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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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The Grand Party at Tera Cora Ranch with Evanita Dragalicious
Photo Julie Morgan

Pride - We are in this together

Bonaire celebrated its second ever Pride Week June 16 – 23 and the LGBTQ+ organization EQ did their best to make everyone feel welcome. Every day was designed to underline the theme of equality and togetherness.

cumstances. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted."

Bonaire's local organization EQ

Bonaire was formed in 2015 due to a push from the Netherlands when they noticed LGBTQ+ wasn't represented on the island. Brekelmans took the lead and founded EQ. Bonaire now has a small but loyal group of Pride members.

Bonaire's Pride Week 2024 opened with the first ever Spoken Word event working in collaboration with Esther and Linda Devrees' Fundashon di Kurason. Held at Jardin de Amor, the intimate restaurant overflowed with guests sharing stories about diversity,

inclusion or exclusion. A handicapped, deaf and gay person from the Netherlands revealed his dramatic story as an interpreter signed. A mix of locals, Dutch, Latino and Americans attended including deputies Nina den Heyer, Angelica Cicilia and former acting Lieut. Governor of Bonaire, Ingrid Sealy.

Judith Brekelmans, human resources director at We Connect and founder of EQ Bonaire said, "A lot of people think Pride Week is only for fun, but it's actually awareness and inclusion. There needs to be a balanced program between inclusion and fun. We aren't that different from each other so why do we see only the gay part? It is such a small part of what we are. This is the actual message of Pride Week."

The first Pride Week celebrations were in 1970 at several major U.S. cities and the awareness event has now spread to 101 countries. A lot of changes have occurred over the years but there is still more to be done. Pride events are banned in 92 countries due to religion, laws and attitudes.

In 2012 Bonaire moved ahead of Curaçao and Aruba on same sex marriage due to Article 1 of the Constitution of the Netherlands. "All persons in the Netherlands (including Bonaire) shall be treated equally in equal cir-



Groups select cards symbolizing culture, gender, trust etc. and then discuss the whys behind the choices. Photo Julie Morgan

On day two, Empire Cinema hosted movie night with *I Love You More*, a coming-of-age drama depicting gay teens first love. Theatre owner Theo van den Berg offered EQ the art movie as a part of Pride Week. Some 60 people attended.

Day three was Queeraoke Karaoke at the Eden Beach rooftop bar. The place was packed with people of all ages taking the opportunity to have fun singing with their friends. Trocadero offered an after party with rainbow flags flying, a lighted dance floor and DJ Derrel providing the music.

On day four Cuba Compagnie turned their traditional Latin Salsa night into a Pink Edition for Pride Week. The restaurant was a sea of rainbow flags and pink decorations with drag queens Ebony Noir and

Pride to page 12

Both sides outraged in faction compensation dispute

Last fall the Island Council voted to contribute to the operating costs of the island's political factions. The issue was not contentious. That is a normal local government expenditure in the European Netherlands. Then the numbers were disclosed. The council had voted to pay the factions \$120,000 per year per island council member initially. They had also approved a follow up formula that guaranteed the factions would be paid almost 1% of the government's annual budget, forever. The issue became contentious.

The first to speak up were members of the council who said they had never voted in favor of the proposition, never voted on it at all in fact. They claimed the vote was deceptively conducted and illegal. The opposition parties objected to the compensation approval. The general public and the press objected.

In the months that followed, State Secretary Van Huffelen suggested, in her diplomatic way, that the council should reconsider. Some politicians in the Netherlands did not suggest the council reconsider. They demanded. They wanted the decision reversed immediately. Some sounded ready to insist as well as a public admission of error, even a confession of guilt. Many more moderate Dutch politicians, on the other hand, said they considered the island's compensation decision outrageous, but they were reluctant to punish Bonaireans in general for the actions of a few.

One group in the Netherlands is likely pleased. In last spring's election, Geert Wilders' far right wing party won a small majority. So now it has a strong voice in the post-election government

that was announced last week by The Hague.

One plank in Wilders' election platform was that Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten were governed corruptly and had been treated far too generously by Mark Rutte's government. Thanks to the compensation dispute, his followers have reason to restore Bonaire to that list. Plus, during the discussions for forming the coalition, Wilders' party negotiated the power to appoint van Huffelen's replacement.

Those on Bonaire who still believe the Dutch are violating the island's sovereignty by spending so much money here, but requiring financial reporting, are likely cheered by the debate as well.

On the island some politicians are still openly voicing their opposition to the compensation vote. Many others seem to have parted ways with it, even choosing to avoid attending meetings where it will be discussed. A small group is deeply dug in. They are, reportedly, "unwilling to settle for anything less" than the amount they voted for.

In March, the factions agreed with State Secretary Van Huffelen that they would reconsider. The result so far has been a series of island council meetings that voted to postpone the decision because no decision could be reached. In the meantime, the parliament has also sent a message by postponing a vote. It reminded the island council that parliament has not yet decided how much Free Benefit to approve for Bonaire. The Free Benefit for 2023 was almost \$35 million. *DMR*

Bonaire finally has a new governor

John Soliano, born and raised in Rincon, will succeed a relieved acting governor, Reynolds 'Nolly' Oleana, on August 1. Oleana, accepting his civic duty, stepped in as temporary place holder when previous governor Edison Rijna resigned in March 2023. Oleana didn't expect to serve for 15 months, nor during a time when the OLB seemed distracted from governing responsibly. Soliano was interviewed in depth by a journalist from *Bonaire.nu*.



Soliano is 52 and will serve as governor for six years. Asked about his vision of his office, Soliano explained that he will play a connecting role between the island council, the executive council and the electoral college. "The governor chairs the

island council and the executive council," he says, "and is the guardian of good governance, integrity, safety and public order ... matters that transcend politics."

"I see myself as a connector, Soliano said. "Creating relationships and genuinely connecting with people is essential to me. For me it is an important basis of mutual respect which is the basis of my leadership style."

Integrity seems to be of paramount importance to Soliano: "Ensuring integrity starts with yourself. You have to set a good example yourself. Integrity is not a checklist, it is a matter of behavior and a way of life." He noted that the OLB has created an integrity agency. He acknowledged it's just getting started though and has a long process ahead.

Inclusivity is also important to the incoming governor. At a time when Bonaire is growing rapidly and the local population is becoming relatively smaller, "We must ensure that the well-being of everyone who comes to live here and lives here is guaranteed. That's what I call inclusivity. Ethnic discussions lead to polarization."

Soliano has had a long career in the utility sector on both the private side and the government side. *DMR, (Bonaire.nu)*

Aviation to be a public service obligation

The central government is preparing to pass enabling legislation that will allow it to declare air service in the Caribbean Netherlands a public service obligation. The government then will have the legal authority to assure, by ministerial regulation, dependable and affordable air service between any islands it designates. Its first target will be the critical Saba/Sint Eustatius air connection with St. Maarten.

The Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management will

be able, for example, to declare a maximum ticket price, the minimum number of flights, and a required number of seats per flight. The minister will also be authorized to require the carrier to guarantee continuity of flights, or even to decide a single airline will serve a route, that airline to be selected by tender.

Whether to approve the legislation, and how to fund it, will be decided by the new cabinet. *DMR*

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HAS A NEW NUMBER

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Support the STCB swim around Klein Bonaire

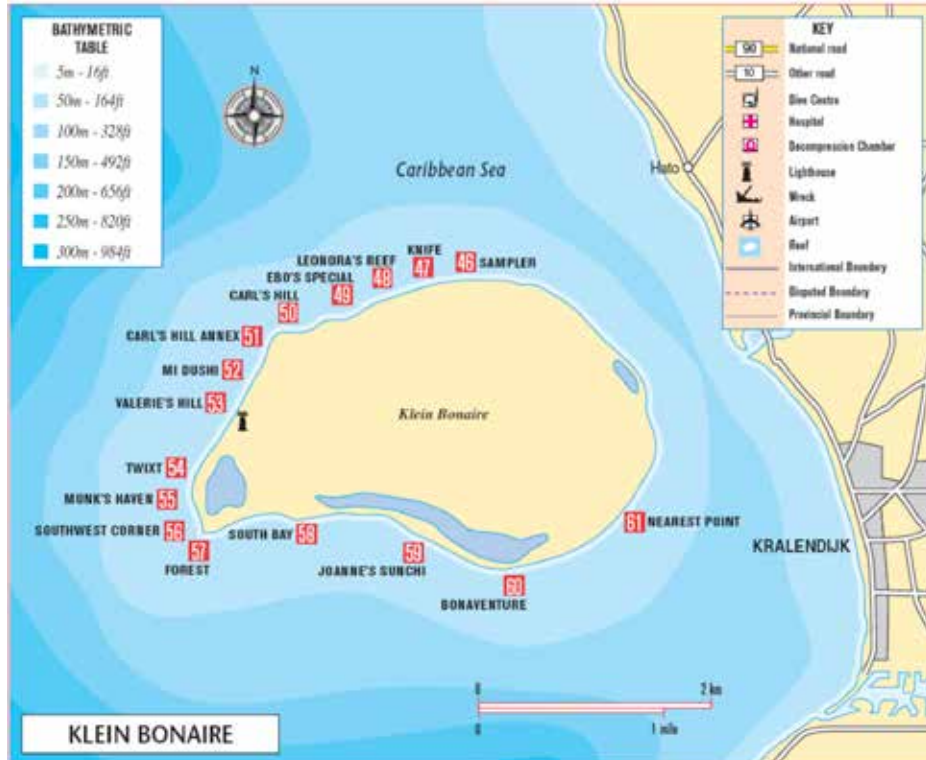
Next month STCB staff have organized a fundraiser to raise \$11,000 for sea turtle research in Lac Bay. The field team of field coordinator Daan and intern extraordinaire Kate will swim a whopping 11km around the island of Klein Bonaire.

on the west coast. But there has been a small decline of late caused by invasive seagrass, poor water quality and diseases. The team needs to continue to collect data and monitor the situation to learn what is actually affecting the growth and their current nets need to be retired.

The team needs funds for two new research nets for their work in Lac Bay, the most important foraging ground for green sea turtles. Over the last 20 years research has shown that turtles in Lac Bay grow significantly faster than turtles

To support the STCB swim around Klein and research, help them reach their goal. Visit <https://gofund.me/99a426d9> and make a donation.

Story / photo Julie Morgan



Above: Klein Bonaire map via <https://publicism.info/travel/dive/44.html>

Left: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) celebrated World Sea Turtle Day, June 16, with a fishing line cleanup at the south pier. Diving in were 29 dedicated turtle lovers to remove the tangles of fishing line and some other debris at the pier. STCB hasn't held a cleanup at this pier for a while, so the divers found plenty to remove. In addition to a huge tub of line, other debris included hats, clothes, cans and, of course, plastic were recovered.

Since the last fishing line cleanup dive, large amounts of construction type materials and tires have been dumped off the pier, all of which are unhealthy for our ocean and marine life.

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POLICE REPORT

Theft and property crime

June 20. Three bags were stolen between 2:45 and 3:45 p.m. while the owners were snorkeling at Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) located on Bulevar E.E.G. Among other things the bags contained phones, car keys, cash and a key card.

June 15. Between 11:25 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. several items were stolen from a rented pick-up that was parked unlocked at a dive site on Kaminda Turistiko near Tolo. These included a mobile phone, diving lamp, and snorkel.

June 13. A blue Yamaha scooter, license plate MF-179 was stolen from a parking garage of an apartment complex on Gobernador N. Debrot Boulevard. The scooter was secured with a steering lock and a chain lock, which was attached to the front wheel and a heavy garden table.

Arrests

June 20. A man, 18, was arrested for theft and receiving stolen goods. The suspect was riding a scooter that had been stolen during the night of Tuesday June 18 at a home on Kaya Renata. The owner of the scooter recognized his scooter when the suspect rode it on Kaya Korona and immediately called the police. The owner continued to follow the suspect and got him to stop at a catering establishment. When the patrol arrived, they verified that the scooter had indeed been stolen. A house search was conducted a little later at a home on Kaminda Lagun. During the search, various items relevant to the case were found and confiscated.

June 18. A man, 52, was arrested on Kaya Guyaba for threatening a number of people with death as he threw stones in their direction.

June 16. A man, 29, was arrested for vandalism. The suspect was under the influence of alcohol and was looking for a fight with others in the house. He had also smashed a car window on Kaya Maria, which led to his arrest.

June 13. A man, 49, was arrested for

assault with a weapon and threats. The suspect had assaulted and threatened a woman at a catering establishment on January 21.

June 10. A man, 30, was arrested and his car was seized after the suspect did not respond to police requests.

The suspect threatened neighbors, assaulted a man after arguing with him, and fled in his car as neighbors heard what was possibly a shot from a firearm. The suspect then arrived at the police station saying he had been in a fight before he left again.

A patrol went looking for the suspect and saw his car on Kaya Korona driving in the opposite direction. The patrol flashed the police car's lights and blocked the suspect who stopped his vehicle. But when an officer walked towards the suspect's car, he drove past the patrol at high speed. This was followed by a chase in several streets.

On Kaya Rafaela, the suspect drove his car into the front bumper of the police vehicle. As a result, he lost control and crashed into the fence of a house. The officers arrested him for violating the BES Firearms Act, for threats, assault and for not responding to police orders. The car was confiscated. The suspect's home was searched but nothing unusual was found.

Driving under the influence

June 16. Around 6:20 a.m. a man, 22, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect drove backwards into a fence and a pole in a parking lot. When the patrol arrived, he was asleep in the car that was running. Because the suspect could not show a valid driver's license and valid insurance, the car was taken to the police station for safekeeping. The suspect was given a 7-hour driving ban.

Traffic accidents

June 15. Around 3:10 a.m. a report was received that a pick-up had overturned on the E.E.G Boulevard near Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach). When the pa-

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice

Dear Bob –

I would like to buy an empty lot and build my own house on it. Can you tell me what I need to do?

Jay P.

Thanks Jay P, that's a great question.

The best way to start is to make an appointment with your bank, and ask the bank how much money you can borrow from the bank. Once you know the maximum amount you can borrow based on your salary or salaries, then you know the budget that you have to buy a lot and build a house. A good rule of thumb is that cost of the lot should be an amount between 25% and 30% of your total budget.

Once you find a lot you like you should find an architect who will build you a house that is also compatible with the location of the lot you have chosen. It is important that your architect considers the location of the wind and sun when designing your home. Once you have a design, and a quotation to build, you should get an appraisal of the finished house and lot to confirm with the bank that your mortgage amount will cover both the purchase of the lot and your construction costs.

With the quotation for the building, you can go ahead and have your builder apply for a building permit which can take up to 12 months for approval. Then once you have drawings and a building permit, you can start



construction.

When you are ready to start construction the bank releases the money to you in varying amounts as each stage of the construction work is completed. For example some money is released to start construction, then another amount when you finish the foundation, walls and roof, windows and doors, inside finishing, etc.

Good luck with your new house, 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 info@bonairehomes.com.

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trof arrived, officers saw that the driver was injured. He stated that he was driving south when he lost control, drove off the road, collided with a number of rocks and a concrete shed for wheelie bins, and ended up with his pick-up on its side on the beach. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The pickup was towed away by a tow truck.

Traffic control

June 18. Between 9 and 10:30 a.m. the aspiring police officers of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) held a traffic control under the supervision of a teacher from the Police Academy and several practical supervisors. The traf-

fic control was part of their traffic exam which they all passed.

During the check on Kaya International 22 vehicles were checked and two fines were issued for driving without: 1x for a seat belt; 1x a valid driver's license and insurance certificate. Five warnings were also given to drivers for driving without a seat belt and for holding a telephone while driving.

June 5. Around 6 p.m. nine vehicles including two scooters were checked during a traffic control on Kaya Herman-dad. Six fines were issued for driving without: 3x a valid driver's license; 2x a seat belt on; 1x for valid insurance.



During the Bonaire Island Council's the first week of its working visit to the Netherlands the members of the council attended a farewell reception for Mrs. Alexandra van Huffelen. The Island Council expressed its appreciation for her dedication and commitment and presented her with a glass sculpture of Bonaire the Island crafted by MoltenWolfGlass Bonaire. (L-R) Junnywout Wout, Daisy Coffee, Cyrill Vrolijk, Alexandra van Huffelen, Roderick Groenman, Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai; Benito Dirksz, Dany Crestian Photo via OLB

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.

Departure of van Huffelen ominous for Bonaire

In concluding her farewell speech, outgoing Secretary for Kingdom Relations Alexandra van Huffelen said, "The special and complex historical connection between all parts of the Kingdom is very special and requires a continuous effort from all of us, based on trust and togetherness." Unfortunately the new right-wing national leadership likely perceives the Caribbean islands as untrustworthy and "not-us."

In last spring's election, Geert Wilders' far right wing Freedom Party (PVV) won 15% of the total vote. That gave him a small majority that almost doubled the PVV's seats in parliament and was enough to make Wilders' voice the strongest in the fragmented new government that was announced last week. His coalition did not choose him to be prime minister. But during the negotiations Wilders was given authority to appoint van Huffelen's replacement. Zsolt Szabó has been chosen to take over both van Huffelen's roles: State Secretary for Kingdom Relations and State Secretary for Digitalization.

Szabó is currently vice president at IT company Capgemini. When asked for his plans as State Secretary for Digitalization, he talked at length about the importance of the Netherlands taking centralized control of AI, a task he emphasized is non-political.

When asked about broader matters he would deal with as State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, he said he "comes from the corporate world" and is not yet up to speed on the issues. He has no apparent connection to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

The Dutch have been very generous to Bonaire since 10-10-10. The island has responded by engaging willingly, and with gradual but steady success, in the Dutch intention to bring honest and competent government to the islands. The oligarchies on Curaçao, Aruba, and Sint Maarten, in the meantime, have kept squabbling to protect their old prerogatives. Sadly, Bonaire is again being presented to the Netherlands as just another corrupt, poorly managed little island. Now is not a good time to appear to be a mini-Curaçao. *Don M. Ricks*

Treated Sewage Water - a Question and an Answer

A question that I can find no answers for ...

Bonaire has a sewer system that replaced the septic systems along the coast thus eliminating the source of nitrates and phosphates that were causing eutrophication [fertilizing] of the reef waters.

Today the treated sewage water is resold to resorts along the coast to use for irrigation of their plants, trees, and shrubs.

Are the nitrates and phosphates in the sewage water being removed in the treatment process or are we now irrigating along the coast with nitrate and phosphate rich salvage water? If so, we have defeated the purpose of the sewage system.

Thanks, Gary Barrett

WEB's response

All nitrates, phosphates and other potentially harmful irritants in the sewage water are processed to permitted levels and purified wastewater is reused for irrigation. Before being distributed, it is treated with UV-light. UV-radiation makes bacteria harmless and optimizes the quality of the irrigation water.

The irrigation water however still contains fertilizers. Therefore, irrigation water is never to be used on leaves of plants, but in through the soil. In the soil and in the roots of the plants, fertilizers are converted into nutrients for the plants.

You are always welcome to visit the plant and see the whole process.

Best Regards, Rosann Jansen - WEB Bonaire

Naming a Street/Road for Capt'n Donald A. Stewart

A Letter to Bonaire

Another year has come and gone, so here I am with this/my letter asking: "Why is there no street or road named for Capt'n Don Stewart? Why is he not remembered, honored, and treasured by the island he loved so much?"

Through his vision and with the help of many others Bonaire has served as a model, an example of reef management, conservation, and sustainable development over time.

Admired as a "Visionary" in reef ecology his "Sea Ranger" concept is considered a springboard for the now Bonaire Marine Park which is modeled and has

been copied on other islands around the world.

Over the years Capt'n Don has received numerous awards for his achievements and the island continues to this day to benefit from Captain Don's vision that has now become his legacy. That's why I feel he Merits, has Earned, and Deserves something permanent and visual on this island of Bonaire.

So, I will ask again and again: "Why is there no street or road named for Captain Don Stewart? Why is he not remembered, honored, and treasured by this 'Island Adrift' he loved so much.....?"

*Ralph Moogie Stewart
moogie@moogienation.com*

1000 screened



The population screening for Cervical Cancer Caribbean Netherlands welcomed their 1000th participant last Tuesday at Bonaire Medisch Centrum. A milestone to celebrate!

Are you between the ages 30 and 60 and haven't participated yet? Then you can register by phone or Whatsapp at 7810476 or by e-mail at screeningCN@rivm.nl.

Prevent scooter theft KPCN tips

Recently, the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) has received an increase in reports of stolen scooters or attempted thefts. Most reports concern rented scooters. KPCN calls on both renters and owners of scooters to take the following safety measures to prevent scooter theft.

For scooter renters:

- Use an ART3-approved chain lock (locks are often rented for an additional fee) and, if possible, a second ART-approved lock.
- Are you using a chain or cable lock? Then attach it high and loose. High off the ground makes it difficult to use concrete shears and sawing through is more difficult when the lock is hanging loose. When a chain lock is hanging against the ground, the ground can be used to break a lock.
- Are you using a bracket lock? Then hang it as low as possible and fill the space inside the bracket as much as possible.
- Do not forget to remove the key from the ignition and lock the scooter.
- Park your scooter, if possible, in a busy place and in a well-lit place in the evening. Park your scooter so that you have a view of it.
- Use an alarm system and/or an immobilizer if these are available on the scooter.

Often you are not insured against theft and are therefore responsible for the costs. Read your contract carefully for more information.

For scooter rental companies:

- Provide the scooter with an alarm system and advise renters to use an extra padlock.
- Use an immobilizer and place a track and trace system or a GPS tracker on the scooter.
- Ensure that your storage space is optimally secured with secure doors, windows, gates and high-quality locks and fittings.
- If necessary, install camera surveillance in your storage space with a 'stop and motion' detector, so that you receive a notification on your smartphone as soon as there is movement.

KPCN Communications

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JetAir declared bankrupt

JetAir, which has been flying scheduled and charter flights to and from the Caribbean and South America, has been shut down by its bankruptcy curators. It had the misfortune of starting up in November 2019, just in time for the pandemic. The government of Curaçao and the bankruptcy trustees agree that a restart is in the public interest. They are inviting bids and have promised to expedite the transfer to a new owner if one is found. *DMR*

OLB promises to take care of Bonaire's monuments.

During a recent press conference the Executive Council - Nina den Heyer, Clark Abraham, and Anjelica Cicalia - announced the island would start restoring its monuments, beginning with several old buildings in Rincon. The Executive Council's first step was to ask the Dutch government for a million euros. *DMR*

Society and Care has new acting director



Gerold van Elshuis has been appointed Acting Director of Society and Care.

He will temporarily take over the position from Mrs. Silvana Janga-Serfilia, who has been appointed Deputy Island Secretary.

Van Elshuis started his career at the OLB as a policy advisor for Personnel and Organization and has been associated with the Society & Care directorate as executive secretary since March 2022. In his new job he will work with local partners and the government to translate planned programs into concrete, visible, tangible measures and activities for Bonairean society. *DMR*

Direct Bonaire - Barranquilla flight

René Winkel, director of Z Air, has announced that next month Z Air will begin direct service between Bonaire (BON) and Barranquilla (BAQ) in Columbia. The flight from Bonaire will depart every Monday at 11:45 a.m., while the return flight from Barranquilla will depart every Friday at 12:25 p.m. *DMR*

Someone is hacking in Papiamentu

The cybercrime team of the KPCN warns that scammers are contacting people on Bonaire in Papiamentu via phony Facebook accounts they've created using the name of legitimate friends. Ignore any offers to help you apply for, say, free money. Nobody is giving away free money. The scammers just want to collect identity information they can use to break into your bank account and help themselves to free money.

Plenty of advice is available online that will tell you how to secure your computer data and avoid scams.

DMR

National spatial policy declared for Caribbean Netherlands

The Dutch Council of Ministers has approved a Spatial Development Program for the Caribbean Netherlands that sets requirements the public bodies of the islands must meet when drawing up or amending their spatial development plans. The requirements were drawn up in consultation with the island governments

The public bodies of the islands must properly process 14 themes. The themes include, as examples, a housing stock that meets local needs, good water management to limit flooding, drought and erosion, climate change and protecting nature, the environment and cultural heritage. The physical environment is defined as buildings, infrastructure, water, and also soil and subsoil, air, nature, agriculture, landscapes and cultural heritage. *DMR*

Planned tax increases predicted to hurt small entrepreneurs

Taxes, increased in 2024, are scheduled to increase again in 2025. Jaap Kos, tax expert and opposition independent electoral college member for Bonaire, says many small entrepreneurs already live close to the poverty line and will likely be put out of business. He cites, as examples, cleaners, gardeners, taxi drivers and hair-dressers who operate their business with perhaps one, two or three employees in a BV or NV.

Kos points out that the government's declared purpose is to combat poverty, not cause it. He promises, as with the previous tax plan, to critically monitor the 2025 tax plan for the Caribbean Netherlands and to do his best to convince MPs with substantiation and calculations to make sensible decisions and adjust government policy. *DMR*

Off-island medical referrals mostly go to other islands

Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) spends almost US40 million per year sending an average of 5,658 BES patients elsewhere for medical care. The average cost of transporting them is US\$16.6 million, and their medical care after arrival averages US\$21.3 million. Although some patients are evacuated to Colombia or the European Netherlands, a very large majority receive treatment on the nearest neighboring island.

More than 81% of the patients referred from Bonaire are sent to Aruba or Curaçao. More than 90% of the patients referred from St. Eustatius and Saba are sent to St. Maarten Bonaire.

These figures were recently reported in The Caribbean Netherlands Health system review. It notes that deployment to needed treatment is an important task of ZJCN in the Dutch Caribbean islands. *DMR (Bonaire.Nu)*

More parking spaces now available downtown



Part of the new Brionplein parking lot downtown is now open for public use. During this first phase, 64 parking spaces were created. Work continues on the second phase, which will add

another 53 parking spaces.

The project was initially conceived as a downtown park with some parking, but the plans were changed. The lot will now provide

significant relief for the parking shortage in the busy city center. *DMR / Photo: Julie Morgan*

Manager Care

We are seeking a dedicated professional who can step into the role of Manager Care at St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF). In this position, you will lead our care team, emphasizing quality and inspiring to deliver exceptional service. You will oversee inpatient care, outpatient care, home care, front desk clinic, ambulance drivers, laboratory staff, midwife, physiotherapist, and radiology staff departments.

Your leadership will be crucial in ensuring our patients receive quality care. Collaboration with other management members is essential to meet our strategic objectives. Your hands-on approach will set a positive example and motivate others, while your strong communication and management skills will drive our mission of achieving excellence in quality patient care.

You will be responsible for:

- Ensuring continuous compliance with regulatory standards from the Dutch Inspectorate to ensure quality care delivery.
- Taking the lead in initiatives to enhance care quality across all departments, focusing on continuous learning and training for all team members and establishing a culture of safety and excellence within the organization through team development.
- Continuously evaluate service performance and take corrective action as necessary through service development strategies and enforcing operational policies and procedures in innovative ways to support efficient and effective care delivery.
- Providing strategic guidance and recommendations to management for continuous quality development and improve care practices, ensure alignment with organizational objectives and year plan, raise staff engagement, and increase community awareness of our services.
- Contributing to workforce planning, developing and optimizing efforts, and participating in financial budgeting, planning, and resource allocation activities to support organizational goals.
- Enhancing Employee Engagement – Developing and implementing strategies to foster a positive work environment, increase employee satisfaction and retention, and promote open communication and collaboration among team members.

Who are we looking for?

- A minimum of an HBO bachelor's degree in nursing, preferably supplemented with post-bachelor's management training.
- Five years of experience in a managerial nursing role.
- Strong managerial and team-leading skills, with the ability to stimulate and lead through coaching and guidance.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity.
- Analytical skills and the ability to utilize data for decision-making.
- Fluency in both English and Dutch languages.
- Residency on St. Eustatius or willingness to relocate to St. Eustatius.

The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) manages the island's premier and only medical facility. Our dedicated team of 65 professionals includes nurses, doctors, supporting administrative staff, a midwife, a physiotherapist, a gynecologist, and specialized Practice Nurses for chronic care, ensuring comprehensive primary care services for our community.

At SEHCF, our commitment to excellence is reflected in our diverse range of health-care services. From outpatient services featuring general practitioner care and visiting specialists to community (home) care, emergency response, inpatient care, physiotherapy, and advanced diagnostic services in our laboratory and X-Ray departments. In short, we deliver primary care+. We work hard every day to be a good primary care + medical center, continually enhancing the quality of care for the local population.

We work closely with various stakeholders in our daily operations. For elective specialist care and emergency referrals we maintain strong partnerships with medical centers in St. Maarten and hospitals in Bonaire and Curaçao. Additionally, we work closely with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport and local public health organizations like GGD and GGZ.

What we offer

- A full-time position of 40 hours p/w
- Based on full-time employment, this position is classified according to the FWG system 3.0 and is scaled at level 65. The monthly gross salary starting from USD 4,700 to 6,000 (depending on experience).
- A competitive benefits package in line with our Collective Labor Agreement.
- Participation in the Dutch Caribbean Pension plan and the Zorgverzekering BES health insurance plan.

Interested?

We invite you to submit your resume with a cover letter, copies of your diplomas and certificates, and two references to SEHCF to Mr. Philip van Woerkom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, via email: hr@sehcf.org. Mr. Philip van Woerkom can also be contacted for questions via tel: +599 319- 7279.

Closing date: July 1, 2024



Cadushy Distillery supports the Klein Bonaire Reforestation Project



The Cadushy Distillery is pleased to announce that STINAPA and Elsmarie Beukenboom have been awarded the second grant of \$1,500 for their reforestation project on Klein Bonaire. STINAPA, in collaboration with environmental advocate Elsmarie Beukenboom, is dedicated to preserving and restoring the natural beauty of Klein Bonaire. This project aims to enhance the island's ecosystem through strategic reforestation efforts.

Eric, Jolande, and Rianne Gietman were among the first sponsors and volunteers of Elsmarie Beukenboom's reforestation project. Eric Gietman, founder of The Cadushy Distillery, said, "Supporting STINAPA and Elsmarie Beukenboom's reforestation project aligns with our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. We are proud to continue our support for Klein Bonaire and to foster a greener future for our community."

For more information, please contact STINAPA at outreach@stinapa.org or Eric Gietman at +599 7868769 or eric@cadushy.com.

STINAPA is immediately looking for a **CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT COORDINATOR**

We are excited to announce an opening for a Project Coordinator for a new initiative focused on building climate resilience in Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP). The project goals are to evaluate BNMP's climate vulnerability, enhance early detection of climate change impacts, and devise effective management responses and new policies to boost climate resilience.

To read the full job ad, please visit the website below or scan the QR-code with your phone.
<https://stinapabonaire.org/join-us/vacancies/>

Student Scientists Survey the Reefs

by Mel McCombie

A group of eight students and two faculty spent a week at Captain Don's Habitat conducting fish and benthic surveys here to determine whether fish-protected areas actually affect fish populations. They came from the College of the Florida Keys in Key West, and what they found on our reefs should help shape future marine park policies.

A reef visual census is a tool to help assess reef health; this group of students, led by Drs. Patrick Rice and Michael Feeley, catalogued eight sites around Bonaire, four in fish protected areas with no fishing, and four outside them. They then compared the data from their work to that collected by another group from the college in 2017.

Rather than focusing on every species of fish, these science divers in training focused on snappers, grouper, and jacks (all significant commercially). Using a surveying technique developed by NOAA (the Bohnsack-Bannerot stationary method), wherein the teams of two map out circles of 15 meters across, they assessed fish populations at Karpata, Country Garden, Something Special, and Windsock (areas where fishing is permitted), and Small Wall, La Machaca, Reef Scientifico, and 18th Palm (fish-protected areas).

The students and faculty communicated with each other while diving with buddy phones (very cool for underwater communication) and wrote their findings on specially designed underwater paper slates. This allowed them to collate and enter their findings into a database.

The results of their surveys demonstrated that areas with no fishing permitted had higher fish populations than those where fishing was permitted. What surprised me about their data was even

though the reefs in the no-fishing areas were stressed by SCLTD, bleaching, and storms, they nonetheless had more fish. For example, the non-protected areas had an average of 78 snappers, while the fish-protected averaged 101 in 2017; this year, the numbers were 100 and 116 respectively. It seems that no touch, no take results in more fish.

The College of the Florida Keys has been coming to Bonaire to survey since 2012, when Dr. Alex Bryske brought the first group. Dr. Patrick Rice, chief science and research officer at the college, told me that this trip was the culmination of a capstone course for marine science training that qualify students to work as science divers for NOAA and other agencies. The program at the college is supported by a prestigious grant from the National Science Foundation called



Dr. Rice with Buddy Phone Photo Mel McCombie

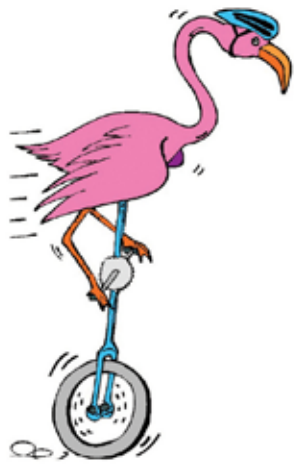
“Dream STEM,” training students to work in “dream jobs” in science. I say “bravo!” to this program and agree that

scientific diving in Bonaire is a true dream job!



Photo Julie Morgan

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Reviving Reefs:

Insights from Recent Restoration Workshop

This week, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) hosted a Reef Restoration Workshop on Bonaire, bringing together over 20 experts in coral reef restoration. The event featured both in-person and virtual presentations, attracting over 150 participants. Topics ranged from fish reproduction to coral outplanting, fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration in efforts to safeguard the coral reefs.

Coral reefs are crucial to the health of the Dutch Caribbean islands and 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.

Alongside global climate change, local issues such as unregulated coastal development, inadequate waste management, and invasive species contribute to reef degradation. Besides addressing these issues, reef protection and restoration are essential for building resilience against future stressors.

Workshop Highlights

From June 17-19, participants attended lectures and presentations to deepen their understanding of reef restoration techniques. Experts from the Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire, Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI) and SECORE International discussed coral restoration methods. The Coral Spawning Lab shared advancements in land-based coral spawning techniques. Van Hall Larenstein covered the restoration of native herbivores like sea urchins and



snails, which help reduce harmful algae and improve coral survival. Diergaarde Blijdorp (Roffareefs) presented novel approaches to herbivorous fish reproduction. Additionally, MPACONnect/AGRRA shared insights from their Coral Restoration Roadmap Planning workshop in Florida.

Hands-On Learning

The workshop also included practical field activities led by Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and Diergaarde Blijdorp (Roffareefs). Participants engaged in coral fragmentation and micro-propagation techniques, studied fish breeding behaviors, and took part in local reef restoration exercises. This combination of classroom and fieldwork equipped attendees to apply their skills to ongoing and future projects.

Stay up to date

The DCNA will publish a special edition of BioNews featuring articles and recordings of some presentations on workshop topics, providing in-depth insights and extending the knowledge shared during the event. Follow DCNA for updates via Facebook, Instagram or BioNews.

More information and Interviews, contact:
research@DCNAnature.org

*Photo: Casper Douma- all rights reserved
DCNA*

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover Mangos, rats and teabags

Have you seen the mango trees full of mangos? It's incredible. The trees have more fruit than I have ever seen on Bonaire. Around my home there are four huge mango trees in other yards full of different types of mangos. And occasionally I receive some of the fruit. One neighbor puts them in small containers on her wall. Other neighbors send me a message to come for them. And I never say no, because for me I can never have enough. Of course the loras and prichichis hunt for them too.

One neighbor told me that he sat under the mango tree waiting for the birds from 5 in the morning until 8. As soon as they attack the mangos, he shakes a long stick throughout the tree so the birds will fly away. But today, when I visited that neighbor I found a lot of damaged mangos under the tree. So I asked him if he still sits under the tree. He said now the birds wait in another tree in the next yard and as soon as he leaves the birds attack the fruit. Yes, the birds are very smart.

But the damaged mangos can still be used. Another neighbor has land turtles and they love mangos. So I gather the damaged mangos for the turtles. So cool to see them happily eating the mangos.

Bonaire is full of rats. On the bike I see them dead or alive on the street, nearby food places such as warehouses, restaurants, in the mondi and in gardens around fruit trees. You don't want them around your house of course. So clean your garden from fallen and rotten fruits. Nowadays because of the drought there is a strange situation with rats in my garden. I found some dead rats close to where I collect water in small buckets from the airco to water the plants. And I have no dogs, so its so weird to find dead rats there. I told my neighbor about it and he said the rats came for the water in the buckets. Somewhere



in the area they have eaten poison that people put out to kill them and they get very thirsty and look for water. But when they drink the water they die immediately and I find them in my garden. This is something new I learned.

The drought means hard times for nature. Animals in the wild suffer a lot and come to the neighborhoods looking for food and water. If you don't want donkeys in your beautiful yard and green garden make sure that your gate is always locked. Chop the part of trees that hangs over your roof because the iguanas climb up and live under the roof tiles where there are protected against the hot sun. Once they live there, you can never get rid of them until you open the roof and catch them. It happened to me and the noise they make with their tail is like a bomb exploding, which almost gave me a heart attack. And rats like to live under the roof. My friend once caught 21 rats under her roof. Plants next to the house can sometimes lead to this situation.

Last but not least, if you are a tea lover, and throw away the teabags, read this information and give your teabags a second life.

Especially during the drought, tea bags are a very smart and effective way to give your garden a great boost.

1- These little bags contain many good ingredients to stimulate a compost process and gives a high quality of nutrients.

2- For growing roses they are fantastic. Put them at the base of the plant. The bags provide a natural drainage and at the same time prevents the absorption of too much water and your roses will bear beautiful, strong flowers. Teabags are a great friend and good for all plants. One can also lay them a bit under the surface of the soil around the plant.

3- Teabags keep cats away from your garden. Cats don't like the smell or the feel of wet teabags on their feet. This is a friendly way to keep cats out of your plants.

4- Teabags are a boost for seedlings. Germination goes better as they stimulate the growth of young, sensitive plants.

6- Teabags can revive older plants too. They feed the roots of the potted plants and give them a stronger and longer life.

Teabags are eco friendly with a lot of nutrients and nitrogen to stimulate the healthy growth of your plants. Make use of it, 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.

Behavior is my thing, it floats my boat



Marty Snyderman Photo Julie Morgan

In the last 50 years, capturing images of the underwater world has gone from a very select group of divers to almost anyone who learns to dive or even snorkel. One of the best photographers and underwater film makers we know is Marty Snyderman. He has dived and captured imagery all over the world and he recently visited Bonaire.

“I just think nature is so cool. It’s the one thing that has always gotten me. There were literally 25 people that did what I did when I started. Here is the thing, technology is going to be what it is and it has raised the bar. Sometimes in my pro community I see a lot of discussion about gear, but not so much discussion about animal behavior. Behavior is my thing. It floats my boat,” said Snyderman.

Growing up in landlocked Arkansas, Snyderman was a Jacques Cousteau geek. Back then there was no such thing as cable. But there were the hour-long Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau specials aired from 1968-1976. This was a big family night in the Snyderman household.

Snyderman’s interest and knowledge in nature grew thanks to his Uncle Herb, a Sears Roebuck sports representative who would take him camping and fishing. On an outing to Panama City Beach for deep sea fishing he had his first introduction to sharks.

Snyderman said, “There were these guys playing poker, smoking cigars and drinking beer and they became my over-night heroes. They were catching fish and then they caught a shark. They yelled “Kill the bastard, he’s eating our fish. Get a gun,” and they shot him. I ran crying into the bathroom. A couple of days later, I was snorkeling off the beach and I saw a nurse shark and it bolted. I knew then and I knew it later in life those adults were wrong about wildlife. It made no sense to me.”

After college with a \$5000 loan from his dad, he headed to California and became a dive instructor with only 27 dives under his belt. Living in his car at age 24, he went to work at Chuck Nicklin’s San Diego Diving Locker and worked alongside some true greats in the underwater film and photography world: Chuck Nicklin, Flip Nicklin, Howard and Michelle Hall and Lou Fead.

“This was a little hub of underwater photography. All were honored with NOGI’s (recognizes leaders in skin and SCUBA diving) and Emmy Awards. And all I knew about pictures was to put your subject in the center... and don’t cut people off at the knees. All I knew is I wanted to go explore the ocean. I was inspired by Cousteau.”

Snyderman and Hall were diving the open sea going places no one knew. They would just pick a place and dive.

In the late 70’s, Snyderman was writing 3000-word articles about dive equipment for Skin Diver magazines’ editor Bonnie Cardone. He looks back at that stuff now and is horrified.

“In those days, you could walk to Catalina Island on the back of blue sharks. It was unbelievable. Howard and Larry Cochrane and I built a shark cage and San Diego Shark Divers was born along with Bob Cranston. No one was doing this at the time, and everybody wanted to go... We all built an underwater movie camera, Peter Benchley wrote Jaws and sharks exploded,” said Snyderman.

During that time he worked with Stan Waterman on an hour long shark TV show, different projects with Hall including the Wild Kingdom series, Shark Week and PBS Nature before he got tired of the film business. Snyderman won an Emmy for cinematography on a film with Waterman in Costa Rica.

Snyderman switched from film to still photography about the time film went to video. He returned to write for Skin Diver and had a position at Dive Training to write the column Imagine That. At one time Snyderman was writing for nine dive magazines.

Snyderman visited Bonaire back in the 90’s for a dive event. But in the last five years he’s returned three times to dive and photograph Bonaire’s marine life with his friend Steve Ando of 25 years.

“Snyderman said, “We’ve been diving the same site here every day and I know the neighborhood... Going here and there from site to site is not for me. We’ve been doing black water at Oil Slick and it’s stuff I don’t know. It’s fun to learn about animals and see the big picture. You see animals you’ve never seen before. This is a missed opportunity of the Bonaire dive community and shops to turn people on to it.

Do I get the same amount of adrenalin to get on an airplane-no. Do I want to go diving today – yes and it’s to look



And We Think Our Sex Lives Are Complicated

Well, try this on for size. Pictured here is a pair of mating butter hamlets. When hamlets mate, the same fish sometimes displays as the female and sometimes as the male. They even mate in both the male and female role on the same evening: the fish that displayed as a female will release a few eggs and the other individual will fertilize them and then they switch sexual roles.

From a sunset dive during which I was treated to watching a pair of butter hamlets feed together, court (briefly), and mate. This pair mated ten times in a matter of 10 to 15 minutes.

Photo Marty Snyderman



An octopus that was roughly the size of a small coin swimming high up in the water column at night on a blackwater dive. Photo Marty Snyderman

at nature. But you learn stuff. It’s kind of like baseball, your batting average isn’t as high as you set out to make it, but I love it. I don’t care if it’s nudibranchs or whales, well that’s not quite true, whales are pretty exhilarating. But I like to watch a nudi be a nudi, whether they are mating, laying eggs or feeding on hydroids. It’s just kind of cool to see it.”

On Bonaire’s ‘don’t touch’ policy, he commented that Bonaire goes to great lengths to tell divers not to touch. But what about the cruise ships? He explained that you could take all the divers that are here and the damage they do is nothing compared to one cruise ship that stretches from one pier to the next.

In his photography classes, Snyderman teaches getting proper exposures and composition. He urges people to read their camera manual and learn good buoyancy. When diving anywhere, do the check-out dive.

Snyderman explained, people often find it offensive, especially the experienced diver. But it takes 15 minutes to do, so just do it, even if you did one two weeks ago, do another one.

“Bonaire is different. It has 1000s of divers that dive the same spots more than anywhere else in the world. It’s easy diving, the gift of Bonaire is it’s easy,” said Snyderman.

Julie Morgan

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Soccer Kid makes move



Jemima with her son, Jayvohn Alberto

From age 1 – 3 years old Jayvohn played and trained in softball with his dad. When almost 4, he joined Anything is Possible (ATIP) a soccer foundation created to enhance kids' abilities. And at 5, he attended Soca Tots.

Jemima said, "There wasn't a team for kids under 7 so he started to train with the team for 7 and 8 year olds. Other parents thought he was too small, and they created a team for younger kids."

From 2019 - 2024, Jayvohn has taken part in nine different training organizations or camps and competed in eight competitions. In 2023 at the PSG soccer camp in Fort Lauderdale and Miami he received a training scholarship for his soccer skills but to attend the family would have had to move to the US and that wasn't feasible.

Returning home to Bonaire, Jayvohn took part in the PSV camp and was one of the best players in his age group. And for the second time, the coaches said he has some skills, but if he wants to go farther then he needs to leave Bonaire.

The family decided to go to a tryout soccer camp in the Netherlands. Jayvohn was selected as one of the best players and chosen out of 200 kids to play in the championship later in the year.

Jemima said, "Again, the camp coaches said, "We see some skills in him, but he will have to be in Holland. So, we made a decision to give him the opportunity. We have been planning since last November and we are moving in July."

Jayvohn will be training at his first camp July 15 -17 in Rotterdam.

He practices every day with his team or his dad and has had a personal trainer for the last two years.

Jemima and Sandy have two other children, one attending school in Holland and a five year old.

"I think for the kids it will be a whole new world. And this will teach Jayvohn self-improvement and discipline. We will give him all he needs but he has to do the work. If you want your kids to be something you have to invest in them."

Sandy Alberto is the owner of KSJ Electro BV and Jemima is a former police officer and compulsory school officer. To keep up with Jayvohn's soccer career, visit Jayvohn Alberto Fans on Facebook.

Story / Top photo Julie Morgan



Sandy Alberto far right and team mates Santo (L) and Morales at training camp.

With the Summer Olympics just a month away, I couldn't help but make a correlation between the parents of athletes on Olympic level of competition and a young Bonaire soccer athlete Jayvohn Alberto. Like the Olympic athletes, Jayvohn's parents Sandy Alberto and Jemima Martis have identified what their son wants to do, shows a talent for and from the beginning have been doing what they can to support him. In July they are making a move to the Netherlands to increase their son's opportunities in soccer.

And like those other Olympic parents, Sandy and Jemima both have a background in sports that rubbed off on Jayvohn. Jemima was an active team softball player on Bonaire until Jayvohn was born. Sandy was scouted by the Los Angeles Dodgers at age 14 and was the first Bonairean to be signed with a major league baseball team. He attended training schools in Santa Domingo and Miami from 1995-97. Unfortunately, his career was cut short after the Dodgers were fined for signing underage foreign players and he returned to Bonaire.

Regarding the big move to the Netherlands, Sandy said, "I've been there so I know how to get there. I tell other parents, if your son wants to play then stay focused and help them get there. My father was very supportive of me but a lot of parents can't do that."

Pride Week from page 1

Evanita Dragalicious making a special appearance. Latin night is usually attended by many of Bonaire's Latinos and EQ was concerned how they would react to gay and queerness but everything went well.

A Pub Quiz at Eden Beach was the highlight of day five with 16 teams of five or six players challenged with LGBTQ+ and Pride trivia. The teams tackled questions on history, movies and music and had a lot of fun showing off their gay knowledge. Prizes were rewarded by the drag queens.

On day six, the Master Class addressed more serious issues with a focus on diversity, inclusion and discrimination. Centro AKSECO, social workers in Bonaire's barios, gave examples of real-life cases of family behavior, arguments and school backlash when a child tells their parents he/she is queer. Hospital workers discussed what is possible regarding transgender care on Bonaire: psychologists, operations and preparation. Clinical treatment requires years to transition.

Attendees were divided into groups to choose three cards symbolizing culture, gender, trust etc. and then discussed their choices. The goal

was to see different opinions and where and why they originated.

That evening, some 200 guests showed up

with colors flying at the Grand Party at Tera Kora Ranch. The ranch was converted into a Pride showcase with flashing lights and rainbow flags everywhere you looked. Three DJs created the music and the drag queens Ebony Noir and Evanita Dragalicious of Curaçao and drag king Jamal le Coq of Bonaire gave outlandish and fun performances with multiple costume changes.

On the final day it was time to hit the beach, soak up some rays and enjoy the pool and ocean at Eden Beach. DJ's Shrek and Derrrel provided the dance music for the 80 attendees. It was a perfect end to a successful week of diversity, inclusion, fun and Pride.

Supporting Pride Week: Dive Friends, Cuba Companie, Luciana, Gala Neth. Ministry OCV, Empire Cinema, Ezone, Windssock Resort, Eden Beach, Trocadero, RCN, Captain Don's Habitat, Flow, RCB Bank, Sobremesa, Tera Cora, The Bucket, Salt, Jardin de Amor, Fundashon di Kurason, Samenwerkende Fondsen Cariben, Bob Angelo Fonds, Rumba Café, Mariadol Hospital and Hooked by Sunsets

Julie Morgan Story / Photos



EQ Bonaire recognized Lt. Gov. Nolly Oleana for her valuable commitment to diversity and inclusion in our community with a Pride Bonaire Award on June 13. Oleana said during the presentation. "Diversity and inclusion are core values that make us stronger as a community. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to continuing this important work."

L-R: EQ Found Jutih Brekelmans, Lt Gov Nolly Oleana and EQ members Jaira Brito and Francis Figaroa

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Dive Trivia Quiz



Captain Don guides a double-barrel mooring in the placement of 1981. Captain Don's concept of permanent moorings on dive sites has been adopted by marine parks, dive vessel operators, and even nations, worldwide. It has saved the lives of uncounted corals which would otherwise have been crushed or smothered as a consequence of anchor use.

sharks, was made to be a villain in the movie *The Deep*?

- green moray
- yellowtail damselfish
- sea wasp (box jellyfish)
- all or none of the above

3. What do the largest fish eat?

- the second-largest fish
- seals and sea lions
- small crustaceans and other tiny

creatures

- all or none of the above

4. What is the most obvious external difference between sea snakes and land snakes?

- as with sea horses and (land) horses, sea snakes rarely grow longer than a person's finger, while land (and freshwater) snakes can measure more than 6' (2m).
- sea snakes have side-to-side flat-

- tened tails
- sea snakes have top-to-bottom flattened tails
- none of the above

5. How many rows of suckers do octopus arms have?
- four
 - two
 - depends on the species of octopus
 - none of the above

Second category: Diving "history"

6. Name the author of the very first Guide to the Bonaire Marine Park.

7. What name did the crew give the mechanical white shark used in *Jaws*?

8. What romantic name did Cousteau give to nitrogen narcosis?

9. Who authored *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*?

10. Who starred in the American TV show *Sea Hunt*?

- David Hasselhoff
- Shirley MacLaine
- Lloyd Bridges
- all or none of the above

11. Extra credit: What is the last name of Captain Don?

ANSWERS: *On page 16*

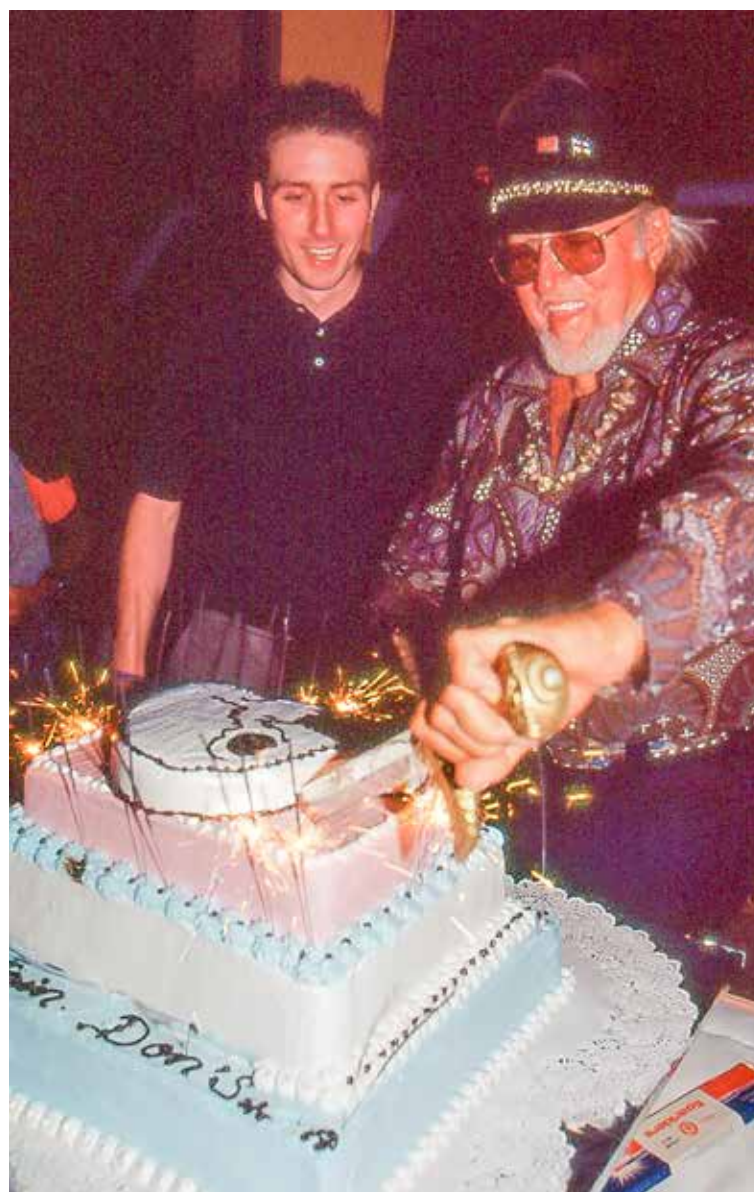
Sangria a la Bonaire

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant



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

Capt'n Don's birthday



Happy Birthday Captain Don Stewart – June 25, 1925 -May 30, 2014. The Captain is remembered as the father of organized diving on Bonaire and a pioneer in ocean conservation. Next year will mark his 100th birthday and we intend to celebrate it. Read *The Reporter* for more updates. (Photo taken at Dive Festival in the 90's with Phillippe Cousteau Jr.) Photo Julie Morgan

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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 Gilber to F Croes. Located just past Caribbean Laundry. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus 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/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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.
Saturday, June 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. see page 15.
Thursday, July 4 Friday, July 5	Two performances: Musical - "ACE-WOOD: A Step Closer to Hollywood" Jong Bonaire. 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$10 for kids under 12, \$20 for ages 13 and up. Tickets at Lisa Convenience Store, Del Mar and Luciano. see page 15
Monday, July 7	Slavery Emancipation Day We commemorate the abolition of slavery and honor the struggle of our ancestors to build a more honorable future. Come celebrate this solemn event together at Wilhelminaplein in Kralendijk from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
July 7 & 21	MoltenWolf Mosaic Workshops. We will demonstrate creating a mosaic wall project such as large and small turtles.11 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$175 pp. Second of three summer workshops. No experience necessary. All materials and equipment provided. 8 people per class. Email MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com .
July 8 - 19	Smart Summer School for groups 7 & 8 To register or for more information, please contact the primary school teacher or Miss Daryl from the Mediabus on 599 7701484. You can also register directly by email at leesenschrijvenbonaire@gmail.com .
Saturday, July 20	Dive Friends 10th Women's Dive Day 1 p.m. at Dive Friends Bonaire Port Bonaire. Visit Dive Friends on Facebook for more information

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. June 26	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Tues. July 2	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0700-1830	South	3260
Thur. July 11	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Wed. July 17	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6630
Thurs. July 18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1800	South	3260
Wed. July 24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Wed. July 31	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0730-1830	South	3260
Wed. August 7	MARDI GRAS	0700-1600	South	6631
Thurs. August 8	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Tues. August 13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	0830-1800	South	3660
Wed. August 14	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6630

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, July 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Omina. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Saturday, July 20	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriends-bonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

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 at 7:30 p.m. - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. For sessions before July 20 see [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation). No presentations between July 20 and Sept 7th. Email: Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Sundays 5:30 p.m. Blennies Restaurant – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m. See facebook.

EMANCIPATIE DAG

**COMMEMORATION
ABOLITION
OF SLAVERY**

**1
JULI**

On Emancipation Day we commemorate the abolition of slavery and we honor it the struggle of our ancestors for one to build a more honorable future. Come together for this solemn event. Celebrate at Wilhelminaplein July 1, 2024 from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. COMMEMORATION

'HERDENKING, DOORWERKING EN TOEKOMST'

Traveling exhibition on ABC history being prepared

Wintertuin Curaçao is spearheading a collaboration with Fundacion Museo Arubano and Terramar Museum Bonaire to create a traveling exhibition of artifacts that will evoke historical narratives of the people of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao and their mainland connections with Venezuela and Colombia. Each island will contribute ten objects that were significant to people at the time.

The artifacts to be displayed will be selected by the respective communities during workshops, civics lessons for MBO students, and other public events. The exhibition is scheduled for this fall in Venezuela.

The Dutch Embassy in Caracas and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands have supported the project. It is funded by Fonds voor Cultuurparticipatie and the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Cariben. DMR



Media Contact: Jude Finies, Curator Bonaire, terramarmuseum@gmail.com 7014700

COMING JUNE 29

Nos Zjilea-Let the fire of San Juan and San Pedro purify your soul

The San Juan and San Pedro festivals are celebrated on June 24th and 29th, respectively. On these dates, everyone named Juan or Pedro, or with names derived from them, such as Juanita, Johana, Wancho, John, Pedro, Peter, or Petra, receives visits at home. There is always someone who walks ahead to inform the homeowner that a group of musicians is on their way. The musicians, who use string instruments such as the cuatro or guitar, lead the group. Upon arrival, the homeowner offers them bread, sweets, coffee, and rum. Finally, there is the jumping over the bonfire, which takes place for the purification of the soul.

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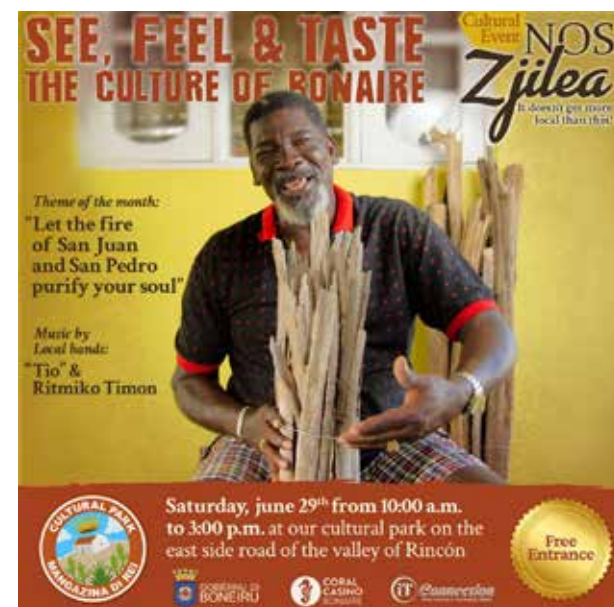
The day begins at 10 a.m. with the podcast 'Butishi', a discussion of different topics related to this Nos Zjilea.

The podcast will be broadcast on Facebook, YouTube, Radio Voz di Boneiru 94.7 FM, and MiTV Telbo Channel 74 VdB TV.

The tradition of celebrating San Juan and San Pedro has been going on for decades. Someone deeply involved in this tradition is Freddy St Jago. He will explain what homeowners prepare for these celebrations and how the music serenades are conducted. Wesley "Wewe" Sint Jago will explain the importance of this tradition in our cultural heritage and why it must be preserved. He will tell us the meaning of the songs we hear during this season, such as "Buchí Marti," "Madua Ban Kas," "Dina Baro," and many others.

One person who receives visits every year during the Juan and Pedro celebration is Juan "Nochi" Coffie. He will share his experiences of jumping over the fire. Everyone is invited to try the fire jumping but make sure you don't get burned.

Papiamentu is sweet, but sometimes when you don't know a word in Papiamentu, you mix it with Dutch or English. To stimulate pure Papiamentu, Mangazina di Rei along with Akademia Papiamentu will hold the "#retapapiamentu" contest once again. Participate and help us elevate our sweet Papiamentu.



The cultural market with fresh, local natural juices, herbal teas, delicacies and art will be available. And the kitchen will open at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of soups, Creole dishes and grill. This weeks live performances will feature the folkloric dance couple "Duo Mirasol" dancing to the local music of Ritmiko Timon and new band Tio.

Nos Zjilea is a free monthly cultural event at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. It doesn't get more local than this. For more information, visit Mangazina di Rei's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei.

Izain Mercera

ACE Foundation presents a New Musical



Members of ACE group in their previous performance during music week. Photo Julie Morgan

The ACE Foundation proudly presents a new musical play titled "ACE-WOOD: A Step Closer to Hollywood." Starring children aged 10 to 13, the beautiful musical theater performance is on for two nights, July 4 and 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the main hall of Jong Bonaire.

This project is financed by the OLB and the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied.

During the musical theater "ACE-WOOD." the audience will have the opportunity to enjoy a story that illustrates the journey these children have taken to grow and realize their dreams of becoming artists. The show will highlight the cultural aspects of Bonaire, including our history of slavery and the bright future our children hope for.

The presentation also serves as a fundraiser for ACE Tweens to travel to Aruba. Once there they will first participate in a workshop called Gang di Arte Dream Dare Do, then compete with their Aruban counterparts.

Zoë Bernardina, Damari Alonzo, and Bertie Komproe lead the children's intensive rehearsals. Xechell 'Bauco' Jacobs directs the music.

ACE invites the community to come and enjoy a show that is not only entertaining but also delivers a beautiful message of hope and pride in our culture and community. If you wish to reserve your seat, send a WhatsApp message to 790-0155. ACE Foundation.

Bonaire's athletes excel at the 2024 Special Olympics National Games in the Netherlands

With great pride, we announce that our athletes have achieved impressive performances at the 2024 Special Olympics National Games in the Netherlands, held in Breda and Tilburg.

The team, consisting of 20 athletes, was accompanied by nine coaches and won remarkable prizes in various events. Their perseverance and sportsmanship are an inspiration to us all. Here is an overview of the prizes won:

Athletics

- Shalimar Mathew - Silver in the 200 meters
- Roël Scherptong - Silver in the 100 meters
- Lixzandro Mauricio - Bronze in the 200 meters

Swimming

- Giandro Mercera - Gold in the 25 meters breaststroke, 4th place in the 50 meters front crawl
- Nina Braecken - Silver in the 25 meters breaststroke, silver in the 50 meters front crawl
- Suraya Hendricks - 5th place in the 50 meters breaststroke, 6th place in the 50 meters front crawl
- Jerome Martis - 4th place in the 50 meters backstroke, 7th place in the 50 meters front crawl

Football

- Bonaire Football Team - Bronze

Bocce (Bolas) - Doubles

- Su-Endry Weef & Revelino Engelhart - Bronze
- Nathania Nicolina & Marchantelie Anthony - Bronze

Bocce (Bolas) - Singles

- Marchantelie Nicolina - Gold
- Revelino Engelhart - Silver



The group arrives back home. Photo Julie Morgan

- Su-Endry Weef - 4th place
- Nathania Nicolina - 5th place

The athletes have achieved beautiful results through hard work and dedication. We would like to thank everyone who made this journey possible and supported the athletes. On behalf of Special Olympics Bonaire (SOB), we congratulate our athletes on their outstanding performances!

Gratitude to our sponsors

SOB would like to extend special thanks to all sponsors who contributed to making this event possible. Their generosity has created a better world for the athletes and fellow residents of Bonaire. The sponsors:

- Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire
- Indebon
- ENNIA
- Cargill
- MCB
- Flamingo TV

Lecheron Janga, Special Olympics Bonaire



The coaches. Earon Rosaria (Athletics); Merida Statia (swimming); Rolvin Hellburg (bocce / bolas); Ghislaine Makaai (swimming); Oriana Leonora (medical + bocce); Carla Ramkhelawan (Athletics); Lecheron Janga (football / Media); David Molina (football); Anne Marie Mercera (National director). We also had Ethan Thielman who helped with football but he is living in Holland. Photo Julie Morgan

Reef Glimpses, from page 13 - Dive Trivia Answers

1. The Moses sole secreted a mucus that was apparently distasteful to sharks. A commercial venture asked Dr. Clark to help them develop a shark-repelling sunscreen; she declined and I never heard any more about it.
2. A rogue sea wasp would be interesting, but in The Deep it's a huge green moray who pops up unexpectedly, teeth gleaming.
3. Small crustaceans (krill) and other small critters.
4. Sea snakes have side-to-side flattened tails, enabling them to swim more efficiently.
5. Two (science fiction and artists' interpretations

- notwithstanding).
6. Tom van 't Hof, who also initially set up the BMP.
7. Bruce. That's really trivial trivia.
8. Rapture of the deep. Can you not hear his French accent murmuring something like, "But oui, at great depths zee diver begins ..."
9. Jules Verne. In 1870.
10. Lloyd Bridges. Look for Sea Hunt on YouTube. I do love to think about Shirley MacLaine and David Hasselhoff starring in an underwater mystery, though.
11. Bonaire's Captain Don Stewart. Do you know his full first name?



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

New youth assisted living opens

An assistant living project for young people, two years in the making, came to fruition with a grand opening on June 21. The “Bes” is the combined result of the work of VWS-ZICN and partner Fundashon Cas Bonairiano (FCB). It was established with a focus on young people from Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius who need support and personalized guidance in finding self-sufficiency and independence.

The residential facility is the next step for young people 16-23 that were part of the long-term assistance process Youth Care Professionals. The young people have reached the required program goals and are ready for more independence but cannot live at home for various reasons.

The facility offers 13 small studio type apartments in three phases designed for different needs in the young adults’ development. Six places are currently occupied. The facility has an office for studying, a living room/kitchen, a communal area, exercise equipment, outside covered patio and a garden area.

Frida Windster of Jeugd zorg explained, each young person starts in phase 1 with an emphasis on guidance. After achieving the phase 1 goals they move to phase 2 where more personalized coaching is given. And finally in phase 3 the emphasis shifts to advising as young people have gained confidence in their personal responsibilities and tasks. After two years of development assistance at the facility, they receive a rental studio from FCB which they pay for where guidance continues when needed.

In the first phases, the residents do not pay rent. But they



Three residents, VWS-ZICN and FCB representatives cut the ribbon at the official opening. Photo Julie Morgan

learn budgeting through the use of Pagabon by paying any overages and pay \$10 for cable, water and internet. The residents receive a food budget for meals and in phase one are required to cook and eat together. In phase 3, they are respon-

sible for their own meals. In addition to school, the young people are required to have a side job to learn financial responsibility.

In the official ceremony representatives from the agencies spoke and a video with a property tour and words and images of the current facility residents.

Jan Carlos Hernandez, 19, said, “Before coming here I was aggressive and angry but I’ve changed. I found a job, got my open water diver certificate, driver’s license and I’m learning to become independent. I’m becoming an adult and I’m very grateful for their help.”

Attendees at the opening enjoyed a buffet and music from Formashon Musikal Krioyo.

Photos / story Julie Morgan



Make Bonaire Accessible MiVaBo by Ria Evers-Dokter

Sixteen years ago, MiVaBo became a fact. Three persons with handicaps were fed up and wished there was a decent way to get in and out of aircraft at Bonaire International Airport. The dangerous situation of being carried on and off of a plane needed to change. It was disgraceful.

Back then MiVaBo was very visible because the board members were all over Bonaire in their wheelchairs and scooter mobiles. Finally, a decent airlift came to the airport in the form of an Aviramp accessible for all passengers. But it appeared that the Aviramp was too dangerous for the fuselage of the planes. The aviramp was parked and stood for years unused at the airport. Then in 2023 came a new solution - the Ambulift. Bonaire finally had accessibility for disabled passengers. In the meantime, the board members passed away which stopped all the MiVaBo activities, and the organization became invisible.

But that does not mean that MiVaBo does not exist. The number of board members went down drastically to only three persons. And what do these people do? The board gets together every three weeks to discuss, decide, plan and act on how to make Bonaire more accessible.

Safety and physical access. Chairman Artie de Vries is the board member most visible. He is very much involved in all projects including the one called the “path project.” He coordinates the construction of wheelchair paths and slopes from the front door to the gate of handicapped individuals’ homes. Other MiVaBo projects include making bathrooms more accessible, installing handgrips, high toilets, shower chairs, etc. And then there is the roofing project. Old houses have bad roofs that leak and are unsafe. Having them fixed is very expensive, but MiVaBo thinks it is very important that persons with a handicap live in decent housing and have a proper roof over their head.

MiVaBo visits restaurants and hotels regularly checking on accessibility and is working to get official wheelchair / accessibility stickers for the businesses to display. MiVaBo contacts the governor and deputies regularly to confront them with unacceptable situations and asks for fast improvements. Nowadays MiVaBo is invited to make and modify new projects that are planned and to help set them up.

Community activities. Once a week MiVaBo takes a group of handicapped people to Sorobon to get into our beautiful sea in the special beach wheelchairs. (For the second year in a row MiVaBo has participated in BonDoet. We’ve taken a group of persons with disabilities to swim and enter the sea in the beach wheelchairs. It is always a treat.)

A new project, Dinner and a Movie, is very popular. MiVaBo invites groups of people with disabilities to a dinner and movie. Family members are also invited. At Red Palm Village’s movie night, the physically handicapped group gets a special night out. And at Tera Cora Ranch persons with a hearing disability are invited to come with their family. The next group event will be for the elderly in Rincon. MiVaBo also tries to make Bonairean inhabitants to be more

aware and care more about those with a handicap.

Funding. Emma Groeneveld is the formal secretary and also functions as treasurer. Ria Evers-Dokter takes care of fundraising, PR and helps out when needed.

MiVaBo is a non-profit organization and operates through fundraisers and donations. Should someone need an accessibility device or special help we try to facilitate. When something is needed, individuals are asked to donate and we have never been disappointed.

MiVaBo does need money to keep on going for: phone cards, copy paper, gasoline, catering various activities, etc. For special projects we look for a sponsor or subsidy. This is why fundraising is important. We create crafts from sea glass, calabas fruit, drawings and sell them. The board members are all volunteers and do everything without pay.

Our goal is accessibility for everyone with a disability. We mediate for special help. We are good in ad hoc decision making. We offer specific, handicap adapted recreation. You can find us on the internet and on Facebook. Are you interested to be a part of our team? Do you want to donate?

Reach out to MiVaBo because only together we can make Bonaire accessible.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.

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BONAIRE



Pets of the Week



Yvon

Dear Dog People

We would like to introduce our sweet lady Yvon. She is around 3.5 years old and has been a shelter resident for almost one year.

Yvon is a very well behaved girl that loves to go for walks, swims and is very comfortable in a car.

Yvon is very good with other dogs and is very kind to kids, even the very little ones.

Long story short, she is the definition of man's best friend. Yvon would be a perfect family dog, or a perfect companion in any household.

Don't wait any longer and come and meet this beautiful girl.

Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt

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

Please meet our cat of the week, Hugo. Hugo is a male cat and with very unique coloring. His top coat is black and when he moves you can see a gray undercoat. He is lovely to watch. Hugo is a larger cat with long legs and a sleek body type and is approximately two years old.

Hugo came to us about five weeks ago and was found in a garden. He is very friendly and enjoys being petted and cuddled. We believe he would do well in a home with dogs and other cats. Once he is familiar with his new home and surroundings, he will do fine as an indoor or outdoor cat.

Come and meet Hugo and take him to his forever home. Hugo is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Amy Bowen



Hugo

Creating Optimal Health

The ego is not the enemy

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Lately, probably thanks to my own algorithm, I have been hearing and reading a lot about the evilness of the ego. Book suggestions keep popping up on my screen: "The ego is the enemy", "Ego is not the real you", "No ego", "Dissolving the ego", "How to kill your ego" and so on. I am not sure if this is a general trend, or just happening to me. I cannot imagine how any of these authors could have written any of these books about the ego without an ego of their own, so I'm making a case to defend our ego.

There might be some discussion about the definition of ego, so we can use the Freudian version where ego means the sense of self, fulfilling functions such as judgment, tolerance, reality testing, control, planning, defense, synthesis of information, intellectual functioning, and memory. According to Freud, the ego is the organizing principle upon which thoughts and interpretations of the world are based.

The ego gives us a sense of internal coherence, which is most likely an illusion, but it is an operational illusion. Reality may also be an illusion; therefore, the encounter of ego and reality would be the crossing of two operational illusions that are functional as long as we stay alive and successful if on top of that we are happy. What is important to notice is that without an ego we cannot survive. That brings me to one of my favorite concepts, attributed to the 1500s medical revolution pioneer Paracelsus, which states that the "poison is in the dose." In this case, maybe too much of an ego is dysfunctional and maybe we need to keep the ego at check, but it is never a good idea to exterminate the ego.

In developmental terms, between ages two to four, the ego forms by the direct influence of the external world. This allows the child to recognize himself/herself as a separate being from other people and the external world. From an evolutionary perspective, the ego is vital for survival, allowing the recognition of external traits, making decisions based on generalizations and judgements originated

on previous successful experiences and to take action. I hope this development makes clear that we need our egos to stay alive.

I want to add to this list of slandered human traits the automatic mode and the survival mode. These two earned a bad name in opposition to the mindful mode and the social mode.

The automatic mode saves us a lot of energy to do daily tasks without the need to fully think about them, like for example walking, chewing or riding a bike, and they allow us to multitask. We can drive a car, listen to the radio and have a conversation. If we were to be mindful all the time about everything, we couldn't do that. Of course, there are habits that are detrimental and need to be changed, but not all that is performed in the automatic mode is wrong.

The survival mode is, as its name suggests, the key to our survival. But too much of anything, even if it is what keeps us alive (such as water or oxygen), can cause harm. Living all the time in survival mode depletes our systems and does not allow us to go into social mode or resting mode, all vital to survival.

The key is a good dose of flexibility to get in and out of any of these modes and a good dose of self-awareness to keep our ego in check fulfilling its original functions. Practices like yoga, meditation, mindfulness, tai-chi, chi kung, breathwork, or journaling can help build up these capacities.



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.

Animal Shelter News

Sponsors Wanted



Scan the QR code to log into your US PayPal and make a secure donation via Jane Disko, Animal Shelter Bonaire President. 100% of the donation goes directly to the Animal Shelter. Thank you for your donation.



Our animal shelter is dedicated to caring for abandoned dogs and cats. To continue our work, we need your support.

We are seeking sponsors and donors to help cover the daily costs of caring for our animals.

Our current needs include:

- 60 kg of dog food per day, the costs of that are \$4000 every month.
- \$1500 every month for cat supplies
- \$3000 per month for veterinary costs, including our sterilization program that is active since 2004. The program has spayed and neutered over 8000 animals on the island.
- \$500 per month for cleaning supplies to provide every animal in the shelter a life in a clean environment.

You can help by sponsoring one of the above, or by making a donation at:

Paypal link: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/AnimalShelterBonaire>

Local: Our bank account information locally is:

Maduro & Curiel's Bank, Bonaire Branch

Account name: Animal Shelter Bonaire/Stichting Dierenasyl Bonaire, Account Number #10237800, Kaminda Lagun 26, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Bank address: Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #70, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, SWIFT/BIC: MCBKBQBN

Rabobank (Dutch): Rabobank (Dongen, Netherlands), Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire NL40RABO0137748744

Every contribution, large or small, makes a significant difference in the lives of the animals in our care. For more information on how you can help, please contact us animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Marissa Lamers



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