

**FREE**

**BONAIRE**

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# The REPORTER



Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone/WhatsApp (+599) 786-4055, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [bonairereporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:bonairereporter2019@gmail.com)



Photo Julie Morgan

## Ride for the Roses 2025 unites us

Over 1000 people participated in the 2025 Ride for the Roses on February 2. Some rode bikes, some ran, walked, swam or volunteered and all have been touched by cancer. Ride for the Roses unites us in the fight against the disease and everyone has a story.

the red flags at the start signaled the 57 cyclists to begin their ride of 26k or 13k. Approximately 742 walkers and runners followed at 7 a.m. heading out on the 8.75k or 5.5k walk along the Malecon and through the streets of Bonaire. As

they returned to the park, 60 swimmers found their way to Kas di Regatta to begin their 1.5k swim back to Isidel Park.

Participants ranged in age from 80+ years down to the very young,

some in strollers and one pushed in a floatie by his swimming mother. For anyone who couldn't make the full journey riding, walking or swimming, volunteers were there to assist. And all along the route volunteers manned water stations.

Anyone watching the procession of walkers would see a sea of white t-shirts with a few red shirts designating the 39 survivors of the disease. At the finish line, staff of Hospice Kas Flamboyant and volunteers handed out the traditional rose to participants and many received hugs too. Smiles, hope, survival and determination were the themes of the day with everyone having their own story of cancer.

Dawn had not yet broken when participants gathered at Isidel Beach Park, the event's new start and finish. Welcoming speeches from president Jursi Marshall and organizers set the tone of the day as one of hope, resilience and togetherness.

Since the beginning in 2016, Orco Bank has sponsored the event. The sponsorship was initiated by John Soliano, then an Orco Bonaire director, now Governor of Bonaire.

Orco Banks Country Manager and survivor said, "This event is a reminder that none of us fights alone. Today as we ride and walk together, we honor survivors, remember loved ones and support those still fighting."

As the sun lightened the sky participants were led through a little warmup exercise and at 6:55 a.m.



Ride for the Roses board members welcome Russell Anderson to the Finish line: Frondaly Martina, Charles Lont, Vel Anderson (Russell's mother), Anne-Marie Maercera, Russell Anderson, Jursi Marshall, Mila Loeks and Coen van Gennip Photo Julie Morgan

Walker Russell Anderson of Texada Island in Canada walked for his father, William, who died of cancer in 2018 on Bonaire. Walking with sticks along the 5.5k route Russell had his own story as a survivor of pulmonary embolism, strokes, coma and dialysis. He lost the use of his dominant right arm, hand and fingers. In May 2023 his numerous doctors said he would never walk again but he proved them wrong.

Following a ECMO (Extracorporeal life support) he recalled being in darkness.

**Ride for the Roses to page 10**



### Parliament wants crackdown on CAS corruption

Member of Parliament Aukje de Vries (VVD) presented a motion to strengthen the Netherlands' approach to integrity violations in the administration of Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten. The House of Representatives has adopted the motion. State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Zsolt Szabó has announced that he will come up with concrete proposals for implementing the motion in the spring.

De Vries reported that, "A former member of parliament in Sint Maarten was sentenced to eighteen months in prison for buying votes in elections. An unconditional prison sentence of three years has been demanded against a former minister of Aruba for bribery, fraud and abuse of his position. In the upcoming elections in Curaçao, one of the party leaders is in prison on suspicion of money laundering." *DMR*

### Aruban politician given get out of jail card

An Aruban judge recently declared Otmar Oduberk, member of parliament and former minister, guilty of fraud and abuse of office. The judge gave Oduberk a prison sentence and a community service order. The judge also banned him from working in government service or standing for election for a period of three years because, in the judge's words, "The trust that must be placed in a government servant has been so seriously damaged by the suspect that there is no place for him to serve that government during that period."

At the time of sentencing, the judge largely suspended the prison sentence and community service order, then a week later rescinded the ban on government service. The judge determined that the Aruban Criminal Code provided for disenfranchisement only for specific for specific offenses, such as bribery, and that fraud and abuse of office did not constitute specific offenses. *DMR*

### New audit head on Curaçao reportedly tied to gambling mafia

Joël Felida, newly appointed chairman of the General Audit Office of Curaçao, is closely involved with the gambling mafia that operates via the island according to the journalistic investigative platform *Follow the Money*.

The foreign online casino providers operating on Curaçao are often shady Eastern Bloc organizations that are involved in laundering profits from criminal activities.

According to *Follow the Money*, "documents in possession of FTM show that Felida was personally involved in the Bulgarian-Israeli gambling syndicate. The lawyer was involved with letterbox companies in Curaçao behind which dozens of gambling sites are hidden that illegally target European countries." *DMR*

### Dutch visitors can take Cadushy liqueurs home for now

Customs in the European Netherlands has been confiscating bottles of Cadushy liqueurs because of the cactus pictured on the label. According to European regulations, the cactus is protected. Therefore the liqueurs are in violation because, according to the label, they contain cactus. Cadushy appealed, saying the liqueurs contain only cactus flavor.

After Cadushy appealed, customs agreed to suspend confiscation temporarily. But the legal battle will continue. Cadushy is hoping for a final compromise. *DMR*

### BES decrees more protection from domestic and child abuse

As of January 1, a Protection Code is in force in the BES Islands that provides people with more protection from domestic violence and child abuse.

- Under the decree, social support will be better organized to enable people to live independently at home for as long as possible, including household help and day care services.

- Organizations will be required to establish a Protection Code. The code will stipulate five steps professionals in the organization must follow when identifying and reporting suspected cases of child abuse or domestic violence.

- Citizens and professionals will soon have an advice center that will help them report suspicions of domestic violence or child abuse in ways that protect them from liability. *DMR*

### Coast Guard employees arrested for planting electronic trackers

Four Coast Guard employees and a former employee have been arrested today on suspicion of assisting in the importation of drugs. GPS equipment was has been found on coast guard vessels that allowed drug smugglers to track the movements of the vessels. The arrested personnel are suspected of secretly planting the GPS trackers. *DMR*

### Prosecutors busy with shootings, can't pursue landfill arson

According to reports, CCTV footage exists that identifies two people suspected of starting the Lagun landfill fire last May that had such a devastating impact on the community. The Public Prosecution Service says the arson case has been delayed by their lack of investigative capacity. They are too busy investigating shootings. *DMR*

### LGBTQ+ community attacked, defended

Reportedly a gathering of members of church organizations demonstrated against the LGBTQ+ community at Wilhelminaplein on January 11. Governor John Soliano, as did many other Bonaireans, acknowledged the group's right to express their opinion. But he also emphasized that Bonaire has a diverse society with different opinions and beliefs, and that everyone should feel safe and respected on the island. *DMR*

### BES promised early notice of upcoming legislation

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Zsolt Szabó reported to the House of Representatives that the BES public bodies will be informed earlier in the design phase about pending new laws. He also said the government is introducing an implementation test to better predict the impact of laws on the Caribbean Netherlands.

All new or amended legislation for the European Netherlands also applies to Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, unless there are valid reasons not to do so. Given the adoption a few years ago of the "comply or explain principle," the onus is on the island governments to make their voices heard. They can comment only if they receive timely notice. *DMR*

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**Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:**  
Phone (+599) 786 4055  
Email: [bonairereporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:bonairereporter2019@gmail.com)  
Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.  
**The Bonaire Reporter Staff**  
*Publisher:* Julie Morgan  
*Production:* Barbara Lockwood  
*Website:* Michael Copini  
*Contributors:* Ginny Knight, Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Jane Madden-Disko, Don M. Ricks, Alan Zale, Irene de Cunda Costa, Sanne Attevelt, Marissa Lamers, Amy Bowen, Kaj Schut, Wilma Nijland, Izaïñ Mercera, Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, George Buckley, Frank Böhm, Paul Ruijs, Pam Teitel, Mel McCombie, Sara Matera, Bo Attevelt, Malcolm Wilson, Nancy Persad, Sander van Lopik, Chantal Hulst  
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**Dee Scarr is taking a short break.**

**She will return soon with more fishy facts to delight us in her column "Reef Glimpses."**





# Protecting wetlands for our future



Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Photo SkyviewBonaire

Bonaire's nature organizations celebrated World Wetlands Day with a fair at Wilhelmina Park February 2. On this day in 1971 the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was adopted to draw awareness to the world's most productive ecosystem - the wetlands.

Former Lt. Governor Nolly Oleana, an environmental and sustainability advocate, spoke.

Oleana said, "Bonaire has many important areas. Lac is one of them and I always found it to be a privilege to swim and fish there and just be in the area, so much so STINAPA asked me to help with the mangroves. We have to deal with problems from oil pollution to sargassum and all need to be addressed. Not only the wetlands but all over the island."

A film played in the background revealing the ongoing work of Bonaire's Mangrove Maniacs and other nature groups. Crowds strolled among the booths scattered through the plaza. All booths offered information on their organization's year-long activities, some through educational games, and some even offered prizes.

WWF – Involved with: • Karko Project to repopulate the species in Bonaire's Lac Bay; • Clean Coast Bonaire program to remove and monitor micro plastics; and • Monitoring wetlands project.

RoffaReefs – Groundbreaking floating

fish breeding system that is finding solutions to repopulate reef fish to coral reefs.

**Tera Barra Native Garden** – A major force in the reforestation and greening of Bonaire with indigenous plants. Provides advice and services to residents and businesses. Native plants are available.

**STINAPA Bonaire** – Provided hands on education for adults and children on: growth cycle of the conch; paying your nature fee at the airport; and a new book in Papiamentu and Dutch for elementary children about Bonaire's nature.

**Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation** – Displayed images of mantas seen on

Bonaire. They welcome your information and images of manta or devil ray sightings from past to present. Since 2009 Bonaire has had 386 sightings.

**CCS** – Dolphin and cetacean sightings on Bonaire. Anyone spotting dolphins is urged to contact CCS or report any harassment or bad behavior that could harm the mammals.

**BonBerde** – To date has planted 1653 trees in the new 3.5k x 150 hectare park for the indigenous Sabal Palm. Designed to protect the tree for the future of Bonaire, the park is funded by OLB through the Dutch Ministry NEPP (Nature and

Environmental Policy Plan).

**Mangrove Maniacs** – Founder and organizer for the fourth year of World Wetlands Day on Bonaire. Displayed live mangrove plants. Approximately 30-40 regular volunteers work to clear channels, and grow and plant new mangroves.

**Greenpeace** – discussed what their climate change initiative will mean for Bonaire. Author Saskia Vermeer's book *Wind Water and Waves on Bonaire* was available for sale.

**Reef Renewal** – Discussed their latest coral renewal work in Bonaire and how to get involved in the program that is actively growing and planting coral on Bonaire's reefs.

**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** –Cares for turtles through monitoring, tagging, rescues when necessary, beach walks for nest counts and fishing line cleanups.

**Beach Cleanup** – Collects washed up children's toys from beaches to make wind chimes and other items. Children and adults could make their own with the rescued debris.

**Kos di Kurason** – Has water wheel chairs and special swimming program for disabled and elderly to reintroduce them to the ocean held first Saturday of the month.

**Bonaire Info Booth** – Provided maps of Bonaire.

Story Julie Morgan

## FOR SALE Hamlet Villa 12

**Unique Beachfront Villa with Private Beach Access  
This Won't Last Long!**



This stunning 5 bed / 5.5 bath beachfront villa features sweeping views of the Caribbean sea, a lush tropical garden and your own private beach access! The property is designed by divers for divers, and includes rinse tanks, outdoor showers, dive lockers and direct beach access with sandy beach. Full service dive shop is close by.



Contact us for more information

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362

info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com

<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



# POLICE REPORT

*You can contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.*

## Property crimes and arrests

**Jan. 30 & 27. Scooter theft :** Three scooters were stolen in the night while parked locked at their various residences: • grey Sym Orbit 2 scooter, license plate MF-3131 • black Sym Fiddle2 scooter, license plate MF-4202 • dark grey Kymco Agility scooter, license plate MF-4211.

## Thefts continue at beaches by the airport

**Jan. 27.** A beach bag containing an iPhone SE, Polaroid sunglasses, clothing, make-up and house keys was stolen from Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) around 3:30 p.m. while the owners were snorkeling.

**Jan. 15.** A bag containing sunglasses, bath towels, clothes, a power bank, a GoPro Hero 5 camera and car keys was stolen while the owners were snorkeling at 'Te Amo Beach' between 3:10 and 3:40 p.m.

**Jan. 15.** At Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) around 1:30 p.m. a yellow, green and pink Rituals bag with a car key and bath towels was stolen while owners were swimming.

## Several reports of theft at Altamira Unjo in Rincon

**Jan. 31.** At Altamira a tourist was robbed of cash, a driver's license and a ship card. The thief disappeared into the bushes.

**Jan. 27.** While occupants were taking photos at Altamira cash was stolen from bags left in their golf cart.

**Jan. 24.** While occupants were taking pictures at Altamira a hat and a card holder with cash were stolen from a beach bag left in the pick-up. When the thief saw occupants returning to the vehicle, he ran into the bushes and disappeared.

## Stealing from residents and tourists

**Feb. 2.** A tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham was burgled between 7 and 9 p.m. Taken were a beauty case, cards, headphones, Airpods, two MacBooks, a drone, keys and a jacket.

**Jan. 23.** An apartment on Kaya Sirena was burgled between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. by people who gained access through an unlocked front door and searched the apartment. A black Xiaomi model 11T telephone was taken.

**Jan. 18.** In the morning a vehicle was stolen from the yard of a house on Kaya Mandolin. The owner, who was abroad at the time, saw on security camera footage two men walking onto his property and taking his white Nissan Navara pick-up. The suspects also took buckets of roof paint in the back of the pick-up. The police found the house broken into and completely searched by the suspects. Both suspects were recognized on the camera footage. The first suspect, a man, 47, was arrested around 1:30 p.m. at Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. The second suspect, a man, 36, was arrested around 8:10 p.m. at a snack bar on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia. The stolen pick-up was parked at the snack bar and was confiscated.

**Jan. 16.** A home on Kaya Playa Lechi was burgled between Wednesday around 6 p.m. and Thursday around 8 a.m. People destroyed the back door of the house and took a television from the living room.

## Shooting / Preventive frisking

**Feb. 2.** Around 7:35 p.m. a firearm was shot into a passing car at Kaya Grandi and Kaya L.D. Gerharts. The driver was injured but responsive and went to the hospital. The Forensic Investigation of the KPCN conducted an investigation on the spot. The victim's car was confiscated for investigation.

**Violation of the Firearms Act. Jan. 29.** In the morning the Special Assignments Group (GBO) and the Arrest Team made two arrests and searched two houses. The first arrest was connected with the recent shootings. A man, 28, was arrested for violation of the Firearms Act BES. A firearm was seized during a search carried out in a house on Kaya Konfó. A man, 23, was also arrested for violation of the Firearms Act BES and a house on Kaya Mandolin was searched. The investigation into both cases is still ongoing.

**Jan. 19 / 21.** Sunday afternoon and evening the central control room received multiple reports of fevers and shots heard near Nort Saliña and at the cemetery on Kaya Maria C. Hellmund-Boom. In addition, a report was received about a fire in the cemetery. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. Monday evening reports were again received about shots heard near Nort Saliña. *The KPCN requests anyone who with relevant information for the investigation to contact the police via 715-8000 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.*

## Arrests

**Jan. 27.** Around 4:35 p.m. a man, 41, was arrested for threats and violating the BES Weapons Act. Police responded to a report that a man was waving a knife on a street in Rincon. The police found him in front of a bar on Bulevar Miguel Pourier

with a knife in his waistband. When the officers wanted to approach the man, he started shouting at them. At one point, the man pulled the knife from his waistband, put it on the ground, then turned around and walked away shouting. When he did not respond to orders to stay the officers grabbed him by the shoulder. He resisted, pulled away, and started to run away but he tripped over his own feet, giving the officers the opportunity to put him on the ground and arrest him. During the transport, he threatened an officer several times. The man was also charged with making threats. Earlier that day he had refused to pay at a supermarket on Kaya Commerce in Rincon and threatened a cashier with a knife.

**Jan. 23.** Around 1:25 a.m. a man, 30, was arrested at a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham for insulting a civil servant on duty, public drunkenness and resisting arrest. A security guard at the accommodation stated that the man had caused problems earlier that day and that he had been drinking a lot of alcohol. When officers were talking to the security guard, the man came over and started shouting and filming with his telephone. An exchange of words arose between the man and an officer that led to a brief struggle, after which the man insulted the police officer, resisted arrest and continued to insult the officers during transport to the police station.

**Jan. 20.** Around 7:45 p.m. a man, 22, was arrested on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot for attempted manslaughter and serious assault. Police received a report that after his car hit two people, the driver fled on foot. When police arrived at the scene, they found a vehicle against a fence of a house. The victims, who were very shocked, were hiding in the garden. The ambulance crew offered assistance to the victims. Neither had to go to the hospital. Shortly afterwards, an unknown man arrived and stated that he was the driver of the vehicle involved in the collision. He was immediately arrested.

**Jan. 16.** Around 2:25 p.m. a man, 70, was arrested for animal abuse. Earlier that day, an argument was reported between two people about a dog at a house on Kaya Karko. During the argument, the suspect had sprayed a poisonous liquid on the dog and beat the animal. Police found a seriously injured dog with an open head wound, damaged fur and skin. The dog was still alive but in serious danger of death. The animal was covered in ticks, and was extremely thin, so that its ribs and hips were clearly visible. The dog was taken by the police to an animal practice for treatment. Despite the efforts of the veterinarian, the dog died from his injuries. The case has been investigated and the file has been sent to the Public Prosecution Service.

## 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.*

## Arrests for driving under the influence

**Jan. 29.** Around 8:15 p.m. a man, 67, was arrested on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot for driving under the influence of alcohol. Police responded to a report that a car had collided with a pick-up and then continued driving. The driver of the pick-up chased the car and blocked it in a parking lot at a park. The driver of the car was able to show police a valid driver's license, but no proof of insurance. Based on the result of breath tests, his driver's license was confiscated.

**Jan. 25.** Around 1:45 a.m. a car and a pick-up truck collided in the parking lot of a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham. According to the caller, the other party wanted to drive away. The police gave both drivers a breath test and one of them, a woman, 56, was given a 5-hour driving ban for driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Jan. 22.** Around 2:45 a.m. a patrol driving on Kaya Korona saw a vehicle crashed into a lamppost. When the officers asked if the driver needed help, he said no. Police then discovered that the driver did not have a valid driver's license and was not insured. Testing showed that he had consumed more than the permitted amount of alcohol and the man, 30, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Jan. 22.** Around 1:40 a.m. a man, 18, was arrested on Kaya Italia for driving under the influence of alcohol. A patrol stopped a scooter with two people on it for a routine check. The driver presented a valid driver's license but was fined for having no proof of insurance. After breath tests the driver was given a 2-hour driving ban.

**Jan. 19.** Around 1:20 a.m. a car and a pick-up truck collided on Kaya Grandi. One of the drivers, a man, 60, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and his driver's li-

cence was confiscated.

**Jan. 16.** Around 6:35 p.m. a car and a pick-up collided on E.E.G. Boulevard. The driver of the car drove off the road, collided with the pick-up truck and then overturned coming to a standstill on the beach. A breath test showed that the car's driver, a woman, 36, had consumed more than the permitted amount of alcohol. Because she was injured, she was first taken to the hospital for medical treatment, then to the police station for a breath analysis after which her driver's license was confiscated.

## Collisions

**Jan. 30.** Around 4 p.m. police responded to a report that a person had been hit by a car on Kaya Gilberto F. (Betico) Croes. The driver of the car stated that she saw a man standing along the road suddenly cross the road. She was unable to avoid him, and the man fell to the ground. The victim was treated for abrasions by the ambulance personnel.

**Jan. 28.** Around 3 p.m. on Kaminda Gurubu a pick-up overturned and ended up in a ditch, causing extensive damage to the vehicle. After the fire brigade freed the driver who was injured and trapped in his vehicle he was taken to the hospital. Gasoline had leaked in and around the pick-up but the cause of the collision is unknown.

**Jan. 27.** Around 2:15 p.m. on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia a car drove into the mondi, trapping the occupants. After the fire brigade freed the victims both were medically checked by the ambulance personnel. Both were very shocked. The driver stated that she suddenly got cramps in her legs while driving. When she wanted to brake, she accidentally stepped on the accelerator, causing the car to drive into the mondi.

**Jan. 19.** Around 2:20 p.m. a car and a motorcycle collided at the intersection of Hanchi Amboina and Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The motorcycle driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car stated that when she drove onto the road she did not see the motorcycle coming. The fire brigade spread sand on oil on the road surface from the accident.

**Jan. 17.** Around 1:45 a.m. a collision occurred on Kaya Korona. The driver of the car was injured and trapped in the vehicle. The fire brigade freed the victim, after which he was taken to hospital by ambulance. The passenger stated that they were driving north on Kaya Korona when they saw a pick-up truck approaching on their side of the road. The driver tried to avoid the vehicle, lost control, and drove through plants into a parking lot and then crashed into a wall. The car had considerable material damage to the front. Officers found alcoholic beverages in the car and both the driver and the passenger showed signs of alcohol consumption. Because the driver had to be taken to hospital immediately, a breath test could not be taken.

**Jan. 15.** Around 11 p.m. a 'Hit and Run' was reported in the city centre area. A black car crashed into the back of another car at high speed. Since it was a one-way street, the vehicle that was hit was pushed forward allowing the black car to leave the scene. The passenger of the vehicle that was hit was injured and was treated on site by the ambulance personnel. Police found the car said to have caused the collision at a house on Kaya Korona. The driver said he had not stopped because he was in shock and had driven home out of fear.

## Public order

**Jan 31.** Around 10:40 p.m. at the stadium on Kaya Bototé in Rincon a football player allegedly attacked the referee during a match. The victim was taken to the hospital for medical treatment. When the police arrived, the suspect had already fled.

**Jan. 26.** Around 11:45 p.m. a person was reported lying on the ground near a bar on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. The ambulance personnel examined the man on the spot, but decided not to take him to the hospital. A second report came in a little later about the same person because he didn't seem to be breathing. A patrol and an ambulance were notified. The patrol that arrived on the spot immediately started resuscitation until the ambulance arrived. When the ambulance arrived, the man was taken to the hospital.

**Jan. 20.** Around 12:25 p.m. the central control room received a report about a snorkeler who was found floating in the sea. Persons on a boat pulled the woman out of the sea and brought her to the coast while trying to resuscitate the victim. Upon arrival, the ambulance personnel took over the resuscitation, but to no avail. The coroner who arrived at the scene confirmed the death of the woman, 69, born August 16, 1955 in Germany.

# 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.



## Blinded by the Lights: The Biodiversity Cost of Artificial Illumination

We're used to hearing about the catastrophic effects of carbon dioxide emissions, deforestation, industrial toxins, plastic pollution, and other well-documented environmental threats. Yet one danger remains critically under-recognized: light pollution. This insidious and far-reaching issue deserves its place among the horsemen of our environmental apocalypse.

### The Cycle of Light and Dark: Nature's Blueprint

For billions of years, life on Earth has evolved within the natural rhythm of day and night, a cycle essential for survival. However, in just 150 years, the widespread use of artificial light has drastically altered this balance. By extending the day into the night, we have disrupted nocturnal life, shattered circadian rhythms, and interfered with the biological clocks that regulate all living organisms, including humans.

It's not just about us. Countless species rely on darkness for survival. When we tamper with night, we disturb entire ecosystems. And while the impact on nocturnal creatures is immediately obvious, the disruption ripples outward, affecting every organism. This interconnected web includes us, as our health and well-being are deeply tied to the rhythms of the natural world.

In fact, the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine recognized scientists who uncovered the "rhythm gene," which regulates biological clocks across species – from bacteria to humans. These clocks are calibrated by the natural interplay of light and darkness. Artificial light disrupts this fundamental system, and the consequences are as profound as they are far-reaching.

### Light Pollution and the Extinction Crisis

Light pollution is not just an inconvenience or a health issue; it is a major driver of extinction and biodiversity loss. As artificial light invades ecosystems, it disturbs the intricate relationships that sustain life, accelerating the decline of countless species. Scientists estimate that a million species face extinction due to habitat destruction, climate change, and pollution, and light pollution compounds these threats, creating a cascade of disruptions that destabilize entire ecosystems.

### The Consequences of a Broken Night

Nocturnal creatures make up a substantial portion of Earth's biodiversity, relying on darkness for hunting, reproduction, navigation, and survival. Artificial light robs them of their habitat and throws their behaviors into chaos.

Even for humans, artificial light wreaks havoc on health. Studies have linked exposure to nighttime light with sleep deprivation, obesity, depression, and hormone-related cancers. The consequences are not limited to our individual well-being but ripple out into broader societal issues.

### Habitat Fragmentation by Light

The reality is stark: each misplaced beam of light fragments habitats and isolates wildlife. The steady glow of our cities acts as a barrier, dividing ecosystems and making it harder for animals to find mates, migrate, or maintain genetic diversity. It's as if we've drawn invisible walls across the natural world, carving it into shrinking, inhospitable patches.

Fragmented habitats make it harder for wildlife to move, adapt, and thrive, hastening biodiversity loss. As ecosystems degrade, their resilience crumbles. A single missing species can trigger cascading failures, pulling entire systems toward collapse. These ecological barriers created by light are as real as any road, fence, or dam, yet they remain largely invisible in discussions about environmental destruction.

### The Human Connection: Biodiversity Loss and Our Future

The extinction of species is not merely a loss for wildlife; it also jeopardizes humanity by eroding the biodiversity we depend on for essentials like clean air, fertile soil, and stable ecosystems. We rely on biodiversity for clean air, fertile soil, pollinated crops, and stable climates. Light pollution's role in the biodiversity crisis isn't always obvious, but it is profound.

### How Much Light is Too Much?

As humans, our relationship with light is complicated. There's an evolutionary fear of the dark – a primal instinct tied to our survival. Yet, in modern times, we've banished the night not out of necessity but because we can. This unchecked triumph over darkness speaks to something deeper: perhaps it is the unfiltered reality of the night—and of ourselves—that we are unwilling to face.

This fear comes at a steep cost. By replacing the dark with artificial light, we are not only disrupting natural cycles but also undermining our relationship with the natural world – and, arguably, with ourselves.

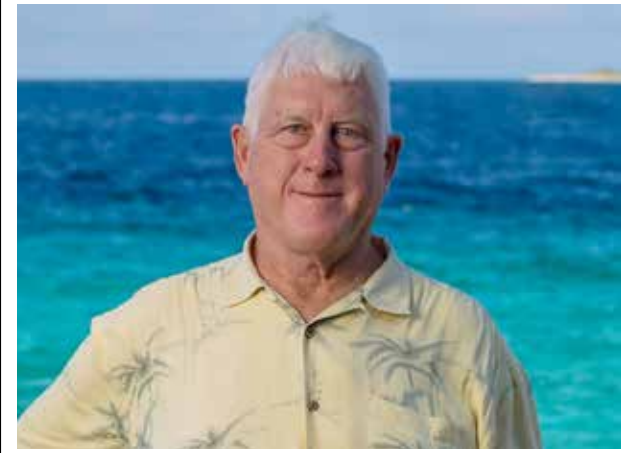
### A Case Study: Bonaire's Missed Opportunity

Despite Bonaire's claims of being environmental conscious, their approach to light pollution tells a different story. At the end of 2024, the government launched a campaign urging citizens to use less light at night. However, their messaging focused solely on financial savings – suggesting people use the money saved on gifts, snacks, or flights – rather than emphasizing the environmental and ecological importance of reducing light pollution.

This glaring omission reflects a broader failure to align rhetoric with meaningful action. Another campaign on the island address mosquito control by encouraging people to remove standing water. Yet it neglects to mention the crucial role nocturnal animals play in managing mosquito populations – a role that would be enhanced simply by turning off unnecessary lights.

# Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob –  
I'm turning 80 years old, and I am considering adding one of my children to the deed to my house on Bonaire. What are the things I need to consider?

John D, New Jersey

John,

Thanks for your question, and congratulations on turning 80. This is a really good question. I normally advise people not to change the deed and add another owner because when you do that the transfer costs can be significant as you usually have to pay the 5% transfer tax and Notaris fees since you are adding a NEW owner. Instead, I usually recommend that you do the following:

- Make sure your will is current and it can be helpful to specifically mention your property on Bonaire and what you would like to have happen with it after your passing.
- In most cases property ownership that transfers to parties mentioned in the will as an inheritance is exempt from transfer tax, and the heirs only need to pay the Notaris fees.
- If the heirs are planning to sell within a short time, there is no need to transfer ownership into their name before selling the property. With the proper paperwork, the executor of the estate can sell the property on behalf of the heirs.
- If the heirs are planning to continue owning the property, then we do suggest transferring legal ownership to the heirs as soon as possible as it can be difficult and time consuming to assemble all of the required paperwork in the future for a longer period of time, in order sell the property.
- In the USA there can also be tax advantages to transferring property upon your death, rather than beforehand.

Of course everyone's situation can be different so you should also consult with your legal counsel and financial advisor.

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](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com).

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By framing light reduction in terms of consumption rather than conservation, Bonaire not only undermines its environmental credentials but also misses an opportunity to lead by example. True environmental consciousness requires more than lip service; it demands a commitment to ecological integrity over convenience.

### Toward a Brighter (and Darker) Future

Reducing light pollution isn't just an environmental necessity; it's a moral imperative. It's about recognizing the interconnectedness of life on Earth and embracing the rhythms that have guided us for billions of years. By turning off the lights, we may find more than just cost savings – we may find ourselves. *FSPB*



# Ramp Edmundo (Eddy) Crestiaan opens at Isidel



Olivia Janga tries out the new ramp in a water wheelchair. Photo Julie Morgan



Into the water made safe by caring hands.  
Photo Julie Morgan

The pool (ocean) is now officially open to everyone at Isidel Beach Park. And that means **everyone** including folks with physical limitations, or those who just need a little assistance with a handrail or managing that walk into the water.

The new corrosion and rust proof 15 ft (4.8 m) ramp was installed into the water and opened in December but the ceremony was held January 29.

Dedicating the ramp was Adely Susana-Jansen, director at BOG (Bonaire Overheids Gebouwen NV / Bonaire Government Buildings) and Isidel Beach, who said, "The accessibility ramp is now a permanent part of the park, and everyone is welcome to use it."

Oliva Janga, daughter of the engineer of the ship *Isidel*, Angel Janga, entered the sea via the new ramp on a water wheelchair specifically made for the disabled.

The ramp and walkway are named for Bonaire's first ever swimming coach Eddy Crestiaan. Crestiaan taught swimming classes from 1974 – 2000 to kids from some 120 countries on the shores of what is now known as Isidel Park.

Crestiaan said, "I never went in the water when I was teaching swimming. I am a fisherman. I quit school and never went to school, I got everything I know from the sea. This is a great day, and I appreciate it. I didn't come in the world to be remembered. Remember men when you know them."

Isidel Beach Park is open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information email: [parkmanager@isidel-beachpark.com](mailto:parkmanager@isidel-beachpark.com) or call +599-777-4262.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



A smiling and happy Olivia after her swim with (L) Eddy Crestiaan and Adely Susan-Jansen of Isidel Beach Park.  
Photo Julie Morgan



## “Acceleration agenda” promised for Bonaire’s housing

Minister Mona Keijzer sent the House of Representatives an “Action Program Stimulation of Housing Construction” on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. She repeatedly cited the “housing crisis” caused by the major shortage of affordable housing for residents.

She says steady progress is being made, but progress doesn’t solve problems. “Full throttle” action is needed. She also promised to look into whether the Koopstart-fonds that is being developed for the European Netherlands can be available to the BES islands as well.

Keijzer intends to make an introductory visit before the summer. Then she wants to talk to the island authorities about an “acceleration agenda” that should be ready by the end of this year. Regarding the negative impact of the influx of newcomers on the housing market on Bonaire, Keijzer said it is up to the island government to implement a housing ordinance. *DMR*

## Bonlab opens food safety lab

Bonlab has opened the first food safety laboratory on the Island. Using advanced testing and analysis, Bonlab can now help local businesses, restaurants, venues and individuals offering food ensure that the food consumed by the community meets the highest standards of safety and quality. *DMR (BESreporter)*

## 2024 warmest year yet

A combination of higher temperatures, less wind than normal and a higher relative humidity created higher perceived temperatures on Bonaire and the other Dutch Islands during 2024. Curaçao experienced 233 days that were hotter than average, smashing the previous record, 198 days. It was a dry year too. The dry season at the beginning of the year was drier than average, and the subsequent wet season was drier than average too.

Last year the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), as part of a pilot project, installed eight new all-in-one weather stations on Bonaire in addition to the operational KNMI observation station at the airport. They are connected to the crowdsourced platform WOW (Weather Observations Website). *DMR*

## Executive Council continues to study landfill problems

According to a government press release, the reports are in from two studies the Executive Council commissioned into the effects of waste incineration at the Lagun landfill. The studies were conducted by Environmental Compliance Limited (ECL) and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). Based on the research results, the BC decided to shut down the waste incineration plant immediately (apparently referring to the shutdown last October). The BC also decided to commission additional research and develop a broad research program together with the RIVM and

other knowledge partners to map sources of pollution and take measures to prevent further pollution. *DMR*

## Foods prices vary widely on Bonaire

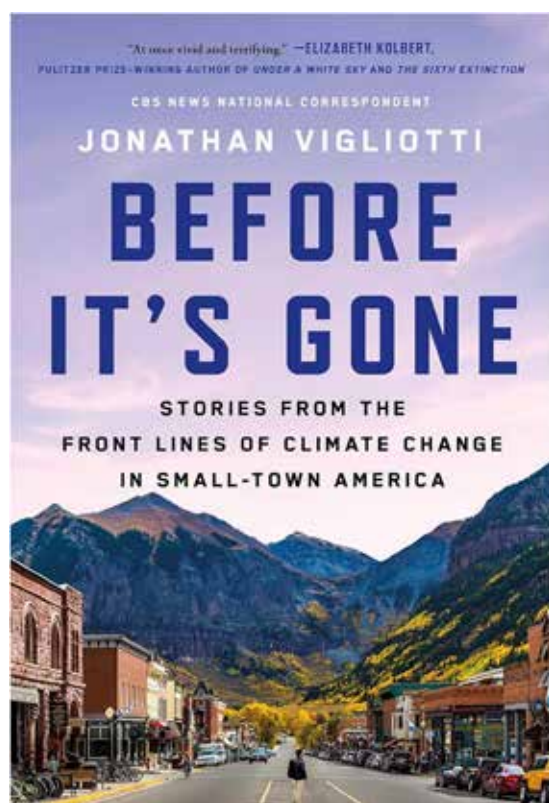
The prices of basic foodstuffs vary widely on Bonaire according to the most recent price comparison by Fundashon Tienda pa Konsumidó Boneriano (FTPKB). The research shows supermarket Bondigro as the cheapest option, while Lucky charges the highest prices.

The comparison shows that consumers can save significantly by deciding where to shop. At Bondigro, shoppers can save up to 50% on twenty products tested, followed by Caribe Nobo with nineteen discounted products and a maximum saving of 49%. Warehouse offers a discount of 42% on eleven products. On the other hand, Lucky customers pay an average of \$46.09 more for fifteen products, followed by Jai Xing with a surcharge of \$43.80 and Van den Tweel with a difference of \$31.07 for eleven products.

Price fluctuates on the island for several reasons. Because almost all products are imported, prices are highly dependent on transportation costs and exchange rates. The increase in the minimum wage in July 2024 has also had an impact, as supermarkets have had to pass on the rising labor costs. For 2025, prices are expected to remain generally high, partly due to rising energy and transportation costs. *DMR*

# Buckley’s Books

by George Buckley



In an eye opening overview of the power and damage of natural disasters, Jonathan Vigliotti’s Before it’s Gone - stories from the front lines of climate change in small - town America provides a worrisome look at the environmental calamities caused by ever worsening severe storms, fires, droughts, floods and mudslides. The EMMY award winning journalist documents the upheaval as livelihoods, traditions and whole communities are lost and shows the well documented connection of

the increase in devastation to climate change. Vigliotti issues a clear warning to act decisively now before we lose more farms, more roads, more natural resources, more houses, more businesses, more lives and indeed more towns to these disasters. He tells of lessons learned and forgotten, of government agencies. The hard working staff do many great things but are often pushed past their capacity. The long and strong history of these Governmental agencies in research, management and response are described and well documented. Rather than be eliminated or have budgets cut, they need increased ability to respond to immediate needs. Consolidation seemed to be a good idea when FEMA was merged with over a dozen other agencies under the Office of Homeland Security but in the intervening years their ability to respond rapidly has eroded badly.

The numerous United States based examples of worsening so-called ‘natural disasters’, can be readily matched with foreign ones. The problem is a world wide one, requiring enhanced local defensive measures, including decisions ‘to stay or go’ and abandon homes and farms to the ever more serious onslaught. The burgeoning question of what to do ‘before it’s gone’ needs all hands on deck. Local, regional and national agencies and politicians collaborating with residents, farmers, businesses etc. need to decide what to do. With disaster after disaster, we just ‘pick up the pieces’ and move on with wickedly expensive attempts to rebuild only to face worse events, often as soon as within the same year. Some areas are facing forced resolutions as insurance companies abandon whole regions, leaving vast areas of homes, farms and businesses and community resources uninsured. States and the Federal government can no longer afford to be the ‘insurer of last choice’. The losses keep on adding up. In the US in 2019, over 19 million acres of crops were impacted by some sort of weather event at a governmental insurance cost of over 15 billion dollars. In 2020 so called natural disasters in the US had an insured cost of over 95 billion dollars with an estimated economic impact of over 250 billion dollars.

With the recent California conflagrations and other catastrophes the 2024 losses are likely to far surpass those of recent years.

Vigliotti has done extensive research for this book; he has told the stories of those who fight disasters, who work to prevent them and those who aide communities affected. He has documented the issues, visited dozens of affected communities and interviewed devastated citizens. He has told the story of over a century of climate research, connecting the dots, not with a mere recitation of factoids but with story after story after story of lives upended, communities and businesses destroyed. The book is written as a wake up call to act ‘Before it’s Gone’. before your community is next!

The story of earth’s climate is locked in ice as many decades of ice core research clearly demonstrate. Vigliotti documents the details of Greenland’s alarming and increasing glacial melting rates, documented by researchers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. They are a wake up call for the world about global climate change. As he notes, “In many ways the world’s oceans have an increasing fever but cannot call in sick!” The world’s leaders should be concerned, very concerned about Greenland!



*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.*



# Toko Beach at Isidel – they’ve got you covered



Isidel Beach Park could be one of Bonaire’s greatest little getaways right in Kralendijk. In less than a year with its easy access to the sea for divers, snorkelers and swimmers, exercise equipment and a mini beach, it has quickly become a popular respite for Bonaire residents and island guests. Forget about planning for a day at the beach, packing up the car and driving to the ends of the island. You can just pop in for a short time or longer to relax and enjoy the space and the sea. Or if you are heading to the airport for your flight, you can stop and enjoy the beauty of Bonaire and stick your toes in the sand one last time. Everything is there including a cute little store or mini market known as Toko Beach.

Did you forget your sunscreen? They’ve got you covered. Do you need a hat, or did you forget to buy a souvenir for a friend back home? They’ve got it. And if you need a quick drink, snack or quick lunch find it at Toko Beach.

Operated by Operated by Dorian Crespo and Francisco Zavala, Toko Beach won this prime spot in a competition organized by Isidel Beach Park before it opened. Some 46 local entrepreneurs applied for the opportunity to occupy one

of the three kiosks on site. The competition was fierce with the selection going from 12 finalists to six and then five with three winners selected. Toko Beach won with the concept of souvenir shop with snacks. The other two kiosks are little cafes.

The Crespo - Zavalas, originally from Ecuador, moved to Bonaire in 2008. Dorian, an esthetician, developed Tropi-

**Toko Beach at Isidel**  
to page 10



The Zavala family’s Toko Beach has most everything you need to enjoy Isidel Beach Park. L-R Dorian, Francisco Jr, Francisco and Ana Lucia. Photo Julie Morgan



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## Local Chicken with Yellow Ronesco Sauce by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant

**Yellow Ronesco sauce:** 250 g (9 oz) yellow tomato • 350 g (12 oz) yellow grilled pepper • 1 yellow chili pepper • 25 grams (1 oz) of white bread • 25 g (1/4 c) almonds • 25 g (1/4 c) hazelnuts • Pinch of paprika powder • 3 cloves of garlic • 1/2 dl (3.5 T) olive oil • 20 grams (4 t) of vinegar • Ground pepper • Bonaire sea salt



it, sprinkle with grated cheese and cook in the oven. Serve with romesco sauce and stuffed pepper and some small yellow tomatoes.



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

Grind all ingredients finely in the blender into a smooth sauce.

**“Steak” from local chicken “Bienaventura”:** 150 gr (6 oz) Fresh free-range chicken fillet • 1 heart • 1 liver • 1/2 stomach • 1 slice of Parma ham • 1 yellow mini pepper • 1/2 Sweet potato

Cut chicken fillet, “on the grain” into pieces of 1½ cm (½ in) thick, season with salt and pepper. Place upright and shape into a round “steak”, wrap with a slice of Parma ham and tie with a piece of butcher’s twine.

Fry in a frying pan in some oil until nicely browned on all sides. Continue cooking in oven at 170c degrees (338f) for about 10 minutes. At the end, fry innards until just done. Make some sweet potato puree and fill the mini peppers with



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## Toko Beach at Isidel Park, from page 8

cal Nature Bonaire, all natural skin products designed to be friendly to Bonaire's coral reefs. Francisco has worked in hospitality at several Bonaire resorts.

Francisco said, "The whole idea of a Toko is to have a lot of things in a small, limited space."

Toko Beach does just that. It offers different foods keeping both the locals and tourists in mind: homemade Pastechi, homemade local Pinda (peanut) ice cream, hot dogs, burgers, snow cones, cotton candy and even the special Ecuadorian dish of ceviche made with shrimp and local Dorado. And of course there are chips, candy, sodas, water and natural juices.

As for the souvenir part of the Toko,

local crafts are for sale, including little paintings, magnets, handbags and even handmade Panama hats. The owners encourage local craft entrepreneurs to be a part of Toko Beach.

Toko Beach is open Monday, Wednesday, Saturday: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Thursday, Friday 5 - 10 p.m. and Sunday 3 - 10 p.m. For updates, visit Toko Beach on [Facebook](#) and Instagram and for a quick connect online see their ad on page 9.

Isidel Beach Park is open daily from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. with security 24-7.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan.



## Ride for the Roses 2025, from page 1

Russell said, "I was surrounded in light spheres and I was happy all my friends and family who passed on were there and many others. I felt an emotion of overwhelming relief and that I wasn't finished on Earth that I needed to go back and do more of what I was already doing, to help others...."

In late November 2023 he could walk 40ft with two walking poles and 100ft with a walker. In April 21, 2024 he walked the Vancouver Sun Run 2.5k and on February 2, 2025 he completed the Ride for the Roses Bonaire 2025 along with his 80 year old mother.

There are countless success stories of

determination through support of family and friends. Ride for the Roses has made many of these possible.

Funds received for this years Ride for the Roses will be donated to Hospice Kas Flamboyan and Fundashon Ambulans Deseo.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the fight against cancer with Ride for the Roses Bonaire.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

See more photos on our Facebook page



## Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

### EMDR

**Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)** is a psychotherapy approach designed to help individuals heal from trauma and distressing life experiences. It has proven to be particularly effective for conditions like **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**. It was created by American Psychologist Francine Shapiro in 1987. She discovered the effect of eye movements while she was walking through a park. She observed that moving her eyes from side to side appeared to reduce the disturbance of negative thoughts and memories. She gathered approximately 70 volunteers and conducted additional research and published a randomized controlled study with trauma victims. In 1995 she published a manual detailing the eight phases of the EMDR protocol. Like Cognitive

Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with a trauma focus, EMDR aims to reduce subjective distress and strengthen adaptive beliefs related to the traumatic event. In numerous randomized trials, both approaches seem to be almost equally effective with a slight difference in favor of EMDR. What makes EMDR different?

Many of the phases in the EMDR protocol were already part of CBT, the new element is the inclusion of the bilateral stimulation. There is no scientific explanation regarding the effect of this in the resolution of the trauma. The hypothesis is that bilateral stimulation will connect parts of the brain that were blocked during the traumatic experience. EMDR helps reduce the emotional charge of traumatic memories using dual attention by guiding the client to focus on the memory while simultaneously engaging in bilateral stimulation. This helps the brain safely revisit and reprocess the memory without becoming retraumatized. The therapy activates the brain's natural ability to process and resolve trauma, facilitating the reorganization of

distressing memories into healthier perspectives, helping "unstick" memories trapped in the brain's trauma network. Traumatic memories are reprocessed and moved from the "emotional" part of the brain (amygdala) to the "rational" part of the brain (prefrontal cortex). This integration allows the individual to recall the event without being overwhelmed by it.

Another difference of EMDR is that it is less reliant on verbalizing trauma, which can be helpful for individuals who struggle to articulate their experiences. The patient does not need to reveal all the details of the traumatic experience, which can make it easier for individuals who feel extreme shame or guilt regarding the event. From my personal perspective I find this particular aspect very helpful, I got my training as an EMDR in 2004, and I have been using this protocol with patients with PTSD since. Sometimes confession has a healing effect, but sometimes sharing extremely painful situations is not necessary. So, it is up to the patient and the therapist what needs to be shared and what not.

EMDR is an effective approach approved by many government and international health related entities, like the US Department of Veteran Affairs and Defense.

Shapiro's dedication to refining and validating EMDR led her to laying down the rules for training therapists and to found the EMDR Institute, an organization dedicated to research and education on this technique. Her contributions to the field of psychology were recognized with several awards and honors, solidifying her legacy as a visionary in trauma therapy.



*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.*

## Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

### When you get yourself in times of trouble.....

A few weeks ago, I sat with my buddy on my porch talking a lot about everything. I am very glad that she is my buddy, because she is a great person, knows a lot and always has sound advice.

A friend of mine had passed away and this was a topic we touched on that afternoon. She asked me, if I had everything in order, just in case. "Just in case of what?", I asked her. She answered, "Just in case something happens to you, when you get seriously ill, when it looks like you might not make it and even about when you did not make it and would pass away."

I must confess, since my husband passed away, I sometimes have to remind myself that this can also happen to me. When he was still with me, he never wanted to talk with me about these things. Neither did my Mom, but it happened. They did pass away and I had to organize everything by myself and make decisions I never thought I would have to make. But I did.

When Mom passed away, I had excellent help from a wonderful organization, called "Humanitas." She had a grand funeral and almost the whole island came to her funeral (we lived on a small Dutch island, called Ameland).

When my husband passed away we had never discussed funeral arrangements. He did not want to talk about it. So I did what I thought was good and what he would have wanted. It was a good farewell. We even played Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin.

So now I guess I have to sit down and think hard, what do I want and/or need when my time comes? Do I have a list with things I do not want, with app. numbers and mail addresses? Should I land in the hospital and cannot decide for myself anymore, who has that authority?

Do I have to pack a special bag or suitcase with emergency stuff in case I should have to be taken to the hospital?

The list to work on is long and I am afraid I will miss something. So I made a promise to my buddy that we will sit together very soon and she will help me write that list. I will also get her a copy of my house keys. She must be able to get into my place when it's necessary.

I must explain everything to her and tell her where she can find everything she needs. I do not know if that should be a task of a buddy, but she promised me solemnly that she will gladly be of

help and service. This made me feel very good and protected and I am so grateful for her to be my buddy.

I wish every elderly person had a buddy like her. And I hope that everybody reading this starts thinking about the unthinkable



*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.*



# LAC pa semper ends

STINAPA Bonaire's Lac Pa Semper project ended with an event that evaluated the program. The project, begun in 2022, realized many objectives that due to their nature present unending challenges. Roxanne Francisca, Senior Conservation manager and Robert Wester, Education and Communication manager of STINAPA presented an overview of the Lac Pa Semper's five areas of focus.

**1. Restoring marine habitat:** STINAPA pioneered restoring over 50m2 of sea grass in the Lac area that had been compromised with an invasive sea grass. The Lac Pa Semper team tried to counter the intruder by planting new sea grass and to date much of the natural sea grass is returning. One major problem is people trampling the sea grass.

Sea grass in the Lac area stabilizes the sediment, and it is a major source of food for Bonaire's turtles in the area. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire reports that turtles in Lac area grow faster than any other place in the Caribbean.



Representatives of Lac Pa Semper team L-R: Assistant Bonaire Marine Park manager Leonel Martijn; Education and Communication manager Robert Wester; ranger Enchomar Wanga; project coordinator Jessica Johnson; ranger Edgar Ortegon; Senior Conservation manager Roxanne Francisca and ranger Dustin Abraham. Photo Julie Morgan

STINAPA partnered with Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) on the first

ever coral nurseries in the Lac area. Due to the shallow depths of Lac, two modified

coral nurseries were set up. Both staghorn and elkhorn coral fragments were placed on horizontal rope and vertical tree nurseries. Due to the influx of coral disease and water temperatures up to 34°C (93°F) many of the corals were lost. RRFB is working make the planting more resilient.

**2. Sargassum management** was funded through the project.

**3. Enforcing regulations:** Two more rangers were hired bringing the number to 12 allowing STINAPA to maintain a daily ranger presence in the Lac area for emergencies and to help and advise visitors. STINAPA received two new trucks and a new boat to help.

**4. Sustainable recreation:** Lac signage increased to include information about the different nature areas and sea birds, and to control activity in areas prohibited for windsurfers or kayakers. All signs are in Papiamentu, Dutch and English. Watch towers were erected in the Lac Bay and Sorobon for visitors to enjoy the view from a high perspective.

LAC pa semper, to page 13

# A Garden? Just Do It! Too much water

by Angliet, Nature Lover

We are all very happy with the recent rain showers, right. We have to pay less money to WEB and yet we have a beautiful, healthy green garden with nice tasting veggies and fruits and colorful blooming flowers.

But that means we have to do a lot of trimming too. Not only because the plants grow so big but they sprout strong fresh shoots after removing the old stems. When I see a fat, strong young shoot growing on a trimmed plant I know soon I will be enjoying its fruits or nice shade.

Plants need to be trimmed or they lose a lot of energy from taking care of their old or overgrown parts. If the plant doesn't have enough energy to feed its whole body:

1- It drops leaves. And you might think, why is that happening with all the rain and my good care. There is nothing wrong, it only needs a hair dresser, or, a plant dresser.

2- It bears small fruit. Some plants don't have energy to feed leaves and produce fruits at the same time. Often soon after a plant drops its leaves, the blossoms appear for fruit or it gets new leaves. Most

big trees like mango, kneps, mispel, hoba and tamarind do that. A trees might drop leaves if it is sick or receives too much water. Some trees will drop their young fruit or rot just like in a drought. Papaya trees can't stand too much or too little water. When the evaporation is too high, slowly the plant will die. Certain plants like the Soursop are really difficult to maintain, as they must have the perfect balance to survive and produce fruit. So if you see your plant is suffering, check on the water balance, sickness and give it a hair cut.

Each type of flowering plant and vegetable plant has its own biorhythm. Trees follow on another energy path and take a longer time to mature and bear fruit. The bigger the type of tree the more time it needs to mature. The first time a young tree blossoms, it is a tryout and you will not see any fruit. You'll be so happy to see a tree full of flowers but when they drop there won't be one single fruit and it will be the same the next year. But don't get discouraged because the next year the tree will be mature and strong, with enough energy to produce blossoms to fruit and can keep them on its stems until ripe. A mango tree which has not experienced any manipulation will take about 12-15 years to make you happy with your own mango fruit. This is true of most big trees. In areas where the climate is softer with more rain and it



When frangipani gets too much rain the leaves yellow and drop.

is less dry, trees bear sooner. Still, we can not complain as we have enough fruit trees growing, they just test our patience.

Being busy a lifetime in the garden, I got into my mind that the life of a plant is the same as a human or animal, divided into the life phases. A young plant needs

a lot of attention, care, special food and is not strong enough, just like young child. By the time the plant becomes stronger in its own phase of a youngster, it can be replanted and moved to the garden just like an older puppy is trying to find its way. When the plant is strong, mature and ready to bear fruit, vegetables and flowers it can withstand sicknesses and drought and recovers quickly with good care, it is an adult. But slowly the plant will deteriorate when reaching its finish. Whatever care, vitamins, maintenance it receives, nothing works, its end is near. Just like all lives, there is a time of coming and a time of leaving.

And just like we take care of the generation after us, make sure you collect seeds or cuttings of your darling plants so before they finish, you have young plants ready to keep your garden nice and green and have plants to harvest for your kitchen. Gardeners don't have the luxury of getting bored.



Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

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# Events, Meetings, Sports

# What's Happening

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

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

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

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

**Comedy at Yhanni's Arepas** Saturdays 7:30 p.m. \$15 includes a welcome drink and snack. Feb. 15, March 15, April 12, May 24, June 21

**Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees** every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).


**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. - recommended for beginners but all welcome to play.


**Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire** Contact Michiel Bijkerk, tel: 796 2650, e-mail: [abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com](mailto:abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com)

**Tennis** In January and February adults will play a doubles tennis competition on Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome to join. Register with the association: email [info@bonairetennisassociation.com](mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com) or app with 599 782 4569.

 **Echo Conservation Tours** - Weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)

 **Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** Feb. 10 - Divi Resort. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org); [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)..

 **Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – 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](mailto: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. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/>

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

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

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

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

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

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. ):** Find the market at Kaya Gilberto F Croes, located just past Caribbean Laundry. Saturdays 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

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

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

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

Open until Friday, Feb. <b>28</b>	<b>Artistic Journey Exhibit - Delno Tromp &amp; Gabrielle Wilson</b> Terramar Museum, Kaya Isla Riba 3, Kralendijk
Feb <b>7</b> - March <b>8</b>	<b>Karnaval</b> <b>Feb. 7.</b> Election Teens • <b>Feb. 8.</b> Election Adult Queen, Prince, and Pancho • <b>Feb. 9.</b> Election Youth Queen, Prince, and Pancho • <b>Feb. 13.</b> Festival di Tumba Grandi. • <b>Feb. 14.</b> Valentine Neon Jump Walk. • <b>Feb. 15.</b> Festival di Tumba Grandi Finale • <b>Feb. 16.</b> Festival Tumba Youth • <b>Feb. 22.</b> Karnaval Youth Rincon • <b>Feb. 23.</b> Karnaval Youth Playa • <b>Feb. 28.</b> Jump Up Elderly • <b>Feb. 29.</b> Teen Parade <b>March - Main Karnaval Parades</b> <b>Mar. 1.</b> Adult Grand Karnaval Parade in Rincon • <b>Mar. 2.</b> Adult Grand Karnaval Parade in Kralendijk (Playa) • <b>Mar. 3.</b> Children's Farewell Karnaval Parade • <b>Mar. 4.</b> Adult Farewell Grand Karnaval Nighttime Parade in Kralendijk with the Burning of King Momo at Midnight • <b>Mar. 8.</b> Fiesta Closes with Awards.
Tuesday, Feb. <b>11</b>	<b>Book presented by Over 60s</b> "Grandinan di Tera Korá Bou di e Palu di Tamarein" / "Elderly of Tera Kora under the Tamarind Tree" Sentro Di Bario Tera Korá 7 – 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. <b>15</b>	<b>Fernand and Friso Comedy Night</b> at Yhanni's Arepas. 7:30 p.m. \$15 includes a welcome drink and a snack.
Saturday, Feb. <b>22</b>	<b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
March <b>11, 12, 15</b>	<b>Geology class with Andre Nahr</b> \$140 <a href="mailto:geology.andrenahr@gmail.com">geology.andrenahr@gmail.com</a>

## 2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. February 5	0700-2000	AIDAMAR 2686 guests	North
	0830-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. February 6	0800-1800	AIDABELLA 2500 guests	North
Sun. February 9	0700-1800	MARELLA EXPLORER 2 2253 guests	South
	0830-1800	SEA CLOUD SPIRIT 136 guests	North
Mon. February 10	0700-1800	CELEBRITY BEYOND 3260 guests	South
Tues. February 11	0630-1800	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
Wed. February 12	0700-1900	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR 530 guests	North
Thurs. February 13	0830-1700	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS 2440 guests	North
Fri. February 14	0700-1300	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2074 guests	North
Sun. February 16	0930-2200	STAR PRIDE 312 guests	North
Mon. February 17	0800-1800	AIDAPERLA 3286 guests	South
Tues. February 18	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Wed. February 19	0730-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Fri. February 21	0800-2200	EMERALD PRINCESS 3577 guests	North
Sat. February 22	0530-1930	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Sun. February 23	0800-1900	COSTA FORTUNA 3470 guests	North
Mon. February 24	0730-1800	SIRENA 824 guests	North
Tues. February 25	0630-1800	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
	0800-2100	EXPLORA II 922 guests	North
Wed. February 26	0700-1500	EURODAM 2731 guests	North
Sun. March 2	0600-1800	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE 3013 guests	South

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat., 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/</a>
Sunday, Feb. <b>9</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">Shttps://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>
Saturday, Feb. <b>15</b>	<b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.</b> 9 a.m. Location TBA. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a>

## Church Services

### Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -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,Thur, 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



**5. Outreach and education:** Wester said, "We want to keep everyone informed about what we do and increase our ranger support." Classes and stakeholder meetings were held. Guest scientists reported on their work. The rangers received Flora and Fauna training, information about Bonaire eco-systems, history, culture and information on the Lac area to relate to tourists.

Francisca said, "Now that the project is coming to an end, we want and need to keep doing this."

In lieu of receiving another grant, STINAPA will continue the work in Lac from their own budget. Lac Pa Semper

was funded by the European Union, executed by Expertise France.

"For now, the rangers will continue to be there and perform their regular work. Sargassum response will be funded from our own budget. We will continue to apply for grants and alternative funding. With the results of the Lac Pa Semper project we can show that it works, and we can get more funding," said Francisca.

STINAPA will announce a new project in the next few months concentrating on Klein Bonaire.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



Bonaire Bridge Champion 2025. From left to right: Marc Verhoeven, Karin AI, Ton Nuijten  
Photo Bonaire Bridge Club

JANUARY'S NOS ZJILEA

# Our Parrots, Our Pride

Nos Zjilea's January 25 presentation at Managazina di Rei was literally for the birds - Bonaire's Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot or lora. At dawn on the 25th EchoBonaire.org held the first of 2025's two parrot Roost Counts. The counts are conducted to find the approximate number of lora living in the wild. Bonaire's lora population has been threatened by poachers and loss of habitat due to over development on the island but in recent years bird numbers have grown thanks to reforestation efforts.

Julianka Clarenda, head of Echo Bonaire, reported that 61 volunteers covered 27 viewpoints across the island. Volunteers arrive around 6 a.m. at their assigned spots. When they finish counting the birds they see flying up from their night roosts, they turn in their numbers at Mangazina di Rei and enjoy a well-deserved breakfast. So far the total number recorded was 845 loras with two teams yet to add their numbers. Roost counts began in 1980 and became regular in 2005. Since 2020, counts have been held in January and August.

Rincon artist Nochi Coffie exhibit-

ed several of his lora paintings to Nos Zjilea's crowd. He also worked on one painting that showed the bird's lifestyle. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot is socially monogamous and in the wild they nests in cliff faces and old trees. Their diet consists of seeds and fruit. Nochi said the birds' colorful feathers are light and dark green with silver and blue underneath camouflage them in the green trees and thus protect them in nature.

Rachel Domacasse' provided a cooking demonstration with Tamarind, one of the lora's favorite food. She made a syrup and jelly which the crowd could sample.

Entertainment was local band JC and Friends with cultural dancers Monique and Donnie Winklaar. As always Nos Zjilea is filled with amazing local foods, BBQ, natural juices and crafts.

Nos Zjilea is held the last Saturday of each month. Visit Mangazina di Rei on Facebook or the web. If you are anxious to experience the real Bonaire, It doesn't get more local than this.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



Nochi Coffie at work with two of his biggest fans, cultural dancers Monique and Donnie Winklaar. Photo Julie Morgan

The Open Bonaire Bridge Championship was played for the fourth time on January 29 at Hillside Resort. Fighting for the coveted title and trophy were 11 pairs with the Bonairean team of Ton Nuijten and Marc Verhoeven coming out on top with a score of 74.4%.

The championship was played over 11 rounds of two games. Participants hailed from Bonaire, the Netherlands and Germany. Coming in second, the 2024 Dutch winners Leo Heus and Carla van den Broek, did everything they could to defend their title, but the strong Bonairean team of Nuijten-Verhoeven did not give an inch. This is the first time the challenge cup will be kept on Bonaire.

In the exciting battle for third place, Bonaire was also excellently represented by the team Joost Latiers and Artie de Vries. They achieved a score of 55.6% staying just ahead of the teams Paul Rothweiler-Andre Verhoef with 53.8% and Ineke Corporaal-Jacqueline van Roessel with 52.5%. We can be rightly proud of these two beautiful places of honor for Bonaire. The prizes were awarded by Karin AI, the oldest participant in this field.

The championship is organized every year on the last Wednesday of January

so Nuijten and Verhoeven will hold the Bonaire bridge champions title until January 28, 2026.

Full results as of January 29, 2025:

- 1: Ton Nuijten and Marc Verhoeven 74.4%
- 2: Leo Heus and Carla van den Broek 59.4%
- 3: Joost Latiers and Artie de Vries 55.6%
- 4: Paul Rothweiler and André Verhoef 53.8%
- 5: Ineke Corporaal and Jacqueline van Roessel 52.5%
- 6: Wout van Slobbe and Yvonne van Slobbe 44.4%
- 7: Rein Breeman and Myrte Breeman 45%
- 8: Dineke Verbiest and Karin AI 43.8%
- 9: Ed Kraeger and Sylvia Ploos 42.5%
- 10: Coby Legierse and Peter Legierse 41.9%
- 11: Philip Twilhaar and Ineke de Bruin. 36.9%

**Bridge Club Bonaire meets every Wednesday and everyone is welcome to participate.**

**Registration and more information via [bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com)**

## Legal advice available for migrants and refugees

Foundation 'Union of Bonairean Immigrants' (FUIB) will give legal advice to migrants and refugees in Bonaire every Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. It makes no difference whether the migrant or refugee is legal or illegal in Bonaire. All have the right to ask questions about their rights, and what can be done legally to normalize their situation.

always have a chance to stay legally in Bonaire. But sometimes yes. It depends on his situation. We can also mention the situation of female illegal immigrants who went into prostitution to survive. Sometimes it is possible to help them get out of their situation and get a residence permit. Depends on circumstances. You can call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB).

For example, many refugees do not know that they can apply for political asylum in Bonaire according to law. The refugee will not

For FUIB,dust. M. Bijkerk



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# Pets of the Week



## Ripley and Rich

### Meet Ripley and Ritch

Ripley and Ritch have been with us at the shelter for four years. They arrived separately, but over time, they have formed a beautiful bond.

Ripley is a sweet and gentle 10-year-old lady who has been patiently waiting for a loving home. She adores cuddles and companionship and deserves a place where she can finally enjoy all the love

she has to give.

Ritch is a six year old, loyal and affectionate boy who has become Ripley's best friend. They spend their days together, hoping for someone to give them a chance.

These two dogs are looking for a fresh start—ideally together, but they are also open to finding loving homes separately. Could you be the one to make their dreams come true? Give Ritch and Ripley the second chance they deserve!

*Photo/story: Marissa Lamers*

### This lovely lady in red is Mouse.

She is two and a half years old and came to the Shelter when she was only two months old and has been with us ever since. Mouse has freckles on her nose. She is a little shy but once she knows you, she is the cutest little lady you have ever met. And she will squeak for attention. That's how she meows and she sounds just like a cute mouse. She doesn't really like to be picked up, but loves to take a nap on your lap and will come to you for pets. So after all this time at the Shelter, we really want to find this lady in red her forever home!

*Photo/story: Bo Attevelt*



## Mouse

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

## Animal Shelter Bonaire

### How to Keep Your Pet Happy and Healthy

Every pet owner wants their pet to be happy and healthy! A big part of that is protecting them from parasites like fleas, ticks, and worms. The right preventive care makes all the difference, here's what you need to know.

#### Flea & Tick Prevention

Fleas and ticks aren't just annoying; they can cause allergies, infections, and even serious diseases like Lyme disease. Luckily, prevention is easy!

**Dogs:** Most adult dogs need a flea and tick treatment every month. Puppies and seniors may need different care, so check with your vet.

**Cats:** Same goes for cats! Just be sure to use cat-specific treatments.

#### Worming & Heartworm Protection

Worms can cause digestive issues and weaken the immune system. Heartworm prevention is especially important for dogs.

**Dogs:** Puppies need worming every month, while adult dogs should be treated every 3 months. Heartworm prevention can be monthly tablets, ask your vet for

advice.

**Cats:** Indoor cats need worming every 3-6 months, but outdoor hunters may need more frequent treatments. Heartworm is rare in cats, but prevention is still an option.

#### Don't Forget Grooming!

A healthy pet isn't just parasite-free, they also need regular grooming! Keep their coat brushed, bathe them when needed, and don't forget those nails. Long-haired pets (dogs and cats) especially benefit from a trip to the groomer to prevent mats and keep their fur in top shape.

#### Visit Your Vet

Flea, tick, and worm treatments (plus grooming advice!) are available at your local vet clinic. They'll help you choose the best options for your pet's breed, age, and lifestyle.

By staying on top of parasite prevention and grooming, you'll keep your pet happy, healthy, and looking their best!

*Marissa Lamers*



Find the Animal Shelter flea market

at Kaya Gilberto F Croes,

located just past Caribbean Laundry.

Open 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays

Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.



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