

FREE

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER



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3-D Photogrammetry by 3-Depth

Sali'fo'i Laman (Out of the Sea), the new Terramar and WWF-NL exhibition illustrates the importance of coral reefs, how crucial it is to protect them and what is being done in the Dutch Caribbean for preservation. The exhibit is interactive with photos, films, collages and 3-D virtual reality technology. QR codes are used throughout the coral reef exhibit allowing guests to scan for more information in Papiamentu and English.

Sali fo'i Laman focuses on our coral reefs

The Hessels did 20 dives over several years on the *Hilma Hooker* model.

Martijn Hessels said, "The primary challenges include managing dust particles in the photographs and ensuring each photo overlaps with the previous one, as well as capturing the complete wreck."

The Hessels began this journey of photogrammetry in the Netherlands surveying decaying 16th century wrecks. Due to visibility, they saw some of those wrecks for the first time as a result of the 3D model through photogrammetry.

"Since we visit Bonaire annually, we also started creating models of

the wrecks and corals here," said Martijn.

The Hessels began in Bonaire with *La Machaca* at Captain Don's Habitat. The little boat was a star in the 1979 Dutch television series "Duel in de Diepte" (Duel in the Depths) in. Other models were created of *Our*

Confidence near Harbour Village Resort, the tugboat at Eden Beach, anchor at Karpata, a coral field and the biggest project was of course, the *Hilma Hooker*. The Hessels have surveyed and created a total of 27 models of wrecks to date in Bonaire and the Netherlands.

The coral monitoring at Karpata was done for two years and shows live corals in the beginning and dead in the second year. The same is seen at *La Machacha* over the same time period. The *Hilma Hooker* models show the Hooker rolling over in the models.

Martijn said, "Next time, we would like to build a new model since we registered many changes in our last dives."

The 3-Depth exhibition at Terramar was made possible by the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied. To learn the complete story about the *Hilma Hooker* read the late Bruce Bowker's account at <https://caribinn.com/september-in-oceanica-hotel/>

Sali fo'i Laman is a part of Bou di Awa and will be on exhibit through July at Terramar Museum located at Kaya Isla Riba 3 open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information visit <https://terramar-museum.com> or their Facebook page.

Photos / story Julie Morgan
See page 17 for another chart from the exhibit.

A major highlight of the exhibit is Bonaire's most famous and most dived wreck, the *Hilma Hooker*. Father and son Wim and Martijn Hessels' company 3 - Depth implemented photogrammetry and create 3-D models of the *Hilma Hooker* to create a real-life size experience with Virtual Reality glasses. Through 3-D photogrammetry technology changes on the coral reef and wrecks can be monitored and captured for research. An informative looped video gives more information about the wreck and captures the actual photo capture by Martijn.

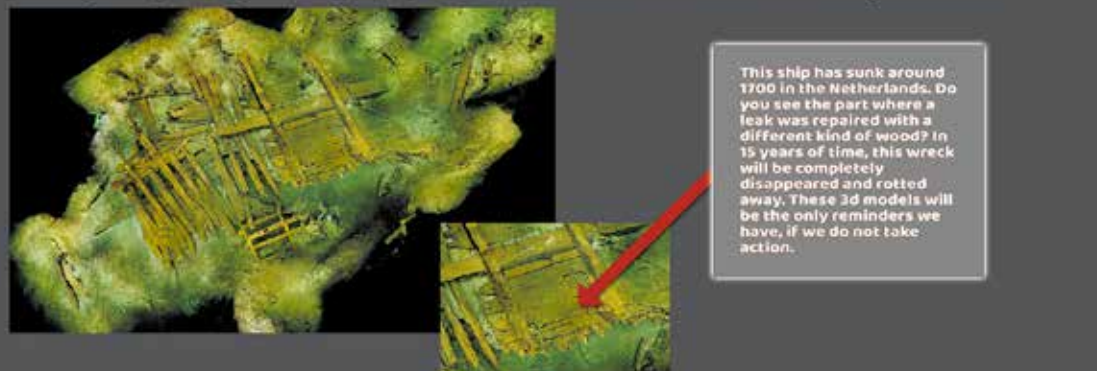
The model of the *Hilma Hooker* is composed of 23,000 photos taken from 75 cm (30 in) from the wreck. The camera is so close to the wreck none of the frames are immediately recognizable as being part of the ship itself. Following the dive the images are uploaded to a special server in the Netherlands to check capture quality. Rendering and adjustments of each capture takes over a month.

Coral monitoring and registering changes over time



Here you see two models of *La Machaca*. Do you see the differences in the corals? One coral has died. The models were made in 2019 and 2020, one year apart. What will happen to the other corals?

Analyzing and preserving constructions of historic ship wrecks



This ship has sunk around 1700 in the Netherlands. Do you see the part where a leak was repaired with a different kind of wood? In 15 years of time, this wreck will be completely disappeared and rotted away. These 3d models will be the only reminders we have, if we do not take action.

To experience the exhibit online go to: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4c5010fb22804e3c932c7584d0cd3163>
<https://terramarmuseum.com/coral-timeline/>

Nijpels objects to Bonaire 'administrative tourism'



Ed Nijpels, former politician and currently quartermaster for climate initiatives on Bonaire, has called for a drastic reduction in 'administrative tourism' from the Netherlands to the Caribbean islands. Nijpels says, "Everyone does their best, everyone who has been there once is in love and wants to go there again." But they leave behind only fragmented suggestions and proposals that lead nowhere, he believes.

Nijpels proposes that a single authority should take over the tasks currently carried out by seven ministries. That authority could conduct the work more efficiently and relieve the island from the burden of frequent visits from various government officials.

Nijpels also says the organization of the climate table should be completed expeditiously. The island needs a central platform where all relevant knowledge and policy aimed at climate adaptation and mitigation are brought together and from which policy decisions are prepared. That was the intended function of the Bonaire climate table when the executive council decided to set it up.

DMR

So who goes to jail?

It's been difficult for journalists to report accurately on interim registrar Arjen De Wolff's secret attempt to access the email accounts of members of the Island Council and civil servants, because his actions are being defended in OLB press releases of uncertain authorship and authority. De Wolff has acknowledged his action and defended it as a measure intended to stop "the constant leaking of information to the press." He said the island council asked him to do it. Some councilors have strongly denied that claim.

One thing is known for sure. Acting Island Governor Oleana announced that, "as a guardian of integrity," he has filed a report requesting the National Criminal Investigation Department investigate Registrar De Wolff's action as a possible violation of the privacy laws. Oleana did not consult with the island council first.

A second thing is not known for sure but only claimed: that the council reacted by giving De Wolff permission to file charges - with the National Criminal Investigation Department - against the "relevant officials and media." It's not clear what unlawful actions

the relevant officials and media would be charged with, or what punishment they would face if convicted. Breaking into mailboxes, on the other hand, is considered an official offense punishable by a fine or even imprisonment.

Humphrey Wout, speaking for the Movementu di Pueblo Boneirano (MPB), says his party is in favor of an investigation. It also believes that such an investigation "should not be politically driven and certainly not politically biased. The situation is too serious for that."

State Secretary Van Huffelen has announced that she fully agrees with the decision of acting governor Oleana. She also assumes that the Island Council of Bonaire will respond "in the right way" to interim registrar De Wolff's tapping of the personal email accounts of politicians and civil servants, "given the seriousness of the matter." DMR

Data leak reported in Civil Affairs Bonaire

The Executive Council has notified CBP BES about possible irregularities related to basic administration at Civil Affairs Bonaire. The Commission Supervision Personal Data Protection (CPB) BES monitors compliance with privacy legislation in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The BES CBP will start investigating the report within its jurisdiction. The investigation should reveal what exactly took place. Once the investigation is completed, the report will first be shared with the organizations involved and then the conclusions and recommendations will be published. DMR



©Skyview Bonaire

Former general manager owes Bopec big \$

Bankruptcy curator Stan van Liere has won an "unjust enrichment" claim against the former general manager of Bopec, Ethward (Echi) Manuel. The court has ordered Manuel to pay the trustee \$301,878, plus \$12,000 in costs.

Manuel claimed his agreement with Bopec committed the company to pay the taxes on his gross salary. However, the court questioned what such an agreement would mean, and not-

ed that there was no written agreement anyway. Questions were also raised about Manuel's salary having been paid in accordance with a so-called expat scheme, where little or no tax is due on the amount received. Manuel is expected to appeal the judgment.

DMR / Photo MARCEL VAN DER KAMP

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Rotary Feria 2024

Rotary Club of Bonaire's Feria held April 27 raked in an amazing \$22,500 thanks to some really great donations. The entirety of Wilhelminaplein was filled with merchandise: furniture, lamps/lighting, electronics, household goods, decorative items, linens, clothes and many of the items were new.



Rotary member Corine van der Hout said, "The great thing with the Feria is that it works two ways. Lots of people were able to buy what they need because of the attractive prices and in the meantime, we raised money to be donated back into the community."

Since 1982, The Rotary Club of Bonaire has supported various charitable activities and projects on the island through their fundraising Rotarally and Feria which began in 2016.

The Rotary has three possible projects proposed to benefit from the fundraising: The Hospice; Mantelzorg, an informal care foundation, and Slagbaai kids, a weekend for about 30 kids at Washington Slagbaai National Park.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan



FOR SALE! Bella Vista 9 Modern Villa with Two Studios



- Location: Nikiboko
- Lot size : 886 m2 / 9536 sq. ft. owned land
- Home: 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage

- 2 separate studios with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, outside kitchen and private porch
- Pool, palapa, garden, parking



Asking price \$699,000 US Dollar

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Hi Bob –
I just purchased a house on Bonaire and I won't be able to be on Bonaire for the transfer of the deed. Is it possible to make a power of attorney so that the sale can be completed even though I am not on Bonaire?

Jan H, Texas, USA

Jan, thank you for your question.

When you are buying or selling a house on Bonaire, and you are unable to be here in person it is possible to execute a power of attorney (POA) (volmacht in Dutch) that permits someone else to sign the transfer deed on your behalf. The most common way to do this is to grant power of attorney to an employee of the Notaris office permitting them to sign the transfer deed on your behalf. Although the general format of a POA is the same each document is unique with the personal information of the buyers or sellers and also specific to the property being bought or sold.

The POA document is normally drafted by the local Notaris and can be signed in person at either of the local Notaris offices, which will need to notarize your signature and also notarize the required copy of your legal ID, such as a passport or sedula.

If you are not on Bonaire, the local Notaris here can create the POA form and then you

can have your signature and ID legalized in the US or Canada by a Notary Public, or in a Notaris office in the Netherlands, or most other EU countries. If you are in a country outside of the above countries you will need to ask your local Notaris what parties in that country can legalize your signature and passport.

Regards, Bob

Bob Bartikoski, Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at

info@bonairehomes.com

Bonaire: +599-717-7362.

Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

Fire

May 3. Around 2:25 a.m. the central control room received a report of a pick-up on fire in front of a house on Kaminda Djabou. When the patrol arrived, bystanders had extinguished the fire with a garden hose. The bystanders stated that they heard a loud bang and then saw the fire. No one was injured. The fire brigade checked whether the fire had been properly extinguished. The fire brigade and KPCN believe the pickup to have been deliberately set on fire and it has been seized for further investigation.

Apr. 22. Around 5:35 p.m. the central control room received a report of a fire in a room of an institute at Kaya Tanki Matrimonio. The fire brigade found a fire in a mattress and extinguished it. The patrol has recorded a report of arson.

Apr. 19. Around 9 p.m. the central control room received a report of a fire in an unoccupied car parked on Kaya Inglatera near other vehicles. Shortly afterwards, the situation was reported under control. When the patrol arrived, the fire had been extinguished by the detector. She stated that she was in the house when she heard a loud bang. She ran outside and saw that the trunk of the car parked in front of her front door was on fire. She then threw water on the suitcase back to extinguish the fire. According to the reporter, the fire was caused by a short circuit in the car. The fire brigade checked that the fire had been properly extinguished. No one was injured.

Public order

May 3. After 6 p.m. the central control room received two different reports that two bodies were found at two different addresses. The police and the KPCN forensic department went to both addresses. On Kaya Tonkawa in North Saliña, the medical examiner declared the death of a 64-year-old man with initials F.B.M. born on December 4, 1959 in Bonaire. On Kaya Neerlandia the police had to break down the front door to get to the body. The medical examiner declared the death of a 59-year-old man with initials R.J.V. born on May 6, 1964 in the Netherlands.

Apr. 28. Around 8:15 a.m. central control received a report of a vessel that was stranded and on the rocks at Boka Bartol in Washington Park.

When the patrol, STINAPA and KMar arrived, no one was found. The vessel was towed towards Playa by the Coast Guard and seized by police for further investigation.

'Dia di Rincon' April 30.

Traffic: Around 5 a.m. a driver lost control of a car with two occupants and drove into the Mondi near Sabana Piedra Krus. There were no injuries. He showed a valid driver's license, but was fined for no valid insurance. Later in the day there were several reports of collisions without injuries. In the morning, the police severely dealt with an underage boy because he took his father's pick-up without permission and was "feverish" on Kaya Komkomber. **Parking nuisance.** Vehicles were blocked by other vehicles and cars blocked driveways and exits of houses in Rincon. Police confiscated two car keys after the drivers were drunk and wanted to get into their cars and drive. **Several people became unwell** during the day. As a result, the ambulance was sent. **Several fights** took place in the evening between attendees or between groups. Glass bottles were also thrown during these fights, although the police emphasize that it is important to use (reusable) cups instead of glass bottles to prevent dangerous situations. Around 8:05 p.m. a man, 19, was arrested on the Kaya E.B. Sint Jago for violation of the BES Compulsory Identification Act.

Knifing. Around 10 p.m., a man, 47, was arrested at Kaminda Onima for assault with a weapon and serious assault. The suspect was involved in an argument on Miguel Pourier Boulevard in Rincon and stabbed the victim who was taken to hospital by ambulance. After the incident, the suspect left the location in the direction of Playa and was arrested by the police.

Clearing the seizure area

When the KPCN cleans out the seizure room of the police station in Playa on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, some two-wheeled vehicles may be destroyed because their owners are unknown.

If you have proof of purchase, a valid driver's license and proof of insurance, claim your vehicle before Thursday, May 23, 2024. Email

ketenbeslag@politiecn.com

May 1. Around 5:45 a.m., a man, 26, was arrested on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard for violation of the BES Compulsory Identification Act. The suspect matched the description of a man in a pick-up truck after the control room received a report of an attempted burglary at a tourist accommodation. The suspect was unable to identify himself at the first request, lied to the officers several times and had no valid reason for being near the tourist accommodation at that time. The case is under investigation.

Apr. 23. Around 9:20 p.m. a man, 58, was arrested on Kaya Mandolin for threats and violating the BES Weapons Act. He was under the influence of alcohol and argued with a woman, threatened her and threw a beer bottle in her direction. The beer bottle did not hit her and the suspect walked away. The patrol found the suspect nearby and arrested him. During the arrest, a knife and a screwdriver were found and seized.

Apr. 20. Around 10:30 a.m. the central control room received a report of a fight on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. After a collision, a fight broke out between two women. At one point a man intervened. During the brawl, one woman injured the other with a hubcap wrench to her head. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance. A woman, 35, was arrested for assault with a weapon and public violence. A man, 21, was arrested for assault and public violence.

Driving under the influence

From Apr. 26 to May 4 six drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and had their drivers' licenses revoked. All drivers had been involved in collisions. One driver's car was confiscated. A motorcycle driver was also arrested for driving under the influence and had his licence revoked.

Traffic accidents

Between Apr. 22 to May 6 police sorted out 15 major traffic accidents. One car was driven into the mondi off the Rincon road after being sideswiped by a passing pickup. Vehicles also collided with: a cyclist (fracturing both legs), a man riding a horse (a vet was called in), a moped, and three scooters. Single vehicle accidents were caused by a driver falling asleep on the Rincon road and crashing into a tree, and a scooter driver taking a speed bump too quickly. In a single vehicle accident on Apr. 29 a man crashed into a wall coming to a stop in the yard of a house. Because the car door could not open due to the damage, the fire brigade was called in to remove the driver from the car. At Kaminda Onima on the road to Rincon around 1 a.m. two drivers stated that they were driving with bright lights, which blinded them and caused them to collide. The car lost control and crashed into a cactus fence.

Traffic control

May 2. In the morning police measured 15 vehicles' speed on Kaya Amsterdam with a 'laser gun.' Four drivers received a fine for exceeding the maximum permitted speed (40 km/h in built-up areas; 60 km/h outside). The speed measured was between 50 and 65 km/hour.

Between Apr. 15 - May 6 fines were issued for traffic violations during routine traffic checks. These were for driving without: 5x a valid driver's license; 8x valid insurance; 2x a helmet; 1x a license plate, 2x a seatbelt on. Fines were also issued for: 2x holding a phone while driving; 1x not transporting children in a child seat.

Property crime

May 2. A yellow and black colored generator and both rear lights of a Toyota Hilux pick-up were reported stolen from the yard of a kunuku in Bario Mexico.

May 1. A burglary was reported at a home at Kaminda Lagun. Thieves entered the house through an open window between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and took cash, two gold earrings with diamonds in them, two gold rings, one gold chain, a gold bracelet and a large Red Label Whiskey Bottle.

Apr. 29. Around 8:35 p.m. a man, 20, was arrested on Kaya Sofaya and a man, 19, on the Kaya Taki. Both arrests were part of an investigation into a number of thefts of vehicles, including e-bikes and scooters, that occurred recently. The investigation into this case is still ongoing.

Apr. 27. A black scooter helmet and a light gray rented Kymco Agility scooter with license plate MF-21, was stolen between 1:45 a.m. on Friday and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, when it was parked in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Papa Comes.

Apr. 26. A black Kymco Agility scooter with license plate MF-3794 was stolen between 5:30 p.m. on the 25 and 7:45 a.m. on the 26. The scooter was parked in a parking lot next to a restaurant on Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

Apr. 25. A theft was reported at Pink Beach on E.E.G. Boulevard. Stolen were two black backpacks, a blue backpack, a white bag with the 'Bestpetfoods' logo, a gray Kipling fanny pack and a black Annafields shoulder bag with contents. The owners were not far from their goods at the time of the theft and when they turned around they saw a man running away with the said bags. The bags contained, among other things, an Iphone 13 mini with its charger, a black Samsung Lite Tablet with a blue case with flowers on it, a purple Samsung S20FE telephone with its charger, several glasses, cash, a car key and an apartment key.

Apr. 24. A brown and purple Senzo RY50 49.9 CC scooter with license plate MF-3578 was stolen during the night hours of Wednesday April 24, between 1 and 2:30 a.m. The scooter was parked on Kaya Bonaire with a steering lock.

Apr. 19. A red Merida bicycle was reported stolen. The bicycle was unlocked next to other bicycles at the Rudy Boezem football field in Noord di Saliña. It was taken on April 13 between 5:30 and 10 p.m.

Arrests

May 5. Around 1:50 p.m., the central control room received a report of a person being assaulted by four men at a restaurant on Miguel Pourier Boulevard in Rincon. The victim, who was taken to hospital by ambulance, was hit in the shoulder and head with a weapon. After the assault, the suspects fled by car. Around 5:45 p.m. on the same day, the four suspects were spotted in a passenger car at Kaminda Gurubu by a patrol.

The car had five occupants and was blocked by the patrol. The four suspects, aged 18, 19, 26, and 28 were arrested for assault with a weapon and public violence. A 22-year-old man with initials A.S.T. who was also in the car was arrested for being unruly and for resisting fiercely police orders. A pipe wrench believed to have been used to assault the victim was seized.

May 3. Around 11:05 a.m. a man, 33, was arrested near Plaza Fraternal Di Tilburg for threats and vandalism. The suspect had threatened a man with death on the Kaya Papa Comes and destroyed two car tires.

Botika will now fill repeat prescriptions automatically

If you use one or more medications regularly, you can now sign up for a free repeat service without having to renew your prescriptions. The Fundashon Mariadal pharmacy will fill repeat prescriptions automatically every three months and notify you when to come pick up the medications. No visit to your GP is required to renew regular prescriptions. The pharmacy will calculate when your medicines are running low and contact your GP to get confirmation to renew the prescriptions.

When the new botika being built at Mentor opens, you shouldn't even have to search for a place to park.

If you want to sign up, tell someone at the pharmacy.

DMR

Comply or explain works for BES

Political parties on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba will be eligible for subsidies from the government in the future, but will be exempt from financing and transparency rules that must be met by political parties in the European Netherlands. The three public bodies requested the exemptions in reaction to impending new legislation. They argue that, unlike the nationally organized political parties in the Netherlands, they are small and do not have the resources to comply with close financial management.

Using the same arguments, they also convinced the government to award them financial support that exceeds by many times the support paid to the European political parties. The intention of the bill is to strengthen the democratic state and a transparent political system. DMR

Almost 300 Dutch laws apply to the Caribbean

The Ministry of the Interior has sent to the House of Representatives and to Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba a complete overview of the almost 300 Dutch laws that apply to the Caribbean Netherlands. The ministry has also sent a six-monthly legislative overview containing, in principle, the highest priority upcoming legislation for the Caribbean Netherlands. The periodic legislation overview is intended to inform OLBs in the Caribbean Netherlands which laws and regulations may be proposed in the short and medium term. All legal texts can be found here: <https://wetten.overheid.nl/> DMR

Jet skis and boats being operated dangerously

The Caribbean Coast Guard and STINAPA report that jet skis and boats are being operating dangerously off Bonaire's beaches. All vessels, including jet skis, should be alert for divers, snorkelers, and beach goers. The Bonaire National Marine Park extends from the high-water mark to 60 meters water depth and at least 75 meters from the shore. The speed limit for boats/jet skis in the Bonaire National Marine Park is a maximum of 10 km per hour / 5.4 knots.

If intercepted by the Coast Guard or STINAPA patrol vessels, boat owners will be required to show their valid registration and navigation permit at all times.

Reports of dangerous operations have been reported at Klein Bonaire, Te Amo Beach, Donkey Beach, the Harbor Area, Cha Cha Cha Beach, Spice Beach, and surrounding areas.

If a boat is being operated dangerously, beach goers should take note of its registration number (B-number) report them via the Coast Guard emergency number 913

or WhatsApp +5999-510 0913, or to the Harbor Master or STINAPA. For reports, STINAPA is available every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on telephone number +599-7778444. Providing the location, boat registration number, and photos and videos will help the authorities enforce good safety practices. DMR

More people can now buy a home on the island

Eligible home purchasers can get a free mortgage guarantee (HGB) for the full purchase price of a home they are buying. Until recently, they were limited to a maximum purchase price of \$225,000. Bonaire has few homes on the market at that price. But the limit has now been raised to a more realistic \$305,000. The increase means that many more homes will qualify for the HGB protection.

The government, National Mortgage Guarantee (NHG), and Maduro and & Curiel's Bank Bonaire (MCB) jointly sponsor the HGB guarantees. Buyers can check the Mortgage Guarantee Bonaire website to get information about the guarantee and whether they meet the conditions. DMR

Social security benefits to be increased

The Dutch government wants to modernize the social security system in the Caribbean Netherlands. Under proposed new legislation the lives of many people would improve: those needing emergency leave, short-term care leave and partner leave at birth; pregnant self-employed women during their maternity leave; parents of children with additional care needs. The goal is to bring social security benefits in the islands more in line with those received in the European Netherlands.

DMR



Six Bonaireans receive Royal Decorations

Every year the King recognizes a few outstanding people for their personal contribution or special achievement to society by awarding them a royal decoration. The Bonairean recipients for 2024 are: Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau: Esther J. Bernabela, Harlton E "Onnie" Emerenciana, Byron A. "Boei" Tromp, and Martinus W. A. van der Valk; Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau, Franklin D. "Boi" Antoin; and Member in the Order of Orange-Nassau, Angelo H. Domacassé.

Anyone can nominate a candidate who may be eligible for a royal honor. To submit a name, a form must be completed and reasons must be given as to why a person should receive an award. Nominations must be received before the end of July. To receive the form and for more information, please contact the members of the Awards Committee via decorationcommissie@bonairegov.com or decorationcommissiebonaire@gmail.com. DMR



**Theodorus Aloysius Marie “Dick” van der Vaart
January 23, 1950 - May 6, 2024**

Dr. van der Vaart is remembered dearly by the many people he has touched. He was one of the busiest GP’s on the island, from when there were only a few. He was an active musician, playing the drums in many bands through the years. He may be known best for setting up and maintaining the Recompression Facility on Bonaire. Almost 40 years ago, he saw the need and arranged the donation and delivery of the first recompression chamber. This not only saved and improved countless lives but was part of the basis that elevated Bonaire to be one of the top dive destinations. You are not likely to find anyone from the island who does not know him or at least heard of him. He passed away on Monday night.

He developed a small but strong team that manned the chamber both inside and out. Much of the staff has worked with him for decades, demonstrating his ability to create and maintain a strong team. In the early days when there were only a few GP’s on the island, he would often be juggling emergencies, running next door to deliver a baby or set a broken limb while the diver was tended to inside the chamber. To put the time frame into perspective, not only was this before cell phones, but most people did not even have home phones, so he had to send the police to find the staff in the middle of the night.

The chamber began for the divers, however shortly thereafter Dr. van der Vaart saw the possibilities of healing wounds that would otherwise never

heal. He successfully saved innumerable limbs from amputation. He has treated patients for almost each of the various approved ailments that can be treated in the chamber. Not only did he need to train doctors and nurses to work at the chamber, but it was also a big challenge to train the doctors, not involved in the chamber, about what types of things can be done, so that they refer the patients that can be helped. To some this big tube looks like witch doctoring and takes some convincing, but the results spoke for themselves.

With careful management, he was able to upgrade the facility with a new chamber and building, bringing us to have a state-of-the-art facility, considered one of the best in the Caribbean. After his colleague was taken by COVID, he was on call 24/7/365 for all the COVID shut down and more. Only for his passion for the chamber and the patients was he able manage the chamber from its inception to, and past his retirement from his GP position where he played a huge role in the health of the island population.

In 2022 the King was pleased to appoint him Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau.

It is with unending respect and regret that we as Board and Team of the Recompression Chamber bid him farewell and send our heartfelt condolences and support to his family and friends.

*Pam Teitel
Photo Julie Morgan*



Dia di Rincon was more of everything

The 35th Anniversary of Dia di Rincon was bigger than ever this year with more of everything: people, groups, bands, booths and days to celebrate.

The organizers of Dia di Rincon organized 28 days of celebration from March 30 to May 1. Festival Kanto Krioya (original song and singing competition) began April 3 with the winners selected on April 7. For the youth, Narghelly Melaan won with her song Rincon Ta Gradisi Bo and for the adults, island favorite Luis Moka won with Angua Veneta Hilu, Bol. This music was heard throughout the month as the Dia di Rincon songs.



On April 30, 10 dancing groups outdid themselves. Curaçao and Aruba groups joined the festivities attracting media from their islands giving Dia di Rincon even more notoriety. Celebrating their 10th anniversary, the Diamonds group with almost 200 participants was so large they required several music trucks divided between the dancers so they could hear the music.

con is to bring the old traditions forward so that the elders can remember their childhood and the youth can experience and appreciate the old culture of Bonaire.

Many more photos of Dia di Rincon will be available on the Reporter’s Facebook page.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan

Rincon is the oldest city in the Dutch Caribbean. The main goal of Dia di Rin-



Tio gets a new boat

Tio's boat mysteriously disappeared. But he can go to sea again, thanks to the proactive generosity of Bonaire's fishing and boating community. Tio, also known as Rondo or Ronny, or officially as Edwin Domacasse, is 84 years old and still fishes to earn his daily bread. He was devastated by the loss.

Almost immediately Piskabon got a call from Mr. Buddy Leijnse from Bonaire Marine Center. Leijnse said the community was activated and people were already asking how they could donate. Piskabon organized the fund raising. A boat was found, paid for and transported to Bonaire within two weeks.

Piskabon reports that many contributed in one way or another. Margareth Kley, Helena van de Geijn, Buddy Leijnse and his wife from Bonaire Marine Center, Jason Noordhof, Rudy de Jongh and his team from Don Andres in Curaçao and Bonaire, Mr. Dave-laar and his team from Curaçao Port Services, Magnolia i Chloe from Mang Enterprises B.V., Miguelito Abrahams from the Harbour Office Bonaire, Pam Teitel from Budget Marine and Gabriela and Comenencia from the Harbour Office in Curaçao. *DMR*



L-R Fisherman Picu, Piskabon president Ernest de Lanoy and Edwin "Tio" Domacasse

Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

The circadian rhythm

Primitive humans naturally slept at night and were active during the daytime. The discovery of fire was a major turning point, as it provided light and protection at night. Still, for most of history, artificial light at night was rare and expensive.

Electric lighting allowed humans to work, eat, and play at all hours under bright indoor lights. But our bodies are still programmed to align with daylight. So constant artificial light – especially blue light at night from screens – disrupts our circadian clock.

In modern societies, people spend close to 90 percent of their time indoors, but fortunately that is not the case for us in Bonaire, where we have plenty of opportunities to spend time outdoors.

As diurnal mammals, we evolved being active during daytime, exposed to natural light and let our body rest and repair itself in the night. This works on a set clock called the circadian rhythm which repeats every 24 hours. This biological clock basically rules the sleep-wake cycle, so to have a well-regulated circadian rhythm and sleep well, it is important to be

exposed a minimum of 20 minutes to direct sunlight during the morning.

The circadian rhythm does not only affect how we sleep, but also many other processes in our lives, almost every hormone, every brain chemical, every digestive enzyme is pre-programmed to peak at a certain time of the day and then tap out at another time of the day.

Artificial light from computer screens and phones can trick the organism into thinking it is daytime disrupting our natural cycle, this is because the blue light mimics daylight. Make sure to activate in your devices the night shift or the eye comfort shield to limit blue light at night. Be aware that chronic circadian disruption makes us prone to obesity, diabetes, depression, cancer and more. This also applies to night workers who are particularly susceptible.

Our intestines, our stomach and our gut have circadian rhythms, too. At night, just like our brain goes to sleep, our stomach and gut start to shut down. Our intestines and gut don't move food down the digestive tract, so if you eat late at night, the food just sits there. At the same time, the stomach starts to produce extra acid. During the daytime, our mouths produce more saliva than in the night which neutralizes the acid from the stomach.

Exercise also has many benefits for the circadian clock and

sleep cycle. Taking a short walk outdoors in the morning has a huge impact on synchronizing the brain clock and improving arousal and alertness. But according to the circadian clock it is between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. when the body is in its optimum condition for physical performance particularly for strength and power activities.

The circadian rhythms are present in every organ and every cell, and these clocks tell our brain when it is best to sleep, tell our gut when it is best to digest our food, tell our endocrine system when to secrete which hormones and tell our heart when to pump more blood and when to slow down.

So, remember to reduce blue light exposure at night, and get natural daylight in the morning, slow down all your activities when the sun goes down to mimic natural cycles of light and dark to match the natural circadian rhythms.



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.

A Garden?

Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover
Sunflowers

A few weeks ago a gardener lady with sunflower seeds asked me if sunflowers would do well here because she wanted to try growing them.

I planted sunflowers years ago and because it's spring and La Nina rains are forecast I'm sharing this information.

Did you know that sunflowers are "wanted" seeds by mammals, birds and people?

Sunflowers are native to North and South America and many years ago Indians consumed the seeds. The Latin name for the common sunflower is *Helianthus annuus* from the family *Asteraceae*. *Helianthus* is derived from the Greek language: Helos means sun and Athos means flower.

There are different types of sunflowers and some varieties can grow very high.

The giant type can grow up to at least 3 meter high. A reddish color one blooms one big flower while the common sunflower is known for multiple flower heads sprouting from many stems and the dwarf sunflowers

fit perfect in small garden or in cool containers on the porch. There are so many different types to choose.

Sunflowers need regular rain and since we can expect more rain in May than usual it's time to put the seeds in containers to have the young plants for the garden.

Because the young plant makes a lot of roots which grow in each other, the best way is to put one seed per plastic cup so the roots don't get damaged when replanting.

Remember big seeds become big plants so consider that when looking for the size of containers. Keep the sowing containers moist but once the young plants pop up, let the moist soil dry a bit before watering again. Always wait until the soil is dry to water.

Sunflowers love sun so on Bonaire they will do well. One can put them in a line of four plants in one meter or together with about 10 - 15 plants in a square meter.

Consider the type that makes a lot of stems because they need more space for their reddish-yellow flowers. You can prune some stems so the flowers will grow bigger.

Big plants can fall during the rainy season, so support them somehow and don't water too much even when it's dry. They have a liquid resource in the thick stems to survive and with too much water they fall apart. With good conditions they grow easily in every soil type. They will do better when you support them with a mix of dry leaves, reddish-black dirt, goat or rabbit manure and charcoal. After



Sunflower photo by Suma on Unsplash

about three months the plants will bear flowers. Corn and sunflowers can grow easily in one area as they require the same growing conditions.

Bugs love sunflowers which supports pollination. Also the white fly is a fan of this plant so it's good to spray once a week with homemade neem tea from the neem tree. That helps against the white fly to keep the plants alive.

Sunflowers are very healthy (as all seeds and nuts are) and easy to consume. When the flowers with the seeds are very dry, cut

the flowers and easily rub the seeds out of the flower. One can roast the seeds and eat them with or without salt after removing the husk. The seeds can be stored to plant again and/or to feed the birds. After about one year the seeds expire depending if they dried well. But they could last longer if they are in good condition. Be careful for mice and rats who climb on the plant to pick the seeds. To prevent this, add a net over the plant or put paper bags over the dry flowers.

Sunflower seeds are well known for their oil and you can even make your own homemade sunflower oil. From one kg of seeds you get about a quarter liter of oil.

So, you can have the sun above your house and sunflowers around your house to let your garden look sunny and happy. Just do it.



Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Dedicated to Snorkelers

Have you ever noticed that, especially around scuba divers, snorkelers never say, “I’m a snorkeler”? They always seem to add one telling little word, and say, “I’m just a snorkeler.” From the tone of their voices, you know they’re saying, “I’m merely a snorkeler,” rather than “I’m solely a snorkeler.”

So, this is dedicated to all of you who are ... just ... snorkelers.

This month, two times that I personally witnessed, dolphins hanging around off Playa were joined by snorkelers. Back in the mid-1980’s, one group of dolphins in the Bahamas used to be perfectly happy when humans joined them in the water. Divers on scuba were too slow to interest those dolphins, but they loved swimming with free divers, especially the ones who could join them in underwater ballet.

Since my favorite form of exercise is swimming with a mask and snorkel along Bonaire’s shoreline, I’ve seen some wonderful sights while ... just ... snorkeling.

The most memorable event was a struggle between an octopus and a cowrie snail, in less than 15’ (4.5m) of water. I had seen something shining on the bottom. When I swam closer, I saw that the shininess was sunlight reflected off a smooth, clean, relatively huge cowrie shell – it was five to six inches (12-15cm) long. Next to the shell was an octopus.

You’ve probably seen thumbnail-sized empty cowrie shells around the entrances of octopus dens. It’s an easy conclusion that the animals from those shells have been eaten by the octopus: the hole in each shell was drilled by the octopus, who then injected venom through that opening, and had a cowrie snail meal.

On this day, the octopus was trying to get into position to drill through the cowrie’s shell, but the octopus could not seem to hold the cowrie. Then I noticed the slime. There was slime everywhere. The cowrie was gliding along through a cloud of slime.

An undisturbed cowrie snail, whether it’s holding still or moving along, normally extends its mantle completely over its shell. The mantle protects and polishes the



shell, and it also camouflages the shell so it looks like a sponge or other distasteful lump. On this day, obviously, camouflage had failed.

On this day I learned that cowrie snails have more defenses than just a hard shell and camouflage. This cowrie snail utilized Cowrie Defense #3, slime. The cowrie released so much slime that the octopus’ suckers could not hold onto the cowrie shell!

The cowrie cruised along as if everything was fine, which it was, for the cowrie. The octopus kept encircling it with its arms, but it couldn’t hold onto the shell: its suckers just couldn’t suck through all that slime! The octopus eventually gave up and headed for the reef slope. Meanwhile, the cowrie’s mantle re-emerged as it glided into some coral rubble and disappeared from sight.

One summer, we found a cluster of squid eggs while snorkeling with a group of kids at Habitat’s Family Week. As we watched, they began to hatch! A tiny squid would break out, ink, and zoom toward the surface, then another, and another, until there was a little school (?) of squid at the surface. The kids, of course, figured that that sort of thing happened all the time...

My favorite story for comparing snorkeling to scuba begins with me snorkeling along the dropoff here on Bonaire, in the same direction as a group of divers swimming along just below the reef slope. From the surface I

had a view from the blue water, past the reef slope, over the reef, and onto the sand on the shoreward side of the reef. Suddenly my eye was drawn to movement in the sand: a spotted eagle ray! I waved to the divers but they never looked up. I hollered – I screamed to the divers, but they didn’t hear. I slapped the surface and kicked loudly, but they continued along, oblivious. I gave up on them, and had a wonderful time watching the eagle ray hunt on the sand. It was entirely undisturbed by my presence up at the surface and I stayed with it for quite a while. The scuba divers, barely fifty feet (15m) away, never knew it was there.

So, whether you’re scuba certified or not, snorkelers get to see the panorama rarely available to scuba divers. You might solely be a snorkeler, but remember: you’re not merely a snorkeler.



*Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She’s written about her undersea experiences in her books *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral’s Reef*; in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with “Coral Glimpses” in *The Bonaire Reporter*; and now with “Reef Glimpses.” through touchthesea.com.*



Hasselback Jonny cake with cauliflower-coconut risotto

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant

Dough: 125 g (1 C) Flour • 79 g (1/2 C) Coconut Milk • 10 g (2 t) Coconut Butter • 6 g (1 t) Baking Powder • Something Salty • Some Sugar

Put everything in the food processor and knead with a dough hook into a nice smooth dough, let it rest for a while. Roll out two pieces of dough from 40 g (1/3 C) to 7 mm (.27 in) thick into a rectangular shape. Fry these at 180 degrees until they are golden brown all over and cooked on the inside.

Cauliflower risotto: 100 g (1 C) Cauliflower (stem) grated • 1/4 Onion, chopped • 5 Pecans, coarsely chopped • Raisins, 10 pieces • 20g (1/4 C) Grated cheese, • 1 teaspoon Crunchy mustard • P/z

For the risotto, melt some coconut butter and heat the chopped onion and a little later the grated cauliflower, add the coconut milk and heat until the risotto is almost done. Add the chopped pecans, raisins, crunchy mustard

and some grated cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Hasselback garnish: for example: Radish • Cauliflower • Broccoli • Cheese • Bacon • Dried sweet potato • Salad • Cheese • 1 slice of mustard cheese
Score 1 deep-fried Jonny cake on the top several times. Divide all the Hasselback garnishes into the cut Jonny cake. Place a slice of mustard seed cheese on the other Jonny cake and place the Hasselback cake on top. Serve on the cauliflower risotto.



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

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Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Sea level

Last January, a group of citizens of Bonaire, airing their worries about climate change and the ensuing threats to the island, started, in collaboration with Greenpeace, a lawsuit against Motherland. Objective was to impose a number of measures, mitigating the consequences of climate change for the island. Bonaire – according to Greenpeace - is in the sea level danger zone.

That might be very much the case.

The citizen's initiative is, therefore, sympathetic. However, it comes with a caveat. It's not just the fact that, over the years, Greenpeace has shown examples of morally ambiguous behavior, imposing all kinds of sanctions and limitations on companies and countries, whilst herself ignoring her own standards.

To jog your memory: in 2014, their campaign-director used to enthusiastically fly from Luxemburg to Amsterdam (about 400 kms), instead of travelling by train, thus bombarding the world with a load of unnecessary carbon-dioxide. On the side, a number of privileged 'volunteers' received up to 35,000 euros a year, sucking up donated funds that were meant to save the world from oblivion. A lousy track record for an organization lecturing the world on what's right and what's wrong.

But it's not just Greenpeace's ambivalence that raises the occasional eyebrow. The Bonairean group, the plaintiffs, have produced a set of demands they want Motherland to comply with, that, although not unreasonable, miss the (IMHO) essential question 'what can I do myself'.

One of the demands they formulated, is that Motherland reduces greenhouse gas emissions to zero in 2040 (instead of 2050), a target that, paradoxically, can never be reached as long as Bonaire is part of the Kingdom.

It's Bonaire itself that, because of her lax attitude towards

environmental issues, is going to jam up the demands Greenpeace and the eco-group put on the table, single-handedly, by being the Kingdom's dirty little man, with absolutely no intention to change.

Motherland's pollution, and the energy-footprint of its average resident, is, compared to Bonaire's, minimal. They're as clean as a whistle. Almost three quarters of the electric power generated in the country is renewable. The remaining polluters are under fire of pressure groups, not just Greenpeace-like organizations, but citizens' initiatives as well. Solar power is subsidized, which has led to an enormous growth in panels on private houses. The power grid is sagging under the production of sustainable power.

Traffic as a source of pollution is, as a consequence of electrification and ever stricter (European) legislation, almost negligible. Testing the new Euro-7 standard for trucks demonstrated, that an engine could run indoors for a day without any negative health effects for people present in the same room (Ironically, this test was performed by Germans. This time, everybody survived). Compare that to trucks on Bonaire.

The cleaning up of maritime transport is picking up speed, among others by providing shore power, and by banning polluting cruise ships from docking, mainly to force their owners to explore cleaner solutions. The remaining source of pollution is air transport, which is, BTW, not half as polluting as maritime transport. Probably, the new Dubai airport will solve the problem for the Dutch.

Simultaneously, a lot of thinking is going on about what can be done to mitigate the consequences of rising sea levels. Trying to predict what will happen in the future, and strategically planning how to fight unwanted consequences, is a business virtually unknown to Bonaire, where movement is mostly initiated by a suddenly emerging urge. The Dutch call it, disdainfully, 'opkomen als poepen', emerging like pooping.

So, we're looking at a situation, where Motherland is doing a lot to create a cleaner environment, at the same time being sued to do more, by a number of residents of an island that does absolutely nothing to reduce their own pollution, therefore blocking the realization of their own demands. I

don't envy the ruling judge.

Bonaire's ignorance towards the environment is deeply rooted in an inclination (in politics) to protect her economic activities. Money.

Adding a PV-installation to your house is virtually impossible because of the involvement of WEB (that has to be saved at all costs, and that, BTW, is unable to fulfill Bonaire's energy demand), imposing a time-consuming number of unnecessary checks of everything vaguely electrical in your house.

There's no ban on the import of semis and diesel trucks from the US, traditionally the dirtiest on the planet, even when they're brand new. Because of the high sulphur levels in gasoil, every diesel engine on the island is a heavy polluter.

Add the large number of cruise ships, lured to the island by the TCB, that, being pocketed by the Carnivals of this world, and despite her slogan, absolutely lacks any strategic vision on how to attain a cleaner future, and, lo and behold: see why Bonaire's role in a cleaner Kingdom is non-existent.

Like I said: the case of Greenpeace and the Bonaire representants is sympathetic. It completely ignores, however, Bonaire's own role in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, and, therefore, in a limitation of rising sea levels. Bonaire is small, yes, but so is The Netherlands. The Bonairean government should play a far more active role: preventing the expulsion of an extra ton of carbon dioxide in the European Netherlands costs a fortune. In Bonaire, it's almost free. Imposing, and enforcing a number of measures limiting the island's footprint can be done for almost nothing.



It's your future. Start acting like it.

Gijs, originally from Leiden (NL), has been living on and off on Bonaire for about twenty years. He has no clear focus, and loves to be surprised by actors in politics and administration. Originally into The Fine Arts, then a career in (forensic) accounting, then a PhD in German Philology. Currently retired.

New uniforms for the Yellow Birds



Orco Bank sponsored new uniforms for the Yellow Birds Softball Team. The sponsorship coincides with the club's 10th anniversary, marking a decade of dedication to the sport. Mrs. Judy Diaz, Country Manager for Orco Bank Bonaire said "Sponsoring Yellow Birds Softball Team's new uniforms is a perfect way for us to celebrate their 10th anniversary and their unwavering commitment to

the sport of softball in Bonaire." Yellow Birds Softball Team Bonaire is a well-respected softball club, known for its discipline and perseverance. Founded in 2013, the club has consistently participated in tournaments in Bonaire but also embarks annually on international softball adventures, fostering a love for the sport within their community.

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Huckaby found her purpose on Bonaire



Larrys Wildside by Janice Huckaby Baillie

Photo Julie Morgan

the Order of the Oranje Nassau of the Netherlands. She was selected for her contributions to art education of children, adults, the handicapped, support of nature and culture and representing Bonaire and its people in a positive way.

Her art will be available at Multi-shop at the Hato Circle. For more information visit Janartbonaire.com for purchases or commissions.

Story/photos Julie Morgan

She embraced the new adventure and stayed at Divi Flamingo for four years before moving on to work on her own creating a different form of art, painting.

Janice established herself as an artist through the name of JanArt working from her home. After just one year she sold a painting at the then Bonaire Art Gallery. Other island painters weren't creating underwater imagery and she expanded to include the underwater world for diving island guests. While attending a festival at Wilhelminaplein, she noticed there were no artists and thought this could be an opportunity. From that point on she established herself in every festival, market or craft event selling her work. As her artwork evolved so did Janice. She began teaching art classes from her home to kids, adults and even groups of diving tourists on their non-diving days to help them capture their own Bonaire memories in paintings and drawings. Yet, another new adventure, Janice married the love of her life in 2007, the late Larry Baillie.

At one of the markets, a huge storm took her tent and scattered her artwork. As she tried to recover the art pieces, she looked up to see a vacant building on Kaya Grandi. Another adventure began as this would be the new home of JanArt from 2011– 2023.

In addition to her paintings and arcrafts, Janice has created murals at Animal Shelter Bonaire, homes in Sabadeco, Sand Dollar condos and Hamlet.

She explained, "I love nature and art, but I really don't have a favorite style. I like to do different size pieces and styles depending on the mood of the moment. I'm always learning something new."

Janice is returning to begin a new adventure with her family in Texas in the next few weeks.

"What a special time I have had on Bonaire, a really special life. It was everything I expected but I didn't expect to stay so long. Life is a journey and that is what I live by. You have choices: a path of the unknown and the knows... it's from intuition or instinct and most of the time it hasn't let me down," said Janice.

In 2021, Janice Huckaby Baillie was awarded



Janice Huckaby Baillie

Photo Julie Morgan

"I've been painting Bonaire for Bonaire and it became my purpose."

Self-taught artist Janice Huckaby Baillie has been creating art on Bonaire for the last 33 years. First capturing the underwater world with her camera and later through paintings and other visual arts and crafts.

Janice wanted to be an artist in a beautiful place and create images to give people fond memories and a sense of enjoyment and she has succeeded. Ask anyone, either a resident or a recurring island guest and they will know her name, have purchased her art or seen it.

Janice came to Bonaire to work as Divi Flamingo Resort's underwater photo pro for a year in 1991. She was a bit apprehensive in accepting the work as her first visit to the island was in the 70's and she remembered Bonaire as a small tumbleweed type place similar to her home state of Texas.

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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 is closed until we re-build.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700

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

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

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

Open 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	SACA Art Center Antriol. Kaya Corona 74. Open Wed - Sat. 3 - 10 p.m. http://www.sacabonaire.com Alied Lippinkhof, Waterworks, Apr. 13 - May 12.
Thursday, May 9	Ascension Day. A public holiday. Some businesses and most government offices are closed. KW car wash. Fund raiser for Bonaire food bank. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cicila motors. \$10 per car (outside only) See page 5
May, 13 & 20 May, 17 & 24	The Kunuku Band Returns. Two Mondays at Habitat. Two Fridays at Buddy Dive. Ralph 'Moogie' Stewart and Larry 'Sparky' Thorne. See page 13.
Wed. May 15	Personal Income Tax deadline (if you wish a refund by November 1).
Saturday, May 18	Saxophone and Percussion concert The concert is organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire and takes place in the attractive courtyard of Art Center Antriol, Kaya Corona 74.
May 21 - 25	PWA Bonaire Youth and Junior Salom. Sorobon. Spanning a maximum of five (5) days, including registration day, the PWA event begins racing May 22.
May 25 - 26	20th PROKIDS Bonaire 2024. At Sorobon, mirroring the setup of the PWA Youth event. Registration Sat. May 25, welcoming local and regional participants in windsurfing slalom and sunfish disciplines. Friendly Races on Sunday.
May 23 to June 6	Bonaire Culinair Use this 15-day event to discover Bonaire's restaurants. 3-course menu \$39.50 pp. https://bonaire-culinair.com
Saturday, May 25	Water Day 2 p.m. start at SKAL/Kaya J.N.E. Craane 34 with a big water treasure hunt, the theater performance starts at 4:30 p.m. A party with everyone, inspired by the water that connects us all! 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.
May 25 / 26	Fifa (Federation of Association Football) 2-day tournament Jong Bonaire. Winners of the first day advance to second day Registration app + info +5997000786 Entrance fee is \$50 Limited to 64 participants. Cash prizes.
Sunday May 26	Guardian Group Walk & Run 6:30 a.m. Bicycle Funnace.
Likely dates: May 11, 25, 31 June 7, 14, 21	Adult tennis competition for doubles. In principle, participants play 6 week-ends, Saturdays between 5 - 7 p.m. at Sabadeco and at Eddie's courts. Entry fee \$10 towards prizes. Info and registration via app with 599 782 4569 or info@bonairetennisassociation.com
Sundays June 9 & 23	MoltenWolf Glass Ornaments Workshop: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$175 pp. First of three summer workshops. No experience necessary. All materials and equipment provided. Email MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com . 8 people per class.
June 16 - 23	Pride Week, 2nd Annual. On Sunday, June 16, Pride will open with a beautiful theater evening in collaboration with fundashon Kurason. "Huntu" (together) is the theme. The full program will include: pub quiz, karaoke, party and concluding beach party. Order t-shirts (\$25) and tote bags (\$15) DM or +599-7869202

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Saturday, May 11	Dive Friends Quarterly Clean up. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/
Sunday, May 12	STCB Fishing line Clean up at north pier 9 a.m. at the Dive Inn. Hosts Dive Friends Bonaire will sponsor our air tanks (INT). Bring dive card, Marine Park tag, shears/line cutters & mesh bag. To join e-mail to cepa@bonaireturtles.org . Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction at all.

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

Beach Tennis Bonaire Kaminda Djabou (behind Budget Marine). Open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All playing levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (only whatsapp text messages), bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

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

Pickleball. Chinese Assoc. Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m.; Jong Bonaire Weds 6-8 p.m. this week only; Sand Dollar at Eddy's almost daily 8 a.m. Come join the fun. A sport for all ages.

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



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



Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Presentations at 7:30 p.m. May 13 - VIP Diving. May 20 - TBA. [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation) facebook. Email: Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org



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



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

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. May 15	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0830-2200	South	4683
Thur. May 16	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Tue. May 21	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0900-2200	South	6630
Thur. May 23	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1600	South	3260

Lobster Season Closed Until October

From May 1st till October 31st, catching lobsters in the waters surrounding Bonaire, Klein Bonaire, and Lac is prohibited by law.

This period is the breeding season of lobsters. Lobster breeds during the summer when the ocean is warm. The female lobster can lay hundreds of thousands of eggs twice during this reproductive season. Lobsters are categorized as protected species during this season to ensure they can reproduce successfully. This conservation effort is important for the continual growth of their population.

We ask the community to support and respect this law by not catching, buying, serving, selling, or eating lobster during this season.

ARTICLE 11 EILANDBESLUIT ONDERWATERPARK AB14 ANNO 2010



PWA & PROKIDS at Sorobon May 25 - 26

This ProKid photo was taken in 2023 by Julie Morgan.

The Bonaire Reporter May 8 - May 22, 2024

Carrying the culture torch



Monique and Donny Winklaar entertain the crowd. Photo Julie Morgan

April's Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei was packed full of cultural presentations that were both educational and entertaining. Many of the guests were dressed for the upcoming Dia di Rincon on April 30 including everyone's favorite cultural dancers Monique and Donny Winklaar. They danced together and with Nos Zjilea guests to the music of local bands Grupo Esso, Kulturando and JC & Friends.

One of Rincon's favorite elders and cultural cook Gacha Coffie explained how to make the traditional local beverage Kukui. She and Nos Zjilea coordinator Izain Mercera passed out small samples. The simple recipe of cooked sugar, water, rum and anise colored in festive red and green colors packed a punch according to the tasters.

Goat specialist Toyan Frans demonstrated how goat is prepared to make jerky. The animal

body is spread out completely, Salon style, for removing the animal meat which is later dried.

Once again, Akademia Papiamentu held their Papiamentu Challenge testing locals on their accuracy in speaking only Papiamentu when answering a question. Just as in life on Bonaire, a stray English, Dutch or Spanish word found its way in the answer.

Caroll-Ann Soliano demonstrated traditional head scarf tying just in time for Rincon Day.

Nos Zjilea is where you want to be if you want to learn more about Bonaire culture. The event is held the last Saturday of every month at Mangazina di Rei and it's free. "It doesn't get more local than this."

To learn more visit: www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei
Story/Photos Julie Morgan



Toyan Frans salons a goat to make jerky with the help of Izain Mercera. Photo Julie Morgan

Kunuku Band Returns



Anyone who visited Bonaire in the 90's will remember the Kunuku Band.

Two guys from Florida, Ralph 'Moogie' Stewart and Larry 'Sparky' Thorne, who came to Bonaire to play their own spe-

cial style of music at Captain Don's Habitat and work as dive instructors (or was it the other way around?).

Moogie and Sparky's music ran the gamut from jazz, blues and reggae to their own special

island style that brought everyone to the dance floor. The band broke up when Sparky returned to the U.S., but Moogie kept on going on Bonaire performing weekly at Habitat and Buddy Dive.

This month, the Kunuku Band is getting back together after 20+ years. Moogie and Sparky will be playing at Habitat on Monday, May 13 and 20 and at Buddy Dive on Friday, May 17 and 24. The May 20 performance at Habitat should be extra special as it marks the arrival of the founder of organized diving on Bonaire, Captain Don Stewart on May 21.

Julie Morgan

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Special relief for unexpected large expenses

People with low income and unexpected large expenses may be eligible for special social relief.

Unexpected major expenses that the SZW unit of RCN can contribute to include, for instance, costs for filling a water tank or replacing a water pump, dental expenses, a fridge, stove, washing machine or bed. SZW can also support the purchase of baby necessities or school supplies for secondary school children. The SZW unit of RCN also jumps in when people have

to deal with funeral expenses, double rent when moving house or when, for instance, an air conditioner or other items are needed on medical prescription. Conditions for applications

To qualify for special social relief, one must have been registered for at least 5 years, be over the age of 18 and earn less than 120 per cent of the statutory minimum wage in the household. From the 1st of July 2024, the income limit is set at \$2,100 per month.

Special social relief is usual-

ly not paid in cash. If someone qualifies for it, SZW pays (part of) the unexpected expenses directly to the supplier.

More information or applications?

On Bonaire, for more information or to apply for special social relief, you can visit the SZW unit of RCN from Monday to Thursday between 08.00 am and 10.00 am, send an email to onderstand@rijksdienstcn.com or call/whatsapp to 795 5053.

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Pets of the Week



Casey

Our cat of the week is Casey.

Casey is a male cat, white and tabby in color and is one year old. He has lived at the Animal Shelter Bonaire since he was a kitten. I don't know much more about his history but have come to learn his likes and dislikes.

Casey is friendly and enjoys being petted while he is snacking or eating. He likes being rubbed behind the ears and down his back and responds to a calm and friendly tone of voice. Casey does not like to be approached quickly or to be picked up right away. He needs a slow hand and patience from a new owner. Come and meet Casey and take him to his forever home. You will not be sorry because once you make the connection he will love you forever! Casey is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Amy Bowen

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

Hello dear humans.

My name is Guusje, I'm a sweet girl of about 3.5 years old. About two years ago I was left at the shelter gate, together with my sister. We were both underweight and didn't trust humans.

In the beginning I was a little afraid of people, but after a while I started to enjoy the gentle pets on my back and the belly rubs. I really like to curl up on your legs and sleep close to you.

I'm very good with other dogs, male, female, old or young, I like them all.

I hope you would like to meet me and that I can be a part of your family.

Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt



Guusje

Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga

will officially open at their new location on Kaya Gilberto F Croes

on May 11, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Pakus is the prime fundraiser for the Animal Shelter while at the same time doing its part to recycle and supply affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more to Bonaire.

Photo Julie Morgan



Make Bonaire Accessible - Aftermath

by Ria Evers-Dokter

The festivities are over for the celebration of 35 years Dia di Rincon. Almost every day was a special activity for everyone. If you could not join the party, you could watch it on tv.

So many came from abroad to celebrate. Many had not been back to Bonaire for many years.

I am not a person for big events like this but I used to be when I was young and did not have a care in the world. But being elderly, things are not quite the same anymore.

But I DID go to Rincon and participate with a large group of elderly in a "Simadan den seku", together with my companeronan of Aksesio and it was wonderful.

So many elderly, so many helpers and volunteers.

It was really like in the old days. The only musicians were three groups playing instruments like the kuarta, raspa, wiri and a drum. Nothing electronic. Everybody sang along and those that could not walk, were pushed in a wheelchair.

We were all dressed up in a nice head-wrap, straw hat and a dress or skirt that matched, very clean and simple. And we all sang along, "Remailo he" which everyone knows of course.

Transport had been arranged to and fro, so we were all sure we were safe and sound to Rincon and back.

In the Simadan, not just us, but also the onlookers joined and we all sang and danced together.

We were treated to nice, cold awa di lamunchi and iced water, necessary because of the heat, and enjoyed some du-

shi pastechi.

Much too soon it was all over, and we were driven home to rest and remember the event.

I am very happy to be able to participate. RoRo provided me with a nice comfy wheelchair, so I could be easily pushed.

All festivities ended in Rincon when Dia di Rincon was over. And it must be said there was only one minor incident, a fight with a knife. But that was cooled down pretty fast and the ambience returned immediately.

Of course, Dia di Rincon is very important, but on the first of May another big event was held in Playa, the Simadan di Doe I Chana Diaz, which is also a huge tradition.

I did not participate as that would have been a bit too much for me. As I live a short eight minute walk from Playa, I could stay on my porch and enjoy the music, the singing and playing. And I

must tell you, it was hard to sit still on my porch, I simply had to move to the music in my chair.

I do not know about accessibility during the festivities but the ones I attended were perfectly arranged.

To all those decorated on the King's Day, masha pabien. You all deserved this.

Thanks for this very special month of April. We will all look back and remember it with a broad smile.

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.





In honor of International Firefighters Day on May 4, Bonaire's BKC (Brandweerkorps Caribisch Nederland) paraded through the different barrios in balloon adorned fire trucks and vehicles with flashing lights and sirens. People along the way who came out of their homes to greet the firefighters were rewarded with small gifts. Worldwide this is a time to reflect on past firefighters

who have lost their lives serving their community and show support and appreciation for those men and women that protect us yearlong. L-R: G. Anthonij, R. Montero, T. Verheul, R. Veltman, W. Pieter, R. Josephia, R. Frans, I. Melaan, R. Pauletta, M. Cicilaia, A. Rosaria, R. Montero and Judel Emerenciana. Photo / Cutline Julie Morgan



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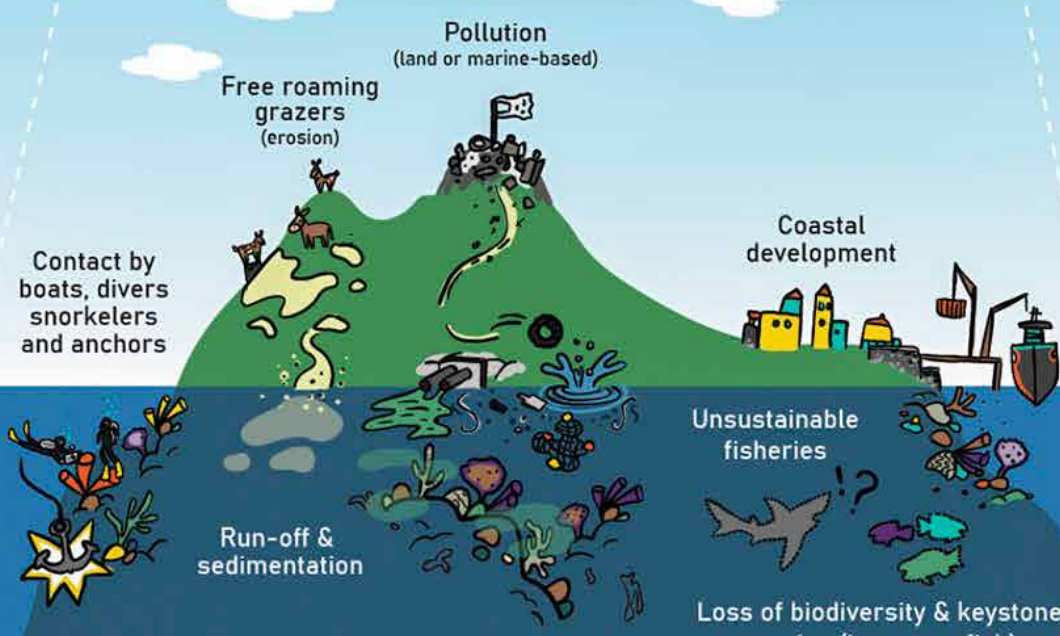
i Threats to the Dutch Caribbean's Coral Reefs

Almost half of Caribbean corals have been lost since 1999

Global external threats

- Tropical storms
- Warmer water temperatures
- Ocean acidification
- Bleaching events

Local threats



Regional external threats

- Invasive species
- Coral diseases: SCTLD, Black and White Band disease
- Sargassum influxes & marine litter
- Diseases of essential herbivores (Sea urchin die-off)

Source: Coral reefs on the ABC Islands (January 2024). Technical background report on the value of the reefs. Review to their health and interventions to maintain and restore them prepared by Grand Thornton for WWF-NL.

Continued from page 1.