

**FREE**

**BONAIRE**  
**The REPORTER**

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Photo Julie Morgan

## Donkeys are a part of Bonaire

Bonaire's donkeys are special. They have cute, sad faces, are part of Bonaire history and culture and the descendants of an extinct species. They were shipped to the island from Africa in 1527 along with many of the slaves making them some of the first animal immigrants. Through DNA sampling at Texas A&M University, the Bonaire donkey was proved to be descendant of the extinct African Wild Nubian Ass and possibly the only living example of this donkey species.

The donkeys have been a controversial subject on Bonaire for years. Some people want them eradicated while others believe they are a symbol of Bonaire right alongside diving and flamingos.

Equine specialists, geneticists and other scientists have visited Bonaire to study these last descendants of a vanished species. Recently Amy McLean, Associate Professor of Equine Science at University of California Davis visited Bonaire and Al Catalfumo of Bonaire Donkey Protection League (BDPL) for eight days.

McLean specializes in donkeys and mules. She has studied donkeys all over the world: their behavior, physiology, management, nutrition. Mclean has conducted metabolic disease studies and pharmacology. She first heard about Bonaire's Nubian donkeys in a presentation by geneticist Javier Navas Gonzalez of Spain at the Donkey Welfare Conference at UC Davis.

"I was interested in traveling to Bonaire to see the donkey situation with my own eyes. I wanted to see what condition they were in, in terms of their body weight and fat, their hooves, their general health. I also wanted to see firsthand where they lived, what they ate and where they could access water," said McLean.

Similar to her work in Death Valley, CA, Bonaire's donkey populations live in close contact with people. It was important there as it was here for her to talk to the locals and hear their perception of the situation and whether or not they valued or devalued the

donkeys. In surveying the community, she learned the number of donkeys, locations, more of the history and if they were represented in art.

Without this information McLean couldn't make a recommendation on how to control or manage the population or suggest a suitable living place.



Amy McLean and Al Catalfumo Photo Julie Morgan

McLean said, "I saw a lot of compassion for the donkeys. They attract not only horse lovers but dog lovers too. They have an energy that captivates your soul. Donkeys were domesticated a 1000 years ago, before the horse. People that want to eradicate the donkeys – hey, you wouldn't even be here without them."

McLean supported the idea that the wild population should remain wild with no long-term holding. She visited the donkey sanctuary twice with their 821 donkeys in captivity. She suggested the donkey sanctuary should not be a residence for donkeys but only for the injured or sick.

"After medical attention, the sanctuary should only be a stopping point before going back into the wild. Just like Elly Alber's Wild Bird Sanctuary. Donkeys could pick right back up where they were."

She explained, There is a disproportionate number of males and they are starving and overbreeding the few females that are in the wild. The previous castration policy for males needs to be corrected as there are much better birth control methods.

"It's easier to control the female's reproduction cycle with a dart gun vaccine and it's reversible. The current program is a genetic bottle neck for any species," said McLean.

Regarding the government contract to catch and castrate all the males, return to the wild and capture the females for the sanctuary, McLean said this was totally opposite of what should be happening. This is a negative hypothesis.

**Bonaire's donkeys to page 19**

## Finance department gutted by resignations

Spending public funds is the easiest task elected politicians perform. Spending it conscientiously and within budget, then reporting as required, are the most difficult tasks politicians perform. That's why spending, once budgeted, should be delegated to the financial experts in the bureaucracy. Under the management of self-appointed Finance commissioner Deputy Clark Abraham, the Finance Department has been bleeding expertise.

According to reports, the entire senior management has resigned. Mark Volmerink, who took over as head six months ago, is gone. Guus van Eerde, the external financial expert who is credited with helping the department obtaining an unqualified opinion for the Annual Accounts for the first time since 2010, has resigned. The group controller has left, as have officials from the core team for the budget and annual accounts. The International Desk, also under Abraham, is particularly important for contacts with the EU and has been depopulated as well. Abraham's management style is generally blamed for the exodus.

Abraham responded by pointing out that people resign government positions all the time, and by claiming that the mismanagement problems in Finance date back to the previous island government.

With the Financial Department in freefall, all financial functions of the OLB are vulnerable. For instance, State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Alexandra van Huffelen, as one of her last acts in office, reminded the Executive Council and the Island Council of Bonaire that they are still operating under the unamended 2024

budget. Therefore they are in danger of losing the increase in the Free Benefit and additional special benefits the Rutte government approved for Bonaire last spring. That money does not appear in the present budget, so under the article 24 of FinBES Bonaire cannot access it.

Earlier Abraham had submitted a budget amendment to the Island Council. However that amendment was contrary to the FinBES, as the Financial Supervision Board had warned him, so it was immediately rejected by the State Secretary. Her request that a revised version be submitted quickly was ignored.

The OLB cannot spend that money until a budget amendment has been submitted. And that request has to be approved. The more conservative government that replaced Rutte IV is not exactly looking for more opportunities to spend money on behalf of the islands.

A related controversy blew up when a confidential report of an exit interview with a departing civil servant was leaked from the Executive Council to the media. The leak supported Abraham's contention that the management problems in Finance should be blamed on the preceding island government.

The leak violated privacy legislation, made no effort to hide the identity of the person interviewed, did not have that person's unequivocal consent, and violated ethics politics and privacy laws. Further, copy of the interview could have been obtained only with the assistance of an official from the Personnel Department.

DMR

## Dutch colleges join to help Caribbean students succeed

A consortium of 11 Dutch colleges have agreed to assure Caribbean students a better opportunity to complete their courses of study. The schools will better inform students from the islands about studying in the Netherlands, and will help them adjust to the move and support them with more guidance during their studies.

The universities of applied sciences of Amsterdam, Leiden, Rotterdam, Stenden, Fontys, HAN, Hanze, Saxion, Utrecht, The Hague and Inholland are the members of the consortium.

In 2020 national ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen determined

that Caribbean students had a relatively high dropout rate at Dutch colleges. Many were insufficiently prepared for advanced study, were underfunded, had trouble adjusting to living in a new place, and encountered bureaucratic obstacles such as not having a citizen service number.

The bureaucratic impediments have been cleared away, and students from the islands are now eligible for kingdom grants. So with the schools giving them a helping hand here and there, they should have a better chance of succeeding in their studies. DMR



On July 11, Bonairean organizations that deal with domestic violence and child abuse met to work out how to cooperate so that victims of domestic violence and abuse can receive better help. The photo above shows the representatives of Guami, Akseso's hotline (0802-0802) that provides tailored advice, assistance and support; and Krusada's Tabitha Shelter, the women's shelter that provides a temporary/crisis shelter and guidance to women with or without children. Photo Krusada

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# Dive shops celebrate Women's Dive Day



*We are your dive friends*

**Dive Friends** celebrated Women's Dive Day for the 10th year with 12 divers and an all female crew on July 20.

Leaving from Dive Friends Port Bonaire, the ladies began the afternoon with a trip around Klein Bonaire on Dive Friends spacious boat with classic rock and roll providing the back-

ground music. Arriving on the dive site, Leonora's Reef, Gwen of Zest for Life Yoga led the ladies in a little pre-dive yoga breathing. According to Gwen, breathing exercises can help with air consumption and even buoyancy.

At Leonora's the divers saw at least three turtles, eels and a few squid. Back on the boat, the

group toasted women divers everywhere with wine, beer, soft drinks and some snacks.

While enjoying the refreshments, the divers

**Women's Dive Day**  
*continued on page 13*

## FOR SALE Kaya Kuarts 27 Spacious, Well Built Family Home



- Location: Santa Barbara
- Lot size : 940 m2 / 10117 sq. ft.
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, separate studio

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# POLICE REPORT

## Property crime

**July 14/15.** Between Sunday and Monday several tools from the brands Milwaukee, Dewalt, Makita and Bostitch were stolen from container in Sabadeco Crown.

**July 7.** Items (glasses, 'USB-stick' and a reader) were stolen from a car that was parked outside a cafe on Kaminda di Lac between 12.30 - 2.30 a.m.

## Arrests

**July 13.** Around 3:05 am a man, 26, was arrested for destruction. The suspect destroyed an ambulance mirror on Kaya Soeur Bartola and then ran away.

**July 13.** In the afternoon hours after an exchange of words about a phone a man was stabbed outside a catering establishment in Kaya Karaña. The suspect left the scene immediately. Ambulances transported the victim to hospital. After a brief investigation, a man, was arrested for assault with a weapon and attempted murder.

**July 10.** In the early hours of the morning the Cybercrime Team of the Netherlands Caribbean Police Force held a judicial raid on a house located in Amboina as part of an investigation into computer invasion, fraud and money laundering. A man, 22, was arrested and some items relevant to the case were confiscated.

**July 5.** Around 1:25 p.m., a man, 23, was detained at police station for assault, battery and theft.

## Driving under the influence

*According to the policy 'botsen is blazen' ('to collide is to blow') a breath test is given drivers involved in accidents.*

**July 15.** In the early hours of Monday a man, 58, was arrested on Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana for driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was involved in an accident that resulted in an exchange of words between the drivers. The suspect also could not show a valid driver's license. After taking a breath test, he was given a 10-hour driving ban.

**July 13.** Around 1:45 a.m. in Hanchi Amboina a man, 38, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was involved in an accident. His driver's license was confiscated.

**July 6.** Around 8.25 p.m. a man, 71 for driving under the influence. The suspect was involved in an accident between two cars on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. His driving license was confiscated.

**July 3.** Around 1.15 a.m. the central control room received a notification about an accident that took place on Yato Bako Road. The person who complained heard a loud noise and saw the car involved continue driving in the direction of Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. When the patrol went to look for the car mentioned, they encountered it moving with flat tires. The driver, 40, ignored a police

signal to stop. Later he drove into a dirt road and stopped at a house. The vehicle had damage to the front and a broken windshield. The driver was could show a valid driver's license but his insurance lapsed. He refused a breath test at his car, so he was taken to the police station for a breath analysis after which his driver's license was confiscated.

**July 3.** Around 6:50 p.m., a woman, 36, was stopped on the Kaya Grandi for driving under the influence and failure to comply with a police order. Her passenger, a woman, 32, was arrested for assaulting an officer on duty and failing to comply with a police order.

A plainclothes police officer, who was present at a prostitution establishment on the Kaya Grandi, observed that a group of persons who were unsteady on their feet were walking towards their vehicle. One of them got in as the driver and the others as passengers. The officer then heard the engine revving high and said the pickup started to drive, but the engine cut off. After a reboot, the same thing happened. Through these observations, the officer approached the vehicle and approached the driver, who smelled strongly of alcohol.

The police officer identified herself with her police pass and informed the driver that it was obvious she was unfit to drive the pickup. At that point, one of the passengers started abusing the officer. The driver tried to run away and was apprehended by the officer, but refused to obey her commands. The passenger continued to insult the officer. When patrol arrived, both the driver and passenger were detained and taken to the police station. Based on the results of a breath test, the driver's license was revoked. While transporting the passenger to jail (JICN) she also spat at one of the officers.

**June 30.** In the early hours two drivers, aged 36 and 41, were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. They were involved in an accident on Hanchi Amboina. One driver failed the breath test at his car, and then another at the police station, and his driver's license was confiscated. The other driver refused to take a breath test at his car. He was also taken to the police station for a breath test and it turned out that he had consumed more alcohol than is allowed when driving a vehicle. He was also fined because he did not have a valid driver's license or valid insurance. His vehicle was taken to the police station.

**June 29.** Around 8:20 p.m. a man, 66, was detained at Kaya Industria for driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was involved in a hit-and-run between two vehicles. His driver's license was confiscated.

## Traffic accidents

**July 10.** Around 9.15 p.m. the central control room received a notification

# Ask Bob

## Bonaire real estate advice

*Hi Bob, I love Bonaire and I'm thinking about buying a rental property on Bonaire as an investment, do I have to pay taxes on the rental income?*

Rental income and/or capital gains from an investment property is not taxed on Bonaire, but you don't get to deduct maintenance expenses or depreciation either. You do have to pay property tax here for investment property which is roughly 0.91% of the purchase price per year.

If you are from the USA, your investment property income from a non-US country is reported to the US as income and ownership costs such a maintenance, depreciation and taxes are deductible from the rental income. In short, the US tax treatment for an investment property on Bonaire is essentially the same as if you owned an investment property in the US. The only real difference is that the depreciation period on a property in the US is 29 years and it is 39 years for a property outside the US. Travel costs to "inspect" your property may also be tax deductible.

about a car that hit a cyclist on Kaya Korona. On the arrival of the patrol and ambulance, ambulance personnel began to give the victim treatment, and then drove him to the hospital.

The driver of the car stated that he was driving northbound and saw a man riding a bicycle on the sidewalk to his right. The cyclist was also driving north, but suddenly got on the road without looking back. The driver of the car tried to swerve the cyclist to avoid an accident, but he heard a loud noise and hit the cyclist anyway. He was frightened and drove to park his vehicle some distance away. When he got out of the car, he saw the victim on the roof of his car. The driver was fined for driving without valid insurance and his car was taken to the police station.

**July 7.** Around 9:50 p.m. the central control room received a notification about a truck that hit a house on Kaya Nikiboko Sùit. The driver declared that his steering wheel became hard. Ambulances transported the passenger to hospital for medical treatment. All documents of the driver were in order.

**July 7.** Around 5:30 p.m. on an accident between a pickup truck and a car took place on the Tourist Road. The driver of the pickup declared that he was driving in the direction of Playa and he saw a car approaching. He stopped on the side of the road so that the car could pass on his side. Suddenly he heard a loud noise and noticed that the car hit the back on the left side of his vehicle. The driver of the car was slightly injured and ambulance personnel checked him at the scene. The driver of the car got a fine for driving without a valid driver's license and insurance.

**July 5.** Around 8:55 a.m. a pickup and passenger car collided on Kaya Korona. Both drivers were injured and complained of pain. The driver of the car stated that he was driving too fast, causing him to lose control and collide with the pickup truck traveling in the opposite direction. Both drivers were taken by am-



Everyone's situation is different so you should consult with your financial planner or tax advisor before making any investment decision.

*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](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com). Bonaire: +599-717-7362.**

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

balance to the hospital.

**July 4.** Around 4:30 p.m. on Kaya Amsterdam a car hit a pedestrian. When the patrol arrived, paramedics were already attending to the victim. The driver of the car stated that he was driving on Kaya Amsterdam in the direction of Hato roundabout and at some point he saw a person walking next to the road, behind a billboard. Suddenly, he saw the person crossing the road, and he was unable to avoid hitting him. The victim was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

## Public order

**July 13.** Shots were fired with a firearm from a passing car while a young man was standing outside a car in front of his house. The suspicious car was coming from the north on Djabou Road and the young man was parked in a car in front of a house at the intersection of Djabou Road and Karpitan Street. There were no injuries.

**July 12.** The central control room received a notification that unknown persons opened fire on a house on Gurubu Street while there were people in the house. There were no injuries.

**July 5.** Around 10:40 a.m. the central dispatch center received a report of a donkey head stuck to a lantern pole on the road to Rincon near the Kaminda Tras di Montaña at the Kaminda Seru Largu intersection. The rest of the donkey's body was not found at the time. Unfortunately, officers did not observe any clues warranting further action, but the incident has been recorded in detail, and any relevant information received will be added to this archive. Later that day, the central news agency received information that the remains of the donkey were found in a bone pile nearby.

The Sint Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) has a vacancy for:

## Quality Manager (Interim)

We are seeking a dedicated and experienced Quality Manager (Interim) to join our team at SEHCF. In this position, you will lead our Quality team and play a crucial role in ensuring our organization's quality of care and services.

This position requires an action-driven, motivational expert in quality with strong leadership skills and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of improving quality in the health care sector.

As a Quality Manager, you will be responsible for developing, promoting, and optimizing our quality policy. You will work to transform protocols into practice through effective training and support. Your role involves close interaction with all staff members, ensuring they are fully engaged and making sure they are equipped with what is needed to deliver the highest standards of care. You will also advise and support the management team on quality-related matters, ensuring compliance with industry standards and regulations.

### You will be responsible for:

- **Develop and Manage Quality Systems:**  
Implement and oversee an integral (digital) quality system.
- **Lead Improvement Projects:**  
Guide projects aimed at enhancing organizational processes.
- **Ensure Compliance:**  
Coordinate with the Dutch Health and Youth Care Inspectorate (IGJ) to align quality improvement processes.
- **Advise Management:**  
Support the management team within sights on quality policy and compliance.
- **Conduct Quality Audits:**  
Plan, conduct, and coordinate quality audits, and draft audit plans.
- **Analyze and Report:**  
Monitor, analyze, and report on business processes and quality data.
- **Initiate Enhancements:**  
Propose and lead initiatives for continuous quality improvements.

### Who are we looking for?

- **Educational Background:**  
HBO bachelor's degree in health care management, policy, or quality.
- **Experience:**  
Minimum of 5 years in a leading quality position within a medical center or hospital.
- **Knowledge:**  
Staying current with guidelines, procedures, legislation, and developments in quality care.
- **Skills:**  
Strong communication, advisory, and interpersonal skills with cultural sensitivity.
- **Languages:**  
Fluency in English and Dutch.
- **Residency:**  
Willingness to reside on St. Eustatius is highly preferred.

### About St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation

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

- **Comprehensive Benefits:** Competitive benefits package
- **Full-time position:** 40 hours per week; for a period of 6 months
- **Career Development:** Opportunity to make a significant impact on the quality of healthcare services in a close-knit community.

### 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](mailto:hr@sehcf.org) and cc: [philip.vanwoerkom@sehcf.org](mailto:philip.vanwoerkom@sehcf.org). Mr. Philip van Woerkom can also be contacted for questions via tell: +599 319- 7279.

**Closing date: August 5, 2024**

## Solar power donated to Hospice

Local solar panel experts and organizations have donated solar panels and their installation to Hospice Kas Flamboyan, the palliative care center on Bonaire.

"We are incredibly grateful for this generous gift," says Danny Rojer, director of Hospice Kas Flamboyan. "The solar panels allow us to significantly improve the stay of our patients and their loved ones, especially during the warm periods on our island."

Thanks are due to Remco Gooijer from DTM Bonaire BV, Ben van Vugt from Aquarius, Jan Mulder from Phase 2 Phase, Jan Gommers from JG Equipment, Richard Duijn from RMD Bouw & Beheer and to Ton Nuijten who brought everyone together.

The new solar panel installation will allow the hospice to use fans and air conditioning units more often without worrying about rising energy costs.

Remco Gooijer from DTM Bonaire BV, who played a leading role in this project, states: "It was an honor to use our knowledge and skills for such a worthy cause. Knowing that our work directly contributes to the comfort of people in their final phase of life, makes this project extra special for our team."

For information about Hospice Kas Flamboyan visit [www.kas-flamboyan.com](http://www.kas-flamboyan.com) or contact coordinators Angelo Goeloe and Mimi Dongen at +5997178560.

**Photo: Solar experts with hospice coordinator Mimi Dongen**





State Secretary Zsolt Szabó.  
Photo Martijn Beekman

## \$660,000 spent on Island Council travel

The news broke last week that the Island Council spent \$660,000 on business trips last year. The reactions from the public and media were not positive. Mention was often made of the widespread poverty on the island. Questions were asked about why so much and what was the island getting in return. Notice was taken that, since last October, government officials fly business class and stay in top hotels.

Turns out that councilors are paid only \$900 per month. That, most people would agree, is not enough. On the other hand, \$15,000 dollars a year in daily expense allowances seems a lot, given that the amount of the daily allowance is a well guarded government secret, and that all councilors have to do to start receiving the expense allowance is get on an airplane.

The OLB responded with a press release. It said the travel expenses were an investment in collaboration with the central government and with the other BES islands. It would pay dividends in the future. It said people need to get to know each other eye-to-eye to in order to make important decisions together.

Those who voiced objections to the travel expenses brought up a common question. Why is the whole island council flying off together to represent Bonaire at conferences? That's not a legislative function. That's work politicians and bureaucrats do.

Ominously, the new Schoof government in the European Netherlands is playing close attention. They would welcome a justification for reducing the free benefit Bonaire is scheduled to receive. *DMR*

## KPCN officer arrested

The National Criminal Investigation Department (Rijksrecherche) arrested an employee of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) on July 11. He is suspected of committing assault and forgery/perjury during a detention on Bonaire in March. A criminal investigation is ongoing.

Another KPCN was recently dismissed on Saba unconditionally for severe dereliction of duty. Of duty at a new year's eve gathering, he allegedly drew his service weapon. *DMR*

## Software crash causes delays but no disruptions

Flights to and from Europe have been delayed by two or three hours by the global computer failure. But no major disruptions have occurred, like those in other countries where weary passengers have been camping out in airline terminals. Flights from the U.S. have reportedly experienced problems too. *DMR*

## Postal codes coming to Caribbean Netherlands

Postcodes in the series 0000AA-0999ZZ have been proposed for Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius. The proposal is in the internet consultation stage. *DMR*

## Jellyfish alert

The box jellyfish has been spotted in Bonaire's National Marine Park. See page 12.

## Anticipating Szabó's first visit

*Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties* writes that van Huffelen's replacement, the newly appointed State Secretary Zsolt Szabó (PVV) is expected to make an introductory visit to the islands before October.

The first debate of Szabó with the House of Representatives Committee for Kingdom Relations is scheduled for October 3. This debate is a 'collective debate CAS' about, among other things, the latest implementation reports of the National Packages of Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten.

The budgets for Kingdom Relations and the BES fund will be discussed in the week of October 22. A committee debate on the social minimum in the Caribbean Netherlands will follow on November 21.

*(Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*



## Why are they there?

Why guard rails? Like most people who regularly drive the area of the Hato circle, we were surprised to see the construction of guard rails along the road. The workers, just doing their job, said to prevent people from hitting pedestrians. Has there been one case that justifies the expense of ugly guard rails? The money would be much better spent on safe bike lanes as more of our population seems to be hitting the road on two wheels rather than four. Photo *Julie Morgan*.

# Make Bonaire Accessible

Summertime....

by Ria Evers-Dokter

*Summertime....*

*As the song goes.....  
and the living is easy.*

Summertime, vacation-time, it used to be so good. I have always looked forward to it and it seemed as if it never ended. The days were long (I was born in Holland) and I could play all day long in the dunes, on the beach and in the woods.

Things are very different now. I am an elderly lady, and the elderly don't have vacation time. All the projects available take place at the end of summer.

It is understandable, but not very agreeable. Those who have hobbies are lucky. They can craft as much as they can. Those who love to read can go to the book sales, buy a lot for little money

and read and enjoy as much as possible.

But I miss the summer activities that I love so much. And it makes me think; could there be a vacation plan for the elderly? Or is that a silly thought?

Lately I've had a lot of time to read the mail and stay informed on Facebook.

This week I was very pleased because Big Papa had interesting pictures on his Facebook page: a chain in front of the entrance of the mall downtown and cars parked on the sidewalks. Many people reacted and posted more pictures: a large strip of wood nailed onto the sidewalk in front of the shops along the boulevard caused a lady to fall down hard on the pavement.

A while ago I heard of someone who crossed Kaya Grandi and fell over a

piece of loose material in the middle of the street. And we all remember the case of the lady that fell at Karel's sidewalk and got hurt.

These posts rained comments and every reaction was about the in-accessibility.

Making our boulevard beautiful and more attractive for everyone is a great plan. But no time has been spent on the importance of accessibility. When using a wheelchair, walker or stroller, you need space and special adaptations. And THAT is just what is not being offered in the boulevard plan.

With a group of elderly of the Akse-so-program we went to Parke Tului. The plan was to cross the boulevard and take a dip in our gorgeous sea. The swimming pool was closed and to get to the small part of beach we all needed a lot of help. Some of us could not even get down from the boulevard to reach the sea.

So, unless there are some changes this summer, things will stay the same. And we will have to stay home, sit on the porch, read, craft and hope somebody comes over for a chat and a cold drink of water. Because even watching TV is boring with all the reruns.

In the meantime, I have all the time in the world to craft a lot for our MiVaBo fundraising. You can find us at Tera Cora on the last Sunday of the month.

Happy Summer!



*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.*



## Donate to Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's 'Swim around Klein' Fundraiser

End of July Daan and Kate will swim 11 km around Klein Bonaire to raise \$11,000 for two new research nets.

Donations can be made via STCB's local bank account at MCB # 101169209 or via its Dutch account at Rabobank # NL71 RABO 0313 2425 26. For more information please call (+599) 717 2225 or send an email to [cepa@bonaireturtles.com](mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.com).

## A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

### Summer school visits LVV

I have been helping out with summer school lately. We have done a lot of exciting and cool things on the all day two week program to keep the kids attention. What we teach them today is gold for the future. Kids need Love, Attention, Care and Education or LACE. In LACE summer school we have been to the beach at Sorobon, LVV, Echo, Terramar Museum, Sweeti Bakery, the BC (government offices), Telbo and Divi Hotel. We also had a lot of sports activities.

Of course with the visit to LVV a lot came up. We had a very good guide to explain about the plants. He let the kids feel plants, taste herbs, smell certain leaves and also plant their own watermelon seeds in small containers which they took home. With tayerblad, he explained how to plant it by its tubers and how to consume it. The kids were taught about bonchi kunuku, yuca cuttings, small eggplants, "roibeet" (a leafy vegetable), dagoblad, spinach, pumpkin plants with young fruits, sweet pepper, selderij, basil, mint, yellow and white sweet potatoes.

The guide showed the kids cuttings of different plants like spinach rooting in water supported by sticks for the plant to climb. He showed them young fruit trees for sale and trees that could be decorated like certain palm trees. LVV even rents the palms for special occasions. He showed us the difference in leaves of different sweet potatoes. I didn't know

that the leaves have different shapes so I learned something new.

On certain days at LVV you can purchase fresh vegetables, plants, manure, mixed black dirt and get information on their use. He showed the kids the many types of soil and how to make it healthy for plants by mixing it with different types of manure, dry leaves, dry grass without seeds and coco shell fiber. There is a machine to grind the fiber very fine. Then it is mixed with black dirt and a mix of different manures. Water is added and they make blocks of this mud and dry it. One can buy the blocks for \$6.50 each. They are big and when you soak the block in water, it becomes mud again to add to the plants. Just a little in each plant gives the soil a good boost.

We went to the goats' corral and the kids had fun feeding and cuddling them. Our guide said that the goat manure is an important support for the plants and that is why LVV has a goat department. He also explained to the kids that gardening is very important for one's health plus it saves money, helps keep Bonaire green and protects the ground against erosion.

It was a fantastic afternoon and the kids were very interested. They all participated and had a lot of questions. Some of them already have a home garden and they shared their experiences and gave information. The kids without a garden



The summer school class visited LVV's greenhouses. Photo Julie Morgan

were very inspired and motivated to start one at home. We left LVV with each child holding the pot with their newly planted watermelon seeds in hand. I'm sure some new gardeners were born on this day.

At Echo the topic of gardening came up because it's good to protect the loras and prichichi but the birds often damage the fruit from fruit trees. And this does not stimulate people to plant or spend years taking care of fruit trees for fruit which they will never get to enjoy. The Echo guide said that indeed there are a lot of complaints about the growing population of these birds and they are looking for solutions. If anyone has an idea, please contact Echo. It has to be a win-win solution, for the beautiful birds as well as people.

For those of you going on holiday, enjoy and come back healthy and full of energy to start the new season of gardening with inspiration and passion.



*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.*

# Bonaire bat maternity chambers successfully protected

by Sophie Zeegers



The Long-nosed bat - *Leptonycteris curasoae* - is one of Bonaire's five cave-dwelling bat species, and the most important ecologically speaking.

Photo Burton Lim, Royal Ontario Museum

During 2019 and 2020, physical barriers were installed at the five most important bat maternity roosts on Bonaire to protect pregnant, birthing and lactating bats from human disturbance. This was a well-informed decision after two decades of scientific research on bats in the ABC islands, which among others, identified the crucial bat maternity roosts in the three islands, how they are used by the different bat species and what their conservation needs are. Uncontrolled visits were found to be one of the main threats. The fact that one en-

tire island bat population can be nursing in one of these maternity chambers makes them especially vulnerable to this type of disturbances. The Bonairean five cave-dwelling bat species solely give birth to one pup per year, after a 4-month long pregnancy, and then lactate for a couple of months. These maternity chambers are their only place to be safe during this time. It's the master bedroom where all the 'magic happens'.

A crucial component of this nature management intervention is to study the short- and long-term effect of these barriers on the bat colonies they are supposed to protect. For this, a quantitative scientific method to collect data on the size of the bat colonies (using infrared light and video recording) for a period of six years, was designed by Jafet Nassar (IVIC) and Fernando Simal (WILDCONSCIENCE). After three years of monitoring, preliminary results look promising. Data extracted from over one thousand 1-min-

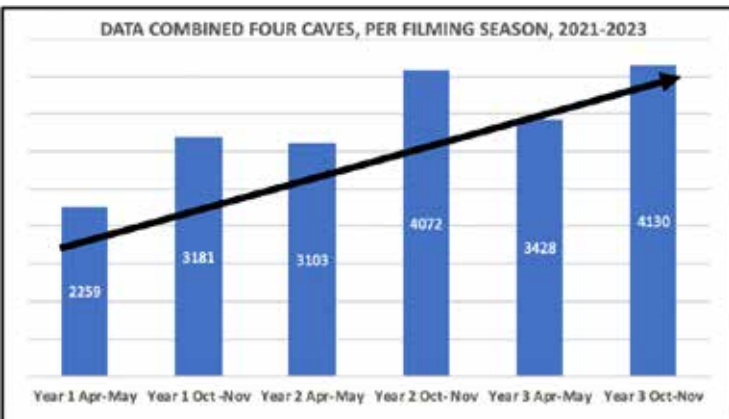
ute infrared videos and 54 pictures indicate a positive effect of the barriers on the size of the bat colonies (see graph).

But not all is good news, while the bat colonies are increasing in overall size, one alarming finding is the concerning decrease in the numbers of bats using Cave Orizjan. Nearby Cave Orizjan there have been perhaps too many residential and commercial developments in recent years. Disturbances like total vegetation removal and sustained limestone jackhammering less than 100m from this maternity cave could have caused bats to abandon the historic and well-known bat maternity roost. Unfortunately, the developments are still ongoing.

The reason bats are so important to protect is the vital role they



Fernando Simal Photo Sophie Zeegers



play in the Bonaire terrestrial ecosystem. Nectar-feeding bats are the only pollinators of large cacti, which opens its flowers exclusively at night. These columnar cacti are the solely natural providers of food and water during the harsh dry season, keeping many animals alive when all else has dried out. Due to these fundamental ecological functions, these cacti, together with the bats, are considered 'keystone species'. Besides these important bat species, there are also cave-dwelling bats that feed on insects. They keep the Bonaire mosquito population under control by eating tens of thousands of them each night.

Past and ongoing bat research and conservation in the ABC islands have been made possible by funds and in kind provided by DierenLot, the Dutch Ministry of LNV, OLB, the Disney Conservation Fund, Bat Conservation International, STINAPA Bonaire, CARMABI, IVIC, FPNA, and CARIBSS plus countless hours of fieldwork by volunteers and contracted fieldworkers. On behalf of Bonaire's nature and its bats, a big thank you to all of them.

For more information on this project, bat research and conservation in the ABC islands, or if you would like to donate to this project, you can contact WILDCONSCIENCE (Wildlife Conservation, Science and Education) at: fernando.simal@wildconscience.com



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# ACE Tweens perform in Aruba

Bonaire's ACE Tweens arrived on their sister island, Aruba, mid-July to work with young Aruban performers. During the cultural exchange the young artists from both islands participated in poetry, art, music production and dance workshops. ACE Tweens performed at the Miss Teen Aruba contest. They together with the teens of Aruba's Popcorn Dancers created a flash mob at Divi All Inclusive Resort Aruba.

On July 20 Bonaire's ACE Tweens repeated their smash performance, ACE-WOOD, One Step Closer to Hollywood, for an Aruban audience. More collaboration and competition are scheduled for the final days of the cultural exchange.

ACE Foundation would like to thank the Department of Culture Aruba (Julie Merencia and Jhon Freddy Tobón Montoya), Public Entities Bonaire, MCB Bonaire, Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied, Bonaire Marine Center, Landsloterij, Live 99.9 and Breezy Fm and all who immediately believed and helped lay the foundation for our children to continue developing.

*Ace Foundation Press releases.*



## New Branding for Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire

The new branding reflects our commitment to, community involvement, fun, and positive impact. The refreshed logo and visual identity symbolize the vibrancy and diversity of Bonaire, reinforcing the message that every ticket sold contributes to the greater good.

Colorful spreading of magic flows throughout the new brand identity.

We are thrilled to launch the Spread the Goodness campaign and introduce our new branding. This campaign is a testament to our dedication to giving back to our community. By supporting social initiatives, sports teams, education, and community development, we are investing in a brighter future for Bonaire. We invite everyone to join us in spreading the goodness and making a difference.

As part of the "Spread the Goodness" campaign, we encourage the community to share their own stories of positive impact using the hashtag #SpreadTheGoodness.

***Play the lottery,  
spread the goodness.***

**Play the lottery,  
spread  
the goodness.**



Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire is excited to announce the launch of the "Spread the Goodness" campaign alongside the revealing of fresh new branding for Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire. This initiative shows how the lottery's money helps many different projects. It supports social programs, sports teams, education, and community development.

The "Spread the Goodness" campaign is all about making Bonaire better! Every lottery ticket you buy gives you a chance to win and helps support our community. Join us and see the positive impact on our island.

Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire is a proud supporter of local sports teams, providing them with the necessary resources to train, compete, and excel. Our sponsorships help nurture local talent and promote a healthy, active lifestyle within the community.

Education is a cornerstone of community development. The profits from the Bonaire Lottery fund school programs, and educational resources such as books, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed on more than one level.

reasons include power struggles, jealousy, competition, fear of change, stereotypes, envy and prejudices.

It can be started by one coworker who perceives a threat in the victim and from then on, the situation evolves into group behavior. The original perpetrator seeks and finds alliance among other coworkers. Group psychology plays a crucial role in forming and escalating mob behavior in a workplace. When individuals behave in a group, they are influenced by social dynamics that would not reflect their individual behavior. On one hand group behavior provides anonymity and safety but it also provides a sense of belonging. From an evolutionary perspective, bullying behavior can be seen as a way to assert dominance and control over others in order to increase chances of reproduction and survival. Mobbing is a form of group aggression innate to primates. Engaging in mobbing does not make you a bad person, just a predictable one responding to the command of a leader. Anyone can engage in mobbing and once mobbing is underway it will continue as long as the target, or the leader of the mob remain in the group. There is no shortage of examples in the history of humanity where an unfavorable narrative has been created about an individual or group of individuals and the blinded mass has attacked them. Having your own criteria or standing up with your own voice to defend the victim

can be a danger in itself.

If you are a victim of mobbing it can be very stressful and painful. Even if there is room for improvement in your performance at work, nothing you have done justifies mobbing. Try to remain calm and report to your human resources department. Stick to the facts, keep a record of every incident, try to have neutral witnesses and collect proof like emails, WhatsApp messages, screen captures, etc. Remind yourself that it is not about you, and look for emotional support in friends, family, therapist, coach, counselor or support groups.

Also ask yourself if this struggle is worth it. Mobbing can damage your overall health. Consider changing jobs if the situation can't be controlled. It may not seem fair to step away when you are not at fault but if the management is not handling the situation in a reasonable way think about your safety first.



*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.*

## Creating Optimal Health

### Mobbing can happen to anybody by Irene da Cunda Costa

Sigmund Freud was once asked what defined a psychologically healthy person. He answered: "Love and work...work and love, that's all there is." Sometimes love and work can also be a source of emotional and physical suffering and disease. In this issue I am going to write about a specific situation that sometimes happens at work that can wreck the health of a person, this situation is called mobbing.

Mobbing in the workplace is similar to bullying among children and adolescents in school. It refers to a group of people engaged in different types of harassment against a coworker. It can be something obvious like openly insulting, public humiliation, or social isolation but in general is more subtle coming as an emotional assault where an individual becomes the target of disrespectful and harmful behavior through rumors, discrimination, sabotaging projects, discreditation, creating a hostile environment in order to ultimately force the victim to resign. Some of the



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Antriol, Ser'i Bentana 10  
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Santa Barbara, Kaya Turkesa 22  
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Playa Pabou, Kaya America 21  
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Tera Kora, Red Palm Village Chalet 9  
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# Fourth major global bleaching event continues

In almost every news report we hear about rising temperatures in our air and oceans due to climate change. People on the mainland feel the high temperatures in the air, but those of us who live by the ocean, also see the consequences on our coral reefs. Since 1998 we have witnessed the effects of high temperatures bleaching our coral reefs. And in the last few weeks anyone who has checked Bonaire's water temps knows it has risen to 85°/ 86°F (29.4/30c) and is expected to rise even more.

When the water gets too hot for too long the coral sheds its algae which provides both its color and food causing bleaching. If the water doesn't cool down for the coral to recover it can starve and die.

In April the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA told us we are in the fourth major global coral bleaching event on record as of February 2023. The three other events were in 1998, 2010 and 2014-2017. And this is not just the Caribbean but worldwide. Some 62 countries have reported mass bleaching since 2023.

The longer the coral is exposed to high temperatures the more the coral's capability for recovery from bleaching is reduced. These longer periods could overlap with the coral's life cycle, including spawning, which could result in widescale coral loss. Curbing greenhouse gas emissions is ultimately the only solution to limit frequency and severity. Science.org's, Cumulative risk of future bleaching for the world's coral reefs, June 24, 2024

"Unprecedented Ocean heat has triggered the world's worst mass coral bleaching event on record – a coral massacre so severe, reef experts are looking to one of nature's most dangerous and destructive forces to provide relief: hurricanes." Rachel Ramirez of CNN. *Mass bleaching event is the worst on record. Now scientists are hoping for hurricanes.* (June 30, 2024)

Derek Manzello, coordinator for NOAA's Coral Reef watch said, "A well-timed tropical storm or hurricane can bring much needed thermal relief to heat stressed corals."

Ramirez explains that the same ocean heat suffocating the corals is one factor behind the threat of an unusually active hurricane season which could provide a form of salvation for the reef in the form of cooler water.

If hurricanes are a possible remedy to curb coral bleaching that may not be a possibility for Bonaire as it is out of the hurricane belt. The island has never received a direct hit, but the effects of storms passing



Bleaching on Bonaire's reefs, November 2023 Photo Julie Morgan

nearby like Lenny in 1999, Ivan in 2004 and Omar in 2008 did major damage and left their mark on our coral reefs.

After Omar the late Jerry Ligon, naturalist, said, "Omar cleaned out all the thick reddish algae that was covering the bottom and sections of coral rubble along the entire western coast and many sections of Klein Bonaire."

According to Manzello, Hurricanes act like enormous ocean heat vacuums, feasting on warm water and moist air to strengthen. As they do, the storms help cool the ocean along their path, not only by consuming ocean heat, but also by churning up pockets of cold water from deeper in the ocean up to the surface. The area of ocean cooled by a hurricane can extend more than 400 miles from the storm's center.

"This means that storms can be a good thing for heat-stressed corals that are not within the direct damage swath," Manzello said.

Other scientists say that even a massive storm may not have the same cooling potential as in the past because the temperatures extend so deep.

Category 1 and 2 hurricanes used to be enough to cool the water down to alleviate coral bleaching. Now

it might take a stronger storm to bring the same level of respite, explained Marilyn Brandt, professor at the University of the Virgin Islands' Center for Marine and Environmental Studies.

Brandt continued, "Hurricanes are also a double-edged sword. Their powerful waves can break fragile corals apart, overturn entire colonies and significantly harm – if not kill them. And they worsen the coral health by exposing them to "a soup of contaminated water" made up of fertilizer, sewage and other harmful substances that run off from flooded land. At this point, it's becoming so difficult for the corals to recover from these back-to-back bleaching events that at the end of the day, anything that cools down the water is probably going to help."

Photos / story Julie Morgan

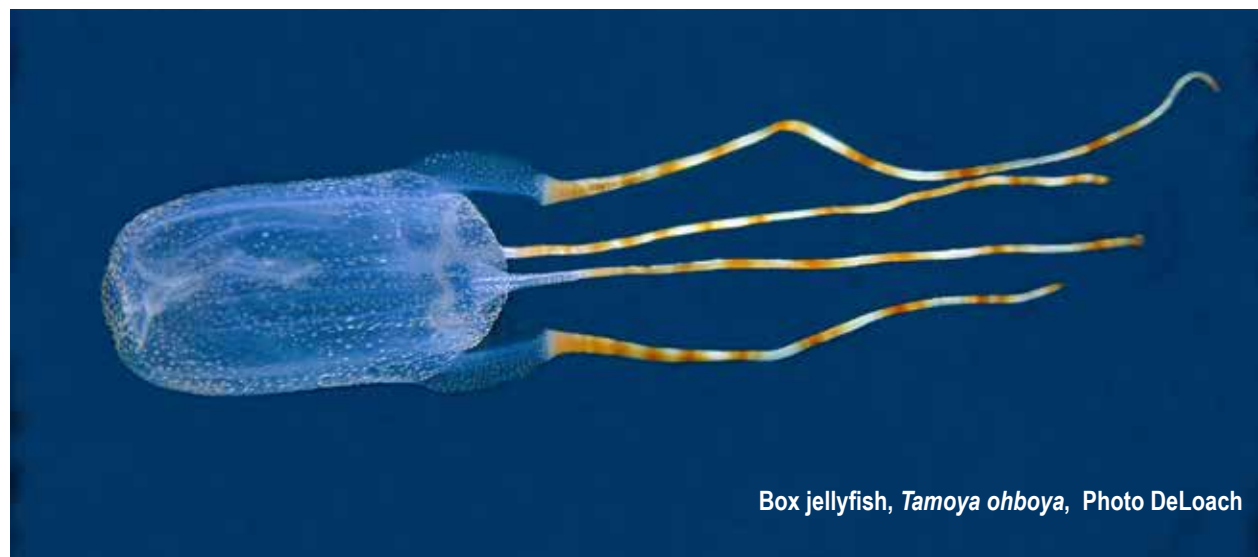
- Hurricanes benefit bleached corals, Derek P. Manzello, Marilyn Brandt, Tyler B. Smith, Diego Lirman, James C. Hendee and Richard S. Nemeth. (pnas.org)
- NOAA confirms fourth global coral bleaching event (noaa.gov/news)
- Rachel Ramirez', CNN, *Mass bleaching event is the worst on record. Now scientists are hoping for hurricanes.* (June 30, 2024)

## Safety alert - Box jellyfish in BNMP waters

Oh boy! The box jellyfish (*Tamoya ohboya*) has been spotted in our National Marine Park. These jellyfishes move towards the coast around the new and full moon in large numbers during the warmer months (May till October). The sting of a box jellyfish can cause nausea, pain, and a rash. Without any treatment, these symptoms can last from 20 minutes up to a whole day.

According to Sting Doc Bud Gillan, the Ohboya has a four inch bell with tentacles that extend up to one meter.

Swim carefully and avoid touching them at all costs. The possible treatment options, in case of a sting, are vinegar, Sting-No-More, and applying heat (hot water or heatpacks). Also seek medical help.



Box jellyfish, *Tamoya ohboya*, Photo DeLoach



Diving with Dive Friends' dive guides (L) Mona and (R) Denise Photo Julie Morgan

For more information about Dive Friends visit: DiveFriends-Bonaire.com and Facebook page. For more info about Zest for Life Yoga visit: zestforlifeyoga.com. To learn more or contact CCS go to CCS-NGO.com.

Photos / Story Julie Morgan

\* \* \*

Scuba Do Dive Center Bonaire at Chogogo Beach Resort celebrated Women's Dive Day on July 20 with 12 lady divers. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) joined the event with a presentation which was followed by a great dive at Alice in Wonderland. The divers returned to the resort to toast women divers everywhere with wine and snacks.

Photo below via Scuba Do



Diving with Scuba Do

learned a bit about the work of Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS) from group member Gwen. She encouraged everyone to contact her with dolphin sightings and photos to help with research, protection and conservation purposes for CCS. So far this year Bottlenose, Spinner, Rough-toothed and Pantropical spotted dolphins have

been seen in the waters of Bonaire. There was even a sighting of a Brydes whale.

The crew was amazing and worked hard to ensure everyone had a good time. Everyone received a Dive Friends goodie bag on return to the dive shop.

## Baked Sweet Potato

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant



**You need:** Sweet potato 400 gr (14.10 oz) • Olive oil • Bonaire sea salt • Black pepper • Baking paper or aluminum foil

Brush the sweet potato with the oil, salt and pepper. Wrap in paper or foil and put in the oven at 150 degrees for about 80 minutes.

Peel off the skin by half and cut the cooked sweet potato and unfold it slightly. Divide the garnish playfully on top and pipe some sauce on top as desired. Sprinkle with Bonaire sea salt and freshly ground pepper.

**Garnish possibilities.** Red pepper rings •

Red onion rings • Spring onion rings • Tomato concasse • Feta, crumbled • Jalapeno pepper rings • Radish strips • Arugula • Fried onions • Cucumber balls • Green asparagus, cooked • Vega (minced meat), fried • Chipotle pepper sauce • Jalapeno mayonnaise (blend mayonnaise with jalapeno pepper)



Each issue 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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# 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](mailto: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](http://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 Gilbert 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/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)

April <b>26</b> -July <b>26</b>	<b>Terramar: SALÍ FO'R LAMAN</b> 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	<b>SACA Art Center Antriol.</b> Kaya Korona 74. Open Wed - Sat. 3 - 10 p.m. <a href="http://www.sacabonaire.com">http://www.sacabonaire.com</a> <b>Jozee Tjoa, May 4 - July 28.</b>
July <b>25 - 26</b>	<b>U.S. Social Security - Federal Benefits Services Visit Aruba.</b> U.S Department of Foreign Affairs, Schotlandstraat #49 Oranjestad. 1 - 5 p.m. <i>Schedule appointment by sending an email to <a href="mailto:FBU.Santo.Domingo@ssa.gov">FBU.Santo.Domingo@ssa.gov</a>. include your name, SS number, telephone and service required. You must bring original documents as well as a photocopy of each document required.</i>
July <b>28</b>	<b>Fun race in Washington Slagbaai National Park</b> Starts 8 a.m. Two circuits: advanced and novice. Free to members of the Bonaire Bicycle Club.
August <b>4 &amp; 25</b>	<b>MoltenWolf Mosaic Workshops.</b> We will demonstrate creating your own personal sushi set. 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 <a href="mailto:MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com">MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com</a> .
Saturday, July <b>27</b>	<b>Lora Roost Count.</b> 6 - 8 a.m. see this page  <b>Cancelled.: Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b>
Friday, August <b>16</b>	<b>Animal Shelter Bonaire Charity Dinner and Auction.</b> Enjoy an evening of fine dining and philanthropy at Red Palm Village Bonaire. Ticket holders will enjoy a delectable four-course dinner paired with exquisite wines followed by an auction all proceeds to Animal Shelter Bonaire. \$175
Monday, August <b>18</b>	<b>Safety Stop (diver safety)</b> 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra. Presentation by Martje Bakker on jelly fish stings

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Clean up Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>
Sunday, August <b>11</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>

**ROOST COUNT VOLUNTEERS**

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- Kids friendly
- Count in pairs

**When?**  
Saturday July 27, 2024  
6:00 am - 8:00 am

**What to do?**  
Count parrots flying off the roosting area

Introduction presentation  
Monday 22 of July 2024

More information or sign up  
[Echobonaire@gmail.com](mailto:Echobonaire@gmail.com)

# 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](mailto: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. In JULY our open studio is Saturdays. Feel like making some art? You are welcome to use our materials and facilities every Saturday from 11 to 2 pm. Cost \$5. Closing for holidays July 27 till August 25.

**Beach Tennis Bonaire** <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>  
<https://beachtennisbonaire.com>

**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](mailto:bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com). <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

**Diver Safety.** Next presentation August 18 by Martje Bakker on jelly fish stings. Hosted by Jason Buttenshaw who holds presentations the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

**Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group** Every other Wednesday beginning July 24, 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m., the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

**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](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)

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

Would you like to learn everything about what we do in the field during nesting season and how we can protect our turtles? Then you can join us in the field! We go out to Klein Bonaire on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to search for nest activity and we still have a few spots open. Sign up by sending an email to [cepa@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.org).

**JOIN OUR NEST MONITORING PATROL ON KLEIN BONAIRE**

We still have some open spots for next week!

To sign up, send an email to [cepa@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.org).

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
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

## Sobremesa seeks to revive Kaminda di Arte

For those who still remember, the Kaminda di Arte of Bonaire was a very nice initiative by a number of artists on the island. Several weekends artists had open houses, a chance to show their studios and sell art.

This year (and annually or twice a year thereafter) we would like to revive this Kaminda di Arte. Our idea is the following:

- The date has not yet been fixed, but we are thinking of December 7 and 8.
- Artists with their own studios open them to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Artists without a studio may be given a space in or around the gallery to exhibit their work.



- Sobremesa takes care of the organization, all the printing and the design thereof (think of maps and posters and flyers). We will also take care of the marketing of the event and will organize an exhibition around the weekend in which all artists are represented.
- Artists who want to participate should consider a contribution of \$30-40 (depending on how many artists will participate)

### HOW TO JOIN:

Are you interested in joining and/or helping? Please contact us by whatsapp +599 700 7115. or email [Sobremesabonaire@gmail.com](mailto:Sobremesabonaire@gmail.com)

**Bonaire Bicycle Club** is heading to Washington Slagbaai National Park for a fun mountain bike race through the park on July 28, 8 a.m. As usual Elite and Fun riders will have a slightly different route with the Elite completing a big loop of 35km and Fun riders completing 24km.

Drinks and snacks will be available at the finish line. The event is free for bike club members and a small fee for non-members. Everyone is welcome.

This will be a great ride to get to know the park a little better. Sponsors are: Sport Bonaire, Indebon, STINAPA, CrossFit Flamingo, CrossFit Palms, Bonaire Nu and Live99FM. Sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/240913778944873>



SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024 AT 8 AM

## Washington Slagbaai National Park Funrace!

Washington Slagbaai National Park

## The Safety Stop in Fiji



Jason Buttenshaw during one of his monthly presentations at Bonaire's Sugar Thief. Photo Julie Morgan

Jason Buttenshaw's Safety Stop, safety and first aid service for divers has gone global. Jason recently visited Taveuni Resort in Fiji and gave a Fitness to Dive presentation for the diving guests. In a personal session for the dive staff Jason spoke about "A Culture of Safety - and what does professionalism mean?" He taught the use of a tourniquet and gifted one to the resort.

Jason said, "While I was there, my skills did not go to rest, I medically evaluated a guest with possible DCS symptoms."

After a month on Fiji, Jason is continuing his Safety Stop presentations at Sugar Thief. Every month 15 – 35 people ranging from dive staff, locals, chamber docs and tourists attend to learn more about dive safety.

The next Safety Stop is August 18 with guest speaker Martje Bakker speaking on jelly fish stings. Martje has worked with the "jellyfish guy" Bud Gillan who writes for *The Reporter* frequently.

Photo Julie Morgan



**THE SAFETY STOP**

The Bonaire Reporter July 24 - August 7, 2024

## No Nos Zjilea in July

Mangazina di Rei is taking a break in July but will hopefully return for the August edition. Be ready to enjoy the amazing cultural presentations, food, music and dancing along with our wonderful host Iza in Mercera.

See, Feel and Taste the culture of Bonaire.

Photo:  
Izain with a couple of Nos Zjilea guests  
photo Jullie Morgan



# Second Quarter and June Tourism updates

**Miles Mercera, CEO of TCB**, shared the second quarter's preliminary results. Bonaire welcomed 94,047 stayover visitors during the year's first half (Jan-June 2024). In the same period in 2023, the total was 88,749, and in 2022 it was 85,100. Between January and May, 89 cruise ships visited Bonaire, with 208,810 passengers. In 2023, 108 cruise ships visited, carrying 275,702 passengers. Mercera also mentioned upcoming trade shows and other events in which TCB will take part, as well as ongoing campaigns with KLM, TUI, PSV, and so on. On the island, TCB is currently preparing for this year's Regatta event, Bonaire Tourism Summit, Taste of Bonaire events, and Bonaire by Night, to name a few. Different press trips from the European and North American markets are planned for the upcoming months. TCB and island partners are preparing for the inaugural flights from JetBlue and Corendon in November. TCB also shared the industry's challenges for 2024, such as the necessary funding required to achieve the objectives outlined in the STMP 2017-2027.

**Veroesjka de Windt, CEO of BONHATA**, reported that the occupancy rate (Occ %) slightly increased in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Still, the numbers show a dip in Occ % after March, which is consistent with 2023. The first quarter of 2024 started with a lower Average Daily Rate (ADR) than in 2023. However, by April, the ADR had stabilized, surpassing the ADR of Q2 in 2023. This positive change is likely due to strategic pricing adjustments by accommodation providers. Q2 displayed a mixed Revenue per available room (RevPAR) but a generally improv-

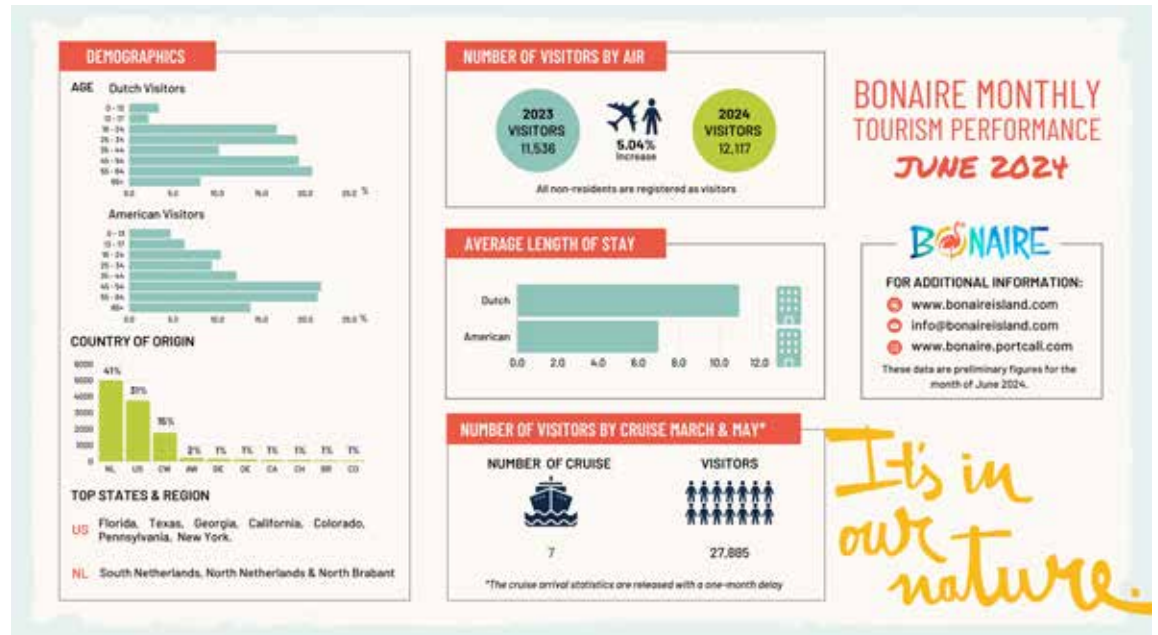
ing trend. May and June saw significant improvements compared to the same months in 2023, likely due to increased ADR and a stabilization or improvement in occupancy rates. The forecast for the third quarter of 2024 shows a promising outlook with slight improvements in ADR and RevPAR. Although the Occ% shows a slight decrease, it remains relatively stable, indicating consistent demand.

**Maarten van der Scheer, Director of BIA**, noted a slight reduction in the number of flights from the Nether-

lands for the second quarter of 2024 compared to 2023. The inter-island carriers' development was stable, while the North American market had a strong April performance. The outlook for the summer months looks good, with slight growth for the European and North American markets. Furthermore, the airport continues with development throughout the year.

TCB extends a special thank you to Delfins Beach Resort for sponsoring the meeting room.

TCB



## Miles is leaving



up on Bonaire. He promised to rebrand Bonaire tourism and he did with "It's in our Nature". Miles promised to develop a new relationship with the government and develop air service and he did. Several new carriers are now gracing our airways: WestJet, and in November we will see JetBlue and Corendon. He promised to renovate data collection, and he did with surveys at the airport for departing guests to measure their Bonaire visit. And for the first time press conference quarterly reports are held on Bonaire tourism. Miles proposed the new visitor tax which took effect but still needs some work as government is a major part of that equation. The TCB of five years ago looks nothing like it is today.

Miles is also responsible for putting together the Tourism Summit that brings not only local, but international stakeholders together. The next one is slated for September 27.

Under his leadership, TCB has reorganized the Bonaire Regatta and for the first time in many years, we are appraised of the schedule months prior to the event in October.

Bonaire's new government cut TCB's \$3 million+ budget by more than \$1 assigning a 2 million budget for 2024. This has resulted in the cancellation of several marketing projects and many have been streamlined due to the cuts. Have you noticed there are no summer Taste of Bonaire events scheduled?

So why is Miles leaving? According to him, it is for a personal family reason.

Miles said, "Duty calls, my mother needs me. I want to spend time with her and experience the next decade with her. I can't commit myself 100% to this job."

Miles is working out a deal for a full-time job in Curacao and will assume work with his own consultancy business. *Julie Morgan / Photo via TCB*

## The Chamber of Commerce Academy starts in August

The Chamber of Commerce Academy will start on August 27 and 29, 2024, both in Papiamentu and in the Dutch language if there are enough registrations.

### The curriculum

1. Who is my customer 2. My Value Proposition 3. Marketing & Communication 4. CRM Customer Relationship 5. Revenue streams 6. Key Resources 7. The Perfect Pitch 8. Strong together 9. Tax 10. Financing 11. Business plan

The registration fee to participate in the course is \$106,- incl. ABB. For this, participants receive the complete course, an introductory meeting, a final assignment and a certificate after the course. The course is given biweekly in the evenings and sometimes on Saturdays in the training room of the Chamber of Commerce at Kaya Amsterdam 23.

### Information

- Introduction evening will take place on August 22, 2024 (location TBA)
- Start Chamber of Commerce Academy August 29 Kaya Amsterdam 23 (Module 1)
- To guarantee your place, we ask you to make payment and send us proof of payment

KvK





# Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

## Jacks (but no Jills...)

One of the wonderful things about watching wild animals underwater is that underwater animals let us get much closer than terrestrial animals, while continuing with their usual routines. Of course, some of their routines aren't all that innovative: butterflyfish peck away at corals and rocks, scorpionfish lie still, waiting to ambush their prey, damselfish chase everyone away from their territories.

One fish approaches hunting in more inventive ways. That fish is the bar jack, swimming in most places around Bonaire and readily available for us to watch. In fact, since bar jacks are so commonly seen by divers and snorkelers, it's common for us to not spend a lot of time watching them.

Big mistake. Biiig mistake.

Look at a kid's drawing of a fish, and you'll probably see the shape of a bar jack, the same general fish-shape as yellowtail snappers. And, like yellowtails, bar jacks like to make the most of every available advantage when they hunt.

That's why, one afternoon, Karen Anders and I found ourselves being used by bar jacks to improve their hunting success. We were lionfishing at around 50'. Whenever Karen or I moved closer to the reef, or speared a lionfish and



This black jack joined our group one night off San Salvador.. Photo Dee Scarr

moved it to our holder— anytime we disturbed fish in any way – a pair of bar jacks would zoom in after any critter who had become preoccupied with our presence. Since the jacks were zooming so close to us, it was obvious that they were hunting as a team and, clearly, had adapted their strategies to include our actions.

Woo hoo! I love being accepted as just another marine animal!

You've seen bar jacks with other marine animals, right? They're always among the hunting parties accompanying bottom-disturbers such as goatfish and spotted eagle rays or even hunting morays. If anything is going on, there's likely to be a bar jack or two there to take advantage of the action, hoping to gobble small fish, shrimp, or just about any other available creatures (but not fireworms).

The other reason bar jacks hang out inside the reef slope is to patronize cleaner stations. Wherever there's a lonely coral head, surrounded by sand and rubble, there's likely to be a bar jack hovering over it, enjoying the services of a juvenile French angelfish, or maybe some cleaner gobies.

No jacks, not even bar jacks, are really reef residents. They swim along the reef in the blue water, they may occasionally take a side trip over the reef and into shallow waters, or they hang out near the reef. John Randall, in *Caribbean Reef Fishes*, wrote, jacks "are not reef fishes; however, they may enter the reef community by feeding on the resident fishes."(!)

Schools of horse-eye jacks, with their bright yellow forked tails, often swirl

beneath moored vessels along Bonaire's dropoff. Huge schools of bigeye scad (I think these are the ones locally called masbango) and round (I think) scad (called moulo) come and go all along our coastline.

Jacks are swift swimmers, they all have forked tails and are silvery with small scales.

The least silvery jack is the black jack, which is said to be a deep-water fish but which I've seen a couple of times on Bonaire shallower than 50'. Black jacks were the first fish I ever saw who adapted their hunting techniques to use the light from night divers' lights, back in 1979 when I worked on San Salvador. We went to the same general area for all our night dives; the dropoff there started at around 50' but went pretty deep. After a few weeks, black jacks began to appear out of the blue water, snagging shrimp and larval fish and anything else not-too-big out of the water column. We were flabbergasted, impressed, and greatly entertained.



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." *The Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. through [touchthesea.com](http://touchthesea.com).



## Bonaire's sky park - the Perseid Meteor Showers

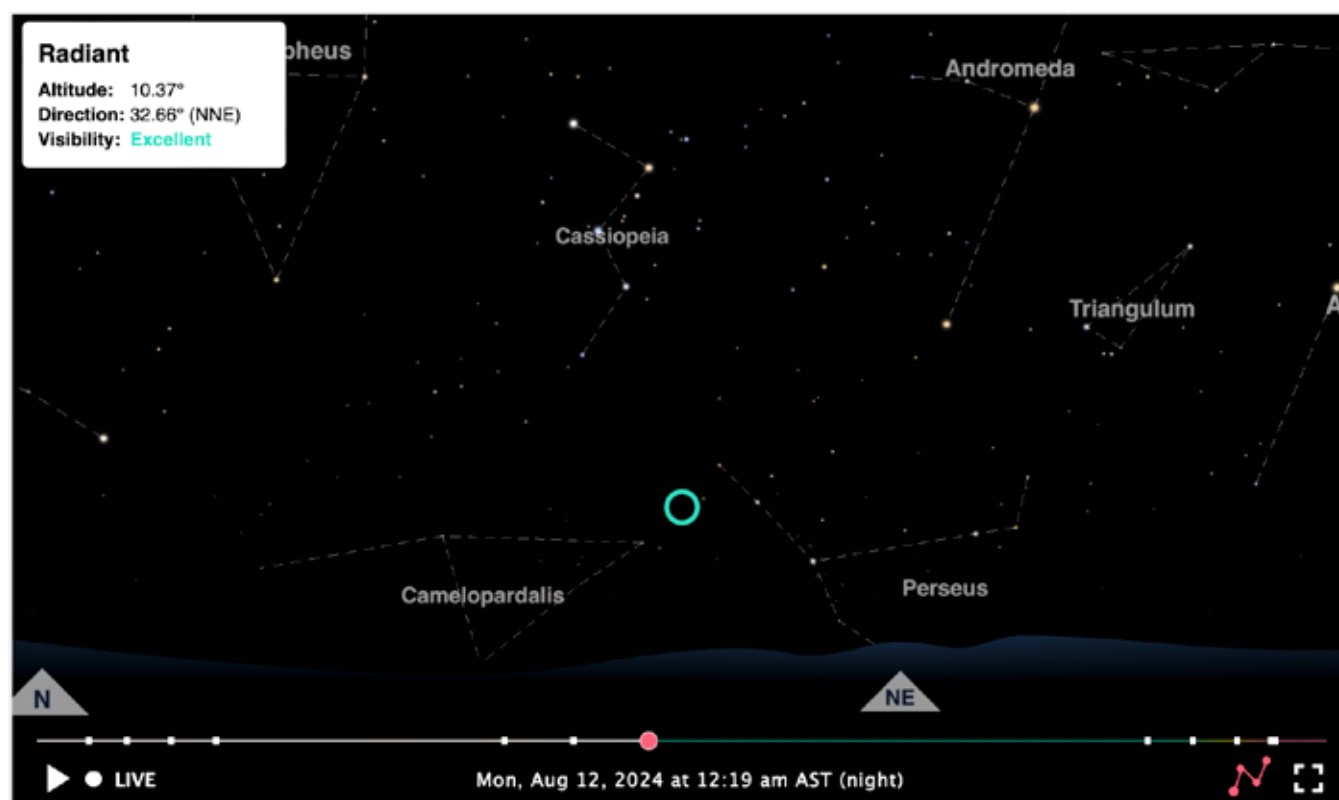
Thanks to [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com)

In 2024, the Perseids will peak on the night between Aug 11-12

The Perseids are one of the brighter meteor showers of the year. They occur every year between July 17 and August 24 and tend to peak around August 9-13.

Made of tiny space debris from the comet Swift-Tuttle, the Perseids are named after the constellation Perseus. This is because the direction, or radiant, from which the shower seems to come in the sky lies in the same direction as Perseus. The Perseids are widely sought after by astronomers and stargazers because most years at its peak, one can see 60 to 100 meteors in an hour from a dark place.

The website [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com) provides readers with an Interactive Meteor Shower Sky Map. You can set the map for your location and the date. The map to the right is set for Kralendijk and the night of August 11 / 12. They also provide a table that is updated daily when the Perseids are active and shows the position of the



The Interactive Meteor Shower Sky Map shows the position of the radiant (the circle) in the night sky above Kralendijk (Change location). Note that meteors can appear in any part of the sky, not just near the radiant. Select dates above the sky map.

radiant in the sky for the upcoming night.

[Timeanddate.com](http://Timeanddate.com) warns that while you don't need any special equipment or skill to

view a meteor shower, you do need patience. After you find a secluded viewing spot away

from the city lights, your eyes may take 15 to 20 minutes to get used to the dark.

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# Bonaire's donkeys

from page 1

The current water situation for donkeys isn't working. The Pos (wells) are in poor maintenance, and many don't work at all. BDPL gave a request list to the government to ensure safety for the donkeys and public to R&O, KPCN (police) and the road department: Repair the wells and clear brush from roadsides. All departments said no.

McLean added, It's important to provide a balance of local information and scientific facts on donkeys such as: Donkeys are browsers not grazers. They continue to move. Donkeys seek out certain plants for nutritional value and then move on. They don't eat everything before it's all decimated. Officials say they are grazers and it's not true.

## McLean's suggestions:

Designating an area for a donkey preserve to manage a group of free roaming and wild donkeys is important. The government could start by forming a committee with members from nonprofits (like BDPL) and others. A veterinarian could identify the location where donkeys could be safely rehomed to or managed in their current areas. Employ the use of fertility control to reduce the number of foals born annually. Strategically place volunteer-maintained water troughs in areas where donkeys can be monitored.

Her other ideas include nationalizing Bonaire's donkey and naming it one of the many special animals that is a part of the Bonaire ecosystem. She recommends the government add speed breaks in areas where donkeys are found, post speed limits and give speeding tickets for excessive speeds.

"Use your heritage, why get rid of something that has been here so long? Should we remove everyone that has come here recently?" said McLean.

*Amy McLean, PhD is an Associate Professor of Teaching Equine Science at UC Davis Animal Science World Donkey Breeds Project. For more information about BDPL visit their Facebook page.*

*Photos / story Julie Morgan*

## Supreme Court says Aruba and Curaçao can't block same sex marriage

The Supreme Court has upheld lower court rulings on Aruba and Curaçao that opened marriage to persons of the same sex. An interest group had gone to court on both islands, arguing their long-standing refusal to recognize same sex marriages constituted discrimination and violated provisions of international treaties and the Constitutions of the two countries. Both islands appealed, arguing that eliminating discrimination is a function of the legislature, not the judiciary, and that same sex marriage violated local religious beliefs. The Supreme Court disagreed.

The Court of First Instance in both islands had found that the failure to offer an alternative, such as a registered partnership or other legal entity, meant that blocking same sex marriage was discriminatory. According to the court, marriage has an intrinsic (symbolic and emotional) value that transcends the cohabitation contract and the registered partnership. The court took into account that the objections of opponents of same-sex marriage often have a religious basis. Freedom of religion must be guaranteed, but according to the court it does not go so far that one can impose one's own religious norms and values on another. *DMR*

# Pet of the Week

## Please meet our cat of the week, Myron.

Myron is a very friendly six month old male with tabby and white coloring. When you pick him up he will put both paws around your neck and give you a hug.

Myron came to us with his three siblings as one month old kittens. They were found in the bushes on the island with no mother to be found. Myron and his brother Mika are still here waiting for their forever home. It would be great to take them together, but if not possible, please consider Myron.

Myron loves to be held, sit in your lap or just lay around keeping cool. He will do fine with children and other cats.

Come and meet Myron and take him to his forever home!

Myron 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](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)**



**Myron**

## Animal Shelter News

### PAWS & FOOTPRINTS



Are you looking to get your fitness steps in? Would you like to make a Shelter dog happy and let them stretch their legs at the same time? Animal Shelter Bonaire needs you. We are looking to restart the Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group.

Paws Foot Prints will be every other Wednesday beginning July 24, 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. We will also light refreshments for walkers and the dogs.

Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m., the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

Why are we doing this? Shelter dogs come from unknown backgrounds, dispositions, experiences and habits. Some dogs are social butterflies and adjust well to the chaos and noise of the animal shelter environment, while others experience incredible stress. Taking the dogs on walks helps them socialize, relieve excess energy and lower stress. Our primary goal is to provide a fun and safe experience for everyone.

## Some things to note:

- Dog walkers must be physically capable of walking dogs independently, without assistance, and be able to acknowledge and understand staff instructions.
- Staff members will determine appropriate matches between dogs and volunteers.
- Animal Shelter Bonaire reserves the right to refuse a volunteer access to a dog if the situation is deemed unsafe for either the volunteer or the dog.
- Volunteer dog walkers must be at least 12 years of age. Please do not bring others under the age of 12 to assist unless approved by Animal Shelter staff members.
- Be sure to wear weather appropriate clothing and safe, comfortable walking shoes.
- Please do not bring treats, as some dogs experience stomach upset with changes in diet.
- Physical discipline of any dog for any reason is unacceptable.

*Let's have some fun!*

*Marissa Lamers*



# Rescuing a moray eel

itself, without choking itself to death.

I knew I had to document what we found to show the dive office, but soon Joan and I also realized if we did not take immediate action there was a strong chance that the eel would not survive.

With Joan acting as the safety diver, I assessed the situation to determine what might happen if I tried to free the eel. After determining that I could safely use a knife, I reached in to cut one of the fishing lines. I was unable to cut any ad-

ditional lines, cutting shears would have been better than a knife, but it appeared what I did allowed the eel to work itself free.

Over the next several days we revisited the location and could not find any trace of the eel. We considered that a very good sign and believe that we were successful in freeing the eel.

*Story and photos of eel wrapped in fishing line by Alan Zale. Photo of Alan working to free the eel by Phil Potts.*



*Alan Zale spent 25 years shooting for The New York Times as both a freelance and temporary staff photographer. He is a contributing photographer to Catholic New York, the official paper for the Archdiocese of New York and The Scarsdale (NY) Inquirer. Alan is also the photographer for the Hartsdale (NY) Fire Department.*



Like many divers, one of our favorite underwater subjects are spotted moray eels. We are always looking under crevices and coral heads to see where they might be hiding.

On a recent dive, I spotted the familiar pattern of a spotted moray eel tucked underneath some coral. As I got closer, the eel seemed to be twisted in a strange position. Joan and I both thought something did not seem right and it started to cause us some concern.

Upon closer examination we both realized that the eel's body and mouth were wrapped in fishing line, with a hook in its mouth. The eel was struggling to free



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