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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Diveheart Buddy training at Buddy Dive
Photo Julie Morgan

Diveheart gives the disabled a new identity

"Water has many contradictions: it is heavier than air but immersed in it we feel weightless; if we try to walk in water we are slowed, yet if we glide, we can fly."
Greg Lindquist/You Are Nature

Diveheart is a non-profit organization that provides any child, adult or veteran with a disability the opportunity to glide and fly in water through scuba diving. And Diveheart came to Bonaire last week.

Jim Elliott, Diveheart founder/president and Tinamarie Hernandez, executive director, made an assessment visit to Buddy Dive in hopes of including the resort and Bonaire to their growing list of disabled friendly dive destinations.

Elliott explained, Scuba therapy gives disabled divers something to identify as other than a handicapped person. Their friends will ask what did you do this weekend, and they freak out hearing this disabled person went scuba diving.

The new disabled diver will say, "Oh my God, I'm standing up underwater. Oh my God, you made my year."

gram they [the divers] had a dramatic difference. When they think they can't breathe underwater and then they do and then they stand up it changes their whole perspective," said Elliott. "People with autism find confidence in this space. The whole program is beautiful and accepts all sorts of people."

To be part of the program, the disabled individuals undergo the e-learning with PADI, NAUI, SSI or SDI and must have some understanding of the physics and physiology. They must be taught to the organization's standards for certification until they can't be taught further. To be an adaptive diver in Diveheart they must be in a team

with two Adaptive Dive Buddies to complete the four open water dives.

Adaptive Dive Buddies must earn the certification in either the Advanced Adaptive Dive Buddy or Adaptive Scuba instructor course and complete 30 experiences diving with adaptive divers prior to certification.

Family members and friends of the adaptive diver can become Diveheart Buddies and travel to dive resorts all over the world.

During Diveheart's visit at Buddy Dive, several members of the dive team engaged in a short Buddy training. They were taught how to lift a disabled diver in and out of the water off the back of a boat. This training can be used to help disabled or elderly divers using the same technique.

Diveheart schedules dive trips to locations throughout the world. In the Caribbean, Cayman Brac, Curaçao, Grenada, Cozumel and Roatan are recent or current trip destinations. The resorts must qualify as disabled friendly with wheelchair accessible rooms, restaurant and dive shop. The rooms must have beds, shower, toilet, light fixtures and grab bars that a wheelchair user can access on their own.

Out of six resorts on Bonaire *The Reporter* found four that were somewhat wheelchair friendly or



Jim Elliott, Diveheart founder/president and Tinamarie Hernandez, executive director Photo Julie Morgan

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"Before and after the pool pro-

Exec Council endangering fuel supply report says

Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) has accused the Executive Council of endangering Bonaire's energy supply, waste management, and drinking water production and transport. In a report the ILT says the Council, embroiled in a dispute with the central government over the construction of a new fuel terminal, is failing to make a decision. The Executive Council is therefore taking "irresponsibly high risks for the population," the ILT report warns.

According to *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties*, the ILT inspectors report that they have found "considerable backlogs in the area of permits, supervision and enforcement." Of the 40 industrial companies on the island 28 appear not to have the required

nuisance law permit. Those posing the greatest risk to safety and the environment are the waste processor Selibon and Bonaire Bon Transition (formerly Bonaire Fuel Terminals).

Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties says the Executive Council has refused the support offered by the central government to eliminate the backlog with expert help from one of the environmental services in the European Netherlands. Sources say that the island government does not want "nosy people sent by The Hague" on its premises. The ILT report, like other recent critical reports, has been kept under wraps by the Executive Council, which is known for its sensitivity regarding nosy people. *DMR*

Exec Council cutting \$64.4 million from budget

The Executive Council is cutting \$64.4 million from the draft budget for 2025, according to *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties*. Projects that will be cancelled or postponed will be the construction of a container port (18 million), road maintenance (23.9 million) and the renovation of the government office (22.5 million).

The Board of Financial Supervision pointed out to Deputy for Finance Abraham that after 2025, when the major cuts in financial support planned by the new government in the Netherlands take effect, the island will not have sufficient liquid assets to

support the spending. The Island Council will likely decide to cancel planned investments as well.

The Executive Council hoped to negotiate interest free loans from the government. State Secretary Szabó said The Hague preferred to have the BES islands borrow on the capital market. That is prohibited by the Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba Finance Act (FinBES), but Szabó said The Hague was going to change that law too. *DMR*

Sustainable waste manager appointed

Executive Council Member Anjelica Cicilia has announced that a Sustainable Waste Management Program Manager has been appointed for Bonaire. The waste manager's task is separate but supportive of the urgent efforts to bring the dangerous situation at the land fill under control.

The waste manager is tasked with developing programs for waste separation, processing, and utilization of waste products from the landfill.

Some waste products can be considered raw materials, Cicilia said. They can be recovered and put to use.

The current focus is on separating glass, which could be

ground into sand and used in construction and road building. "But we see many opportunities in separating other waste." New business models are being looked at for separating and processing waste to create new materials to be used on the island.

The agreements between the Public Entity of Bonaire and Selibon will have to be recalibrated, Cicilia said. She acknowledged that "Selibon's main business, waste collection, is being carried out very well." But the recovery and processing of waste products will require a different mind set and expertise. Cicilia did not identify the newly appointed waste management manager. *DMR*



STINAPA is building an access ramp for people with disabilities at the floating swimming pool at Parke Tului. The work is expected to be completed before Christmas. *DMR*

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Our Facebook page brings you news that arrives between issues

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**Island News
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Duo Xtreme welcomes 80 riders in its 14th year



Duo Xtreme Bonaire 2024 held October 20 saw 80 enthusiastic cyclists from Bonaire, Aruba, Curaçao and the Netherlands compete in the toughest mountain bike on Bonaire.

The Duo is held yearly in the fall when the heat should be a bit cooler. But that was not the case this year making the challenge for the duo teams of riders even more

difficult in both the shorter 55k and 77k routes.

Cyclopaths team member and second place winner in Sportive Men category 32-99 Omar el Hage said, "The longer route was a true test for more experienced riders. This route led us through the infamous section known as 'The Hell,' which severely tested the physical and mental fitness of the participants. Overall, the trails are

not too technical, but the variation of trail surfaces and natural surroundings makes the race special."

The route began and ended at Karel's Beach Bar with water stations along the way manned by some 46 volunteers.

Duo Xtreme Winners on page 7

FOR SALE Crown Ridge 2 Oceanfront Villa with Beach Access



- Location: Sabadeco
- Lot size: 586 m2 / 6307 sq. ft.
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, walk-in closet, garage

- Pool with sundeck, rinse tank, outdoor shower
- Modern design, vaulted ceilings

Virtual Tour



Asking price \$1,790,000 US Dollar

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POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Oct. 24. Between 2 and 4:30 p.m. a spare battery was stolen from an E-Bike that was in the parking lot at Te Amo Beach.

Oct. 23. At Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) between 11:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. a beach bag, backpack and cool bag were stolen while the owners were snorkeling. The bags contained, among other things, several glasses, two Luminox cameras, an iPhone 5 mini, keys and a wallet with cash.

Oct. 21 / 22. While parked in an open area on Kaya Internashonal, a rental car had both tires on the driver's side stolen between 7:50 a.m. on Monday and 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday. The vehicle was left on stone blocks

Oct. 18 / 21. A report was made of vandalism and theft from two company cars that were parked on the premises of a company on Kaya Korona. Between Friday, October 18 at around 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. on Monday, October 21, the rear window was smashed of a locked pick-up truck. The hood was opened and a battery taken. The battery of another car, which was not locked, was also taken.

Oct. 21. Between 6 and 11:30 p.m. while parked on the premises of a tourist accommodation on E.E.G. Boulevard a rented car had its front and rear right tires stolen

Oct. 19. Eight pallets of eggs each containing 30 eggs were taken between Friday, 5:45 p.m. and Saturday, around 1:20 p.m. from a farm near Tanki Bentura in Rincon.

Oct. 16. Between 11:30 and 11:45 a.m. at Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) a blue Adidas backpack with contents was stolen while the owner was swimming. The bag contained, among other things, an Apple iPhone 11, an Apple iPhone 16, a Casio watch and a wallet with cash. Around 6:30 p.m. a citizen turned in the same bag with contents to the police station and stated that he had found it at Kaya Embira.

Traffic accidents /

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.

Oct. 24. Around 2:35 p.m. a man, 33, was arrested on Kaya Promé for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was given a 5-hour driving ban and fined because he was unable to show a driver's license. The suspect's vehicle collided with a stationary car on Kaminda Turistiko and then drove on. Police found the vehicle in Rincon.

Oct. 20. Around 7:05 p.m. a car and a pick-up collided on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. It was reported that the drivers wanted to fight each other but when the patrol arrived, no fight was found. When tested both drivers were found to have consumed more than the permitted amount of alcohol. A man, 43, was fined because he had no driver's license or insurance. A man, 55, was given a 5-hour driving ban.

Oct. 19. Around 11:45 p.m. a man, 39, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and given a 5-hour driving ban. He was involved in a collision between two vehicles on Kaya Korona.

Oct. 18. Around 10:05 p.m. a man, 43, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and his driver's license was confiscated. His car was reported driving without lights, swerving on the road, before it crashed into a curb on Kaya Korona. A patrol found the driver at a bar on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez.

Oct. 18. Around 11:20 p.m. on the road to Rincon, near 'Subi Colombia' a pick-up truck drove into the mondi. Both occupants were minors. The 15-year-old driver had taken the vehicle without his parents' permission. The driver stated that he was driving from Rincon to Playa when he was blinded by an oncoming vehicle, and lost control of the steering wheel. The ambulance crew checked both occupants. The vehicle was towed away.

Oct. 18. Around 6:45 p.m. two cars collided on Kaya Internashonal because one driver did not give way. One of the drivers was treated on the spot by the ambulance crew.

Oct. 15. Around 5:25 p.m. a pick-up and a scooter collided on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez. The driver of the scooter was injured and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The scooter was taken to the police station because his documents were not in order.

Traffic control /Speed checks

Oct. 24. During the visit of a cruise ship, the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN), and the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate (T&H) of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB), carried out a traffic control at the stadium and the south pier specifically aimed at drivers who transport tourists. A total of 25 vehicles were checked for a valid driver's license, insurance papers and the necessary permits for transporting passengers. A number of drivers did not have the necessary documents immediately available in their vehicle, but these were later provided and turned out to be in order.

Arrests

Oct. 24. A home on Kaya Linda was searched in the morning by the KPCN investigation team and the Special Assignments Group (GBO). Suspected narcotics were seized for further investigation. Around 4:50 p.m. the suspect reported to the police station. A man, 30, was arrested for threats, assault with a weapon and vandalism.

Oct. 22. In the early morning a house located on Kaya Jupiter was searched as part of an investigation into fraud and human trafficking. A woman, 42, was arrested. Several items were seized.

Oct. 19. Around 2:45 a.m. a man, 40, was arrested on Kaya L.D. Gerharts for assault with a weapon. Earlier that evening, the suspect had hit an employee of a catering establishment on Kaya Bo-

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice

Hi Bob – I am considering selling my property on Bonaire, what improvements or repairs should I make before listing the property? Marcel T.

Hi Marcel –

When it comes to selling your home three of the most important things to concentrate on are:

• **Curb Appeal** – Does your home make a good “first impression”? It is always a good idea to clean up the outside of your home to remove any weeds, dead leaves and overgrown trees and plant your garden to give an open and inviting feeling.

• **Clutter** – Does your home feel cluttered and full of a lot of “stuff”? Is your home filled with a lot of things that you don't want to get rid of? It's a good idea to get rid of things that you don't need or don't use anymore. Those things that you still love but don't need can always be sold at a porch sale, donated to places like the Animal Shelter, or recycled. Clearing out the clutter will make the rooms in your home seem both larger and more open.

• **Minor repairs** – Are there some small projects that need to be fixed, but you never have time to finish? Fixing that broken gate, replacing an old lock or buying a new light fixture will all help your home make a good first impression. Buyers will

naire on the head with a beer bottle and then left.

Oct. 16. In the morning a house on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt was searched by KPCN detectives and the Special Assignments Group (GBO). A man, 19, was arrested for violating the BES Opium Act. Suspected narcotics were seized for further investigation.



often think that if the “little things” are not in good repair, the big things are probably not in good shape either.

After you have taken care of the “small things”, your real estate broker may also suggest some larger projects that could help you sell your home faster and for more money which is what every seller, and every broker wants.

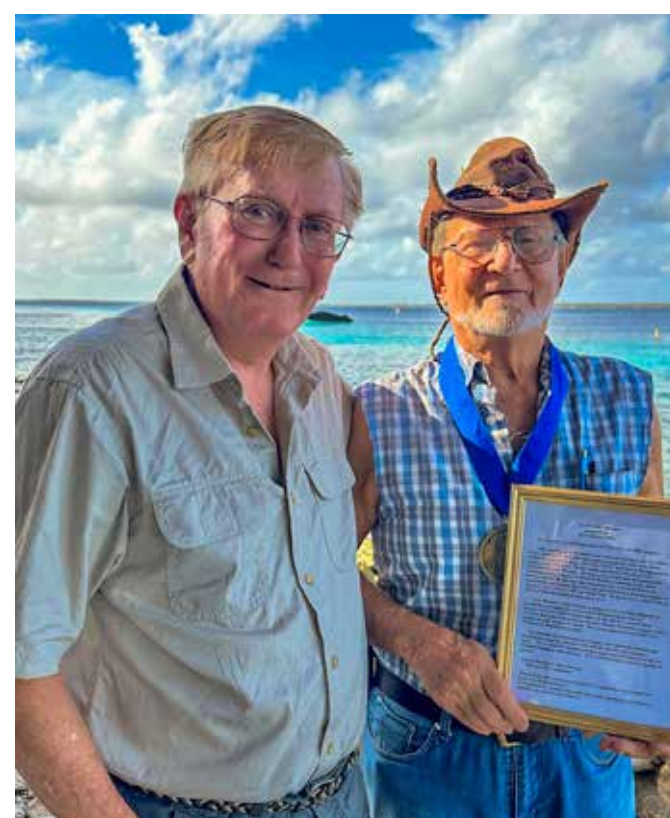
Regards, *Bob Bartikoski,*
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

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.
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Fire

Oct. 16. Around 3:20 a.m. the central control room received a report that a car without a license plate was on fire on Kaya Caribe. The fire brigade extinguished the fire and no one was injured. The vehicle was completely burned out. The cause of the fire is unknown.



Al Catalfumo was awarded the late Captain Don Stewart's ACCOLADE Award that recognizes individuals for their contributions to the aquatic environment. The medal and citation were presented by George Buckley and Janet Thibault of the ACCOLADE Foundation. The medal was designed by Stewart and has been awarded to only a few choice individuals.

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

Urgent call for expanding the Piskabon subsidy

Attention: Members of the Island Council and the Executive Council, CC: Governor John Soliano

Piskabon Fisheries Association hereby urgently requests your attention to the fishing sector on Bonaire. For the second year in a row, Piskabon is told that there is \$150,000 in the budget for the cooperative. This means that Piskabon cannot grow, and inflation and price increases are not considered.

The fishing sector in Bonaire has an average turnover of 1000 kilos per day. Every restaurant offers the catch of the day to their customers, but the local market must also be served. The people of Bonaire grew up with a piece of fish on their plate, at least three times a week. The social, cultural and economic value of the fishing sector on Bonaire is of great importance, many fathers and grandfathers are breadwinners for their families as fishermen, a difficult task and ordeal at sea, without any security.

Challenges in the fishing sector:

There are also many challenges for the fishermen; no optimally functioning slipways, fishing ports without basic facilities such as fresh water, lighting and surveillance. Fishing boats are barely insured because annual premiums are too high, fishermen do not build up a pension and have no daily guarantee that they will catch

fish, so no income.

Two years ago, Piskabon ensured that permits were requested for the repair and/or construction of slipways at various locations on the island. These permits are ready but cannot be executed. At the end of January, Piskabon submitted an inspection report on the repair work on the pier in Sorobon, but never heard from the OLB again what would be done to improve the situation for the fishermen.

Growth and survival of the cooperative:

Piskabon exists for seven years and currently has 128 members, most of them professional fishermen. After many previous attempts, we have finally succeeded in uniting fishermen and entering important partnerships with, among others, Stinapa and WWF Dutch Caribbean to stimulate and guarantee sustainability in the sector. The cooperative has achieved a lot for its members and has demonstrated its right to exist. But there is still much to do and without the support of our local leaders, goals will not be achieved. There is a lot of potential and only if we work together and pay attention to the importance of the fishing sector now, will we make progress. We can do it ourselves, if we want to. Goals to be achieved include a central selling point for fish, introducing a quality mark for fish and exporting or freezing fish for months with less catch.

Specific requests to the Island Council:

1. Taking care of the infrastructure, including slipways, piers and the road to Playa Frans.
2. Recognize the importance of the fishing sector and place it as the only form of self-reliance that currently exists on Bonaire.
3. Determine the primary and secondary tasks of the fishing sector and record them in an 'island decision'.
4. Recognize Piskabon as the main organization actively working for fishermen on Bonaire and encourage cooperation between the LVV service and Piskabon, by showing more support and initiative towards the organization.
5. Increase the budgeted subsidy amount for the year 2025 to the submitted application or at least to the adjusted budget in the appendix.
6. Working on a multi-year plan for the progress of fishermen on Bonaire, by supporting the cooperative in its growth and thus better serving the sector in the future.

Finally:

Piskabon would like to urgently request that you consult all our submitted documents at the Post and Archives department and, where necessary, the board is ready to speak to you in more depth or answer questions.

*Yours faithfully, Ernest de Lanoy, Chairman
Appendix: adjusted version of the 2025 budget*

Scientists Warn: AMOC Collapse Could Be Imminent, Triggering Centuries of Global Climate Disruption

Urgent Call from Climate Experts

Forty-four of the world's leading climate scientists are sounding the alarm on the potential collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), a key driver of the Earth's climate. In an open letter published on October 21, climatologist Michael Mann of the University of Pennsylvania and other experts are urging Nordic leaders to take immediate action to prevent what they describe as a "devastating" event with far-reaching consequences.

The letter emphasizes that the risks of a weakened AMOC have been underestimated, and that urgent steps are needed to mitigate the danger.

How the AMOC Works

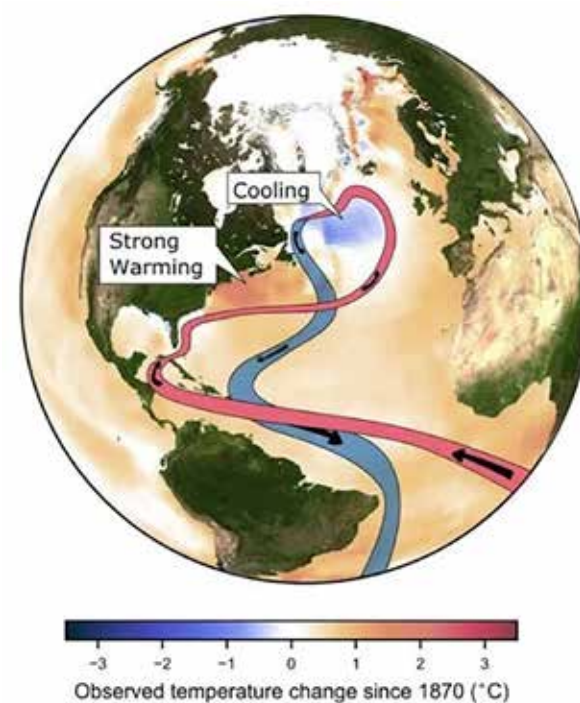
The AMOC is a vast system of ocean currents that flows like a giant river across the Atlantic Ocean, transporting warm, salty water from the tropics to northern Europe. This process acts as a heat pump for the North Atlantic, helping regulate global climate patterns.

As the warm tropical waters travel northward, they cool, evaporating and warming the atmosphere along the way. The remaining cold, dense water sinks nearly three kilometers (about two miles) near Iceland, creating an enormous "underwater waterfall" that drives this global circulation. The water then flows through the ocean's depths toward Antarctica, eventually resurfacing near South America and completing the cycle.

This system is vital to maintaining Europe's relatively warm climate and influences weather patterns across the globe.

The AMOC's Role in Global Climate

The AMOC is one of the planet's largest heat-transport systems, carrying 50 times more energy than the total human energy consumption. It not only moderates Europe's climate, but also impacts the ocean's absorption of carbon



dioxide, oxygen distribution, and rainfall patterns in the tropics.

However, recent studies show the AMOC is weakening. Less heat is moving from the tropics to northern regions, as evidenced by the "cold blob" in the North Atlantic—an area where temperatures have dropped over the last 20 years, even as the rest of the planet warms. This cooling is a clear signal that the AMOC's flow is slowing, just as climate models predicted in response to increasing greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, the AMOC's strength has decreased by about 15% since the mid-20th century, making it the weakest it has been in over 1,000 years.

Approaching a Tipping point

As the AMOC slows, scientists warn that the AMOC could soon reach a tipping point due to global warming.

Once crossed, this threshold may trigger an irreversible and uncontrollable decline in the system, leading to drastic climate disruptions.

Global Impacts of an AMOC Collapse

If the AMOC collapses, the effects would be catastrophic. The effects include a cooling of the northern hemisphere, particularly northwestern Europe. There would also be a shift of the tropical rainfall belt to the south, which is bad because the rains will move away from the rainforests to regions that are not used to so much rainfall. So this will mean droughts in some regions and floods in others.

AMOC collapse would also have a major impact on the northern Atlantic sea level, which would rise by half a metre or so, in addition to the rise caused by global heating. It would also reduce the CO₂ uptake of the ocean because AMOC sinking in the northern Atlantic takes a lot of CO₂ down into the deep oceans where it is safely locked away from the atmosphere.

How much time do we have left?

The scientists caution that without immediate climate action, the AMOC could collapse within the next few decades, although exact predictions are uncertain. The latest report (2023) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests "medium confidence that the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation will not collapse abruptly before 2100." However, many scientists believe this may underestimate the urgency of the situation.

There is a remote but unsettling possibility that the AMOC may have already crossed its tipping point. If so, the system could be in terminal decline, though we might not realize it for years. The tipping point itself is not marked by any dramatic events, but once crossed, the AMOC would be doomed to a slow collapse, with the full impact potentially taking 50 to 100 years to unfold.

FSPB

Record number volunteer for outplanting



The announcement of the Mangrove Maniacs outplanting event on October 26 had tremendous response of volunteers. Some 70 individuals showed up to plant 1200 young mangrove plants. Students from George School, Newtown Pennsylvania, US; Kiwanis and Keyclub Kibraha-cha celebrating their "One Day"; a mix of locals; Mangrove Maniac crew partners and tourists all showed up to volunteer and start the mangrove plants on their new life.

According to Sabine Engel, who heads up the Mangrove Maniacs, "The majority of the plants were Red Mangrove as they fare better at the seaside, while black mangroves do a bit better on the land side with only occasional inundation."

The majority of the Mangrove Maniacs' outplanting is in the south and this one was near the dive site Aquarius. The last outplanting was May 11.

Planting mangroves along the coast creates a buffer from storms and provides fish nurseries. Mangrove forest absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than any other ecosystem on Earth. To become a part of this important work the Maniacs are doing visit them or Facebook or email info@mangrovesmaniacs.org.

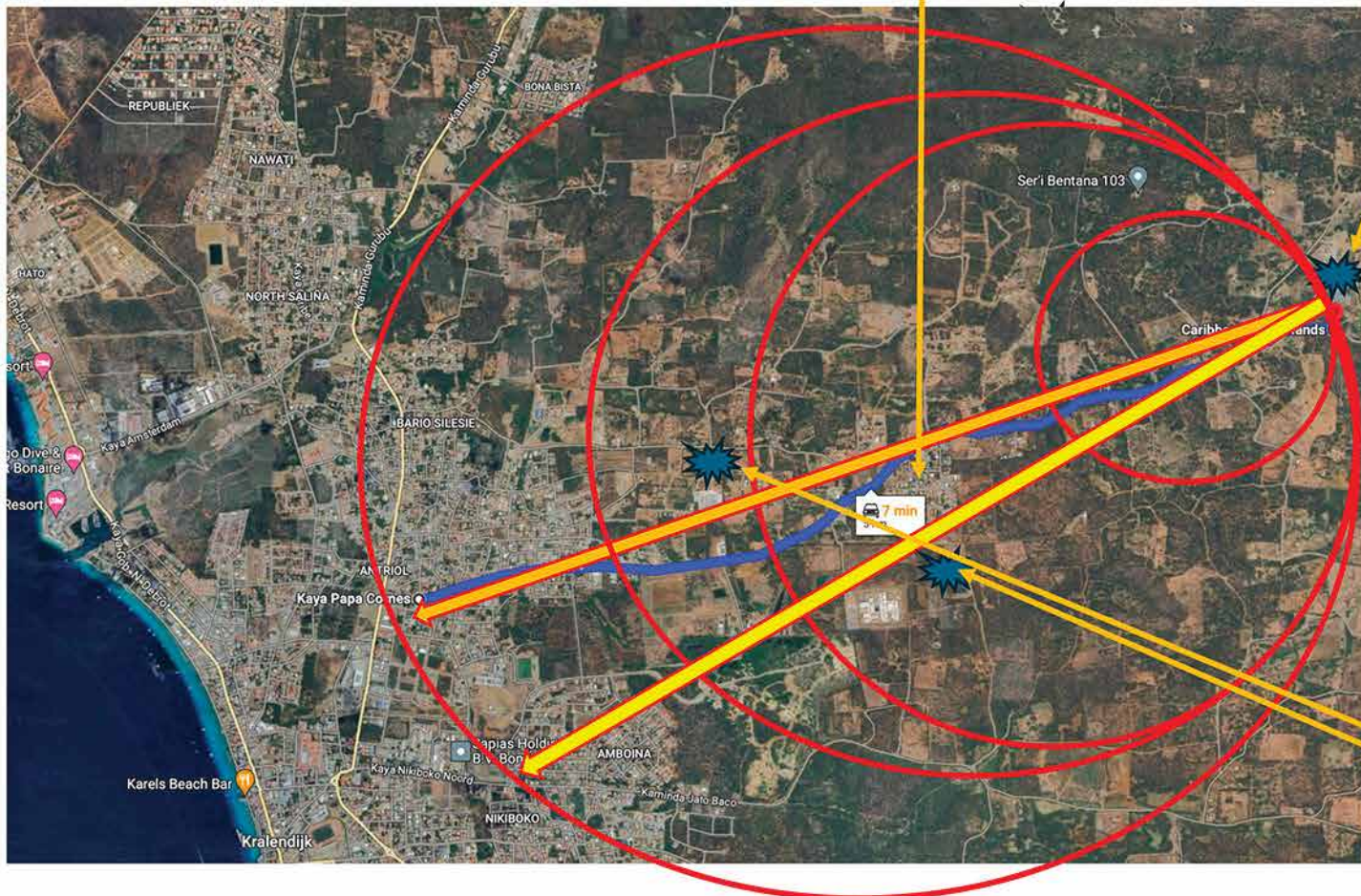
Story / photo Julie Morgan

Association Pro Lagun asks for action

Air Emissions Dispersion Radius: 1 – 5 KM

Lagoen community: 200-400

Afvalverbrander



- **Wind direction**
- 60-70% of the year is East-Northeast (ENE) to East (E) (Orange arrow)
- Northeast (NE)(Geel kleur): 10-15%
- **Population**
- 1 km = 50
- 3 km = 350+
- 4 km = 450+
- 5 km = 2000 minimum
- **Legal Precedents**
- Top 4 EU case studies
 - Radius: 3-5 km

Farms

Everyone in the area is affected by the contamination and many people have suffered from health problems linked to the contaminated air. Since 2023, air and soil studies have been performed by the public health department and Ecovision of Curaçao but none have been released to the public.

Tests have been done for the annual emission measurements, health risk, air pollution from waste incineration plant, monitoring, reporting biomedical water incinerator and an air emission study. Soil testing and research was performed at the Selibon waste incineration plant in Lagun.

Medical waste health hazards found included dioxin and furans. They are produced by the combustion of plastics PVC, PUR and PS in the waste that can cause cancer, and hormonal disorders.

Other air emissions from burning medical waste were well over the EU limit: Sulphur dioxide, which can lead to respiratory problems like asthmas and bronchitis, was double the permitted limit and carbon monoxide was 78 times over the legal EU limit. This leads to oxygen deprivation resulting in dizziness, headaches and even loss of consciousness.

Selibon purchased a medical waste incinerator seven times larger than necessary even though the manufacturer recommended a smaller unit. This would have cost less leaving enough funds for a pollution control system. Location of the incinerator poses health risks to anyone living within a 5k radius of which there are approximately 2500 people.

The association at this point is requesting the air and soil reports be made public so solutions can be found.

Julie Morgan / Pro Lagun

WINNERS ALL

Bonaire's young players win at Aruba Chess Challenge 2024

Daniel Fernandez Ojeda took the U12 title and Clé Burgers placed third in U18 in the Aruba Chess Challenge 2024.

For the second consecutive year Daniel Fernandez Ojeda won the championship in his age group. In 2023 he won U10 and this year he won U12 after seven rounds where he won five games and drew two to take the title.

The second Bonairean youngster who excelled in the Aruba Chess Challenge was Clé Burgers who won in the last

round from Mohit Sharma and stayed with five points in seven rounds to win the third place prize. It was a good result in his first U18 international tournament.

Both young people are members of Bonaire Youth Chess Club (BJSC) and we congratulate them on their achievement and wish them all the best for the future.

A big thank you to those who cooperated with BJSC to help with travel expenses.

Serapio Pop, leader of BJSC



Photo: Winners Clé Burgers, Daniel Fernandez Ojeda and coach Serapio Pop

Duo Xtreme first place winners listed

First place winners by category:

Sportive Men, combined age 32 – 99: DeKogels – Jarne Everts 02:43:19.4 and Jeffrey Kogelman 2:43:20.92

Sportive Men, Combined age 100+: Portuga – Domingos de Lima 02:45:15.5 and Andre Maciel 02:45:15.6

Extreme Women, Combined age 34+: MT Babes - Mirjam Weerd 04:11:42.1 and Tamara Brank 04:11:42.3

Extreme Men Combined ag 34 – 99: Kies Maar Wat Leuks op Supercalibers – Tom Homburg 03:17:17.0 12 and Paul Cremers 03:17:20.42

Sportive Mix Combined age 32+: Donkey Goat – Sabine Zijlstra 03:06:14.4 and Abel Scholtens 03:06:15.22

Extreme Men, Combined age 100+: Alto Vista Warriors - J Pvan den Eerenbeemt 03:50:22.0 Edwin Hekman 03:50:22.32

Extreme Mix, Combined age 34+: Goat – Victor Vrolijk 03:38:26.9 and Rebecca Jansen 03:38:26.9



Sportive Women, Combined age 32+: “Op karakter” – Rachella Lenten 03:34:23.7 and Liselotte van Boven 03:34:23.9

Bonaire is a warmup for the next two Duo Xtreme races: Curaçao, November 3 and Aruba, December 1. Many of the same teams will compete on the islands.

Frank Bohm of De Freewieler has been the organizer since the beginning in 2009. But this year Bohm shared organizing duties with The Bonaire Bicycle Club.

The 2024 Duo Xtreme was sponsored by Karel's Beach Bar, Sunbelt Realty, De Freewieler, Pink Coral IT, Mega Hit FM, The Wine Factory, Powerade, Bonaire Logistics and Wholesaler, Olovka, C3 - Critical Communication Caribbean, FX Sports Bonaire, Wire Interiors Bonaire, GenKoo Generators, Allways Transport, Building Depot, Chogogo Latino Ice and Rocargo Services.

To view the full results go to <https://timing.events/Event/Results?id=87>

Story / photos Julie Morgan

Ricardi Munoz defeats Aruban opponent to remain undefeated in his boxing career



The 17-year-old Bonairean boxer Ricardi Muñoz maintained his undefeated status on Saturday evening, October 26, by defeating Aruban boxer Evander Nedd in the prestigious match ‘The Tittle’ in Aruba. With this victory, Ricardi stands at an impressive 4-0 score in his boxing career, further strengthening his position as a rising star in the sport.

Ricardi managed to outdo his opponent, who comes from a family with a strong fighting background, in strength and technique. Despite Nedd's family heritage full of martial arts experience, he proved no match for Ricardi's determination and stamina in the ring.

Muñoz showed that he is a worthy representative of Bonaire and wore this victory with pride for his island. Under the guidance of coach William Evertsz of Boxing Fitness Bonaire, and with the support of his sponsors Jong Bonaire, BECS, Mi Kas Realty and Infinity Mode, Ricardi Muñoz has once again shown that he is ready for greater challenges.

Muñoz's achievements make him an inspiring example for the Bonairean community and give him the opportunity to represent Bonaire on an international level.

Bonaire Boxing Federation



Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland

Breast Cancer Screening Open Day on October 23 at Hospital San Francisco (Mariadal) proved successful in public participation. The hospital lobby was a sea of pink in celebration of Breast Cancer month with a table set up to educate the women of Bonaire on the importance of getting a mammogram. Some 35 women stopped to chat, nine had mammograms that day and 12 appointments were made for the future.

Photo L-R: Sandra van Dijk-de Bruin: Department head; Norviesca Ignacio: PR Officer; Shahaira Libier: Project Leader; Chariselle Wout: Program Support; Carolyn Schokker: Administrative Assistant; Peter Schielen: Coordinator Quality & Science; Marike Tigelaar: Communications officer; Anika Bink: Project Leader/ advisor.

Not pictured but important team members are: Marianela Alberto: Screening Coordinator; Astrid Punt: Project Leader ICT & Quality; Eva van Tol: Program manager and Lara Akkerman: Project Advisor.

Photo / story Julie Morgan

If you need more information about the importance of getting a mammogram or to make an appointment: email screeningCN@rivm.nl or visit <https://www.facebook.com/screeningCN>

Poached pear in green cactus tea by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant



the sugar, lemon zest and cactus liqueur.

Peel the pears, cut in half and remove the core. Place the pears in the syrup, making sure they are covered, and place a saucer on top if necessary. Now poach the pears at about 85 degrees for 4 hours until the flavour of the tea has been absorbed.

Allow to cool in the liquid and then serve with a fresh scoop of lemon sorbet ice cream.

1/2 L (2 C) water • 15 g (1/8 C) Bonairian cactus tea blend (Cadushy) • 75 g (3/4 C) sugar • 1/2 lemon peel • 1 shot glass of Cadushy Cactus Liqueur • 2 hard-shelled pears • Lemon sorbet

Bring the water to the boil and let the tea steep in it, in a tea cup or loose, but make sure to strain it through a fine sieve. Add

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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Speaking the words of freedom



Esther de Veer, speaker and organizer with sister Linda



Robert West, speaker



Ralph Windt

The Public Library of Bonaire in collaboration with the Heart Foundation presented the second edition of The Spoken Word at Parke Isidel with speakers presenting their view of freedom in a poetic way on October 26.

Sisters Linda and Esther de Veer organized the recitation platform with Miluska Hansen leading the crowd through the performances. Acclaimed speaker Ralph Winedt of Curaçao was the special guest. The words were delivered in Papiamentu, English and Dutch and Hansen offered a translated shorter version if requested.

Audience members submitted a seven-word sentence which Winedt combined into a longer spoken word about freedom.

Esther de Veer said freedom sounds like rain, crickets, birds and the wind. She engaged the crowd in clapping, snapping their fingers and slapping their legs to feel the freedom.

Riding in on his bicycle, Artie, who believes in staying active, said “If you don’t use it you lose it” meaning it’s important to keep your body and mind busy.

Danielle explained, when I learned to read, I discovered freedom. I could be anything and fly without fear or shame. But often, my own voice held me back, and I felt stuck. Now I know that real freedom is deep inside me, and I can choose to be free.

Persia grew up in two cultures and wondered where they belong. Persia feels like a mix of a pelican and a flamingo. Differences between people are seen as something beautiful and valuable... true freedom lies in what makes us unique, not in being the same as others.

Robert explained that before he found his freedom he was stuck, trapped, confused but most of all scared.

“I am who I am and that is okay. I’m different, out of the ordinary. I am Robert and now that I’m older I am

finally free. Free to love whoever I want to love and free to be me and all that is me,” said Robert.

Zjuriena says that freedom isn’t just something for your mind, but also for your body. True freedom comes from being connected with God, who created everything and everyone.

Helma’s spoken words were: “You sing best when you only cover your mouth. That’s what the conductor of the church choir said when I was 7. Singing was freedom for me, but slowly it disappeared. I became more afraid. More insecure, afraid to express myself. Then I stopped. The silence filled the room and I became quiet inside because where is your freedom if you don’t feel it inside anymore? What is singing about? The pitch? The sound? With me the pleasure the feeling of freedom when I sing. I am not afraid to sing anymore I feel free.

Story / photos Julie Morgan

ISLAND NEWS continued

According to Szabó, We are now They

State Secretary for Digitalization and Kingdom Relations, Zsolt Szabó, having made his first flying visit to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom this month, says he “has good ideas” on where BES fits in his new conservative minded government, but he still needs “to work them out.”

One idea seems clear though. The Hague’s best way to alleviate poverty in the Dutch Islands generally is to spend less money here. When Szabó reported to the Senate Committee for Kingdom Relations, he said he was “very shocked by” the poverty he saw in the CAS countries. However, he said, “We cannot finance that from the Netherlands ... at the end of the day, they will have to do it themselves.”

Szabó cited the road repairs he saw between Kralendijk and Rincón as Dutch generosity. Another story in this issue reports that the Executive Council withdrew \$64.4 million in planned expenditures from the 2025 budget when warned The Hague intends deep cuts in spending in the BES. The \$23.9 million road maintenance program is among them.

Szabó announced one of his good ideas is to invest in local agriculture to help bring down food prices. He says that’s an obvious solution “that doesn’t even have to cost that much money.” Just as well he wasn’t appointed Minister of Agriculture. Someone might ask for his ideas on how a small, overpopulated island with degraded arable land, and little of it, that has to make its own water, can feed itself. *DMR*

Police pursue, arrest, three kids with gun

A police patrol recognized the license plate of a vehicle on Kaya Grandi that matched the description of a vehicle suspected in a shooting investigation on the night of Sunday, October 20, 2024. After a pursuit that ended at Yato Bako, they arrested three people: the 15-year-old driver with initials C.C.D., an 18-year-old with initials C.F.F., and a 16-year-old with initials M.V.v.S. Police found a firearm in the vehicle. The three occupants were arrested for violating the BES Firearms Act. The driver was also arrested for ignoring the police order. *DMR*

Study confirms the landfill is a mess

An official inspection of the landfill in August has produced a report confirming that a worrying, complex and urgent situation exists there that threatens public health as well as flora and fauna in the direct vicinity of the landfill and the waste centre. The report, issued by the Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT), has been sent to the Executive Council of the public body Bonaire and to the Island Council. *DMR*

Kroon challenges Abraham on TCB support

Deputy Abraham of Economy and Tourism has challenged the TCB budget allocation, stating that the “return on investment” of tourism has not been sufficiently proven. Opposition member James Kroon (UPB) countered that “Investing in tourism yields much more for Bonaire than deputy Abraham claims.” Kroon pointed out that 48% percent of Public Entity Bonaire’s income, or \$37.7

million, “comes directly from the wallet of the tourist,” yet the TCB only receives \$2 million to fund their activities. *DMR*

Salma Serberie joins Island Council



Salma Serberie of Clark Abraham’s Democratic Party (DP) is now a member of the Island Council. Delno Tromp resigned his position on the Council so she could be sworn in. Serberie says she is determined and committed to play an active role in bringing about change on the island. *DMR*.

Rich Dutch should stay home, MP says

Member of Parliament Van Nispen (SP) declared during the budget debate that wealthy people from the European Netherlands should no longer be allowed to settle in the islands without conditions. He included Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire, even though “they belong to our country.” “The Bonaireans are slowly losing their country, language and culture,” Van Nispen charged. “I think that you should dare to regulate that with sharp choices.”

“The money that is available is unfairly distributed, he continued.” There is a lot of privatization, even the public space. Many beaches are not accessible to everyone, but to people who make money from them. Monumental buildings are sold to private investors. Where is the social progress? Do the politicians have an interest in tackling inequality? *DMR*

Trick or Treat on Bonaire



Kaya Grandi overflowed with witches, princesses, superheroes, pirates, minions and more at Bonaire's annual Halloween Trick or Treat on October 26. The street was filled with the voices of kids singing "Trick or Treat it's Halloween. Give us something sweet to eat. If you don't, we won't go until you give us our treat! Trick or Treat!"

Treat and sing for candy and other goodies at the 18 participating businesses.

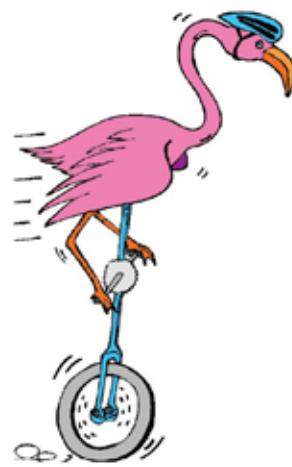
And this year Gerhart received a call from KPCN, the police, asking to join the fun. They set up a photo frame for taking photos with the kids and had great fun handing out sweets.

Gerhart remarked, how much it has changed over the years. So many people have really embraced the idea of Halloween and the costumes keep getting better and better. And it's not just the kids, it's the parents and the merchants too.

Initiated and organized by Corine Gerhart for the last 27 years, the Halloween event has grown in popularity and size. This year 225 kids signed up for one of the two time slots for groups to Trick or

Trick or Treat to page 15

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A Garden? Just Do It!

Getting water to the roots and fighting pests

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Sometimes you are forced to find solutions in the garden to prevent or overcome problems that could happen. And after a failure, you must keep trying until you find a successful solution.

That's how I came up with this great idea that works perfectly during dry season.

Despite all my care, the extended heavy drought on Bonaire put my plants in bad condition. Over time the plants were losing energy and life because of the terrible dry soil. After watering the plants, (especially the ones in a weak condition) the water couldn't penetrate the soil because of the hard, dry surface.

One day riding my bike I saw some 20 cm pieces of iron pipe along the street that I thought I could use in my garden. I took them home and made little holes around two plants and put pieces of pipe in the holes along with some little stones to hold them in place. I then filled the pipes with rainwater to slowly drain into the soil to reach the roots of the plants.

Next day already I saw the plants coming alive. After a week the plants looked healthy and strong again. I was so happy with the result and planned to do this with more plants but I first needed more pipe. Then I realized plastic bottles could work too. First cut off the bottom and place the small opening of the bottle in the soil near the plant. Then add water to the bottom of the bottle



and it will drain slowly near the roots. If necessary cut off the dead parts and dry leaves of the plant and it will make new stems and leaves because of the energy it gets by the rainwater full of minerals. Recently gardeners have been lucky to get some heavy rain showers so our gardens look green and fresh again. But remember this simple idea of the pipes and bottles if your plants suffers again from drought and too dry soil.

Pests. Have you noticed rats in your garden? It's like more and more rats are around especially where there

are restaurants with the waste food containers, fruit trees with rotten fruit under the tree and at places where people throw away their garden waste. Also animal waste like dog poop and dog food attracts rats.

The growing number of rats in a community can be a real danger for the society and the area. Not so long ago when my street was paved, I counted more than 30 dead rats hit by cars in three weeks. Because of the road work the rats in the area lost their habitat and were confused and stressed and were run over in the street. So keep your area clean to make Bonaire a safe, clean and rat free place. And gardeners, keep an eye out for the rats in your garden. Fight them .

And be careful with iguanas, they bite. I met two people recently who were bitten by iguanas. They must have been in stressed or had eggs nearby and if you chase them or approach their eggs they will attack.

Last but not least, remove empty containers from the garden to prevent standing rainwater for the dengue mosquito to breed.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and 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.

Make Bonaire Accessible

Come together

by Ria Evers-Dokter

When you pay close attention, you will see groups of elderly people at the same location every day. This shows that a routine seems very important, as well as company.

Who does not remember the elderly couple who sat and had coffee at Van den Tweel every day at the same spot for eighteen years? When the gentleman passed away the lady still came but later on, she also passed away.

After them came a larger group of gentlemen who once worked but are pensionado now. This "tradition" at Van den Tweel stopped as soon as the supermarket took the cafeteria away and set up a liquor store. You can still meet this group of people, but there are fewer and it is not as much fun for them.

At Cha Cha Cha Beach a small group of elderly early birds come to swim every morning. You will be astonished to learn that this group of active elderly also grew very rapidly.

And now there is a group of swimmers at Parke Tului. This group also started out as a small group of gentlemen, but is now growing rapidly. They started to bring breakfast to the park, which they enjoy after their swim. You also see ladies and there are many birthdays celebrated there, they sing and discuss topics that would be interesting for our government to hear and work on.

Like all over the world, the "Baby Boomers" are in plain sight. They did not get here suddenly. If the governments all over the world would have done their homework, they would be really prepared. But that did not happen. Maybe it would be a good suggestion for the government to take their advice and practice it. Af-



A few members of the daily morning swim and breakfast club at Parke Tului Photo Julie Morgan

ter all..... many of the elderly were once the "movers and the shakers."

It has always been like this all over the world. I remember being a small child and seeing my granddad leave the house every day after teatime and come back for supper. He went to a house a bit farther down our street. There was a small bench, and a few men would gather around it. They sat or stood and discussed the decisions of our small island municipality in a serious way. There were no women involved. My grandmother did not want me to go there. She told me that these men were sitting on that "fibbing-bench." Women had other things to do and take care of. And now that I think back, all those men were elderly as well and did not work anymore. They had a few sheep and cows and a

vegetable garden and that was it. But they still wanted to be involved and voice their opinion.

The years that I lived in Holland, I noticed that the same tradition took place. And I am sure it does all over the world. Everybody still wants to play a role and bring their experiences to the table. Happy fibbing, everybody.



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.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Living with a Razor-Sharp Skeleton

At the end of the last century, many divers on Bonaire had been told the completely inaccurate fable that when the polyps on a stony coral head were retracted, the coral wasn't injured by being touched. When these divers explained their actions to Bonaire's dive guides, the following conversation would take place:

Dive Guide: You know how, when you put your hand on the coral head, it felt squishy?

Diver: Yes...

Dive Guide: That squishiness is coral guts!

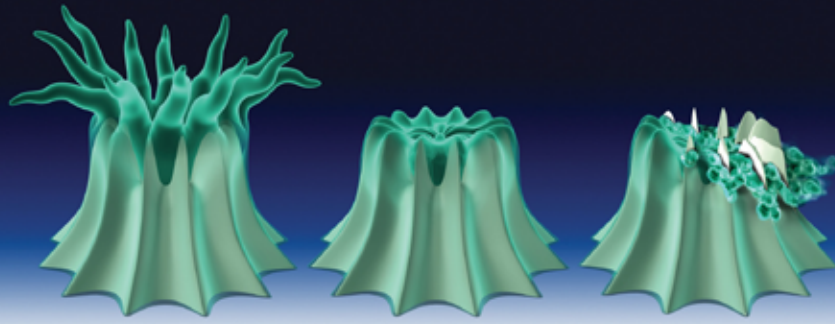
Since most divers didn't want to experience the feeling of squishy coral guts on their hands, their solution was to "protect" their hands with gloves.

Unfortunately, the coral had no such protection, or any protection at all, from contact by divers. Regardless of whether the diver wore gloves, individual coral animals (polyps) were being critically injured every time a diver's hands landed on them. It was Bonaire's dive professionals who requested that gloves be prohibited in the Bonaire National Marine Park, and glovelessness, except for medical reasons, has been BNMP policy for decades.

Misunderstandings about coral are common. When I looked for illustrations of how coral grows, it was easy to find illustrations of coral skeletons and illustrations of coral polyps. Nowhere could I find an illustration of a coral skeleton and its polyp.

I contacted scientific illustrators, and Gary Carlson not only offered to make the drawing, he did not charge. Several Touch the Sea/Action in Behalf of Coral (ABC Project) supporters generously financed the production of the Living with

Living with a Razor-Sharp Skeleton



Individual coral animals are called polyps. The illustration emphasizes how the fragile tissue of each polyp rests on top of its own sharp skeleton. The polyp on the left is extended, feeding. The center polyp is withdrawn as it would normally be during the day. The polyp on the right shows the damage a diver would cause by brushing against it, smashing the soft polyp against its stony skeleton. Once a few polyps are killed, that section of the coral head cannot grow again. A coral head is a colony of thousands of interconnected polyps who are clones of each other. A coral head the size of a hawksbill turtle began growing long before humans began using SCUBA gear. It takes millions of coral polyps and hundreds of years to build a reef. Let's respect coral so our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy living reefs too!

Action in Behalf of Coral Project© - <http://www.touchthesea.com/abcproject>

a Razor-Sharp Skeleton sticker.

Have you seen the sticker? On a dive boat? In a dive shop? Where you pick up your filled tanks and drop off the empties? If you haven't seen the sticker, it's because I haven't kept up with Bonaire's dive operators.

The Living with a Razor-Sharp Skeleton sticker is still free. It's available to be posted in locations where divers will see it, such as those I mentioned but also in a SCUBA classroom, on a shore-diving guide's vehicle, etc. For more information about the sticker, check touchthesea.com/ABC Project (Action in Behalf of Coral) or call me (What's App will work) at +599 796 8529. You can download the sticker info directly from the website.

No other animal grows the way stony coral grows, which is the main reason coral is tough to explain. The larval coral

swims to a hospitable spot, settles, and begins its skeleton. If this first polyp flourishes, it adds layers to its skeleton. Eventually the polyp splits and its skeleton forks into two polyps. This growth process can continue for thousands of years, since coral has no life span. A single coral polyp can grow and split forever.

However, a coral colony's growth can

be affected by the light it receives, by water temperatures, and by factors such as another nearby coral head or by being injured by anchors or divers. A dead area of a coral head, such as where a diver's fin had scraped along, cannot heal because individual animals have been killed. Such an area invites algae, fire coral, or other encrusting organisms, which are capable of enlarging their base and killing more polyps.

But all those things that could hurt coral growth, from which Bonaire protected coral for years, were like nothing when Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) blasted onto our reefs. Despite years of research, SCTLD is still not fully understood, but its horrible tissue-dissolving effect slows down with high water temperatures. Of course, when water temperatures rise, corals begin bleaching, another problem but at least one that is possible to overcome...

Our living corals are truly survivors. We must continue to treat them with respect, and hope their remaining populations will thrive.



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*; and in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, and in *The Bonaire Reporter*.



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Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps meeting: Wednesdays at Kaya Den Haag 30 in Hato. Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Bonaire by Night Shopping night every month


Divers Drink & Dance Yhanni's Arepas. Wednesdays 5 p.m. Oct 30

Diver Safety. 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 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. Kaminda Sorobon, Blue Building:* Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$1 per hour. Ask for Henk or Richard. *Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:* Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$2 per hour. Ask for Henk or Danny. **Beginners:** *Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:* Sun. 9 - 10 a.m.. \$2 per hour. Ask for Esther. **Coming soon:** Indoor hall at Jong Bonaire every Wed. and Fri. from 5:30 to 9 p.m. - t recommended for beginners but all welcome to play.

Tennis clinic for kids. Free clinic Saturdays Sept. 28 - Nov. at 10 a.m. at Eddie's restaurant tennis courts in Hato. Kids 6 - 14 are taught basic elements of tennis; backhand, forehand and service/volley. Register via bonairetennisassociation@gmail.com stating your name, age and phone number.

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

 **Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** Nov 4 - Divi Resort; Nov 11 - Toucan Diving; Nov 18 - Scuba Do Bonaire; Nov 25 - VIP Diving; Dec 2 - Divi Resort; Dec 9 - Toucan Diving; Dec 16 - Dive friends at Hamlet Oasis. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@manta.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)..

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

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. Would you like to learn everything about what we do in the field during nesting season? Join us in the field! We go to Klein Bonaire Mon., Wed. and Fri. to search for nest activity and we sometimes have a few spots open. Sign up by email: cepa@bonaireturtles.org.

Church Services

Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thurs -7:30 p.m.; Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat-7 p.m.; Sun-9 a.m. / 7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat-7 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m.

International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO): Kaya Papago 104 Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services are conducted in English.

United Protestant Congregation

- (KRALENDIJK), Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. Services in Dutch
- (RINCON) Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8:30 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Sat. November 2	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR	1330-2300	North	754
Tues. November 5	BRITANNIA	0630-1800	South	3674
Wed. November 6	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	0700-1800	North	2440
Thurs. November 7	ROYAL CLIPPER	1300-1900	North	246
Sat. November 9	CARNIVAL MIRACLE	0800-1700	North	2680
Mon. November 11	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	0830-1800	South	3660
Tues. November 12	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	0600-1800	South	3013
Wed. November 13	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. November 14	CELEBRITY ASCENT	0630-1600	South	3200
Tues. November 18	BRITANNIA	0630-1800	South	3674

What's Happening

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

Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm as well as for the cruise ships (schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>)

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tues.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 8-noon

Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Gramel 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. Adults \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Marshe di Playa Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market.): Pakus reopened May 11 at new location Kaya Gilberto F Croes. Located just past Caribbean Laundry. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700 <https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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

Taxi Service Online: Bonaire-taxi.com is available for bookings. Tourists can easily reserve their taxi via the website or the dedicated app. Phone/whatsapp: +599 786 1786 Website: www.bonaire-taxi.com

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

Friday, Nov. **1** **Big Live Nature Quiz - Kids Edition** Teachers can register their class teams online at www.BigLiveNatureQuiz.org. For more information, please contact: research@DCNAnature.org

Bonaire by Night - Children's Mascot Theme 6 - 9 p.m. Kaya Grandi is closed to traffic so you can walk and shop in the town center and Terramar Mall. Listen to music (DJ Kiar; Tes A Fesa) and visit a kids' corner in Plaza Niki Tromp (formerly Oranjeplein) for photos with pets.

Nov. **10 - 15** **Children's Book Week** See page 15. Parents register App: +599 770 6302 **Ending with Reading Day** 9 to 9:30 a.m. Volunteers read to school kids. Call Darly Janga or Paul Ruijs at +599 782 4569

Sunday, Nov. **17** **INDEBON's Kareda di Suit (South Race)** FREE. 6:30 a.m. Run / Walk 8 KM; Cycle 28 & 56 KM. Start Jossy Boekhoudt Finish Ocean Oasis. Registration INDEBON 5:30-8 p.m. Nov. 14 & 15.

Saturday, Nov. **30** **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.

Taste of Bonaire at the entrance of Washington Slagbaai National Park.

Winterpride! A night filled with fun, music, and diversity at Tera Kora Ranch. Infused with Christmas spirit, the night features DJ Jewelz, Tyra Talisa, and Derrel and drag queens from Curaçao. \$10. From 8 p.m.

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays **One Hour Cleanup Power.** Weekly coastal clean up every Sat., 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Location on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/>

Sunday, Nov. **10** **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>

When to collect your Health Card

A personal health card from Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) is now replacing the paper insurance certificate given previously to Bonaireans for urgent medical emergencies abroad. Please note: the healthcare card is not a travel insurance policy

Bonaire residents who have been insured with ZJCN for at least two years can collect their Healthcare Card according to the schedule below. Residents must bring their sedula. ZJCN has confirmed that bank details are not required to collect Healthcare Card.

Kralendijk: Jong Bonaire, Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #16,
9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 to 5 p.m.

Birth Year	Collect your card from
1920 - 1959	Oct. 28 until Nov. 2
1960 - 1969	Nov. 4 until Nov. 8
1970 - 1979	Nov. 11 until Nov. 16
1980 - 1989	Nov. 18 until Nov. 22
1990 or later	Nov. 25 until Nov. 30

Rincon: Cocari, Kaya Rincon #50, 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 to 5 p.m.
All ages Dec. 2 until Dec. 7

Diveheart from page 1

were able to make adaptations on short notice.

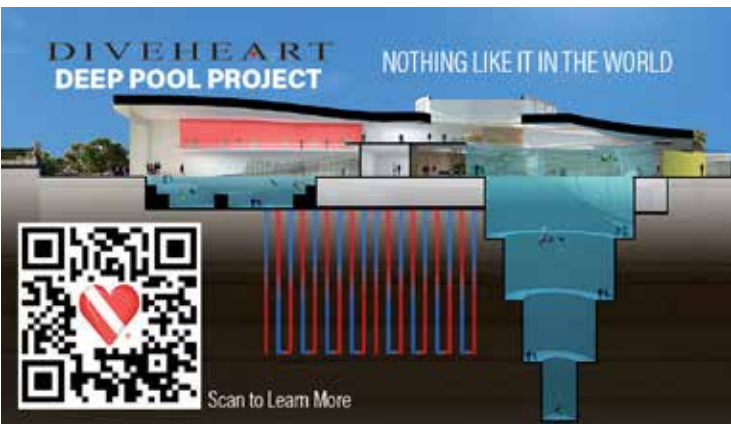
Diveheart is expanding to reach out to more individuals through the best educational underwater training with the Diveheart Education and Research Facility and Deep Pool Project. The project is 10 years in the making and can become a global destination for scuba therapy, rehabilitation and vocational therapy. The pool is a visionary project with graduated depths heated by Geothermal and solar.

Jim Elliott formerly worked in advertising for the Chicago Tribune and WGN Radio and CLTV who left the media world in 1996 to volunteer full-time to teach disabled individuals to dive. He founded Diveheart five years later. Since 1997, Elliott has trained several 1000 disabled divers. He comes highly

qualified to the task being a diver since 1976, a PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors), HSA (Handicapped Scuba Association) and SDI (Scuba Diving International) instructor trainer.

Tinamarie Hernandez has been at Diveheart since 2011. She started as a volunteer at Diveheart and is now executive director. She leads women's Diveheart trips and is a true believer that Diveheart helps people remember they are more than someone who needs a little help.

Diveheart is located in Downers Grove, Illinois. They receive donations for their work from private individuals, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and Shriners. For more information about Diveheart visit <https://www.diveheart.org>.
Julie Morgan



Trick or Treat from page 10



Police officers Claudette Raphaela and Ronald Schleper pose for an early Halloween photo with a mini-me police officer. See page 10. Photo Julie Morgan

Thanks to all the businesses for joining in the spirit and fun of Halloween: El Mundo, Tasty Restaurant, Reef Shoes, Penny Lane Bonaire-The Fashion Revolution, MG Bonaire, Remax, Gio's Bonaire, Jewel of Bonaire, Milano Diamond Gal-

lery-Bonaire, Buena Vista Optics, Sun Smiles Bonaire, Littman Jewelers, Foxy flamingo, Rumba Café, An's Fashion & An's Fashion & Gifts, Vilebrequin, Tisa Fashion, Salt Shop, The Factory and KPCN.
Story / Photos Julie Morgan

Children's Book Week

Lekker Eigenwijs - Nice and Stubborn

With this theme we want to inspire all children of Bonaire to create their own path, to accept that we are all unique. Don't be afraid to be yourself, to express your ideas, be proud of who you are!

For parents and their kids - Register App: +599 770 6302

- **Sunday, Nov. 10. Opening** Colegio Rayo di Solo. 4 to 7 p.m. Children ages 4 to 12 and their parents can participate in an afternoon full of reading pleasure and exciting activities
- **Monday, Nov. 11. A workshop for parents and professionals** Lecture - *From reading adventures to self-will.* Public Library, Kaya Gramel 6 to 7:30 p.m. With tips on how to support headstrong children and how to make children self-confident.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 12. A podcast for and by 12 to 16 year olds** so they can discuss how they can be headstrong in a positive way 5 to 7 p.m. Public Library. Kaya Gramel
- **Wednesday, Nov. 13. A library reading club for 8 to 12 year olds** that allows children to read and discuss books. With "Reading Consultants" Myrthe and Jessica. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Public Library, Kaya Gramel
- **Thursday, Nov. 14. A quirky art festival for the creative 4 to 8 year olds.** 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. Papa Cornes School, Kaya Leiden 30
- **Friday, Nov. 15. The film Wonky ends Book Week for ages 8 to 12.** The film is a prequel based on the beloved Roald Dahl novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Empire Cinema, Kaya Katwijk 6

In the schools

- **A photo competition** will be run for all ages. The photo subject is 'Lekker Eigenwijs' (Nice and Stubborn). The winning class will receive a special prize for the school library.
- **Writers and artists** will visit schools and also give workshops. Children will have the unique opportunity to get in touch with writers and the people who provided the drawings for the books. Curaçaoan artist Francis Sling and writer Mercee Doran will also make their contributions, as will Loekie Morales, Zarissa Windzak, Tito Ansano and Kevin Hassing.
- **Reading Day**, Friday 15th, 9 to 9:30 a.m. Volunteers read to school kids. Call Daryl Janga or Paul Ruijs at +599 782 4569

Press Release



RoffaReef update

RoffaReefs' Sander van Lopik said, "I'm just a zookeeper that got out of hand." And that may very well be true, but the work he is doing with RoffaReefs on Bonaire and at Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands is groundbreaking stuff and a positive for saving fish populations and coral reefs.

Back in 2021 as head aquarist at the zoo, Lopik developed a method to catch fish eggs, breed them and release them back into the aquariums at Rotterdam and Burgers Zoo. In 2022 he applied this idea in Bonaire with a prototype of an unusual looking breeder/fish nursery or UFO (Unidentified Floating Object). The solar powered UFO has gone through several metamorphosis and will continue to evolve until it is perfected.

At first Sander's RoffaReefs and his small team were only part time on the island, but in June of this year, full time manager Tim van Wagenveld arrived.

Three months ago, RoffaReefs moved into a small space compliments of previous director of Dive Friends Roy Smitts who saw the tremendous value of the project.

The 30 sqm space on Kaya Neerlandia provides students and staff a place to operate four microscopes and house several aquariums necessary for research. The students on their first internship from applied science universities or other universities are getting hands-on knowledge in the program. Every day they go out to the reefs by shore or on a Stinapa boat to collect eggs from specialized marine larva nets attached to marine parks yellow buoys.

Sites for the nets were selected through observations from Stinapa and Piskabon regarding the highest areas of spawning might be. If you see the nets while diving or snorkeling please don't touch them.

Lopik said. "In science we tend to live our lives around the



Student intern Annebelle Kaag and Sander van Lopik view a tiny egg yolk larvae/hatchling.

Photo Julie Morgan

animals. You can't do proper science without doing it all the time. We have to be in the water every day, especially with how little we know."

The collection is done every day so there is a constant supply of eggs for analyzing. And it's not just fish eggs they catch but also coral, sea urchin and everything else in the water.

"The cool thing of working with students is I'm not about the application, I'm not a scientist, but more hands on. Before I did everything on my own. Now we have shared knowledge and the burden", said Sander.

The interns are usually here for six months and work with Wagenveld, field researcher Jeroen Ham that provides basic scientific structure and Lopik when he is on Bonaire.

Lopik said, "We need to be collecting way more data and learning how to find it better. We know something about the reef, but we need to know it better. We have a puzzle, but we don't know how it will work. We understand the ecosystem from the fish perspective for their use but not what their needs are."

One of the important groundbreaking facts about their work is RoffaReefs has found a fish stage that has rarely been seen, the egg with a tail or swimming egg yolk. There are five stages of fish: egg, swimming egg yolk, larva, juvenile and adults.

And the groundbreaking UFO is being upgraded to a tsunami or big wave proof prototype in the Netherlands. The unit is more expensive and has to be shipped to Bonaire so more funds are needed for completion.

Lopik will attend GCFI77 (Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute) conference in Guadalupe, French West Indies November 1-8 presenting "Eggspedition Bonaire" about the RoffaReef project. Bonaire will be well represented with Lopik, Piskabon's president Ernest Martin de La Noy, Nancy Persad and Irvin Anthonij, Bonaire National Marine Park chief ranger Din Domacasse and ranger Edgar Ortegon.

RoffaReefs receives funding from the Rotterdam Zoo, WWF and Dive Friends with support from Stinapa, DCNA, Piskabon and several zoo's in Europe.

For more information about RoffaReefs visit their website roffareefs.com.

Story / photos Julie Morgan



This egg yolk larvae/ hatchling is just before metamorphosis to larvae! It measures 1000 micrometers or one millionth of a meter or one mm. Photo Julie Morgan

Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Memento mori – remember you will die

It's that time of year when it's okay to talk about death. In general, we Westerners avoid this topic. The Greek philosopher Seneca revealed our paradox and said that we live in fear of death, but we use our time as if we were going to live forever.

What would life be like if there were no death? Pretending that one is not going to die is detrimental to the enjoyment of life, in the same way that it would be detrimental for a basketball player to pretend that the game he is playing has no end. That player would reduce his intensity, adopt a lazy playing style, and of course end up not having any fun at all. Without an end, there is no game. Without being aware of death, one cannot be fully aware of the gift of life. Yet many of us continue to pretend that our life's game has no end.

Seneca also said that death is not in the future, but is a process, every minute that passes is a minute that we have died, all the past belongs to death. Understanding death as a process helps us give the real value to the

precious gift of time and decide to spend it on the things that not only are most important, but also getting involved in activities and sharing time with people that are nourishing and inspiring. It also pushes us to consider if there is something we should learn from circumstances that are not joyful or inspiring, and if there is nothing to learn there, allows us to move away from them.

Marcus Aurelius wrote in his Meditations: "Right now you may leave life, let this determine what you do, say and think." He practiced auditing every day before bedtime as if it were the last, since it could be, and at dawn, if life (or death) has given him another chance, take advantage of that bonus to do things better, learn, forgive, and be thankful.

Bronnie Ware worked for several years in palliative care in a hospice and after many hours of conversations with these patients who were close to death, she managed to identify their main regrets. In her book "Top five regrets of the dying" she identified the following:

- "I wish I had had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me."
- "I wish I hadn't worked so hard."
- "I wish I had had the courage to express my feelings."
- "I wish I had kept in touch with my friends."

- "I wish I had allowed myself to be happier."

Most people at the time of dying do not regret having fulfilled the wishes of the famous bucket list, but rather regrets have more to do with ideals, relationships and values.

Those people who have come face to face with death consider it the great teacher, since this has allowed them to make remarkable personal changes filled with clarity regarding priorities and values. In the face of imminent death, our values become clear, what is important regains its value over what is urgent, and life is lived more fully.

We don't necessarily have to face a near death experience to capitalize the learning, we can exercise keeping in mind the inevitability and unpredictability of death to help us adopt a more realistic perspective, a more humble attitude and a more compassionate existence. This also allows us to understand that our time is valuable and how to protect it fiercely, since as Seneca said, dying is a process that has to do with the irreversibility of the passage of time.

Optimal Health, continued on page 17

When we realize that life (or death) gives us the chance to learn and repair, we evolve from regretting to learn from our mistakes. Keeping death in mind also helps us to be more compassionate with others and with ourselves and we begin to judge less. It is a good exercise to periodically ask oneself: "What would I do differently now if I knew I was dying tomorrow or in a week, or in a month, or in a year?" And also, in front of others: "What would I do differently with that person if I knew they were dying tomorrow? How would I treat them?"

Keeping death in mind helps us cultivate courage to take the necessary steps to live life on our terms, get clarity on what we really want, practice self-compassion, so you can stop punishing yourself for past mistakes and start tapping into your inner strength and potential, allowing yourself to be happy, so you can invite more happiness into your life.

Memento mori means remember you will die, and it was the phrase whispered in the ear of the roman generals by a slave during the parades that took place after war victories, so they wouldn't forget their human essence.

Keeping death in mind also helps us stop taking everything so seriously.... We are a tiny particle of stardust, so, why take things so seriously? Can't we try to be lighter and jollier more frequently? In short, the best way to celebrate life is to keep death in mind.



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.

Culinary team heads to Taste of the Caribbean



L-R: Rashindra Donge, Elise Arrendale, Akeesha Cicilia, Floris van Loo and Eddy Trenidad Photo Julie Morgan

Five chefs from the Bonaire Culinary team are heading to the Kovens Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for CHTA (Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Taste of the Caribbean) November 18 – 20. The Bonaire team has exhibited their expertise here many times before by bringing home the gold and are sure to do it again.

Floris van Loo of Rum Runners Bonaire heads up the team as coach for the Bonaire chefs.

Elise Arrendale of Sweeti Bakery will be battling again for the title of Best Pastry Chef of the Caribbean.

Rashindra Donge is running for Senior Chef of the year. Donge is the only female ever to win this title.

Akeesha Cicilia is 16 year old junior chef and will be in the competition for Junior Chef of the Year. She is a student of Arrendale's and team member of Sweeti Bakery.

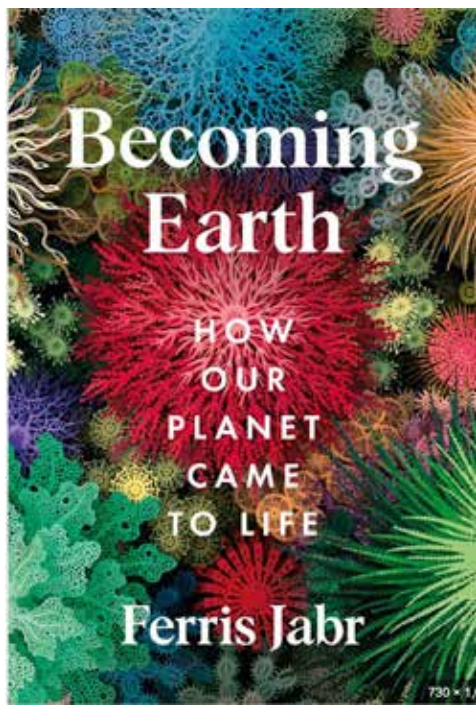
Eddy Trenidad is best known for his magic behind the bar at Tiki & Co. He has won many previous competitions and hopes to add Bartender of the Year at Taste of the Caribbean to his list of wins.

Taste of the Caribbean gives chefs and culinary teams throughout the region the opportunity to compete, demonstrate and develop their skills, learn from other chefs and increase the value of the culinary arts.

Story / photo Julie Morgan

Buckley's Books

by George Buckley



In telling the story of the interconnectedness of Planet Earth's physical and living components and the ecosystems and symbiosis that have resulted, Ferris Jabr's recent book takes readers on a several billion year old journey of planetary evolution. A masterful storyteller and expert writer, Jabr knows of what he writes, having conducted extensive research, traveled the world and visited countless research labs and field projects in his quest to unravel the workings of the planet we call Earth. The physical and natural processes and mechanisms that

have brought us to this place and time are complex but the author has again and again explained them in terms and word pictures that tell the story as if we were there observing it ourselves.

Jabr packs a LOT of details into a couple of hundred pages as he weaves references to critical theories and ideas of their authors into the descriptions of specific biological and chemical activities that have shaped the Earth as well as the development of the continents and the role of volcanos. The importance of numerous 'cycles,' minerals and chemicals, grazers and the important role of fire are all explored as is the GAIA hypothesis developed by James Lovelock and Lynn Margolis. Related images and diagrams are included in a separate section as are detailed references and a comprehensive index, the later a critical inclusion that is today all too often left out!

Becoming Earth provides a deep look at the many roles that microbial life have had in the creation and sustenance of our planet. From bacteria, phytoplankton and zooplankton to the higher level plants and animals, the vital role that each occupies in the development of a cohesive planet are laid out. Important as the well vetted food chains are to life on Earth, the individual impacts of various species are also investigated. We learn of Earth's early molten history, the formation of oceans and continental crusts and microbial mats of stromatolites and then the crucial oxygen production by the Cyanobacteria during its first two and a half billion years. The multiple roles of microscopic floating plankton are well investigated as they are massively abundant in most aquatic environments. When they die, they become 'marine snow', as research submarine occupants have called their decent to the seabed where they often build up oozes and muds meters deep (which over mil-

lennia become deposits of natural gas and oil).

The plankton include a dizzying array of shapes, structure and chemical makeup. Included are diatoms and radiolarians made of silica, satellite-like foraminifera made of many substances to assorted dinoflagellates and the chalk based carbon dioxide controlling Coccolithophores that look like microscopic hubcaps glued together and make up the 'white cliffs of Dover' in England and elsewhere.

While most of Jabr's enlightening discussion focuses on the confluence of the physical and natural world, he makes pointed note of the impacts of a relatively recent addition to Earth's ecosystems, mankind. Using plastics and fuels as prime examples, he reviews the cumulative evidence of those impacts, now called the Anthropocene, with its effects on climate, soils, oceans, indeed whole ecosystems and people themselves.

Award winning author Elizabeth Kolbert has called *Becoming Earth* ... " Fascinating, thought provoking and inspiring"; I agree, it is excellent science journalism, well worth the read.



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

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A woman holding a small dog on a beach.



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Animal Shelter News

Barktober Fest: A Day of Fun and Awareness



On October 27th, we celebrated Barktober Fest with a spirited walk along the boulevard, featuring 30 dogs from the animal shelter, accompanied by dedicated volunteers. Many participants were wearing festive Halloween costumes, including some of the dogs. This event aimed to raise awareness for our over-

crowded shelter, highlighting the urgent need for support and adoption. Prizes for the best costumes were generously sponsored by Bydes and Something Sweet. To make the day even sweeter, all the dogs enjoyed delicious pup cups from Luciano's. Thank you to

everyone who joined us in this heartwarming event, helping to shine a light on the shelter's needs. Want to join our event next time? Keep an eye on our socials!

Marissa Lamers / Photo Julie Morgan

Pet of the Week



Jan

Cat of the week! Jan is our cat of the week. Jan is a two and half year old male ginger and white cat. He has been at the Animal Shelter Bonaire for almost two years. Jan is one of our medium sized cats who enjoys lounging on the hammocks or snuggling in a corner with other cats. He is mild mannered and just a chill kind of cat. Jan can be an indoor or outdoor cat and would do fine with other cats in the house or garden.

Jan is litter trained and enjoys playing with cat toys. He does like being petted behind the ears.

Please come and meet Jan. He will make a nice addition to your home. Jan is sterilized, up to date on vaccines and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Bo Attevelt

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

**Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

You can also call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Priscilla Raes and her pup for day Photo Julie Morgan

STINAPA reports the death of the crocodile

As you already know, on Saturday evening, the crocodile was carefully captured and transferred to a safe, temporary location. Here, the animal was promptly examined by a veterinarian to ensure its health. Unfortunately, we must report that the crocodile did not survive the transition.

Stress is a known risk factor in the capture of wild animals, which in some cases – as can also occur with other species – can lead to death. In this instance, all available precautions were taken: the capture was professionally conducted by



rangers, and medical aftercare was provided in a timely manner. We suspect, however, that despite these efforts,

the stress may have been too much for the crocodile.

We are currently awaiting the results of the autopsy, which we hope will provide more clarity on the exact cause of death. As soon as additional information becomes available, we will share it with the community.

We thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation in this situation.

STINAPA News Release

High numbers on Dive Friends end of year cleanup




Dive Friends final quarterly underwater cleanup for 2024 attracted an amazing 67 divers at the south pier on October 19. The group of divers dedicated to keeping our ocean free of debris collected 150 kg (330.693 lbs) but unfortunately there was still more to remove. We noted several months ago the space on the outside of the pier has somehow become a dumping ground for old construction materials, most too heavy to remove. There was even a shopping cart.

Here is what was recovered: 743 pieces of plastic; 280 pieces of glass; 67 cloth or textile items; 135 pieces of metal; 3 pieces of rubber; 1 wood, 1 paper and 24 mixed materials. In total that equals 1404 pieces of debris polluting and harming marine life.

As always after a cleanup, Dive Friends organized a BBQ with prizes for all the participants at the Dive Friends Hamlet location. Stay alert for the notification of the next cleanups in 2025. Thanks to everyone who participated. See you next year.

See chart for the amount of debris removed in the Dive Friends Cleanups in 2024.
Story / Photo Julie Morgan




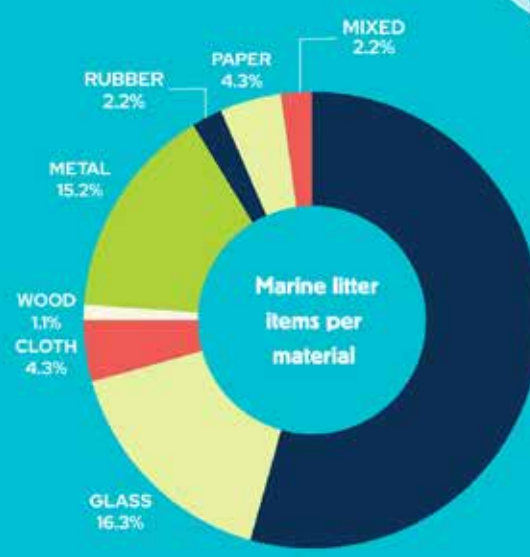
CLEAN UP DIVES 2024

Team up to clean up!

5079 items

329 divers





Marine litter items per material


Material	Percentage
Plastic	54.3%
Glass	16.3%
Metal	15.2%
Wood	1.1%
Cloth	4.3%
Rubber	2.2%
Paper	4.3%
Mixed	2.2%

5
house reefs

2
downtown reefs

16
total dives

555 KG of marine litter



SIGN UP!

NEXT CLEAN UP DIVE
January 25th 2025

Visit divefriendsbonaire.com for more info or register on our Facebook page



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FLIGHT SCHEDULE – Winter 2024/2025

starting November 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	DAY
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue	SAT TUE
MIAMI	American Airlines	MON WED-SAT
ATLANTA	DELTA	SAT SUN
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED	SAT
HOUSTON	UNITED	SUN
TORONTO	WESTJET	WED
AMSTERDAM	KLM	DAILY
AMSTERDAM	TUI	MON WED-SAT
AMSTERDAM	corendon	SUN WED
SANTO DOMINGO	SKYhigh	FRI
CURACAO SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	MON FRI SUN
CURACAO ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	DAILY
CURACAO ARUBA	ZAir	DAILY
BARRANQUILLA	ZAir	MON FRI

Introduction of the Healthcare Card



From 28 October, Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) will introduce the Healthcare Card on Bonaire. This personal card will replace the paper insurance certificate. Bonaire residents who have been insured with ZJCN for at least two years can collect their Healthcare Card according to the schedule below:

Location Kralendijk: Jong Bonaire, Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #16

Birth Year	Period	Time
1920 - 1959	28 October until 2 November	
1960 - 1969	4 November until 8 November	
1970 - 1979	11 November until 16 November	09:00 – 12:00
1980 - 1989	18 November until 22 November	13:00 – 17:00
1990 or later	25 November until 30 November	

Location Rincon: Cocari, Kaya Rincon #50

Birth Year	Period	Time
All ages	2 December until 7 December	09:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 17:00

Important:
Bring your *sédula* and the completed customer form with you.



For more information, please visit:
www.rijksdienstcn.com or scan the QR code.

2024 Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean, continued

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	DATE															
		NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral	SUNSET	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral									7:22–10:37 PM							
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral								7:32–8:47 PM								

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	DATE															
		NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber																12:00–8:00 PM
<i>Hemodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm																12:00–7:00 PM
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	Long-Spined Sea Urchin																12:00–9:00 PM
<i>Neofibularia noltangere</i>	Touch-Me-Not Sponge																2:00–7:00 PM
<i>Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunicia</i>	Sea Rods																starting at 7:00 PM
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>	Black Sea Rod																7:00–11:00 PM
<i>Ophiuroidea</i>	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star																7:30–11:00 PM
<i>Pseudopterogorgia spp.</i>	Sea Plume																8:00–11:00 PM
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm																9:00–11:30 PM

Abbreviations & Colors

- NAFM:** Nights After the Full Moon
 - MBS:** Minutes Before Sunset
 - MAS:** Minutes After Sunset
 - Pale Blue:** Spawning may be possible but data are sparse. Please help by diving these dates.
 - Light Blue:** Spawning is possible. Spawning has been observed on these dates.
 - Medium Blue:** Spawning is likely. Spawning is often observed on these dates.
 - Dark Blue:** Spawning is very likely. Spawning is reliably observed on these dates.
- New color gradient is friendlier to colorblind viewing and grayscale printers. Times are now in AM/PM instead of 24h.



Tips for Observers

- Spawning is never guaranteed, especially in a changing climate. When in doubt, go for a dive.
- Predictions do not include buffers; we suggest entering the water well before predicted times.
- Dive in a place with high coral cover.
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights.
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize dive time.
- Use a moderately bright dive light.
- Scan the water column for clouds of spawn.
- Spawn from most brain/star/elkhorn/staghorn corals looks like snow/confetti/polka dots.
- Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals and male great star corals looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand.
- Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!).
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times.

More Resources & How To Get Involved

- Bonus features and PDF download:** Sign up for our dive tips, access this PDF, get notified when future spawning calendars are released, and help us measure our reach. Please take our quick survey at www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2024.
- New Coral Breeding Reference Sheets:** This new community resource for coral propagation, led by Val Chamberland, is now available to download here: <https://www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting>.
- Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is under development to collect and distribute regional spawning data. Therefore, if you monitor spawning, please record as many of the following details as possible: Date, location, site name (or lat/long), depth, species, setting time (if seen), spawning start and stop times, area monitored in m2, # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all very welcome! Send reports to carmablog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@secore.org, or kristen@marhaverlab.com. You can also post your observations at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch>.
- Huge thanks** to everyone who shared observations over the past 30+ years. The Curacao team wishes you a safe and productive spawning season!
- Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral