a part of my cultural heritage but I didn't use correct Papiamentu, but it is still a part of my cultural heritage," said St. Jago.

The workers would compose songs using a different language around the landlord so he wouldn't know what they were talking about.

"We have to carry on our culture through these songs and keep the custom living in the whole community," said St. Jago.

Ace Foundation's, Mi Kultura di Uni Kos (My culture is unique together) music week got off to a good start with a full crowd at Nos Zjilea. Original music created for the event by BAUCO (Xechell Jacobs) was played as the performers

costumed in white and silver danced to music with choreography by Zoe Bernardina. (See full story on page 13.)

Regular guests were happy to see the return of the traditional bread makers at the stone oven. The bakers represent three generations and a real cultural Bonaire tradition. Nos Zjilea guests can watch the bread being made, baked and then enjoy the hot loaf served with a choice of butter, cheese, ham or a combination for a small fee.

For more information about Nos Zjilea visit Mangazina di Rei on Facebook.

To learn more visit: www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei

Story/Photos Julie Morgan



Three generations of bread makers makers. L-R Jane Fenies - Crestian; granddaughter Jeny Molina and daughter Veronica Creastian-Sint Jago
Photo Julie Morgan

PROKIDS FINAL EVENT RESULTS 2024



GIRLS

- 1 - Bobbi-Lynn de Jong U17 Bon
- 2 - Kit de Jong U15 Bon
- 3 - Louise vd Meulen AR
- 4 - Lone de Jong U15 Bon
- 5 - Silke Te Velhuis U17 Bon
- 6 - Lois Schut U15 Bon
- 7 - Lilia Yelland U21 GB
- 8 - Bente van der Es U15 Bon

U15 / U13 BOYS

- 1 - Arxon Gomperts U15 Bon
- 2 - Barrie Sassen U14 Bon
- 3 - Jaevian Ijtsma U15 Bon
- 4 - Cle Burgers U15 Bon
- 5 - Joey Ross U13 - Aruba
- 6 - Tobi Korver U13 Bon
- 7 - Julien Blom U13 Bon
- 8 - Kingston Coffie U15 Bon

U21 - U17 BOYS

- 1 - Brendan Lorho U21 France
- 2 - Bimbi Clappers U21 Bon
- 3 - Tycho Smits U17 Bon
- 4 - Storm Nicolai U17 Bon
- 5 - Joa vd Berg U21 Neth
- 6 - Hugo Dohmen U21 Sweden
- 7 - Caylen Alled U17 Bon
- 8 - Sontje Alberto U17 Bon

How beautiful a saxophone can sound



When you think of saxophone music, you may imagine exciting jazz music.

Henk van Twillert, together with Eugenio Silva and Victor Marçal and our own Gaby Mercera, proved that things can be done differently. In Ferrer Trindade's *Canção do Mar* we heard the wind and the waves and the screaming seagulls, Lennart Cohen's *Hallelujah* took on a very unique sound. Bach never heard his famous *Air* on the baritone sax, but he could have intended it that way, especially with the inspired piano accompaniment by Hans Faassen. Henk's solo contributions on the baritone sax, the refined rhythm that Gaby Mercera gave to the music, all contributed to a very beautiful musical evening. The concert ended with the well known Bonaire songs 'Abo so' and *Atardi*, in which the members of the saxophone group Bonaire participated. In this way, the connection was again established between musicians from far away and from Bonaire and between music from the past and present. A beautiful concert, organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire.

The mini-concerts the group presented at schools, Co-cari, Kas di Kuido and Hospice Kas Flamboyan generated heart-warming reactions. Music connects at all ages!

*Story Marian Passchier
Photos Classical Music Board*

Ruby Pouchet named Miss Universe Bonaire

Bonaire has been absent from the International Miss Universe pageant for 25 years but is stepping back into this world wide competition.

On May 17, we learned the former Miss Bonaire 2023 Ruby Pouchet will represent Bonaire in the 73rd Miss Universe competition in November in Mexico.



Miles Mercera of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) announced reasons for the decision saying the Miss Universe competition is more than a pageant. In the long run it can raise awareness and appreciation for Bonaire's cultural heritage. Bring a sense of pride and unity in the community and provide career opportunities locally and internationally in art and fashion.

Ruby Pouchet is a young woman that is not only beautiful and intelligent but environmentally minded. Pouchet is honored and dedicated to take on this challenge.

Pouchet said, "Never give up on your dreams. Anything you set your mind to you can achieve."

Pouchet has worked for STINAPA for several years as community and content coordinator and is now moving on to work for Bonaire's government.

Photo/story Julie Morgan

Buckley's Books

by George Buckley

In recognition of World Ocean Day on June 8, Buckley's Books is expanding to include online webinars for the occasion, specifically the 'OceanEncounters' online webinar series produced by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). I have been a WHOI Associate for many years, having worked there on horseshoe crabs and wood eating teredos. I have found it to be a unique, interesting and dynamic organization.



of the programs to date are posted on the comprehensive Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution website at <https://www.whoi.edu/know-your-ocean/>. Each one hour program is a tightly moderated with many interesting questions from viewers. If you have not been watching, please join us. Choose a program to view at your leisure. The May program, 'Small but Mighty,' about oceanic microorganisms that drive ocean ecology will be posted by the time you are reading this.

By engaging in programs such as Ocean Encounters, we can raise our level of knowledge of the underwater world and in so doing better understand, appreciate and advocate for the blue world of planet ocean.



George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don (who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.

Faced with Covid restrictions on live programs at WHOI, which is the world's largest private, non profit institution dedicated to ocean research, used its multi-talented team to pivot to a new paradigm. They created a free online ocean webinar series in 2020 called 'Ocean Encounters.' Hosted by Director of Special Projects, Dr. Veronique LaCapra, the program has become a huge success. In their nomination for a Webby Award, the Oscars of the web world, WHOI was commended for 'having set the high bar for virtual events and community engagement.'

Ocean Encounters has reached an international viewership in the millions as they have welcomed ocean explorers and researchers Sylvia Earle on Blue Hope, Robert Ballard on shipwrecks, James Cameron on ocean exploration, Greg Skomal on great white sharks and explored a host of ocean subjects. The programs have included such topics as the deep diving research submarine Alvin, the Arctic, Antarctica, Bioluminescence, Corals in Crisis, Climate and the Oceans, the Ocean Twilight Zone, the Endangered Right Whale, Oceans in Space, Rising Seas/Resilient coasts, Hydrothermal Vents, Ocean Pollution, Research at Sea, Undersea Robots, Seabirds and Seaweeds. They even did a piece on 'Becoming a Marine Biologist,' a program focused on students interested in studying the oceans.

Hopefully, this partial list of programs will spark an interest and you will join fellow several resident Bonaireans who have watched Ocean Encounters. All

Trouble finding a printed copy of The Reporter?

Read us online!
<https://bonairereporter.com>

First ever Waterfest held

Bonaire kids enjoyed the first ever Festival di Awa, (Waterfest) at SKAL on May 25 thanks to a collaboration between the Netherlands, STINAPA and Teramar Museum. Nature organizations Reef Renewal Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire were on hand for the children to learn about coral and turtles. The Junior Rangers were on hand to join the younger kids in a scavenger hunt with fun activities like carrying buckets of water on their heads, throwing a football and completing a riddle about a shipwreck to solve a word puzzle. There were free snow cones and an ocean drawing that everyone could add to with their own special artistic touches. According to Waterfest organizers, Het Waterfeest, the idea was to allow the children to learn about diversity, inclusion, climate, sustainability in nature on Bonaire.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan

STINAPA Jr. Rangers leaders signed up 18 kids for the scavenger hunt with prizes of kayaking and the book *Waves, Wind and Water* for the winners. Photo Julie Morgan



Pride Bonaire “Huntu , nos t’ei”

Pride Bonaire is set to launch June 16 – 23. For the second year the organizers EQ Bonaire have created an amazing schedule of events to improve understanding of Bonaire’s LGBTQI+ community along with some serious fun.

“Huntu, nos tei”, “We are in this together” is the slogan for this year and is reflected in all the gatherings as they want to ensure everyone in the community feels welcome.

Eden Beach will be the location for most events and will be known as The House of Pride for the week.

June 16 - Spoken Word Festival at Jardin de Amor, local and international performers, reservation required

June 17 - Movie at Empire Cinema

June 19 - Queeraoke/karaoke at Eden Beach Resort’s rooftop bar

June 20 - Cuba Latin Night Pink Edition at location Cuba Compagnie

June 21 – Pub Quiz Pride edition at Eden Beach Resort rooftop bar

June 22 - Masterclass Diversity, Inclusion & Discrimination at Plaza Hotel, for those working in the social area and care

June 22 - Grand Party at Tera Kora Ranch with a DJ, live acts and drag king & queens



Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

The easiest way to calm down: the physiological sigh.

A physiological sigh is a type of deep breath characterized by a double inhalation, followed by a single, longer exhalation. You may have experienced it as a spontaneous, involuntary deep breath that feels different from your regular breathing pattern.

Sighing is something we do all the time involuntarily, including the moments before we are about to fall asleep, during sleep and when we cry. Sighing is essential for lung function and without it our lungs would fail.

According to Jack Feldman, researcher and neuroscientist from UCLA “Sighing is vital to lung function, and thus to life”. On average, a person sighs every five minutes, which translates into 12 sighs per hour.

The purpose of sighing is to inflate the alveoli, the half-billion, tiny, delicate, balloon-like sacs in the lungs where oxygen enters the bloodstream and carbon dioxide goes back into the air. Sometimes individual alveoli collapse, though.

“When alveoli collapse, they compromise the ability

of the lung to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide,” Feldman said. “The only way to pop them open again is to sigh, which brings in twice the volume of a normal breath. If you don’t sigh, your lungs will fail over time.” So, if we don’t sigh every five minutes or so, the alveoli will slowly collapse, causing lung failure.”

The physiological sigh is a deep breath, that starts out as a normal breath, but before you exhale, you take a second breath on top of it. This was first described in the 1930s. It was observed when people were in claustrophobic environments or in deep sleep when there was a buildup of carbon dioxide. Scientists then discovered that it could help us regain control quickly from feelings of stress and anxiety.

When we inhale twice, as in the physiological sigh, the collapsed alveoli reinflate with air. This increases the surface area of the lungs and removes CO2 from the body much more efficiently. This makes the body feel more relaxed. When we make long exhalations, the diaphragm compresses the space where the heart is

for a longer time and the receptors in the heart sense the increase in pressure. This sends signals to the brain to slow down the heart rate. This slowing of the heart rhythm creates a relaxed feeling activating the parasympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system. These two together help the body to calm down. There is also a small pause after the second inhalation which creates a slight tension that is totally washed away through the long exhalation. This contrast also helps experience more vividly the relaxation produced by this breathing technique.

I invite you to practice a series of three physiological sighs and see how you feel, most likely you will notice the calming effect right away. If you practice this technique regularly, you will be able to use it as a calming tool in those circumstances that you need it the most.



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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Pets of the Week



Dear people urgent adoption needed
 My name is Danger alias Snowflake and I'm a healthy boy of 3.5 years old.
 My first impression might scare you away, but my whole life I have been misunderstood, and that's why I give mixed signals, I bark but I'm actually very happy to see you and can't wait to cuddle and play with you.
 It will take a little time before I trust you, but when I do trust you I will be the most loyal friend you ever had.
 And then you will discover, that I love belly rubs, rope pulling and what I really like is to be groomed and washed. I love that attention. I like to go for walks, and I'm a good boy in the car.
 I'm looking for a stable person who has experience with dogs. I need my person to be my guide in life and the true meaning of love.

With kids I'm good, but I will be at my best when they are a little older and not afraid of dogs.
 Come and meet me, but please remember that I will bark at our first meeting, and if you don't give up and won't be scared away, I will be your best friend forever.
Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt

Danger/ Snowflake

Our cat of the week is Dirk.
 He is a male cat with white and tabby coloring and is two and half years old. Dirk was found roaming in a garden over a year ago and was brought to Animal Shelter Bonaire
 Dirk is very friendly and enjoys being petted under his chin. I have not found him to dislike much and when you give him attention he will keep coming back for more.
 He is one of our larger cats and I know he would adjust fine to most living arrangements. Dirk gets along well with the other cats and enjoys his afternoons lying in the breeze. Come and meet Dirk and take him to his forever home!
 Dirk is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Amy Bowen

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Or call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Dirk



Animal Shelter News WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Calling all cat and dog enthusiasts! We're looking for weekend volunteers to cuddle, play, clean and care for our friends at the Animal Shelter Bonaire. Whether you are a seasoned cat whisperer or a compassionate dog lover, your help will make a big difference. Join us in creating purr-fect and pawisitive weekends for our shelter residents.

Volunteer tasks include cleaning cages to ensure a clean and comfortable environment, providing cuddles and affection to animals in need and offering general

care such as feeding and grooming. Your dedication helps create a safe and loving space for our shelter pets.

To apply, simply send an email expressing your interest to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

Join our passionate team of animal lovers and help us make a change in the lives of shelter dogs and cats today!

Marissa Lamers

Make Bonaire Accessible A little help is very important

by Ria Evers-Dokter

When you grow older or have a handicap, life is not easy. You need as much help as possible to stay as independent as possible.

There are two ways to go forward: one is to get all the information you need and get the right help, from the right places. The other is to ask for help. When you need to ask for help, it is best to make an appointment with your doctor. But before you do, make a list of all your questions. It is recommended to visit the doctor with a friend or spouse. Your doctor will point you in the right direction and write referrals to every specialist and/or Z.V.K. you need.

But sometimes it is not a specialist you need. Sometimes you need specific items to help you get by.

You might need a walker, a scooter

mobile, braces, aids to make life easier or adaptations to your home. These and more can be found in a "Care-shop", (zorgwinkel). For these things you will need a referral from your doctor, or even better, a specialist.

In a "Care-shop," you should find incontinence material but also aids for the kitchen: special knives, spoons and forks, vegetable cutters, grips to reach for high or difficult to reach objects.

In short, everything you might need to live your life as comfortable and easy as possible.

Safety is also a big thing, adhesive strips on the floor to avoid slips or falls and an alarm system for people that live alone.

I could go on and on, because there are

so many things and hacks that make your life easier and safer.

These days I hear many elderly citizens complain a lot: many of the aids are not available, sudden change of brands that are of less quality, no more walking aids and no more scooter mobiles. Suddenly there is only one brand of incontinence material available, which is of a very bad quality.

Aids like braces are not reimbursed anymore and the clients have to pay for them now.

Now this makes me wonder, that ever since the baby boomers are a huge and growing population, many things have changed in our health system and this is worrying many of us.

We were very glad with our health insurance, but lately many treatments are not available anymore. Where is this going to end? The elderly citizens are growing into a huge group that needs specific help and aids.

People who have been working their whole life were happy when they could retire and be sure they were well taken care of. Now this does not seem to be a reality anymore. And offering more daycare and special care is not the only solution. Many elderly do not like daycare. They sometimes even consider it as "kindergarten for the elderly."

Get together with the elderly and work together with them on solutions. After all, the elderly have lived hard and are not ignorant. They know what they want.



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.



Wednesday Vibe

Special 3 course menu

Starter

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Main

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Dessert

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