

FREE

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER



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Angelo Emerenciana of the Precious Diamonds group dances to a carnaval beat. Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire celebrates 50 years of Karnaval

"That was a good one" and "It has to be one of the best ever" were the words overheard from several of the many spectators at Bonaire's 50th Karnaval. After months of preparation and the first opening meeting on January 18 to the final parade and ceremonial burning of King Momo at midnight on March 4, Karnaval 2025 has come to an end.

Organized for the second year by UNTAHF (Fundashon Union Ta Hasi Forsa), Bonaire celebrated Karnaval with several Tumbas, Jump Ups, a Jump In and 10 parades. And there were approximately 54 venders during all the activities.

Randy Anzola of UNTAHF said, "This year is the first time that a karnaval organization has given financial support to all participating groups for the large and small karnaval, teenagers and also new participating groups. In addition, the participants of Prince, Pancho and Reina, for the large and small Karnaval, as well as the teenagers."

The parades began with the kids Karnaval on February 22 in Rincon and 23 in Kralendijk. On February

28 the school parade was revived for the first time in 10 years with a total of 1,450 children participating marching down Kaya Grandi as in the old days of Karnaval. And an enthusiastic group of seniors from Kas di Kuido celebrated Karnaval through the streets of Kralendijk dressed in ocean themes of mermaids and divers. A teener parade was held in the evening with lots of

dancing and sparkling costumes. The Grand Karnaval parades were held March 1 in Rincon and March 2 in Kralendijk with 14 groups and a total of 400 participants.

Each group dressed to a theme. Most dancing in the parade wore spectacular brightly colored costumes, often made of sparkling sequins, ropes of carnival beads

and ornate jewels and topped by feathered headdresses. Months of work go into making these amazing creations and the elaborate results are what we all look for in a Karnaval celebration.

The groups this year and number of participants in each group were: The Precious Diamonds 40, Comunidad Peruana 30, Crazy Happy

People 40, NRG Karnaval group 40, Love Bonaire 35, Ooh la la Karnaval Group 50, Deseo di Pueblo 30, Ban Gosa 35, Miss Bonaire Foundation, Comunidad Haitiano 30 and Brillante RD 40.

On March 3, the youth / teenagers were featured in a final evening parade and March 4 was the night time Grand Farewell March ending at the City Stadium for the burning of a huge 3.5m (11.5ft) tall King Momo. The burning of Momo signals the end of Karnaval and the beginning of Lent in the Catholic religion.

Main sponsors for the 50th Karnaval Bonaire were: FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire), Public Body Bonaire (OLB), Telbo, Curoil and Amstel Bright. The Momo was shipped from Curaçao compliments of a collaboration with the Don Andres and Kara Productions.

For more photos of Bonaire's 50th Karnaval visit *The Reporter* Facebook page.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan



Selibon landfill problems: over to you, OLB

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Press release, 21-02-25 Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations

Title: Court gives Executive Council second chance, demands prompt action



Jan Helmond, Acting Kingdom Representative

On Friday February 21, the Court of First Instance of Bonaire returned the responsibility for the situation at Selibon Lagun to the Executive Council of Bonaire. The ruling confirms that there has been question of dereliction of duty in the area of permitting and enforcement. However, the court concluded that the Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) should have been given one last short deadline to resolve the issues. The measures that have meanwhile been taken by the Acting Kingdom Representative are deemed to be appropriate and necessary by the court and are upheld.

Since the substitution of November 2024, much has been done under the responsibility of the Acting Kingdom Representative to address the issues at Selibon Lagun. Urgent violations of legislation and regulations at the waste centre have now almost all been rectified, thus averting the acute short-term risks....

The annulment of the intervention means that the Executive Council is once again responsible for managing waste at Selibon in Lagun. The judge emphasized, however, that further inaction could lead to new legal steps.

OLB sent out two press releases upon learning the judge had ordered it to take action soon to solve the landfill problems. The OLB press releases are abstracted word-for-word in the right-hand column. For a comment on OLB's responses, readers can go to the following opinion piece written by Harald Linkels March 1, 2025 for Bonaire.nu: ["Trumpian attack on Selibon: Bonaire Executive Council mainly fighting against itself."](#)

If you blinked, you may have missed the minimum wage

Bonaire's hard won minimum wage came into effect January 1, and the intended boost in spending power for low income residents on the island has already been wiped out by inflation and the central government's cancellation of WEB subsidies.

The February bills that WEB is currently sending out charge everyone a fixed fee for electricity that has increased from 0 to \$43.79 per month, or to \$88.36 per month for higher use cus-

Press release, 28-02-25 Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire

Title: BC intends to impose administrative enforcement on SELIBON. SELIBON must restore its duty of care at the Lagun Landfill within 4 weeks



Clark Abraham, Deputy

The Supervision and Enforcement Directorate has announced on behalf of the Executive Council of Bonaire (BC) the Servisio di Limpiesa Bonaire (SELIBON) that it intends to impose administrative enforcement if it has not restored its duty of care at the Lagun Landfill by April 1st.

SELIBON must ensure that the (underground) fires are extinguished and do everything necessary to prevent them from flaring up again or new fires from starting. In addition, Selibon must also have covered the parts of the Lagun landfill that are no longer in use to prevent contamination of the soil and groundwater. It also applies that if they do not comply within the set period, the Executive Council will take over the work by means of administrative enforcement and have it carried out at the expense of SELIBON.

Press release, 28-02-25 Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire

Title: Executive Council issues ultimatum to SELIBON Lagun Landfill must comply with legal obligations by September 1

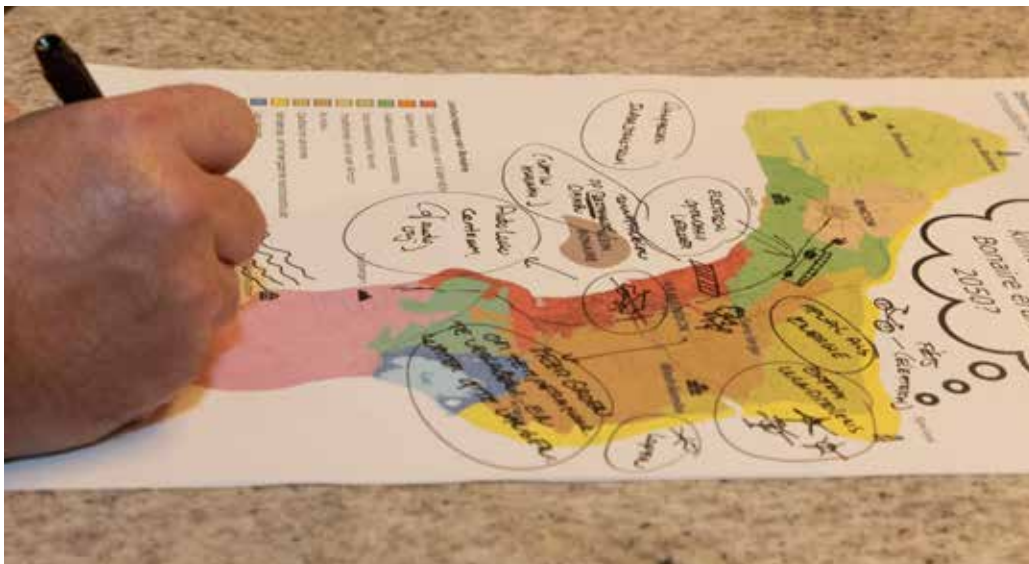
The Supervision and Enforcement Directorate has written to the Servisio di Limpiesa Bonaire [SELIBON] on behalf of the Executive Council of Bonaire stating that they must have the necessary permits for their activities at the Lagun Landfill by September 1 at the latest. If SELIBON fails to do so, the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate will take further administrative measures, which may include the closure of activities at the Landfill.

The Climate Table Bonaire launched

The Climate Table Bonaire was launched during a conference February 20th at the Corallium Hotel & Villas.

The Climate Table Bonaire brings together residents, companies, social organizations and the government, asking them to come up with solutions for the increasing challenges of climate change. During the meeting, attendees were informed about the international, regional, and local effects of climate change and asked to consider future options for Bonaire.

DMR. Photo OLB



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Island News
 to pages 5 and 7

Daily Catch expands



Owner Galina Popa Photo Julie Morgan.

Daily Catch Bonaire has been open less than a year and they have proved to be a big hit with locals and island guests. With the freshest fish caught daily from Bonaire's fishers and a menu that people can't get enough of, Daily Catch has expanded to a larger space and a new menu.

Daily Catch is owned by fisherman Jordan De Meyer, who was born on Bonaire and wife Galina Popa a hospitality and restaurant management professional from Moldova. The couple knew exactly what the island needed when they opened the Daily Catch.

Galina said, "Anyone who wanted fish had to go to the fishing pier at just the right time or know a local and you had to buy the whole fish."

Jordan has been an avid fisherman since childhood and is the owner of Mako Tours fishing charters, so opening Daily Catch was the perfect solution.

Galina said, "With Jordan fishing and catching, right away we had some dishes, sushi, poke bowls and Jordan wanted to do fried as that is what people like here. We had a small menu but very soon we saw the demand for more. It's hard

to imagine that one year ago there was nothing at all and now we have doubled the store size."

Galina and Jordan listen to their customers. When a lot of people began knocking on the door at 9 a.m. instead of the 11 a.m. opening time, the owners knew it was time to make some changes. The doors now open at 8 a.m. and they have added healthier menu options with three types of salads, loaded sandwiches, paninis, soups and it's not just fish but also chicken. They even have desserts. Plus, the early opening time means Daily Catch is now serving breakfast with eggs however you like, pastries, cakes and coffee to go. And if you are headed out for a dive or a trip traveling the island you can take Daily Catch with you in a cool box. Just pay a refundable deposit

and return it at the end of the day.

Galina said, "We want to do everything in-house. We have a big kitchen and we put a lot of work into it."

Daily Catch has a chef, sous chef, cook and a pastry chef is coming on board next week. They deliver their fish to several restaurants on island. Although the restaurant / deli is essentially takeaway the owners have added a seated bar for more comfort in the newly expanded area.

Daily Catch is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. For a complete menu visit FreshFishBonaire.com or visit the Daily Catch Facebook page.



FOR SALE! Kaya Scorpio 8 Spacious Home with Apartment



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POLICE REPORT

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

Violent cases under investigation

Mar. 3. Half an hour after midnight police responded to a report of an injured woman on the property of a house on Kaya Okavango. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Mar. 2. A few minutes before 9 p.m. four injured people were reported at the hospital. They had been involved in a fight near the Centrum area a little earlier. The people had stab wounds, not gunshot wounds. Shortly after, the police received a report of a drive-by shooting on a vehicle parked on Kaya L.D. Gerharts.

Mar. 2. Around 10:20 p.m. the central control room received a report that a group of youths in the Centrum area had taken a key from the caller. Shortly afterwards, he called again to report that the youths had destroyed the windshield of his car. When the police arrived, the caller stated that he was in his car when the group opened the car door and hit him several times. The youths then fled, but returned a short time later, kicked the car and destroyed the car window.

Property crimes and arrests

Feb. 26. Between 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. while the owners were snorkeling at Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach), two backpacks were stolen. The bags contained several cards, two Ray-Ban sunglasses, a Samsung Galaxy phone, a key and jewelry.

Feb. 25. Around 1:40 a.m. a patrol driving on Kaya Internashional found a car overturned near Te Amo Beach. Several boys were present at the scene. Two boys, aged 14, said they had lost control of the car and overturned. They also said they had taken the car from the grounds of a tourist accommodation on Kaya Internashional to drive around. One of the boys present was covered in blood, but stated that he was not in the car. He allegedly helped the others to get out of the vehicle and was injured as a result. The two boys were arrested for theft of a motor vehicle and taken to the police station. Later, a parent reported to the police station with her son, the same boy who was covered in blood and had previously stated that he was not in the car. This 14-year-old boy was also arrested for the theft. The case is being investigated by the Youth and Morals Affairs Bureau (BJZZ).

Feb. 24. Between 6 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 a.m. Monday the license plate MF-4086 was stolen from a scooter parked on the public road in front of an apartment on Kaya Libra.

Feb. 24. The pickup stolen from a company on Kaya Industria between February 19 and 20 was spotted on Hanchi Amboina. When the patrols found the vehicle on Kaya Patricia the driver was no longer in the vehicle, but the two men (aged 53 and 26) who were found in the vehicle were immediately arrested for receiving stolen goods. A third man, 52, was arrested on Kaya Patricia in connection with this case.

Feb. 20. A gas bottle was stolen from a food truck on Kaya Industria between Saturday 15 around 1:30 p.m. and Monday 17 around 7:20 a.m. The gas bottle was in a locked cupboard, which was destroyed in the process.

Feb. 19. While the owners were snorkeling, two backpacks with contents were stolen from a beach near the salt pier. The bags contained two black Samsung Galaxy phones, three passports, a bank card and cash.

Feb. 19. Two car tires were stolen from the right side of a car parked in front of a house on Sabadeco Court between 9 p.m. on Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Feb. 18. A black Kymco Agility scooter, license plate MF-950 was stolen while parked with a steering lock and rear wheel chain lock in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Dialma between 6 p.m. Monday, and 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Feb. 14. A black wallet with cash was stolen between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. from a locked pick-up parked near dive site '1000 steps' while the owner was snorkeling.

Feb. 14. At Te Amo Beach between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon a grey backpack and a blue shopping bag were stolen while the owner was snorkeling. The bags contained, among other things, two Samsung phones, several cards, Porsche prescription reading glasses, two Rayban sunglasses, two Kobo e-books, a black wallet, a key and cash.

Feb. 13. A white Toyota car, model Yaris 2012 with license plate B-2270 was stolen while in the parking lot in front of an apartment complex on Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

Scheduled traffic checks

Feb. 26. The police carried out various checks in Rincon, aimed at both traffic safety and the enforcement of the BES Opium Act. In the late afternoon 53 vehicles were checked, with 15 drivers being fined for various traffic violations. The fines were for driving without: 1x a helmet; 1x a front license plate; 1x a side mirror; 1x the mandatory 40x40 flag for a protruding load; 4x a valid driver's license; 5x valid insurance; and 8x a seat belt. Drivers were also fined for: 1x not transporting children in a child seat and 1x driving with a damaged windshield. *Fines for traffic violations vary between \$30 and \$225.*

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.

From to Feb 15 to March 2 14 people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. One driver was asleep behind his wheel, two were driving suspiciously (the scooter driver without a helmet), and 11 were involved in accidents. Three left the scene of their accident. Six collided with another vehicle, one drove over a parked bicycle, one crashed into parked cars, one crashed into a lamp post and planter, and one crashed into a donkey (the vet took the donkey).

One person arrested had been arrested twice before for driving under the influence. Two drivers couldn't manage to take the breath test.

Three drivers couldn't show a valid driver's license and one couldn't show valid insurance.

Police confiscated the driving license of six drivers and gave out driving bans of 2, 4 and 5 hours.

Traffic accidents

Feb. 28. Around 6:35 a.m. a scooter collided with a pick-up on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot when the pick-up did a U-turn but did not give way. The driver of the scooter was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Feb. 25. Around 3:45 p.m. three vehicles collided on Kaya Irlandia. The driver of a quad lost control of her vehicle, and crashed into two parked cars. The driver of the quad was fined because she didn't have the correct driver's license, and the vehicle had no license plate and no insurance.

Feb. 24. Around 12:35 p.m. a scooter rider fell in the bend when he drove left from Kaya Internashional onto Kaya Gilberto F. (Betico) Croes. The scooter rider was treated at the scene by the ambulance personnel.

Feb. 20. Around 6:10 p.m. a car and a scooter collided on E.E.G. Bulevar. A witness stated that the scooter driver took a large bend when she drove onto the road from the side causing her to collide with a passing pick-up truck. She was taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

Feb. 20. Around 7:25 a.m. a car driving from Playa on Kaya Nibikoko North collided with the forks on an excavator. The driver of the excavator had partially left the forks sticking out onto the road when he left a driveway. The driver of the car tried to swerve, but still collided with the forks. A car driving towards Playa then collided with the left rear of the first car. The collision caused the first car to come to a standstill against an electrical cabinet. The driver of the first car was injured and was taken to hospital. A child who was also in the car was

medically examined on site. The driver of the excavator was fined for failing to produce valid insurance.

Feb. 19. The driver of a scooter fell on Kaminda Sorobon and was seriously injured. The ambulance personnel who arrived on the scene immediately started resuscitation, but to no avail. The coroner confirmed the death of the man, 48, with the initials J.B. born in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands.

Feb. 18. A car and a scooter collided on Kaminda Lagun. The driver of the car stated that she saw the scooter approaching but wanted to drive to the other side of the road before the scooter came close. Instead she caused the scooter to collide with her car. The driver of the scooter fell and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was fined because she did not have a driver's license and the car was not insured.

Feb. 17. Around 11:45 a.m. a car ended up on its side when it collided with a jeep at the intersection of Kaya Pos di Amor, Kaya Kanari and Kaya Flamingo. The car failed to give way to the jeep that wanted to enter Kaya Flamingo from Kaya Kanari. All occupants of both vehicles, including a child, were checked on site by the ambulance crew. The driver of the car did not have his documents in order and was fined for driving without a driving license and insurance.

Feb. 16. A golf cart near Gotomeer flipped over. The driver had only abrasions. The passenger was injured and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The driver of the golf cart stated that they ended up in the verge and the golf cart flipped over when he had to brake suddenly for the vehicle in front of them. Traffic was temporarily diverted until the services had finished their work.

Fire

Feb. 23. Around 9:45 p.m. the central control room received several reports about a house on fire on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia. Bystanders had tried to extinguish the fire with a garden hose before the fire brigade arrived. The fire started on the outside of the house and spread to the kitchen damaging the kitchen window and a wooden wall. The cause of the fire is still unknown. No one was injured.

Feb. 22. Around 6:40 p.m. a fire was reported in a caravan on a kunuku in Bará di Karta. When the police arrived, part of the caravan and a piece of land were still on fire. The fire brigade was immediately called in to extinguish the fire and secure some gas bottles that could explode. According to the kunuku's owner a goat had also been stolen. The cause of the fire is still unknown. No one was injured. The case is being investigated by the Forensic Investigation (FO) department.

Public order

Mar. 2. Around 3:25 p.m. a man, 21, was arrested on Kaya Nibikoko Zuid for making threats and violating the BES Firearms Act. The arrest took place in the context of an ongoing investigation, after it was reported that the man had threatened someone with a firearm.

Mar. 1. Around 4 p.m. a lifeless body was reported found in a house on Kaya Pauwnee in the Hato district. The coroner determined the death of an 83-year-old man with the initials P.M.B., born on May 31, 1941 in Bonaire.

Feb. 19. An 86-year-old man from the United States died early afternoon after a diving incident at the Salt Pier where he was diving with a boat from a resort. When the dive boat arrived at the marina, emergency services were on hand, but the man was no longer alive.

Feb. 14. At approximately 7:55 p.m. a fight with a knife was reported at a restaurant on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez. When the police arrived, the victim stated that he was having a drink outside the restaurant when a person unknown to him approached him and began to fight with him. At one point, he felt the man cut him. The victim did not want medical assistance and did not want to file a report. The other people involved had already fled.

The BES public bodies to defend their ability to govern

The entire island councils of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba are scheduled to fly to The Hague to meet with State Secretary Zsolt Szabó for an hour and a half on March 20. Their intention will be to convince Szabó that, after twelve years as supervised municipalities of the Netherlands, they should now be allowed more responsibility for their own governance.

As envisioned in the original WolBES/FinBES, the legislation would be renegotiated after a time and, among other expectations, the supervisory role of State Secretary would be abolished. However, Szabó has

postponed discussion of changes to WolBES/FinBES and indicates he intends to oversee the BES governments more closely.

The Financial Supervision Board (Cft) recently announced that Bonaire is struggling to maintain control over the implementation of policy, budget execution and the management of government entities. That will likely be one of the topics brought up for discussion during the meeting. *DMR*

Cft says Bonaire's government "out of control"

The Financial Supervision Board (Cft) has warned the Executive Council and the Island Council that the island is struggling to maintain control over the implementation of policy, budget execution and the management of government entities. "Bonaire is simply not in control," according to the Cft.

The previous island government achieved approved auditors' reports in 2022 and 2023. However, the 2024 fourth implementation report submitted by Deputy of Finance Clark Abraham contained so little meaningful

information that the Cft could take no action on it.

Abraham blamed the previous government for the debacle. Abraham also blamed under staffing in the Finance department. According to René Zwart in *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties*, when Abraham took over the department, he replaced the experienced and successful team there with party supporters.

Reportedly, Abraham is dismissive of the Cft criticisms. "At least now it's in black and white." *DMR*

The landfill is burning, Bonaire's fuel supply may be next

In 2021 it was determined that the fuel storage tanks at the airport were beginning to deteriorate and would eventually become a fire hazard that could close the airport and damage the surrounding residential community. The target date set for building new tanks was April 1, 2026, four years away. Three years having passed with no action, the identified safety need has turned into an imminent crisis. And it has also turned into another squabble between the Executive Council and The Hague over jurisdiction.

The stakeholders, and their roles, are as follows:

The Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) is tasked by the central government with ensuring that companies, organizations and government agencies comply with the laws and regulations that protect the sustainable living environment and physical safety. The ILT has sent a warning to the OLB. It declared that, if the fuel tanks were not made safe by April 1, 2026, it would take legal action, which could include imposing a penalty of \$500,000 per month until the safety criteria were met. Shortly thereafter the ILT sent a second letter that added the fuel storage facilities at Hato to its warning.

The Public Body Bonaire (OLB) wants to relocate the island's fuel storage facilities to BOPEC. That would satisfy the safety concerns in Playa and eliminate the necessity for trucking fuel through the city and all the way to the Contour Global power generation plant between Karpata and BOPEC. Locating the island's fuel storage at BOPEC would be a hugely expensive and a longer term project. Much restoration would be required, new highways would need to be built, plus some of BOPEC's assets are still tied up in bankruptcy. The OLB also wants the restored facility to be operated by Oil Trading Bonaire (OTB) and all funding be turned over to OTB.

The OLB has one card up its sleeve. Nobody can do anything unless OLB grants the necessary permits.

Oil Trading Bonaire (OTB), which is owned by the OLB, owns the fuel tanks at the airport and at Hato. It is the long-time government entity responsible for the fuel supply on the island.

Curoil is the operator of the fuel tanks. As the operator, it would be liable for paying any penalty imposed by the ILT. Curoil says the inspectors are wrong about the tanks and the tanks are perfectly safe. Curoil has filed an objection to the ILT ruling.

Bonaire Bon Transition (BBT) is owned by the central government. When the Dutch decided to allocate 20 million euros to replacing the fuel tanks at the airport, it was reluctant to give the money to Oil Trading Bonaire (OTB) because of OTB's reputation for inefficiency and corruption. Therefore The Hague in 2020 deprived OLB of control over the Island's fuel supply and created the state-owned BBT to spend the money on its behalf. BBT has been prepared to issue the order for the construction of the tanks.

Clark Abraham, deputy for finance and leader of the Executive Council, rejected BBT's role and wants control of the project returned to its own OTB, along with the funding.

Anjelica Cicilia, the OLB deputy for infrastructure, is optimistic. She agrees the fuel tanks cannot be replaced by the ILT deadline, but she's confident the tanks can be repaired by then. The Executive Council is considering how to make the repairs, and they still have over a year to get the job done. *DMR*



I was on Bonaire on vacation a few weeks ago and I tried to see some properties that are for sale. I was told we couldn't go in because they were rented, or the owner wasn't available that day, but I could see them "next week." How can I see properties when I'm not going to be on the island the next week? Sharon

Hi Sharon,

You're right, this can be challenging. We always encourage our buyers and sellers to be as flexible as possible. Like you, we get frustrated when we can't arrange a showing. It may be because the buyer only wants to see properties in the afternoon after they have finished diving, or the seller only wants to have their property shown on a certain morning. It may be because there are vacation renters in the property and the owner does not want to disturb them. Sometimes, the buyer calls at the last minute. We often get calls in the morning from potential buyers who want to see properties the same, before they leave the island.

We advise sellers to be as flexible as possible with showing times. Our advice to you as a buyer is to contact us a week in advance of your arrival so we can discuss the properties you want to see during your trip. Most of our listings have virtual 3D tours that you can view online before your arrival so we can schedule viewings for the ones you are most interested in. We also suggest that buyers spend two weeks on Bonaire if possible, to give them the best chance of seeing everything they want.

Call or email us before your next trip, Sharon, we would be happy to help!

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



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Lize van de Ven exhibits at Sobremesa Gallery

Join us on Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m. for the festive opening of our new art exposition at Sobremesa Gallery. We are delighted to welcome long-time resident Lize van de Ven for her first solo exhibition.

Born and raised in the vibrant city of Cape Town, South Africa, Lize's artistic journey began at the age of 15, when she first picked up a paintbrush, tie-dyed, and painted a t-shirt. What started as a creative experiment quickly blossomed into a small, thriving holiday business.

Today, Lize is a proud graduate of the Milan Art Institute, and she continues to create from her home studio here on

Bonaire. Her art is deeply influenced by her tropical surroundings, drawing inspiration from the spiritual truths that nature imparts.

For Lize, art is not simply about what meets the eye. In her own words: "We should allow the visible to draw us into the invisible – where the eternal and true beauty lies."

Her works invite us to explore the deeper, often unseen layers of life and beauty that surround us.

The expo will run until April 5. For info see: www.sobremesa-bonaire.com



Do you really know parrotfish?



Carmen Toanchina holds two of the course's references for fish identification. Photo Julie Morgan

Bucktooth. The class ended with a review.

Carmen said, "Once you know the parrotfish you are well on your way to IDing many of the fish on the reef."

When the REEF volunteer surveys began back in 1993, Bonaire divers and snorkelers enthusiastically came on board. Bo-

naire Instructor Linda Baker was the first to hit 1000 surveys in 2004 which initiated REEF's Golden Hamlet Club. Other 1000+ Bonaire Golden Hamlet members are: Dee Scarr of Touch the Sea, the late Cassandra Neal and the late Franklin Neal. The text or bible for fish ID was and is the Reef Fish ID series by the late Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach.

To be a volunteer surveyor/citizen scientist means contributing to one of the largest marine life databases in the world. Plus it is a lot of fun.

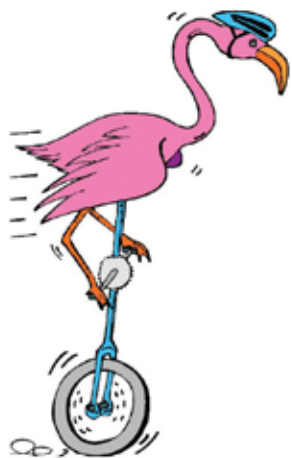
Ask Carmen about becoming a surveyor at the next class on March 25, 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio. She has everything to get you started, the knowledge to educate you, a fish ID slate and underwater paper listing species.

Originally from Romania, Carmen Toanchina has conducted over 500 surveys since 2018 putting her in line for the junior Gold Hamlet Club. Carmen is an instructor of 10 years and has worked on marine conservation projects worldwide including coral restoration, reef monitoring and manta ray and turtle conservation projects. She is the owner of Biodiverse Bonaire, a marine education and diving center offering training and classes focused on marine education and guided dives. Carmen has developed an Ostracod Bioluminescence specialty course with PADI.

For more information: visit REEF.org and <https://biodiversebonaire.com>

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

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Training program started for BES government officials

A support and leadership program for local administrators in the Caribbean Netherlands, being provided by Dutch professionals, has officially begun. Created at the instigation of former State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen last March, the training is intended for island council members, deputies, governors, clerks and island secretaries. The multi-year program will focus on role-taking, craftsmanship and cooperation within local government. *DMR*

Eggs available again but expensive

Eggs are back on shelves of the supermarkets, but at two to three times more than they cost last May. Eggs are more expensive here because of the bird flu outbreak in the United States, which has reduced the supply and increased export prices. No one knows how long the shortage will last. *DMR*

Equal treatment legislation coming to BES

Equal treatment legislation applicable to Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba has been passed by the House of Representatives and is awaiting approval by the Senate. People in the Caribbean Netherlands will soon have the same legal protection against discrimination as people living in the European Netherlands. A free legal aid office is currently being established for each island. *DMR*

More than 2,000 affordable homes to be built in next five years

Construction is in full swing on Bonaire of social rental and affordable owner-occupied homes, 254 of them at the Hato site. Completion of 600 homes is the target for 2025, with another 1,100 planned by the end of 2030.

The Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning is making €10 million available for the first phase. The Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy are jointly contributing €900,000 for the installation of solar panels and battery-based storage to help eliminate energy-poverty on the island.

At Hato imported pre-fabricated homes are being assembled. The prefab production factory initially promised for Bonaire is still a future goal. *DMR*

Motor vehicle tax notices are late but in the mail

The motor vehicle tax assessment notices were sent later than usual this year. They were delayed by “improvements in the internal processes, which will further optimize the service provision and processing.” The date on the assessment notice is still March 1, 2025, so vehicle owners should keep in mind that payment was due as of that date. *DMR*

Police find drugs in fishing boat: destroy both



After intensive investigation, a large quantity of drugs found in a fishing boat was seized on February 18. The drugs and the boat have since been destroyed. Through a collaboration between KPCN, the Royal Marechaussee, Customs and the Coast Guard, three arrests were made at the Fisherman's wharf on Kaya J.N.E. Craane. A man, 27, a man, 36, and a man, 42, were arrested on suspicion of violating the BES Opium Act. Investigation into the case is ongoing.

Photo via KPCN

Galileo ground station used as teaching aid

Students from VWO 4 (Pre-university Education) of the Liseo and grade 8 pupils from various primary schools on Bonaire attended an educational space program during February 24 - 28. For them the program had a special dimension. It included a tour of the Galileo ground station on the island. The students discovered how the station works and how the data collected are applied in everyday life. As an extra treat at the end of the program, the students got to sample real astronaut food.

The program was created as a collaborative project of Sterk Techniek Onderwijs (STO) and the Da Vinci Satellite Team (DVS) of TU Delft (Delft University of Technology).

The program, which introduces students and pupils to science subjects and space in an inspiring and accessible way, will be attended by students throughout the Netherlands.

STO is a program of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science whose goal is to achieve sustainable, thorough, and qualitatively strong technical education. *DMR*

Photo: Special Envoy Edison Rijna and the Da Vinci Satellite Team (DVS) at TU Delft



Help the library move to Kaya Amsterdam

The Library is looking for strong helpers to help with carrying boxes and furniture, and volunteers who can help putting the books on the shelves. In addition, help is needed setting up the office spaces, the storage room and the work space, so that everything is in the right place.

Volunteers can register by calling or texting +599 770 6944, or by sending an email to myrthe.janse@bonairegov.com.

ABC games coming up

For the third year young athletes will compete in the Weganan Interinsular organized by IBISA (Aruba), Indebon (Bonaire) and FDDK (Curaçao). The games are a platform for cultural exchange, developing talent and strengthening the bond between the islands.

Sports program and dates • Curaçao: March 13-16 • Football • Chess • Aquathlon • **Aruba:** March 27-30 • Volleyball • Basketball • Checkers • **Bonaire:** April 10-13 • Athletics • Dodgeball • Basketball

[Cunninghamella \(fungal species\): Potential for environmental clean-up of widely used sunscreen agents.](#)

The extensive use of organic UV filters (OUVFs) has led to these compounds being ubiquitously detected in the environment and considered a new kind of environmental pollutant. This year there are numerous scientific articles damning the use of chemicals found in sunscreens. Oxybenzone is on the forefront. It is particularly true in aquatic and marine environments. It is ubiquitous. The research literature is overwhelming. These scientific findings drive companies with effective, safe alternatives to do innovative research (like Coral Care™) to counter the results found in Elsevier Journals.

March, 2025. Back the Truck Up....

Stream2Sea and University of Derby have already started publishing content and meaningful qualitative and quantitative data. See for yourself. Third party expertise is also being made available. Coral Care™ is affordable and highly effective. Hats off to Stream2Sea for the time, investment, and expertise given to this breakthrough concept. Available now at both **Dive Friends** and **VIP Diving**. Email me your product thoughts after you've tried a tube or two: buddygillan@gmail.com. More at: <https://stream2sea.com> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBd_dmuzTkk

May, 2025. Brand, Brand New Research. For oxybenzone it doesn't get any worse!!

[Elsevier Journal of Hazardous Materials, June 2025 \(being published\) "Biotransformation of oxybenzone and 3-\(4-methylbenzylidene\) camphor in](#)



sor Sweet discusses. "When we saw an 8% increase in the growth of some corals at the mid-point stage of testing after being treated with Coral Care, it was then we knew we were on to something huge. The result saw a staggering 21% increase in horizontal growth rates compared to control levels when nothing had been added into the water."

2025. Brand New Research. For oxybenzone it doesn't get any better!

Your shelves are full of it. More than ever. Bonaire and Florida. Oxybenzone is king and queen of the sunscreen products. The outlook for oxybenzone (or its cousins) is through the roof. Only a few years ago these chemical sunscreens were being replaced with safe minerals (zinc and titanium) that protected against UVA1 and UVA2 (cancer-causing wavelengths), UVB (burning wavelengths), and epidermal protection. Companies like Stream2Sea (et al) fought tooth-and-nail to create healthy products that were safe for *all ages*...and safe for aquatic and marine environments. New research

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Zombies (dead coral) and Zooxanthellae...Oh My 2!

As I was researching the content for this article, it was clear that the *research itself* would be the turning point for acceptance and success of this innovative and highly complex step in marine biology. But Stream2Sea is not some fly-by-night company. They are hard-working, skilled, research-based professionals. Their products are used around the world every day to block the effects of UVA and UVB. Their products do what they say.

Nonetheless, bringing zombies back to life and zooxanthellae DNA back to performing photosynthesis is tricky stuff. The nutrients, elements, and compounds necessary to do so isn't by luck. It is by skill, good science, and testable results.

Coral Genetics.

Transcription and translation of exacting triplet codons are needed to do these tasks and make the building blocks of specific proteins. Turns out corals are highly complex...not simple. Think about spawning.

Corals are symbiotic and territorial. Getting tissue to grow, turn ocean minerals into walls, and produce a next generation that spawns, shows how amazing DNA is. Serving coral the nutrients they require for metabolism is both clever and researchable. First, a word from the boss and chief scientist.

Autumn Blum...

"I founded Stream2Sea with the mindset of 'Do No Harm,' ensuring that our products are safe for our waters and marine life. Over the years, as Stream2Sea became the 'Marine Professional's Choice,' I began to ask—can we go beyond 'Reef Safer' and actually 'Do Good (ecologically)'? That question led me to develop Coral Care™. We started with our rigorously tested and proven Water Sport Sunscreen and infused it with proven beneficial coral nutrients. After 16 weeks of independent trials at the University of Derby, England, I'm thrilled to introduce Coral Care™—the world's first sunscreen scientifically proven to nourish coral."

To develop Coral Care™, Stream2Sea collaborated with leading coral scientists from the University of Derby, a global authority in transcription genetics, marine invertebrates, and coral research. Led by UN marine advisor, Professor Michael Sweet, the product has undergone rigorous testing and is scientifically proven to promote healthy coral growth. Stream2Sea has provided results from this testing and with the first stage published on their website. Along the way the UV pictures and graphics are very helpful in understanding the results and application of the results in vivo and vitro contexts.

Professor Michael Sweet...

"If we hadn't done the tests ourselves, I simply wouldn't have believed we could turn a negative into a positive," Profes-

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- 1 012 mensen vertrokken
- 1 451 inwoners kregen we erbij op Bonaire

Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek



voor wat er feitelijk gebeurt

The Caribbean Netherlands is growing!

The poster reads:

This is us!

In 2024

235 kids were born
140 people passed away
2369 new residents
1012 residents left the island

1451 more people on Bonaire

CBS (Statistics Netherlands) has launched a public campaign to explain why reliable data is important when planning for the future. In the campaign citizens explain that if you do not have data on a growing or shrinking population, you cannot make plans for the capacity of hospitals, senior homes and daycare centers. Actual figures are needed to be able to make estimates and conduct the social debate.

CBS encourages mothers to participate in their research, as the statistics organisation can provide insight into family life, such as income, health, happiness and employment.

CBS is the data collector and statistician for the Caribbean Netherlands and produces statistics on themes such as population, economy and welfare. *CBS Press Release*

Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Why is Carnival so late this year?

I always wondered how the dates of Carnival and Easter were determined, and here is the answer. Carnival and Easter Sunday are connected through the Christian liturgical calendar, with Carnival serving as a period of festivity before the solemn season of Lent, which leads up to Easter.

Carnival occurs just before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent—a 40-day period of fasting, praying and reflection leading up to Easter Sunday.

The date of Ash Wednesday is determined based on the date of Easter Sunday, and this one varies each year.

The Paschal Full Moon is the first full Moon after the spring equinox (which is fixed as March 21st in the church calendar) and determines which date Easter falls on each year. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, for this reason, Easter is a movable holiday, occurring anywhere from late March to late April.

This year the first full moon or Paschal Full Moon is on April 12th. Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter Sunday. This includes 40 days of Lent, symbolizing Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert and six Sundays that

are not counted as fasting days, that is why there are 46 calendar days total.

The word Carnival is believed to come from the Latin "carne vale," meaning "farewell to meat," symbolizing the last opportunity to indulge before Lent's restrictions. Carnival ends on Shrove Tuesday (also known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday), the day before Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of reflection, prayer, and fasting for Christians in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter. The day itself emphasizes penitence and humility, symbolized by the placing of ashes on the forehead.

Carnival is a time of joy, freedom, and abundance before the somber, reflective period of Lent.

Carnival is celebrated in many cultures worldwide, while the core idea is a festive period before Lent, the ways people celebrate vary significantly depending on local history, culture, and religion.

The most famous Carnival in the world is the one from Rio de Janeiro, known for its vibrant parades in the Sambódromo with extravagant and colorful costumes.

In Europe one can enjoy Venice Carnival, in Italy, with gondola parades, costume contests, and elegant masquerade balls famous for its ornate masks and lavish costumes dating back to the Renaissance. These masks originally allowed people to hide their identity and so-

cial class during festivities.

In the Caribbean region, the most famous is in Trinidad and Tobago with a mix of African, French, and Caribbean influences. The music takes a central stand with rhythms like Calypso, Soca and steelpan.

In North America people enjoy the Mardi Gras in New Orleans brought by French settlers, it's renowned for its colorful parades, masquerade balls and throwing Beads: Parade-goers catch beads, coins, and trinkets from floats.

In Bonaire we have our own version of Carnival, making it a celebration also for kids and youngsters.

Carnival is a time for joy, celebration and indulgence, but remember the poison is in the dose, so stay hydrated, beer doesn't count as hydrating fluid, drink water with electrolytes, Bonairean sea salt is a good addition to prevent massive fluid loss during jumping and dancing in warm weather. Have fun and stay safe.



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

Inaccessibility really sucks.....

Accessibility is very important when you are an elderly or when you have a disability. Days and weeks can run pretty smoothly, but then, it seems as if nothing is accessible anymore.

For making calls and sending WhatsApps I use a mobile phone. Every now and then I buy a card for a few dollars and I can go on doing my thing. But there is something called "airtime." You cannot see it, but when that airtime is up, your connection with the world comes to an abrupt halt. The only thing one has to do is go and buy a card for a few dollars and you are ready to use the phone again. Access to internet is also restored.

This happened to me last week. It was in the early afternoon. At first I had no idea that it was the airtime. I live all by myself and most of the time my neighbors are not around. So, there was no way I could go and get a phone card.

I am a lucky girl to have many FB-friends and people I send WhatsApps to. Thank God a friend realized by 5 p.m. that she had not received a good morning greeting from me and decided to drive by and check on me. She was very happy and relieved that she saw me alive. She immediately went and bought me a few phone cards. So now I have no more problems with that kind of accessibility.

I had not seen my neighbor for a day or so, but when I finally did, I was shocked. He walked with a bad limp and was in shock. He limped over to my porch and told me about his problems. He was very glad to have "Los Landadores" as his peer group because suddenly his leg and ankle had started to swell, looked infected and he was in a lot of pain. He does not live on Bonaire but comes to stay a few times a year.

Friends of the group of people have helped him all the way: took him to and fro to a doctor, got his medication from the pharmacy and also got him food for three meals a day - every day.

Because it is very hard for me to open cans, I always buy cans that open easily with some kind of ring. This eases the process. But you don't always find the cans

with rings, so I hope that the supermarket owners start to realize our problems. Maybe even have a serious conversation with MiVaBo about accessibility in every way.

I am glad my peer group realizes this problem. A few weeks ago one of my buddy's gifted me with a device that makes chopping onions, garlic, etc. very easy. You put the vegetables inside, close the lid, pull a string and... the chopping is all done.

Maybe Best Care should also have a good chat with MiVaBo.

Making Bonaire accessible. All the way.



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 - Another Consequence of the Lionfish Invasion

by Dee Scarr



This photo is from the 20th century, and this eel was not invited into my arms. Making the best out of a surprise situation, I was able to tilt my head just enough to keep my bubbles away. I used gloves when working with eels because my light-colored hand contrasted with my darker wetsuit and looked small -- and edible. Archive photo

Norine Rouse, a diver best-known for the friendships she had with loggerhead turtles, would tell students who were afraid of marine animals, "People are in the ocean by virtue of technology, not biology. Consequently, we are neither the natural food nor the natural enemy of any marine animal."

And then lionfish invaded the Caribbean, and a new predator evolved, even on Bonaire: lionfishing divers. Suddenly, divers became more than neutral beings. Lionfishing divers were competitors to predators.

Fish aren't supposed to be smart, but yellowtail snappers learned very quickly to recognize lionfishers by the ELF device. Yellowtails not only joined divers who were carrying ELF's, they also investigated the sound of an ELF being fired. The yellowtails got so pushy that they'd sometimes spook the lionfish.

Morays, like yellowtails, are also opportunistic eaters who reside on Bonaire's reefs. A few years ago I had a very un-serene dive at Sharon's Serenity. Two of us were lionfishing; Susan had gotten one or two, and I had a lionfish in my carrying device. Larry had signaled that there was a crazy moray, and I was keeping an eye out for it, but that spotted moray appeared from nowhere and came straight at me. It was only about three feet (one meter) long, but it was moving at a speed I'd never have believed.

Since I was holding a container that was holding a wounded lionfish, I immediately dropped the container.

Actually, I wish I'd thought to drop the container, but I was too dumbfounded (and too dumb), so I held onto it.

Everything else I did was appropriate, though: I blocked the moray with my fins. At the same time, I was not bolting for the surface, but diagonally swimming upwards. I was trying to figure out what I'd do when I got to the surface -- my head was actually at the surface -- when the moray bolted back to the reef.

Since then, before every dive, I remind myself: drop the container!

At some point a moray stops following a scent and locks visually onto what it has decided is the source of the aroma. Even if the diver has already dropped any lionfish container, the moray goes for the big, easy to see diver. At this time our best defense is our fins, since the moray can't bite the flat surface of the fin, and our fins are a good distance from our face and hands.

If a moray gets past the fin blockade, though, divers need to make sure their exhaust bubbles flow away from themselves. Back in the 1980's, when many divers were feeding fish, they occasionally got nipped on the earlobes by excited morays. We concluded that exhaust bubbles look a lot like fast-moving silvery fish, and that the morays were going for the bubbles. When a diver's chin is down, their bubbles go right past their ears, the perfect setup for an ear bite. So tilt your head back and let your bubbles ascend away from your face.

While all this is going on, it's a good idea to make the moray feel uncomfortable without blaming you for the discomfort. Since morays prefer the shelter of the reef, swimming out into the blue water is a perfect way to make a pursuing moray uncomfortable. Morays also dislike being near the surface, which I think is what saved me.

What if, despite all this, a moray sinks its teeth into you?

Don't struggle!

Sure, that's not the easiest advice to follow, but -- believe it or not -- morays repeatedly, consistently spit out human beings. Apparently, the moray realizes it has bitten into something foreign, and it almost always lets go. Especially if the diver isn't struggling and the moray finds itself out in the blue water.

What if you're not a lionfisher?

It might not matter. Some morays might assume that if it's a diver, it has food.

When you see a moray swimming along the reef, watch it from afar. If it shows any interest in you, be ready to head out into the blue water.



I called this eel Spooky because I never was able to establish a working relationship with him; he would leave his den and follow me but never come very close. Then one day he zoomed into my arms and put his teeth on my earlobe -- I could feel them around my earrings! -- then opened his mouth but stayed in my arms for a little while. As you can see, I didn't exhale while I thought things out. This photo was taken in the 1990's, when I fed critters a lot. The texture of the gloves helped the animals distinguish my fingers from the food. . Archive photo

If you're a lionfisher and you see a moray swimming along the reef, be ready to drop your container and move away from the reef (not to the surface, but) into the blue water. Do NOT make lionfish available to the moray! That does not teach them to eat lionfish, it teaches them to expect food from divers.

Finally, report moray incidents to the BNMP (599-717-8444). Bonaire National Marine Park regulations prohibit injuring marine animals, and, since divers are marine animals, morays who injure divers are breaking BNMP rules and may have to face consequences. BNMP plays no favorites.



Dee Scarr has been nurturing marine life on Bonaire since 1981. One recognition of her accomplishments came on February 6, 2006, when Captain Don presented Dee with his Accolade Award: for her dedication "to making knowledge of the sea fun and spreading desire in others to learn and become themselves part of our sea."

Red, green or yellow curry soup

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant

50 g (3 1/2 T) butter • 60 g (1/2 C) flour • 1 packet red, green or yellow curry paste (70 gr) • 1/2 onion, chopped • 2 cloves garlic, minced • 1 can of coconut milk • 100 g (3 1/2 oz) crème fraîche • 500 g (2 C) stock • Possibly extra bouillon powder • 400 g (14 oz) cream • Dash of sweet soy sauce

Melt butter in saucepan and fry chopped onion and chopped garlic. Add flour. Stir to form a roux and cook for a few minutes. Pour in



stock and bring to boil, the roux will dissolve and begin to thicken. Now add cream, crème fraîche, red curry paste and coconut milk. Bring to boil while stirring, then let it simmer for a while. If necessary, season further with bouillon powder, freshly ground pepper and Bonaire sea salt.

To make the soup nice and smooth and airy, you can blend it. Serve with a sweet pepper and cappuccino milk and naan bread.

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



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.

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>

Comedy at Yhanni's Arepas Saturdays 7:30 p.m. \$15 includes a welcome drink and snack. 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. 3 to 5 p.m. \$1 per hour. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$2 per hour. Beginners: 9 - 10 a.m. \$2 per hour.


Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire Contact Michiel Bijkerk, tel: 796 2650, e-mail: abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com


Sunfish Race Days: Barring inclement weather: March 9, April 20, May 4, May 25 and June 15. Visit BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association on Facebook.

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 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

 **Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** March 10 - Toucan Diving; March 17 - TBC; March 24th - Toucan Diving - Divi Resort. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: 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

 **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/>

Sobremesa **Kas di Arte** View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. *For those who love to make art themselves:*
• Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
• Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

You can help keep Bonaire clean	
Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 - 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, March 30	Zero Waste Day Cleanup . PADI class 12 noon \$32.50 or just sign up the clean up at 1 p.m. Free tanks. Scuba Do Bonaire - see page 13
Sunday, April 13	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

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

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. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 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.): Kaya Gilberto F Croes, 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)

Thursday, March 6	Kids 8+ Driftwood Workshop Sobremesa 9 a.m. - 12 a.m. pp\$18 snack and all materials. 15 places. Register +599 784 2127
Saturday, March 8	Kids 6+ Beads & Charms Workshop Sobremesa: • Workshop 1. 11 a.m. - 12:15 a.m. • Workshop 2. 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. pp\$15 one workshop; \$25 two workshops. Limited places. Register Whatsapp Celestine +599 786 1876
March 15 - April 5 Friday, March 14	Art Expo Lize van de Ven Sobremesa, Abraham Boulevard 10. Festive opening March 14 at 5 p.m.
Saturday, Mar. 15	An Evening of Love Songs at SACA & Zara's! Pianist Claudia Cassier and Tenor Bradley Howard. 7:30-9 p.m. \$30. Tickets at Artisan Bakery Bonaire and Del Mar Books. See page 13 Fernand and Friso Comedy Night at Yhanni's Arepas. 7:30 p.m. \$15 includes a welcome drink and a snack.
Wednesday, Mar. 19	Bonaire Animal Shelter Bonaire Charity Dinner & Auction 6 p.m. at BINA Restaurant, Chogogo Resort Bonaire. More details later.
Saturday, March 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.

Coming Up

Sunday, May 4	Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-a-Thon
May 22 - May 25	PWA World Cup for youth windsurfers on Bonaire. Afterwards the young windsurfers can fly to their sister island, Aruba, to compete in the Aruba Hi-Winds 2025, May 28 - June 2
May through July Wed. June 25	100 days of Captain Don. Captain Don's Habitat diving resort will celebrate with lectures, presentations, parties, raffles, music and great photo opps. The grand event on Don's birthday, June 25, will be like the old days with a free rum punch party, music and snacks.

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. March 5	0830-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
	1100-2300	THE WORLD 699 guests	North
Thurs. March 6	0830-1500	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Fri. March 7	0630-1300	NORWEGIAN EPIC 5186 guests	South
Sat. March 8	0600-1700	NORWEGIAN JEWEL 3000 guests	North
Sun. March 9	0800-1900	COSTA FORTUNA 3470 guests	North
Mon. March 10	0700-1800	ROTTERDAM 2668 guests	South
	0730-2000	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR 754 guests	North
Tues. March 11	0630-1800	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
Wed. March 12	0830-1700	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS 3840 guests	South
	1000-2330	CLUB MED 2 439 guests	North
Fri. March 14	0630-1830	VENTURA 3597 guests	North
Sat. March 15	0700-1800	SILVER MOON 623 guests	North
Sun. March 16	0700-1800	AIDAPERLA 3286 guests	South
Mon. March 17	0700-1800	SILVER MOON 623 guests	South
	0700-1800	STAR PRIDE 312 guests	North
Tues. March 18	0700-1800	COSTA FASCINOSA 3800 guests	North
Wed. March 19	0700-1800	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

Dancing, walking, riding, over 400 of all ages joyfully join in the parades



Zero Waste Day Join the Scuba Do Cleanup

We humans generate far too much trash and much of it ends up on our beaches and in our ocean. Not just here on Bonaire but worldwide. In 2022 the United Nations established International Day of Zero Waste encouraging everyone to practice the five R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle.

To create awareness and make a difference in our environment, Scuba Do Bonaire has organized a Zero Waste Day cleanup of the beach and ocean on March 30. A Dive against Debris PADI Project Aware specialty class will be offered for only \$32.50 or you can just sign up for the cleanup. Tanks are free. The class begins at Scuba Do at 12 noon with the cleanup at 1 p.m.

Let's work together for a cleaner and more sustainable world and celebrate Zero Waste Day. For more information contact Scuba Do Bonaire - +599-717-0717 or visit: www.divecenterscubado.com, Facebook or Instagram.



Negrita (Blacky) needs a home



Negrita was found starving with nine puppies and needs a home. The pups were all adopted, and she has been neutered. Negrita is medium size, shy with a sweet temperament. She is currently staying with a kind woman, but it is only temporary. If you would like to meet Negrita contact Irene da Cunda at +599-787-5588.

Illegal waste dumping is a growing problem on Bonaire. The Supervision and Enforcement Directorate says illegal waste dumping poses a major threat to public health, the environment, the local infrastructure, and the well-being of the community.

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Kosmo

Hello, my name is Kosmo. I am a super sweet boy, 9 months old. I came here with my mother and two siblings

Pets of the Week

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

when I was only 1 month old. My mother and siblings are already adopted, and now I'm all alone. Playing with a toy mouse and scratching the cat tree are my favorite things to do.

I am looking for a human who will give me a lot of attention and love. I really like lots of pets and cuddles.

Will you give me my forever home?

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

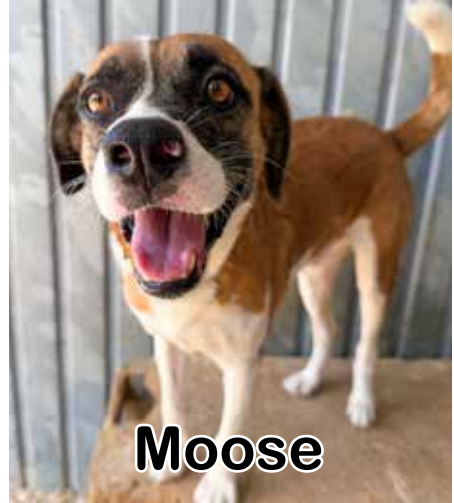
Meet Moose.

Moose is not your typical Bonaire dog. With his longer coat and medium size, he's a special

one. This 3-year-old boy has been with us for almost 6 months and is ready to move into his forever home!

Moose is an energetic dog who loves running on the field and often has zoomies – those crazy moments when he runs around like a speedster! But after a good play session, he enjoys sitting with you for cuddles and company.

He's friendly with other dogs and loves keeping watch while he relaxes .

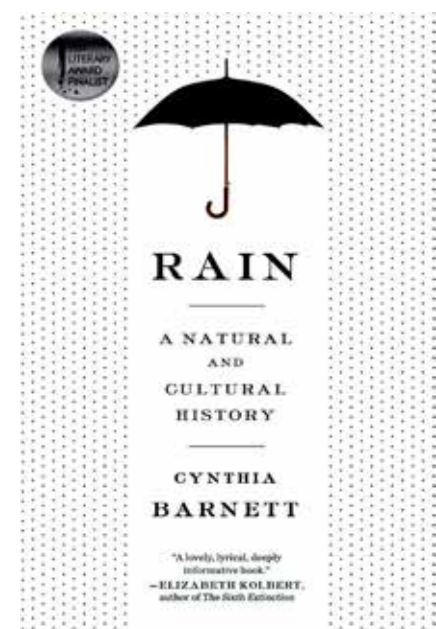


Moose

Come meet Moose soon!

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Buckley's Books by George Buckley



some mad God of the ancients, not much has proven to work dependably. Water rights laws have proliferated as politicians try to legislate water usage. Most are failures. So called Riparian rights laws, in actuality forced 'agreements' on usage, could not keep up with supply and demand. Regulations as to agricultural uses, lawn watering, pool filling and community uses often result in lengthy court battles. Some communities have sold water rights to commercial companies, often ending badly, very badly for the residents.

People have a poor understanding of the concept of a 'watershed' let alone earth's water cycle. Their communities and politicians often have a very poor understanding of the value of wetlands, of the importance of coastal ecosystems such as sea grass filled bays, salt marshes and mangrove swamps. These help to hold water, limit and control flooding and wave action and provide breeding, nursery, feeding and shelter areas for myriad varieties of wildlife. The entire aquatic ecosystem hinges on their abundance and health. Few love them, most take them for granted, many want to cash in by developing their fragile edges.

With the added and often severe impacts of Global Climate Change, that are demonstrably getting worse, communities of all sorts and sizes are being impacted by water issues. Flooding, mudslides, drought, crop losses, forest fires, community fires, more severe storms are devastating lives and communities. The financial impacts are massive. Rain, precious rain, is the key to a lot of it. As someone asked, are the weather Gods mad or crazy or both? Climate and weather ultimately depend on the oceans. Covering some two-thirds of earth's surface, the oceans are warming. Glaciers are melting and currents, a major key to weather are changing. All at an alarming rate! Politicians are not responding quickly enough. In their stead, insurance companies are responding. Rates are increasing, policies are being cancelled, whole communities abandoned as insurers pull out after a very large set of claims, sometimes proactively before there are claims. They know something is going on and that it is not good. They are taking action. When will we and our politicians act?

George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Capt. Don and others on environmental and educational projects. Semiretired from decades of teaching at Harvard he now consults with many environmental groups.



In this wide-ranging discussion about often overlooked rain, award winning environmental author and journalist, Cynthia Barnett, writes about our inter-connectedness with it. Poets, writers, painters and singers all have a long history of using rain as a subject. We talk about it more than we think.

It is a hugely critical resource. We all tend to take rain for granted; until it occurs at an inopportune time, or there is way too little or way too much of it. We depend on it to fill reservoirs and wells for vital drinking water; to fill waterways for transportation and a vast array of water sports and commercial and recreational fisheries; to irrigate gardens, crops, lawns and sports fields; to keep forests growing; to douse fires, to mix concrete and enough other uses to fill a book!

Humans have been trying for centuries to capture and control rain. Wells have been drilled, lakes and streams have been dammed, ponds, reservoirs and impoundments built, levies and gullies constructed. The Mississippi River drains the mid-continent of the United States, some 31 states and two Canadian provinces, and connects massive amounts of commercial transit from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of MEXICO through a series of highly engineered canals and locks. The whole enterprise is highly dependent on rain-fall and the over two thousand miles of levies that were built in an attempt to coral and control the river....until it dries up to a trickle in places or until it floods badly and the levies and backup sandbags all fail.

Try as we might, humans have very little control over rainfall despite multitudinous attempts. From dousing sticks to salting clouds, to sending bolts of electricity skyward like

Animal Shelter Bonaire

SAVE THE DATE! Charity Dinner & Auction
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A Garden? Just Do It!

Banana trees

by Angliet, Nature Lover

It's so cool to see different types of banana plants on Bonaire nowadays. I think people like to have a banana plant because it has a typical tropical look. And when you live on Bonaire you want to experience that Caribbean feeling with tropical plants around you.

I myself have three types in my yard. My huge one is a plantain that grows to 5-6m (19.5 ft) tall and about 4m(13ft) wide, but the funny thing is that it can be eaten fresh as well as cooked. The fruit is very white, different from the plantains which are off-white. The bunches are huge and heavy. I even had bunches with about hundred big fruit. The bunches are very hard to cut from the plant because it is so tall and I needed some man power.

The plantain bunches need to be cut before they yellow because if you wait until they are ripe the birds damage them and/or they rot. If the bunch grows too big and heavy during the rainy season, the tree cannot hold the bunch and it breaks off. Support the tree with some beams to prevent it from falling.

Most people plant their banana plants near the bathroom and kitchen outlet for the waste water. But these huge plants should not be planted so close to the house. They need space. Not knowing what kind of banana tree it was that I got from a friend, I planted it too close to the house. The plant grew higher than the roof so it was a great way for iguanas to climb onto my roof making a lot of noise and pooping all over the roof. Then when the trees produced their big bunches they laid on the roof so I could not chop them off. With



the support of some friends we chopped the whole tree down and the bunches came down too.

There are other types of smaller plantain which we see in the grocery stores: the cooking plantain and the one to consume fresh. We don't see these trees much on Bonaire.

What we have mostly here and I have in my garden is a small type of fresh eating banana, round and big as a thumb. They are so sweet and moist and can be found on all the kunukus. They are great for banana pudding, banana cake, for fruit salads, in juice (makes the juice thick) and for a baby. Keep an eye on them when getting ripe, because as soon as they turn light yellow the birds will be there. When they get a lot of rain, they get really big and the skin tears open. If you see that,

cut them from the bunch because they could rot. But if you bring them inside they will still ripen and not rot. If the tree comes down while the fruits are still green, cut the bunch off and put it somewhere to ripen. The fruit is still green but it can still be used for juices, sweet chutneys or in fruit salads even though it is not as moist as the yellow ones.

Don't throw your banana tree away as it's good for the soil and good food for the goats. Chop it in small parts and re-use all of it.

I've been seeing a new type of plantain / banana tree with bunches that have a lot of fruit growing low to the ground. They look so funny. Such a small tree with a big bunch of fruit. This plantain is known as the Dwarf Cavendish. It is about 3m (9.84ft) high. Another one is called the Musa Dwarf Caven-

dish or Baloe which is often used in house interiors. In fact there are a lot of different banana plants but these are the ones I see the most on Bonaire.

If you have banana plants remember these tips and be aware of these problematic signs.

- A banana plant sweats when it has too much water. The drops fall on the floor of your house which can damage a wooden floor.
- Leaves turn yellow when having too much water or too little and too much leads to rotten roots.
- Yellow leaves might also be a sign of too little magnesium.
- Plantain plants need more water than other plants because they lose it through their big leaves exposed to the sun.
- The banana plants like moist soil with a jungle kind of compost or humus.
- Always remove dry and yellow leaves because they take too much energy from the plant.
- Banana plants make good interior plants as they clean the air.

Banana plants are such good plants to have around you. You will enjoy this king of the Tropics and always have fruit. So plant a banana plant and let it become a small jungle to enjoy the real Caribbean vibe in your garden.



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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