



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Photo Julie Morgan

With Bonaire's amazing climate and temperature, never going below 77°F (25°C) or climbing much higher than 91°F (33°C) the island is the perfect place for most any sport. In recent years a whole world of sports activities has opened up thanks to the work of Indebon (Sports Institute Bonaire)

For the last two years they have sponsored Sports Expo providing a platform for some 41 sports federations. Who knew there were so many local sports activities available?

And for the last three years, they've organized International Sports Week attracting athletes from many Caribbean islands, the Netherlands and the U.S.

Sports Expo 2025 was held over the weekend of April 5 and 6 providing the opportunity for anyone who got up off their couch to see demonstrations and even try some 25 sports for free. The Expo was held at four different locations: Sporthall George Nicolaas, Parke Tului, Stadium Playa and Rudy Boezem Ball Park. There were so many sports to choose from it was difficult to decide where to go.

On April 5, day one proved to be the busiest day with over 400 people getting involved in many of the sports. Park Tului offered water polo, competitive swimming, windsurfing, SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard), Sunfish sailing and Optimist. A green inflat-

able barrier was set up by the swim dock to provide a safe enclosure for the Optimist, SUP and windsurf activities. Stadium Playa had field hockey, ultimate frisbee, baseball, softball, rugby, soccer, beach volleyball, bolas criollas, BMX/bikes and track (atletiek). The Sporthall seemed to be the busiest, offering activities both inside and outside: Yudo, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Jodo en iaido, Kempo, table tennis, basketball, tennis, gymnastics,

remote control racing and chess.

April 6, day two only saw around 300 participants and most were at the Sporthall. Park Tului had windsurfing, Sunfish and SUP but closed down early due to the lack of participants. Sporthall featured Pickleball, table tennis, basketball, jodo & iaido, Yudo, Kenpo, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and checkers. Rudy Boezem had field hockey, baseball, softball, bolas cri-

ollas, rugby, soccer, beach volleyball and beach tennis.

According to Mitchell de Palm, policy advisor and project manager for Indebon, two new sports activities were added to the Expo which the kids loved: remote control race cars and iaido, a Japanese martial art. Boxing, landsailing and shooting were cancelled unfortunately.

Consideration is being given to location schedules instead of everything happening at once. This will broaden the opportunity for everyone to try more sports at all the locations.

International Sports Week began April 13 and will run through April 27. Athletes will compete in various sports at the Sporthall, Rudy Boezem ball park, Stadium Playa, Jossy Boekhoudt, Parke Tului, Gold Finch, Tirabon, Kas di Regatta and Pos jato Baco.

Here are the contests ahead:

- An obstacle run/course April 13 resuming on the 26 and 27.
- Beach Tennis April 18, 19, 27;
- Rugby ABC island series April 19;
- Softball Girls Fastpitch clinic April 18, 19, 20;
- Frisbee April 20 – 27;
- Swimming April 21 t/m 25;
- Bolas April 24, 25, 26;
- Pickleball April 26;
- Shooting April 26, 27;
- Volley ball April 26, 27;
- Sunfish, Optimist ILCA Races April 20;
- Beach Tennis Clinic BLTB Tennis April 13;
- Xtreme Mountainbike race April 27 at Pos Jato Baco open to join. The Sportsweek ends with the Rincon Day Walk/Run that anyone can join April 27.

For more information about International Sportsweek visit Indebon on Facebook.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan
More photos on [The Reporter's Facebook page](#).



First load of biomedical waste leaves Bonaire

Last fall, when Jan Helmond, Acting Kingdom Representative, briefly took over the task of rectifying the most urgent deficiencies at the landfill, improper disposal of biomedical waste was on his list of serious problems that needed immediate attention. The plan he initiated then proved its worth on April 14 when the first five containers of repackaged biological waste were loaded on a ship for transportation to the Netherlands. There they will be processed in an incineration plant intended for that purpose.

Employees were trained and supervised by the specialized companies RMD-Adviesand Renewil. Dressed in biohazard suits, they removed the waste from old containers where it had been temporarily stored, carefully repackaged it in special boxes, and loaded the boxes into new shipping containers.

During the repackaging of the waste, various surface samples were tested for the presence of pathogenic bacteria. None was found. More biological waste is inadequately stored at the landfill. The Executive Council has promised it will be repackaged and removed from the island as soon as possible.

DMR / Photo via OLB



Executive Council sends Helmond their landfill plan on time

The Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland Bonaire (RCN) has confirmed that the Executive Council has met the April 4 deadline for submitting an action plan to end the risky situation at the Selibon landfill near Lagun, as requested by acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond. "It is currently being studied," according to Helmond's office. The submission of the plan was not announced nor has the document been released. According to reports, the Island Council has not seen it either. DMR

Island builders organize

Thirteen construction companies, road builders, developers and suppliers are organizing to form a strong, collective voice to represent their sector in dealing with the government. Their immediate concerns are the slow issuance of permits by the local government and the proposed introduction of a housing regulation that will create a barrier to newcomers.

The construction sector is the second largest industry in Bonaire and represents approximately 12% of the local economy. According to their announcement, "The association aims to represent the interests of the entire construction chain on Bonaire, to highlight bottlenecks and to actively think about solutions that contribute to a healthy, sustainable and future-proof construction sector on the island. The association wants to be a discussion partner for government agencies and other stakeholders on the island." DMR

Island Lawyers cannot take cases to Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has refused the application for registration submitted by a lawyer who practices his profession on Bonaire. Unless registered, a lawyer cannot litigate in civil law proceedings before the Supreme Court.

The court ruled that its action is not discriminatory. It said, "the decision was justified because it took into account differences in the organization of the legal profession and the judiciary and social differences between the Caribbean part of the Kingdom and the European part." DMR

Spat over cannabis cultivation may threaten coalition

The M21 faction presented a motion before the island council that would allow cultivation of medical cannabis on Bonaire. M21 argued that - under certain conditions - cannabis cultivation on Bonaire would offer opportunities for economic diversification, employment, and innovation.

Deputy of Health, Nina den Heyer, who is responsible for the file, was negative about the proposed motion. The deputy was concerned that growing cannabis on the island would bring new problems and challenges. Because of the opposition from Den Heyer and others, M21 faction leader Daisy Coffie withdrew the motion. She complained that Den Heyer had deliberately put the motion in a bad light. Reportedly indignant, Coffie said, "As if we were proposing to legalize cannabis use on the island, or wanted to promote its use on the island. Our motion very clearly stated the conditions under which this would be allowed to happen and then also focused on export abroad for medical purposes."

Rumors circulating on the island suggest that Coffie may push for a vote that would unseat the current governing coalition consisting of PDB, the independent council member Cyrill Vrolijk, and herself. The previous week Coffie clashed with deputy Clark Abraham. During a debate about the problems at the landfill, she accused him of arrogance and a negative tone. DMR

Selibon bulldozes nature trail

The Red Hill trail, popular with mountain bikers, hikers and horseback riders, has reportedly been bulldozed by Selibon, along with the natural area where part of the trail was located. The excavation would expand the landfill by about a hundred meters.

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport subsidized construction of the trail. A mountain bike race is held every year on a course that includes the trail. Frank Böhm, chairman of the Bonaire Bicycle Club, has complained to the management of Selibon and insisted that the government company restore the damaged area. DMR

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Earth Day
April 22, 2025

Does your organization need an AED?

For the last 15 years the Heart for Bonaire Foundation (Stichting Hart Voor Bonaire) has been working to save victims of sudden cardiac arrest by providing AED (Automated External Defibrillator) units. Because time is of the essence during a cardiac emergency, AED units need to be accessible in as many locations as possible across Bonaire.

Heart for Bonaire Foundation chairman RC (Robert) van Dongen said, "We are trying to get in touch with as many NGOs [as possible] to provide a heart safe zone."

Robert explained that by the time an ambulance or EMT arrives damage has been done or it is too late. Six minutes is the maximum reaction time to save the life of someone having a heart attack. By having the portable AED units in critical areas and starting resuscitations as soon as possible, recovery is greater with less damage from cardiac arrest.

Some 15 years ago, hardly anyone knew what an AED was. In 2012-2013 the foundation organized Heart Week to provide knowledge and information. Two medical professors from the Netherlands came to the island and spoke of the recent developments and advancement of AED and the benefits. At that time a board of people, both local and from the Netherlands, was organized and set foundation goals.



Gisi Lukkes, and RC (Robert) van Dongen of the Heart for Bonaire Foundation .
Photo Julie Morgan

Two years ago, a major goal was reached regarding the necessity for all boats to have AEDs and trained personnel on board. The foundation provided the training.

Another goal has been prevention of cardiac problems by helping encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Gisi Lukkes, secretary for Heart for Bonaire said, "Along with the Rotary, we are trying to teach children to raise vegetables and promote healthy eating in

the schools by incorporating green houses. Crusada provided two for the school greenhouse pilot project."

The foundation actively provides support at many of the walks and races including the Regattaloop, Playa Rincon, Special Olympics Walkathon, International Sports Week and Lifestyle Comcabon activities.

With their own AED trainers, the foundation has educated general practitioners, STINAPA Junior Rangers, Jong

Bonaire and others. They have donated AED units and free training to Tera Barra, Bonaire Sailing School, Crusada, CITRO (Citizens Rescue Organization Bonaire), Crusada and more.

And now the Heart for Bonaire Foundation is reaching out to provide even more free AED units. They currently have five units available to donate to qualified unsubsidized organizations on Bonaire. If you think your organization is a good candidate for an AED unit then please contact them.

If your company or organization has an AED please contact the foundation. They are hoping to create a type of map of current AED locations accessible to both locals and tourists.

Contact Heart for Bonaire Foundation on Facebook at Stichting Haret Voor Bonaire. Or visit Kaya Craane 26 or call +599-717-7250 / +599-700-2502 mobile.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



FOR SALE! Bonaire Oceanfront Apartment 7 Walking Distance to Town



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POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

Apr. 19. While tourists were taking photos at Altamira view point in Rincon cash from a wallet and a bag were stolen from their rental car.

Apr. 9. Around 3:20 p.m. a man, 39, was arrested on Kaya Filomena for violation of the Identification Act BES when he was unable to identify himself at the first request. Later that same day, around 7:35 p.m. when the suspect was to be released, he was immediately informed that he was being arrested again on suspicion of theft, burglary and receiving stolen goods.

Apr. 9. A black Ouxi, V-8 bicycle (fatbike) was stolen while parked at an apartment complex on Kaminda Esse- quibo.

Apr. 8. Around 4 p.m. a minor young man of 14 years old was arrested at the police station for stealing a bicycle (fat- bike) from a school on Kaya Frater Odulfinus.

Apr. 5. The back door lock was destroyed of an apartment complex on Kaya Platina and cash and several watches were stolen.

Apr. 3. A report was filed of theft from a rental car. Be- cause the car was parked at various locations in the north of the island, it is not yet known where the theft took place. A drone (DJI Mini 4 Pro including accessories) and cash were stolen from the unlocked car.

Apr. 3. Lenovo laptop, airpods, a Samsung A14 telephone, a notebook, a water temperature gauge and an iPhone charger were stolen from a home on Kaya Serafina.

Apr. 1. A JBL headset and speaker, cash, Nike Air Force sports shoes, and an Acer laptop were stolen from a home on Kaya Dialma.

Apr. 1. A rented Bikers Choice bicycle (fatbike) was stolen while parked at an apartment complex on Kaya Sabana.

Mar. 31. Around 2:40 p.m. a 15-year-old minor was arrested for theft while in the interrogation room of the po- lice station. This young man had also been arrested the day before, on Sunday March 30, for assault. The suspect stole money from a wallet that was in the bag of an employee of a chain partner. After frisking and searching the suspect's bag, the money was found. He was immediately informed that he was being arrested for theft within the police station. A little later in the evening, a report was also filed of theft at a catering establishment located at Sorobon. The suspect is also said to have committed theft there.

Mar. 31. A Chromebook laptop, a Samsung A33 telephone and jewelry were stolen from an apartment complex on Kaya Brida.

Mar. 30. Unknown persons climbed in through a window of a house on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham and took a Sam- sung tablet and an HP Notebook laptop.

Mar. 27. Between 5 p.m. on Wednesday and 9 a.m. on Thursday a large and small angle Makita grinder and drill were stolen from a home under construction on Kaya Thomas M. Marchena.

Arrests

Apr. 9. Around 2:20 p.m. a man, 40, was arrested by the Special Assignments Group (GBO) in a house on Sonrisa di Lac on suspicion of possession of weapons. During a house search in the house, a firearm and suspected narcotics were seized.

Apr. 8. Around 9:30 a.m., a man, 54, was arrested at Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia for violation of the Opium Act BES. The arrest is part of an ongoing investigation into drug smuggling that took place last year.

Apr. 6. Around 11 p.m. a man, 32, was arrested at Kaya Commerce for assaulting a man with a billiard stick.

Mar. 28. Around 12:10 p.m. a man, 56, was arrested on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot for vandalism. The central control room had been notified that an unknown man had thrown a stone at a passing golf cart, damaging the wind- shield of the golf cart.

Mar. 27. Around 9:05 p.m. a man, 34, was arrested on Kaya Gloria for assault and assault with a weapon.

Mar. 27. Around 10:30 a.m. a man, 23, was arrested on Kaya Patachi for public violence and assault. The arrest is part of the investigation into the fight that took place the

evening of Sunday, March 2 in the Centrumgebied and on Kaya L.D. Gerharts.

Mar. 26. Around 8:40 a.m. a man, 22, was arrested at the police station for assault and threats.

Traffic checks and parking violations

Fines for traffic violations vary from \$30 to \$225. Ille- gally parked vehicles in the city center and the surround- ing area will be towed away. Offenders can receive a fine of up to \$85 and owners are charged the costs for towing.

Apr. 5. At Kaya Internashonal eight cars and one scoot- er were stopped for a traffic check, and three drivers were fined: 2x for driving without a valid insurance; and 1x for driving without a seat belt.

Apr. 1. Five fines were issued for illegal parking and two vehicles were towed away. Illegally parked vehicles in the city center and the surrounding area will be towed away. Offenders can receive a fine of up to \$85 and owners are charged the costs for towing.

Mar. 26. At Kaya Amsterdam six cars were stopped and two drivers were fined for driving without a valid insurance.

Driving under the influence

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

From Mar. 28 to Apr. 8. five people were arrested for driv- ing under the influence of alcohol.

One driver ended up in a ditch and one driver crashed into a parked vehicle. Patrols spotted the other three. The patrol stopped one driver for a check; another patrol saw the driver of a pickup ignoring a stop sign then fevering (turning in circles) blocking the road; and one driver was seen driving dangerously and almost causing a collision.

Two of the drivers ignored police commands to stop driv- ing. One driver was given a 2-hour driving ban. One driv- er's license was confiscated. Three people could not pro- duce their driver's license because it had previously been confiscated by the police when the drivers were involved in collisions while driving under the influence of alcohol.

Driving while your driver's license has been confiscated is a criminal offense and you run the risk of a prison sen- tence or an extension of your driving ban.

Traffic accidents

Apr. 10. Around 2:30 p.m. a pick-up and a SUV collid-

ed at the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko Noord and Kaya Thomas M. Marchena when the pick up failed to give way. The SUV driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance and a minor was treated on the scene. The driver of the pick-up was fined for driving without a license. Traffic was tempo- rarily controlled by the police until the services had com- pleted their work.

Apr. 8. Around 9:50 a.m. two cars collided at the inter- section of Kaya Pos di Amor, Kaya Kanari and Kaya Fla- mingo. One of the occupants of one of the cars involved complained of pain and was treated on the spot by the am- bulance personnel. The driver of one of the cars was fined for driving without a license, and the owner, who was pres- ent as a passenger, was fined because his vehicle was not insured.

Apr. 6. Around 6:40 p.m. two pick-ups collided on Ka- minda di Rincon, in the bend at Kaminda Onima. One of the drivers was injured in the collision and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Apr. 4. Around 5:15 p.m. on Kaya Internashonal the driv- er of a motorcycle lost control and crashed into a container. She was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Mar. 30. Around 12 noon a truck that was transporting diesel oil overturned at the bottom of the Rincon hill near Karpata. Bystanders provided first aid to the injured driv- er. When the emergency services arrived the ambulance personnel took the driver to the hospital. The fire brigade secured the vehicle to prevent it from catching fire. A large part of the diesel oil that the vehicle was transporting ended up in the sea. As a result, various chain partners were called to the scene to keep the situation under control, both on land and at sea. Police kept the road closed to traffic until 5 p.m. The driver stated that he was driving towards the company that produces electricity at Karpata and tried to brake, but the brakes did not work. He could only operate the steering wheel, but could no longer stop the truck. As a result, he tried to get the vehicle into the mondi along the road to bring it to a standstill, but the vehicle tipped over on its side..

Mar. 26. Around 5 p.m. a moped collided with a car at the intersection at of Hanchi Amboina and Kaya Nikiboko Noord because they had failed to give way. The driver of the motorcycle was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was fined for driving without a license.



Kids trained to cycle safely in traffic

Rincon's San Luis Beltran elementary school children in groups seven and eight received five weeks of intensive bicycle safety training in traffic. The bike school culminated with an exam and diplomas for 36 kids. The two part exam consisted of an agility test on a bicycle and completing a 3.5 km (2.1 mi) route in Rincon.

Indebon plans to continue this program together with BaisLife in all Bonaire schools so children can receive practical lessons in bicycle traffic. Photo: Community police officer Ronald Schleper accompanies a young cyclist.

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.

Dear Editor,

With dumb amazement I read the news about the trip of the Island Councils and two Deputies to The Hague to speak to state secretary Szabó. Without wanting to shake hands. And trying to smuggle an outside adviser into Szabó's conference room. As if the entire Tweede Kamer takes the plane to Washington to demand the immediate return of Nieuw Amsterdam annex New York from president Trump.

That is a very clear case of waste of tax money. That calls for more rather than less supervision.

With kind regards,
*Gerrit van der Meij, retired senior civil servant
Van Drieststraat 30, 2552VN Den Haag
0031 6 28132672*

ISLAND NEWS continued

Labor organizations want to upgrade worker qualifications

“

Plenchi di Trabou and ROA CN hosted a labor market forum during the first week of April. The discussion focused on the fact that 51% of the workforce on the island are not fully qualified for their jobs. The gathered organizations intend to develop strategies to boost workforce qualifications and to increase educational opportunities. SZW, OLB, SGB, and FORMA were among the organizations represented. *DMR*

BonLab pilots food safety testing

The Supervision and Enforcement Directorate, in collaboration with BonLab, has started a pilot project for testing the quality and safety of food and drinks on Bonaire. Inspectors from the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate and analysts from BonLab took samples of food and drinks from various food-handling businesses. The samples were tested in BonLab's recently opened food testing department.

On the first day of the pilot project the inspectors visited a restaurant, a butcher's shop, a bar, and a supermarket with a bakery. Material was taken from the surfaces of machines, Raw products and salads were sampled and their temperature measured. Then BonLab tested the samples for the presence of the following micro-organisms: Salmonella, Listeria, E. coli (bacteria that occurs in the intestines), Staphylococcus, and Bacillus.

The pilot project will continue. The research will be used to increase the awareness of food safety on the island and to monitor the quality and safety of the food and beverages being consumed. *DMR*

Donated sports equipment arrives

Two containers of sports equipment donated for children have been opened on Bonaire. One brought items contributed by Sports for Children and was shipped free by Nirint. The second contained basketball equipment donated by the NBB (Dutch Basketball Association). The organization Let's Move arranged the transport and logistics of the shipments. Customs cleared both containers quickly and waived its fees.

Employees of the Sports for Children organization are coming to Bonaire to help distribute the supplies and set up the basketball towers. Many items were donated, such as starting blocks for swimming, a complete floor with mobile basketball poles, and gymnastics equipment for schools. Hockey goals were unloaded and reportedly put to use immediately. *DMR*

OLB action on civil rights welcomed by The Hague

“

The Ministry of Justice and Security intends to create Legal Desks on the three BES islands where people can find relief for abuses of their civil rights. Deputy Clark Abraham has announced that the OLB will set up its own civil rights office. The ministry's response is positive. “You also see this form in the European Netherlands,” a spokesperson said. “With a Legal Desk that is arranged by the central government and in many places also facilities such as social counselors that are arranged by the municipality.”

The ministry's announcement says that “The initiative of the Public Body primarily concerns complaints and objections against the government. The legal aid facility that is being developed by JenV and BZK concerns legal aid across the board so for example also in disputes between citizens and citizens and companies.”

Presumably “across the board” means that people will be able to bring complaints of civil rights violations by the OLB to the central government's Legal Desk. *DMR*

Church fined for pastor's LGBTQ+ criticism

“

A church has been fined 200 dollars for its pastor's public criticism of the island's LGBTQ+ community during a meeting in Wilhelminaplein in January. The pastor audibly shouted that guests at a nearby café should “liberate” Bonaire from homosexuals and lesbians because they are causing the island to perish through “disease and destruction.” The Public Prosecution Service has also imposed a conditional dismissal, which means that prosecution can still be instituted if the violation is repeated.

The interest group Equality Bonaire filed the complaint. The pastor violated Article 143a of the BES Criminal Code, which stipulates that anyone “who publicly, orally or in writing or image, intentionally makes insulting statements about a group of people because of their race, religion or beliefs, their hetero- or homosexual orientation or their physical, psychological or intellectual disability or gender” can be punished with a prison sentence or a fine. *DMR*

BES to get money from energy fund

State Secretary Jurgen Nobel (Participation and Integration) has informed the House of Representatives that one million euros from the national Energy Fund of 60 million is earmarked for the Caribbean Netherlands. It is intended for lower income households. Discussions will be held with the island governments to determine how the money will be paid. *DMR*

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob -
Do you have any more information about the new “Housing Ordinance” that's being proposed by the government? Thanks, George D.

Hi George, that's a great question.

At the moment, this ordinance is still “in process”. After the initial rules was proposed, the government encountered significant push-back from numerous stakeholder including the real estate brokers, contractors, developers and even local home buyers. In response to their feedback the government has conducted a series of meeting with various stakeholders to get their feedback, with the goal of developing an ordinance that ideally improves affordable housing options for island residents, while also minimizing the potential disruptions to the local economy. Providing affordable housing is a complicated problem that involves not only the stakeholders above, but also requires banks, insurance companies and builder to work together to find alternatives to increase affordable housing on Bonaire. That said, the rule is still being finalized, and I expect it to be revised based on the stakeholder inputs. Stay tuned and we will update you when we know more.

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**

Dairy Allergy Warning



A fruit juice with milk?

Just a reminder to always check the ingredients of food and drinks if you are on a restrictive diet, dairy/lactose intolerant or vegan. The fruit juice Zapple by G'woon may be a refreshing drink but it is a combination fruit juice and a dairy byproduct known as Permeate. Milk permeate can cause problems for lactose intolerant people. Permeate is a filtered down version of whey with little or no protein. *BN*

Kids tryout for “The Clubhouse”



Excited and slightly nervous, over 50 kids 7-11 years of age showed up for auditions on April 12 to star in a real movie to be filmed on Bonaire. A simple Facebook post had attracted the kids or their parents to sign up and be a part of the new film called The Clubhouse written and directed by David Martinus.



Accompanied by their parents, many of the children came dressed in character for one of the three major roles of Sam, Alex and Charlie.

“Some were shy and nervous but when they began to read their demeanor changed immediately. Not one of them looked like they were forced to do this, although some of the kids didn’t want their parents to be in the room while they did the reading. It really warms our heart because they really wanted to be here,” said David.



David and Dennis Martinus audition the kids.

Dennis Martinus, brother of David and producer for the film handled the auditions. He read the other character prompts and helped each child through any difficulty reading or saying their character’s words. He made each of them comfortable and brought the best audition from each child.

Loosely based on David’s treehouse experience as a child, the story tells of three kids who build a clubhouse in the mundi. They develop a comradeship with each child bringing their own dynamic to the friendship. The kids come from varied home backgrounds. One has difficulties at home, another comes from a low-income family and the third receives no attention from their family. In the end when a big corporation threatens to develop on the property, the kids need help from the community. The film’s themes emphasize cooperation and the environment.

The movie has completed its first phase, the writing. Phase two is casting and then filming. Selection for the roles

will be in May. The Clubhouse will be 30 minutes in length in Papiamentu with possible Dutch and English subtitles.

David Martinus, the writer and director, has produced three feature local films, two local and two documentary TV series. He is media specialist for BYOF (Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation). Dennis Martinus, the producer, is project leader digitalization at OLB. Angelo Alberto is the line producer for the film and Roelton Thode is director of photography.

The film is financed by the Studio Carib of the Netherlands Filmfonds. Studio Carib develops and produces short films about youth by film makers in the Caribbean. Currently two are in production in Aruba, nine in Curaçao and one in Bonaire - The Clubhouse.

The Netherlands Film Fund aims to broaden and promote talents and provide incentive to film production.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Introducing Yajro

The Career Project powered by Fonds Podium Kunsten proudly launches its first musical talent: Yerson Rosalina, known as Yajro.

The young artist, who recently settled on Bonaire and is working professionally as a social worker, decided to take his musical hobby further. Under the guidance of mentor Xemio Jacobs, Yajro embraced the challenge to sing Krioyo music just in time for Cultural Month and Rincon Day. His song “Kabe’ pabou” is a tribute to the village of Rincon and reflects Yajro’s personal experience as a young man from Curaçao living in Bonaire. It narrates the moment he learns about Rincon and starts his adventure “going down to Kabe’ pabou.” The lyrics describe how to get there, what to expect, and how to celebrate the culture and spirit of Rincon.

Yajro says: “The rhythm is super catchy. I’ve learned so much and felt the swing of singing in Krioyo. I definitely



want to join Kanto Krioyo next year!”

The Career Project, an initiative of the ACE Foundation, gives youth and adults the chance to pursue their dream of becoming a singer. More talents will be launched soon, and a music video is also on the way. For more information call 790-0155. *ACE release.*

The Bonaire Reporter April 16 - April 30, 2025



Progress Report Bonaire Sabal Palm Park

The Bonaire Sabal Palm Park, located in the Lima area, is taking important steps towards the development of a unique and protected nature reserve. Part of the fenced area has now been realized, with approximately 675 meters of the 3.25 kilometers of fencing installed. This fencing is being installed to protect the vulnerable Sabal Palm population from the influences of goats and donkeys.

Work in full swing

Further work will be carried out in the coming months. This includes completing the fencing, installing an access gate, creating parking spaces for visitors, setting out walking routes and placing informative signs. These elements will contribute to opening up the area to visitors,

without detracting from the vulnerable ecosystem. The park will open in about a year, with various walking and cycling paths in the park open to the public. Protection of unique palms essential.

The Sabal Palm Park is intended as a protected area for the rare Bonaire Sabal palm. This species only occurs on our island, nowhere else in the world. At the moment there are only 21 mature specimens left in the wild. It is therefore very important that visitors treat the area with respect. Entering the park outside the designated paths is not permitted, and it is explicitly not the intention to take seeds or young plants.

Unfortunately, 25 young palms were re-

cently stolen from the area. As a result of this action, an important part of the genetic material of one of the mature palms was lost forever. This emphasizes the importance of awareness and protection.

An alternative for enthusiasts

For those who would like to plant a Sabal palm in their garden, there is good news: seedlings are available at Tera Bara – grown with care and without harming the natural population.

Together we can ensure that this unique piece of nature is preserved for future generations. For more information:

www.bonberde.com/bonaire-sabal-palm-park

Bonaire Sabal Palm Park

RRFB fosters Caribbean reef restoration collaboration

“Coral restoration is constantly evolving, and it’s essential that we evolve with it. By bringing together teams from across the region, we’re not only sharing knowledge—we’re strengthening each other’s capacity to respond to the challenges our reefs are facing.”

– Ernst Noyons, RRFB Chief Operating Officer

Reef Renewal Bonaire (RRFB) hosted a week-long coral restoration workshop from March 31 to April 4 bringing together restoration practitioners from across the Dutch Caribbean. Teams from Reef Renewal Curaçao, Saba Conservation Foundation, and ScubbleBubbles Foundation (Aruba) joined RRFB in Bonaire for a packed week of hands-on training, presentations, and cross-island collaboration.

Each day featured formal presentations and field-based sessions focused on a variety of techniques, including coral micro-fragmentation, fire coral propagation,

photogrammetry, and education. Participants shared lessons learned from restoration efforts on their islands, explored new ideas, and worked side-by-side on RRFB’s active restoration sites.

This workshop marks a key step in RRFB’s long-term vision to foster greater collaboration across the Caribbean. By connecting teams with shared goals and challenges, RRFB is working to build a more unified approach to reef restoration—one that leverages local expertise while responding to shared environmental threats, such as coral bleaching and disease.

RRFB plans to continue growing their regional network through future workshops, field exchanges, and joint research initiatives. By strengthening partnerships across islands, RRFB hopes to accelerate the efficacy and collective impact of coral restoration throughout the Caribbean.

RRFB release



Teams fragment a brain coral that has shown increased resilience to coral bleaching, which will be added to RRFB’s tray nursery at Oil Slick Leap. Photo via RRFB.

For more information about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire visit:

<https://reefnewalbonaire.org> or on Facebook

Creating Optimal Health Evolutionary Gap. Part 3 by Irene da Cunda Costa

This is the third article discussing the evolutionary gap between our biology and environment and the need to generate strategies to minimize biology’s negative effects. The first article covered diet and movement; the second explored our relationship with the sun. This article addresses the fight-or-flight response, which is our acute stress mechanism.

Acute stress is an adaptive response that has evolved over time. Historically, stressors or threats were evident and directly impacted survival, such as predators, weather events, or rival attacks from other tribes. These situations activated the sympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system, prompting physiological changes such as increased heart and respiratory rates, altered blood flow to the extremities, enhanced sweating and elevated blood pressure. Through feedback mechanisms after an intense motor action, organisms return to their previous state of equilibrium.

Acute stress is a survival mechanism.

In modern times we are subjected to different kinds of threats that cause stress but sometimes they are not that easy to identify. Additionally, our physiological response mechanism to threats has remained largely unchanged. In many situations, the fight or flight response is neither sufficient nor feasible.

Over the last century, environmental changes have made threats harder to recognize and motor responses less effective. Modern stressors are more difficult to identify, and our instinctive physical reactions no longer solve these problems effectively.

Modern stressors include unfair bosses, mobbing, job insecurity or an abusive partner. In many situations, responding with a motor reaction such as fight or flight is neither feasible nor appropriate. Conse-

quently, these unresolved issues often result in chronic stress.

Since this imbalance cannot be processed through motor discharge, new strategies must be implemented. And this is where we need to introduce artificial strategies that our ancestors did not need to do.

Techniques like breathwork, relaxation strategies, meditation, music, art, massages, aromatherapy and yoga are designed to activate the parasympathetic nervous system. This activation leads to a slower heart rate, relaxed breathing, lower blood pressure, and better digestion. This category includes activities that generate a motor discharge, like going for a brisk walk after a stressful meeting, aerobic activities and others more obvious like boxing, Tae bo, kick boxing or martial arts.

Early humans who were relaxed likely didn’t survive to pass on their genes. Evolution favored those who were alert, so we should accept our naturally alert state without guilt or burden.

It’s important to address the root cause of stress and recognize modern stressors, which aren’t always obvious. Therapeutic options include individual or group therapy, journaling, coaching sessions, yoga and wellness retreats for self-exploration.

In summary, the mechanisms that are triggered by a stressful event have remained consistent for thousands of years. The stressors and the possibilities for a motor response have changed. Strategies to address this gap include mind-body practices, exercise and self-exploration for personal development. Although these strategies may seem artificial to some individuals, their necessity and benefits are well-documented, as they help to bridge this evolutionary gap.



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.

Seru Largu - the view, the native trees and more!

by Virgina Knight and Marijke Wilhelmus

A labor of love has produced something very special at Seru Largu: A garden full of native and endangered trees and shrubs are taking root. Located in an area behind the gate opposite the Seru Largu steps, you can enter the enclosure with no admission fee. Everyone is invited to walk through the area and see what is starting to look like a lush landscape. Some trees/shrubs are tagged and some have tall sticks beside them. If you enter, please keep the gate closed to keep goats out and keep any dogs from damaging the plants!

It all started four years ago when Marijke Wilhelmus and Rob Landman were walking their dogs around the Seru Largu hilltop circle and noticed inside the enclosure that some trees and the paths needed help. The area was initially planted nearly nine years ago by ECHO to grow native plants and trees to provide parrot food. Marijke and husband Rob and friends formed a small group and began planting more endangered species, maintaining the paths, pruning and hauling water to the vegetation on a weekly basis.

Everything is thriving under the care of this wonderful volunteer group. There are 60 or so trees that need water weekly so the volunteers haul giant cubes of water from their homes up the hill to the enclosure. They use wheelbarrows to transport the larger water containers around the paths, then fill smaller watering cans for pouring water on the thirsty trees. It's heavy work but it's paying off. Some of the trees are now 3 meters (10 ft) high and some seed producing trees have succeeded in broadcasting their seeds so new volunteer seedlings are also arriving. In fact there are more representatives of one endangered tree species (*Amryst ignea*) existing in



Approximately 10 volunteers and five regulars show up to tend the indigenous plants in the fenced area at Seru Largu. L-R: Rob Landman, Marijke Wilhelmus, Scott Gilchrist, Wietze Koopman, Leanne Pinkerton, Jobee the dog, Virginia Knight and Veronica Padhi. Other regulars are Henk Huisman, sherman Celestijn and Mieke and Piet Kerpensteyn. Photo Julie Morgan

the enclosure than in total anywhere on Bonaire.

The idea is to create a seed bank, for birds and wind to help spread the seeds so more tree growth will oc-



Aerial photo by Aja Radl



Marijke Wilhelmus inspects the leaves of a Kibrahacha tree (*Tabebuia billbergii*) Photo Julie Morgan

cur. There are some serious challenges: Despite the fencing, the goats occasionally get inside. The lovely saplings are just delicious and there go years of work! The gate is due to be replaced after 9 years. Feral cats are also a problem because they kill the birds that spread the seeds. There are 15 -30 wild cats living on Seru Largu.

Seru Largu to page 9

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Introducing the Bonaire Nature Platform: A Unified Voice for Nature Conservation



From Left to Right: Tamanaé Vargas - Salazar (CARIBSS), Sabine Engel (Internos), Quirijn Coolen (BonBèrdè), Kaj Schut (STCB), Ernst Noyons (RRFB), Jessica Johnson (Coastal Dynamics), Monique van de Water (WWF), Linde van Blerk (Tera Barra), Leonel Martijn (STINAPA). Not featured: Julianka Clarendra (Echo)

As Bonaire faces unprecedented development pressures and increasingly severe threats from climate change, the need for a strong, unified voice advocating for nature has never been more critical. In response, Bonaire's leading nature organizations have come together to form the Bonaire Nature Platform, a powerful alliance that amplifies efforts, unites expertise, and ensures that Bonaire's voice is heard not only within the Kingdom of the Netherlands but also on the global stage.

This platform is not merely a discussion group, it is a dynamic force for change, born out of the necessity of uniting nature groups on the island to work towards a holistic approach to conservation. Since its creation in 2022, the Bonaire Nature Platform uses targeted task groups, each comprising the necessary experts to address specific issues head-on. This proactive approach ensures that when challenges arise, solutions are not only proposed but implemented effectively and efficiently.

These organizations meet once a month to discuss major environmental issues and collaborate on solutions that will help build a resilient future for Bonaire. By working together, the Bonaire Nature Platform seeks to create a stronger, more coordinated approach to conservation that reflects the complexity of the is-

land's environmental and social challenges.

For more information or to reach out to the Bonaire Nature Platform, please contact info@bonairenatureplatform.org.

Bonaire Nature Platform Release

The Bonaire Nature Platform is currently composed of:

Organization	Expertise	Website(s)
BonBèrdè	Terrestrial restoration	bonberde.com
CARIBSS	Caves and karsts	caribssfoundation.org
Coastal Dynamics	Project implementation	coastal-dynamics.com
Echo	Terrestrial restoration & local parrot conservation	echobonaire.org
Internos & Mangrove Maniacs	Mangroves and seagrass	internosbonaire.org & mangrovemaniacs.org
Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire	Coral reef restoration	reefnewalbonaire.org
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	Sea turtles	bonaireturtles.org
STINAPA	Park management	stinapa.org
Tera Barra	Native vegetation	terabarra.com
WWF-NL	Policy and advocacy	wwfdutchcaribbean.org

Seru Largu from page 8

The native trees and plants which are selected for planting are those found in the central Bonaire ecosystem. While many are drought resistant they still need a good start (and no goats)!

Marijke has scientifically documented the success and failures of the various species planted. Despite the odds of goats, draught and cats the admirable efforts of this group are reflected in the aerial pictures printed here. So next time you visit Seru Largu, enter the gate and prepare to be impressed and enchanted by this lovely park. And close the gate!

The group hopes to apply for funding to enclose the whole inner circle on Seru Largu. If you are interested in joining the group contact Marijke: marijke.wilhelmus@gmail.com or +599-701-1524.

Zahira Avila is the new Miss Bonaire 2024

The Miss Bonaire Organization proudly announces that Zahira Avila has been officially named Miss Bonaire 2024.

The previously crowned Angie Daza, Miss Bonaire 2024 has decided to resign her title and first runner up, Zahira Avila, is the new representative of Bonaire.

Zahira is determined and passionate to represent Bonaire with dignity on the international stage. At the end of 2025 she will hand over the crown to the next Miss Bonaire 2025.

We believe in Zahira's potential and we call on the community to give her their full support during this special journey.

News Release



Collaborative clean up at Lac Cai



On the first Saturday in April, Clean Coast Bonaire teamed up with the Mangrove Maniacs, One Hour Clean Up Power, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, the STINAPA Junior Rangers, the Caribbean Speleological Foundation and Bon Bèrdè to clean-up litter from the east coast near the north entrance of Lac Bay. The focus was large-scale removal rather than monitoring, so the items were not counted but it is very apparent that the large concentrations of plastic and polystyrene are similar to the litter found at our monitoring sites.

Little Donkey Bibi moves from the screen to the page



Author Angliet Baidjoe

Nature lover, gardener and Bonaire Reporter columnist Angliet Baidjoe has published her first children's story book of Bonaire's nature and culture, Little Donkey Bibi. And there are five more expected in coming months.

Originally from Surinam Angliet has been a storyteller throughout her life. As a teacher in Holland, she told stories of life and nature in Surinam. When moving to Bonaire 27 years ago she began making up new stories about the nature of Bonaire.

For several years Angliet has hoped to publish these stories in books and six years ago that came closer to a reality.

Angliet said, "I met these movie people by accident in the market. We found each other and started talking and I told them about my stories. They asked me, if I wanted to make books, then how about a movie?"

And that was the beginning. Four of the books have been made into little 10-20-minute-long cartoons in four lan-

guages. The story is drawn and colored before the viewers eyes keeping them engaged with readings in different languages. The four stories are: Little Donkey Bibi, Bonni the Fish, Lio the Iguana and Kaki the Cactus and they can all be seen on YouTube. Little Donkey Bibi can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKdUJkOTfI>

Like the cartoons, Angliet wanted the books to be in four languages so every child could read the stories in their own language of Papiamentu, Dutch, English or Spanish and learn others.

Angliet said, "Previous education books on Bonaire were all from the Netherlands. They talked about winter and seasons in stories the children on Bonaire didn't understand or could not relate to. These stories are about nature and culture of the island. Lessons of how to treat animals with respect and to have an understanding of nature. And how to bring nature closer into daily life and bring the love of nature around us."

She explained that when she teaches in secondary school she finds children are always interested in nature and they react by sharing their own experiences.

"We would talk about the climate crisis and that cutting the trees can also damage the animals too. They really listen. It's the way you talk about it and they want to participate," said Angliet.

Angliet will give a reading at Bonaire's



Public Library on June 28, 10 – 11 a.m. Her book in three languages, Palu Kuma, Boom Kumba, Tree Kumba, is geared for older children and will be released in May.

Angliet said, "Reading and writing is the basic for all education. It is a must for every child and a right for every child."

The production and publishing of Angliet's books are financed by the Netherlands letterenfonds (Dutch Foundation for Literature). The books will be distributed to every school and Bonaire's Public Library. A few books are available for sale at Bruna.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Tales of Angliet - Little Donkey Bibi (English Version)

Little Donkey Bibi can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKdUJkOTfI>

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Money available for slavery and heritage projects

The Dutch government has awarded 5.5 million euros to Bonaire for the period 2025-2029 to support policy projects that contribute to increasing awareness of the slavery past and strengthening the cultural identity of Bonaire. Three meetings were held in March and April to give the public an opportunity to propose ways of spending the money. About 80 people participated. Many topics were discussed, including: the importance of a heritage center, preserving stories and knowledge from the past and names of ancestors who lived in the



slavery past, and how the island's heritage can be protected both locally and regionally. The participants provided input on how these projects can contribute to their daily lives, the future of young people and strengthening their community.

The Public Entity Bonaire will decide which projects will be funded. *DMR*

Photos: Top: Deputy Nina den Heyer leads the group and Left: Nolly Oleana takes the mic.



Tennis singles competition wraps up

The Tennis Association's six-weekend singles competition ended on April 14. Men and women competed against each other. Andres de Kock won the Advanced Group. Joeri van Bon won the Intermediate Group. Celine van Loe won the Fun Group.

The doubles competition for adults will start again in May. Registrations are possible until May 1.

The Tennis Association is actively promoting the sport on the island. It is sponsoring a tournament for young people on April 26. Free clinics will soon be conducted in the barrios in cooperation with Indebon. Tennis lessons for young people will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. There are still a few places available. *DMR*



Bonaire Tennis Association (BTA) organizers congratulate the overall winner. L-R: Eva Rosendahl (BTA), Andres de Kock, winner and Astrid Delyel (BTA)
Photo via Tennis Association.

TCB and BIA announce more flights for summer

Bonaire International Airport N.V. (BIA) and Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) have announced the flight schedule for upcoming summer season. This summer, more airlines will offer connections to and from Flamingo Airport, giving both residents and visitors a wider choice in the traditionally more quiet season.

In collaboration with BIA and TCB, American Airlines has announced they will significantly expand their seat capacity to Miami this summer. Until September, flights will be operated four times a week with the considerably larger B737-800 aircraft. This will better serve the entire North American market via Miami.

Compared to last summer season, some new airlines are active on Bonaire: JetBlue operates a flight from New York JFK twice a week, and Corendon also offers a twice a week flight from Amsterdam. Air Century starts a seasonal Wednesday flight to Santo Domingo - La Isabela.

Interisland flights, which are of great importance to our community, also continue to develop steadily. Thanks to larger aircraft at Z Air, seat capacity to and from Curacao is expected to increase. In addition, Divi Divi Air is expanding its flight schedule, while Winair will continue its morning and evening flights to Sint Maarten via Curacao three times a week.

With a wider choice of international and regional airlines, the flight schedule for summer 2025 has become more versatile. With daily and weekly flights, travelers can count on frequent connections to the most important destinations in Europe, North America and the Caribbean.



Fire chiefs for Caribbean part of the Kingdom strengthen cooperation



The fire chiefs of Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten, and the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba) met for two days last week. The Netherlands Fire Department and the National Fire Academy were also present. They discussed strengthening cooperation and made new agreements for the future.

The representatives discussed how to better align the training and qualifications of fire personnel and a joint training program for fire prevention inspectors. Fire fighter training will make it easier to temporarily exchange fire personnel so they can gain experience or help each other in emergency situations. In addition, agreements were made about rapid support after a hurricane. Fire personnel can then be quickly transported to the affected area to provide assistance.

The collaborative partnership between the fire departments in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom has existed for ten years this year. During that period, the departments have worked intensively together in the areas of training, safety, disaster relief, and the development of leaders within the fire department.

Release Brandweerkorps CN

Reef Glimpses

Yellowhead Jawfish by Dee Scarr

Imagine a golden-haired princess wearing a shimmering silvery blue gown.

Did you imagine her to be finger-length and with great, big, bulging black eyes? Oh yes, and did you imagine her to be a fish? If so, you've imagined a yellow-head jawfish.

Yellowhead jawfish are among Bonaire's most overlooked sea creatures, literally. As we swim from shore to the reef slope, each of these critters hovers above its burrow and watches us. As we get closer, they sink farther down. By the time we're within a few feet (two meters or so), the jawfish are completely within their burrows. Their position always seems to be below a diver's normal line of sight, so they are really tough for a dive guide to point out. The guide points, the student drifts closer, and down go the jawfish! When I guide, we use a sign for the jawfish and discuss its behavior, so when I point them out the divers know where to look and what to try to find.

Sometimes yellowhead jawfish dive into their burrows headfirst, a sign that they're feeling extremely threatened. A jack, zooming down from mid-water, would certainly cause a jawfish to bolt into safety.

Ronald E. Thresher, in Reef Fish, describes how a jawfish's burrow can change from sanctuary to a trap: Nassau groupers sometimes lie on their sides on the bottom, with their tail just over or near the entrance to a jawfish's inhabited burrow. The grouper flails its tail fin forcefully, collapsing the burrow. Then the grouper tries to gobble the jawfish as it emerges from the rubble! Sometimes the grouper misses and sometimes it gives up before the jawfish emerges,



A jawfish dad with his brood, Day 7. The reflective spots are from the babies' eyes. Only a very still diver is allowed such a close look. (For more photos of the seven day journey of jawfish eggs: https://juliemorganphoto.com/Yellowhead_Jawfish.html) Photo Julie Morgan

but apparently the hunting method succeeds often enough to be practiced. We don't have many Nassau groupers here, so Bonaire divers are unlikely to see this behavior.

That will make Editor Julie happy, since yellowhead jawfish are among her favorite fish – and she has the photos to prove it!

Yellowhead jawfish don't change sex like some groupers or wrasses, they're boys or girls from the beginning. They settle in a colony, and with luck each finds a mate. Once they begin breeding, here on Bonaire they make babies once a month, year-round. Where it's colder, like Florida, they mate monthly for only half the year. Courting begins with the male displaying to his mate by arching his body, opening his mouth wide, and spreading out almost all his fins. He holds this position for a few seconds, then darts into his burrow. If the female doesn't follow him, he emerges and repeats the routine. When she finally does follow him, they presumably mate in the chamber at the end of his burrow. When they reappear, she goes home.

hatch in less time. The male comes to his burrow entrance at dusk, holds his mouth wide open, and allows his babies to swim up, to drift and develop for around two weeks. They settle back to the bottom at right around half an inch (10-15 mm) in length, preferably near other yellowhead jawfish burrows, and start their burrows immediately.

Burrow-construction for yellowhead jawfish is an art as well as a science. If construction can use part of a big rock, the burrow is stronger. The tunnel, the larger chamber at its end, and the entrance of the burrow are all reinforced with small rocks.

On our last dive off Playa, Julie found yellowhead jawfish in ten separate places, from a group of five to a single fish. If each of these places attracts more settling young jawfish, they soon will be tough to overlook.

Dee Scarr began diving our North Pier in 1981, and has logged more than 1000 dives there. However, until Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire volunteers began collecting fishing line -- which can drown sea turtles -- Scarr's efforts to remove line were barely noticeable. After the very first STCB line collecting dive, all the line draped between the pilings was gone; our turtles are safe from entanglement thanks to STCB!



Caribbean Tapenade Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

100 g (3.5 oz) black olives, pitted • 50 g (1.7 oz) capers • 4 cloves garlic, crushed and coarsely chopped • 4 anchovy fillets • 1/2 red chili pepper, finely chopped • 1/2 lime • 1 teaspoon grated horseradish or Mustard • 1/2 dl (1.7 oz) olive oil • Freshly ground black pepper • 10 ml (2/3 T) Tekibon Sorobon Rum • 20 g (3.5 T) pickled ginger

Grate the peel of the lime and then squeeze it. Grind all the dry ingredients in the food processor, not too finely, some structure may remain. Now stir in all the wet ingredients and season with the ground pepper.

For example, use the tapenade as a spread on bread, add a spoonful to cooked rice or add it to pasta sauces.



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

Corjan is currently working as a Sous Chef at "The Reef Bar" at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire



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Make Bonaire Accessible - *MiVaBo and the airlift*

by Ria Evers-Dokter

In 2003 it all started. Mrs. Hetty Burgos noticed during her work as a social worker the urgent need for more attention for persons with a disability.

Together with Oswald Melchert, Rob Boutmy, Michael Gaynor and many other motivated people they started their fight for accessibility on Bonaire.

In the meantime, a lot has happened and a few of the people are not among us anymore. But MiVaBo is still here and still fighting for accessibility.

One of the big issues was airlift. When you needed to fly from Bonaire to Curaçao, Aruba, USA or Holland, getting in and out of the aircraft was a big issue. Since the KLM catering no longer operated from Bonaire, persons with a disability could not be lifted in the catering scissor-lift. Therefore, disabled passengers were seated on a very small chair and were lifted into and out of the aircraft. A very humbling situation.

A couple of years ago there was a great solution. Two Aviramps were acquired and airlift looked perfect. Alas they were used for midrange aircraft and not for the bigger aircraft. They also appeared to be harmful to the fu-

selage of the aircraft. Hence the Aviramps were parked and stored and people had to be hand lifted again.

Shortly after COVID a new kind of airlift was acquired. A scissor-lift. Passengers are helped to get into the unit and lifted up at the back entrance of the aircraft. From there the cabin crew helps you to get you to your seat. A wonderful solution. It was even tested by Artie de Vries, current chairman of MiVaBo.

There is an important thing one should know when booking a flight and needing help to get on and off the aircraft. One needs to specify that “personal help” is needed. If you are not specific, you only get help with a wheelchair, and you will be “hand lifted” as before. Be very specific when booking as it is difficult to change in the airline’s systems to get this important issue straightened out.

Using this specific airlift, a special crew has been trained in St. Martin. And when their help is needed, they are called and asked to operate the airlift to help disabled passengers in and out the aircraft without lifting them by hand.

Let us hope and pray that this “problem” is fixed once and for all and nobody has to be scared anymore.

Michael Gaynor and Rob Boutmy are no longer with us and Oswald Melchert does not live on Bonaire anymore. It would have been wonderful if Mrs. Hetty Burgos could have lived to see that day.

Hetty Burgos, your suffering has ended, and you are at peace now. We want to thank you for all you did for the citizens with a disability. You will always have a place in our hearts and we will remember you fondly.



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.

A Garden? Just Do It! - When young plants survive against odds

by Angliet, Nature Lover

A week ago I visited my neighbor because she had something to show me and of course, I was curious. She took me to her garden to the banana plants behind the kitchen. What I saw made me fall apart. There was a large bunch of red jungle bananas on one of the plants. This is a rare type of banana that usually only grows in the shade of huge trees in the jungle. It absolutely must have sweet water otherwise it won’t mature. I have always loved these very sweet and tight bananas which you have to consume fresh.

When I brought three young plants from Surinam to Bonaire I didn’t know about the water conditions. I gave my neighbor one plant, another one to a friend and I kept one. All three started to grow fast in the ground. But af-

ter awhile mine unfortunately died. My neighbor’s grew nicely until it reached a certain height and then nothing happened. But meanwhile I got young plants and my neighbor planted them in other spots. The one behind the kitchen adjusted to the situation of more sun, the salt in the air and the soil. It grew slowly but it now bears fruits and babies. I was so glad to see this and my neighbor promised me a plant. I never give up on a dream so I think I will give it another try.

I have one main yuca plant from which I make cuttings and share them with friends and add some to my garden. I had 10 cuttings in the ground but a friend walked into my garden stepped right on the row of planted cuttings and all were damaged and died. Yuca cuttings can die even when you touch them but will easily grow when the plant is bigger. I was so disappointed that I didn’t plant new cuttings even though I had some stems set aside to plant lying against the fence. After a month I was surprised to see the stems had started growing on top of the soil, not in the soil. This was so cool. Now the stems are big cuttings full of leaves and I can see the roots growing into the soil. Happy me.

Garden friends, it is time to start picking tamarind as the first ones are ready to be picked off the tree. They taste great and are free of bugs. But in a few months the bugs will lay their eggs in the pods and enjoy them as well. So if you want nice tamarind without bugs, the new ones are the best to pick. Delicious for juices, jams and in your soups, curry stews, wok veggies and dahl. By the way, don’t peel them in the house because if there are any bugs they will fall out of the pods right in your kitchen and you don’t want that, right?

I have noticed the white fly under the leaves of the pepper plants and several have nests that look a bit like cotton. They seem to appear during a drought so remember the neem tree tea remedy and spray your plants weekly. They hate that and will stay away.

Speaking of tea, for many years I have used only herbs and leaves from my garden for tea. Everyday I make a mix of several plants along with a leaf from a tree. It can be papaya, soursop, mango, cherry, lemon, tamarind or passion fruit leaves. Even the white flowers of the banana tree and the flowers of the Bougainvillea are good



A discarded yuca cutting that started growing on top of the soil.

for a tea. They all have special goodies for your health. So try them with some fresh ginger and or yerby hole (Bonairean Basil), lemon grass, Mexican mint, oregano or curcuma (turmeric) and have yourself a great fresh leaf tea. Something new for a high tea; your friends will love it.

All these herbs you can plant in your garden. With the upcoming drought they need more maintenance and attention but you get the benefit of health from them as well. So please try them and they will please you.



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.

The red jungle banana from the Amazon, growing on Bonaire

Trump's tariff war with the rest of the world what's to know?

The basic message for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba is:

We are not going to be directly affected by Trump's tariffs because the U.S. imports almost nothing from us. On the other hand, we import millions of dollars in goods from the U.S. Therefore we have always had a substantial trade deficit with our neighbors to the north.

Nevertheless, we're going to "be punished" along with all those other countries that supposedly "cheat" because American consumers choose to buy more from those countries than their consumers buy from the U.S.

Our dependency on imports from around the globe makes us extremely vulnerable to any vicissitudes in world

trade. The big kick in our bank accounts will come whenever we need to buy—from the U.S.—goods that were manufactured in other countries then imported into the U.S. under heavy tariffs.

Here are two links to the opinions of people who know a lot more about the subject than I do. *DMR*

From Bonaire.nu:
US tariffs hit small island states
<https://bonaire.nu/2025/04/10/amerikaanse-tarieven-raken-kleine-eilandstaten/>

From Dossier Kingdom Relations:
Analysis – Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten Vulnerable to Trade War
by Joris Nanne
[\(shortened link\)](https://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties-nl)

Roosje begins work on new film

Filmmaker and Content Creator Casimir (Casy) Roosje, originally from Curaçao and based in Bonaire, is filming a unique documentary titled "Bida den Amazonia" in Chorrera, Colombia with his small production team. The 10-episode series will relate the lives, traditions, and challenges of indigenous communities living in one of the most biodiverse and vulnerable regions in the world. The documentary will deal with the significant challenges of deforestation, loss of cultural identity, and the impact of modern development.

"Bida den Amazonia" aims to give a voice to the indigenous communities and raise awareness about the importance of protecting both the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the Amazon.

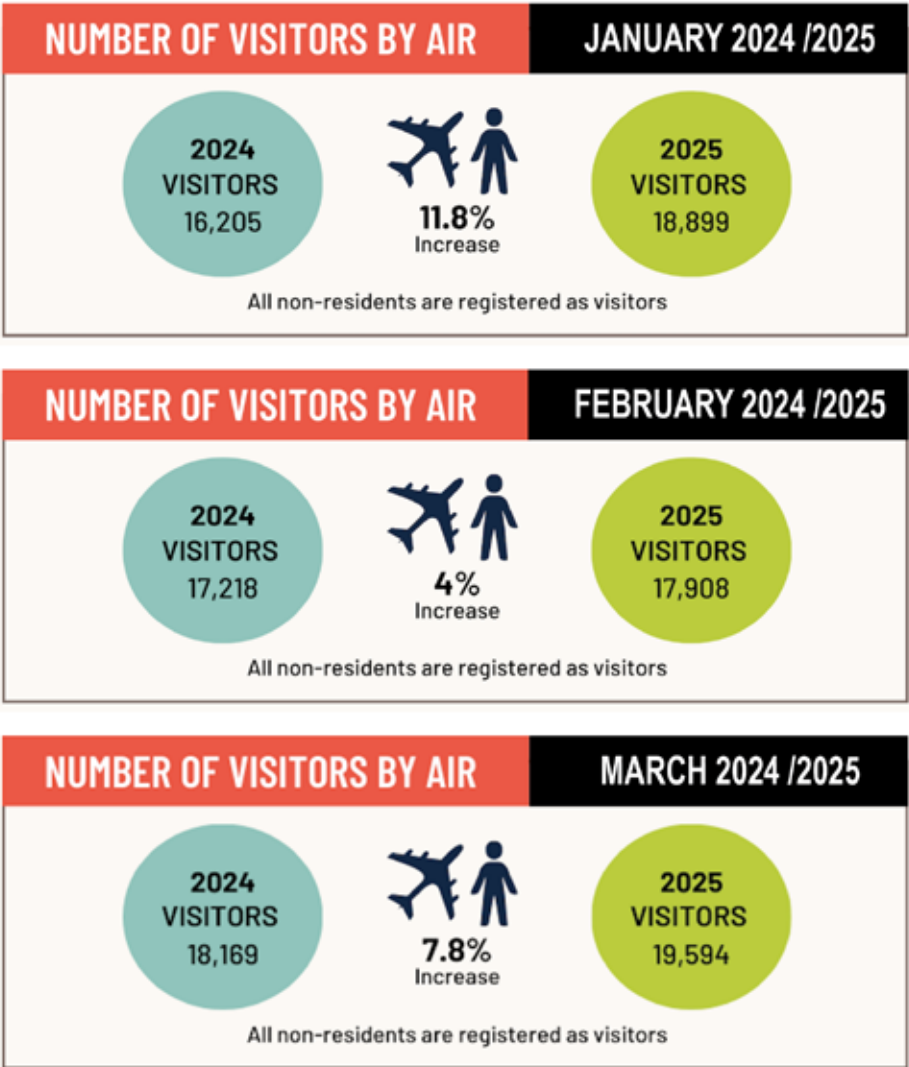
Roosje and his crew will shoot throughout April with an expected release date in 2025.



For more information or to follow the production process visit Casy on TikTok: @papacasy and Instagram: @casy_roosje_creates. For more information contact: Casimir "Casy" Roosje casyroosjecreates@gmail.com www.crcreates.net

Julie Morgan

TCB reports tourist statistics



According to preliminary visitor statistics published by The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) the number of stayover visitors increased in the first three months of 2025 compared to 2024. January saw an increase of 11.8% stayover visitors, February an increase of 4.4% and March an increase of 7.8 %.

The 2025 demographic profiles are consistent with other years. Visitors from the Netherlands form the largest group, typically 40-45% of total arrivals. U.S. visitors are the second-largest group, usually accounting for about 30% of arrivals. Bonaire also attracts visitors from Curaçao (7.6 - 8.7 %), Canada (4.5 – 5.3%), Germany (2.3%), Aruba (1.3), Belgium (1.2). Switzerland, Columbia

and the United Kingdom each account for less than 1% of the stayover visitors.

Close to half of Dutch and U.S. visitors stay in a hotel (46% - 48%). Others stay in apartments, a villa, or with a relative. Between 4% to 5% of both groups own their own property.

Most Dutch visitors come for vacation and to visit friends and family. A smaller number come on business. U.S. visitors come for vacation and to dive. The Dutch stay longer on the island, and visitors from the Netherlands and the U.S. are older rather than younger.

TCB has not reported the number of cruise visitors in 2025.

Press Release TCB

BONHATA represents Bonaire at Beneath the Sea Show



A record number of partners from Bonaire's tourism sector showcased the island at the Beneath the Sea Show in New Jersey, the largest consumer ocean exposition, scuba, and dive travel show in the United States. The Bonaire booth was staffed by a strong delegation of BONHATA members, including Chogogo Beach & Dive Resort, Delfins Beach Resort, Dive Friends Bonaire, Buddy Dive Resort, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Grand Windsock Bonaire, Scuba Elite, Van der Valk Plaza Beach & Dive Resort, and Captain Don's Habitat.

The three-day show, held from March 28 to 30, provided an excellent opportunity to promote Bonaire as a premier diving destination and to highlight the new non-stop JetBlue flight from JFK (New York) to Bonaire. In addition to emphasizing Bonaire's world-class diving, the event also served to showcase the island's versatility, with a focus on eco-tourism, culture, and cuisine.

BONHATA Release.

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 \$10 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)

April 13 - 23	"Easter" Camping is allowed. Registration is mandatory at Selibon. Camping is prohibited in Klein Bonaire and Sorobon (Ramsar site).
Friday, April 16	Dia di Rincon Film The 10 minute historical film portrays daily life of Rincon's inhabitants 80 years ago. It premieres at an open-air cinema in Cocari square, Rincon. Admission is free. The film is in Papiamentu, with Dutch and English subtitles.
April 17 - May 10	Janny Stoker Art Expo at Sobremesa, Abraham Blvd. Tu-F 2 to 5; Sat. 11-2. Opening April 17 at 5 p.m. see page 17
Sunday, April 18	Good Friday Public Holiday. Much is closed.
Sunday, April 20	Easter Sunday Public Holiday. Much is closed.
Sunday, April 21	Easter Monday Public Holiday. Much is closed.
Friday, April 19	ABC Island Series Rugby Tournament The best rugby talents from Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao Teams compete at the Playa Stadium, where the matches will be played between 6 and 10 p.m.
Tuesday, April 22	Earth Day
Saturday, April 26	King's Day - Official Holiday Youth Tennis tournament Rotary International Feria - Giant flea market on King's Day at Wilhelmina Park 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Entertainment for the kids and family. Proceeds fund community projects. 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.
Wednesday, April 30	Rincon Day Public Holiday. Lead up events throughout April. https://www.facebook.com/diadirincon See page 21 of online edition of The Bonaire Reporter . Playa Rincon 41st Comcabon Run 6 a.m. Comcabon invites runners aged 16 and over to run a 14-kilometer race as individuals or as relay teams of four covering 3.5 kilometers. Register Indebon. April 25, 5-7 or April 26, 3-5.
Saturday, May 1	Labor Day Public Holiday. Much is closed. Tennis Last day to register for adult doubles that resume in May
Sunday, May 4	Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-a-Thon

Colorectal cancer screening started



The third population screening program for cancer on Bonaire begins this month. Colorectal cancer screening is being offered to both men and women aged between 55 and 75 years old.

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 Free. Everyone welcome. Three courts behind Budget Marine are open daily till 9 PM. If you don't have your own equipment yet, you can borrow a racket and balls. <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 Aprepas Saturdays 7:30 p.m. \$15 includes a welcome drink and snack. 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.

Fish ID course. No date this month. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire. ALL WELCOME to this very social sport. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Happy's Food & Drinks (road to Sorobon). We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

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 Lac, Blue Building: Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 3 to 5 p.m. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

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

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

Tennis Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome to join. Register with the association: email info@bonairetennisassociation.com or app with 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Free Kid's Clinics 8-12 for beginners.



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. • April 21st - Divi Flamingo • April 28th - Beyond the Corals 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@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at our brand-new office and visitors center on Kaya Aruba 4E 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, May 11	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Saturday, April 26	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

Come to the Rotary Feria on King's Day

We invite everyone to the grand Rotary Feria Saturday April 26, King's Day; from 9 to 3 at Wilhelminaplein in Kralendijk.

One hundred per cent of the income from the feria is reinvested in good causes, actions and foundations in our community. Last year, the Rotary Club Bonaire donated the total Rotary Feria proceeds of USD 20,000 to hospice Kas Flamboyan, Stichting Mantelzorg, Slagbaai kids' weekend, S.V. Athene (young athletes), and free school performances of BiBé the musical. The Rotary Club Bonaire also sponsored many small projects and initiatives for which donations were requested.

The entire Rotary Club Bonaire team,

together with many volunteers, work enthusiastically all year to make this day a great success, with the aim of raising as much money as possible. The square is full of stalls selling new and used items at attractive prices; furniture, building materials, white goods, household items, decoration, lamps, clothes, books, toys etc etc. For the children, a large play park will be set up by WEDOE this year with bouncy castle, pinta cara, games, a popcorn machine, candyfloss etc,etc.

If you privately or as a company are interested in contributing items to be sold or would like to contribute in any other way, this is more than welcome. If so, please phone: +599 7002684 or email board@rotarybonaire.



The 2024 Rotary Feria, Photo Julie Morgan

Join the Special Olympics WALK-A-THON, May4

It's that time again to lace up your running shoes and send your bike in for a check up as the annual Special Olympics Walkathon is just weeks away on Sunday, May 4. Walkers and bikers want to be prepared for the 30 kilometer journey that begins at White Slave and finishes in Rincon.

Transportation is available from the stadium at 4:10 a.m. to the start at White Slave. Bikers will start their trek at 5 a.m. with walkers following at 5:05 a.m. Along the route volunteers will be set up at seven stations to provide water and fruit to keep your energy going. The Red Cross will travel the route to keep everyone safe.

Once you've made it to Rincon, participants will be welcomed with breakfast, drinks, a certificate of completion and tons of photo ops to congratulate and thank you. Buses will be available for a ride back to Kralendijk for you and/or your bike.



Enjoying the Walk-A-Thon 2024.
Photo Julie Morgan

Registration and T-shirt pickup is at the Special Olympics office behind the big Catholic church in Kralendijk on May 2 from 5 – 7 p.m. and May 3 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Cost to support the Special Olympics athletes and join the Walkathon is only \$20 and that includes a cool Walkathon t-shirt and bag.

Sponsors for this year's Walkathon to date are Indebon, FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire) the lottery, MAC Enterprises and Multipost.

If your organization would like to sponsor the Special Olympics or if you would like to volunteer call 796-0909/525-7080.

To keep up to date or for more information visit [Special Olympics Bonaire](https://www.specialolympicsbonaire.com) on Facebook.

Janny Stoker opens show at Sobremesa



Sobremesa
KAS DI SATÉ
Abraham Boulevard 10 - www.sobremesa-bonaire.com

Artist Janny Stoker is no stranger to the Caribbean. After working on a cruise boat, cruising the windward islands, she lived on Bonaire in the Nineties and just moved back to her favorite island. Some months ago. Photography and drawing has always been central in her life but it wasn't until 2018 that she decided to take it seriously and applied to the 'Klassieke Academie' in Groningen (the Netherlands).

The paintings and collages seen in this exhibition are her graduating work from that academy and it is a joy to be showing it here because they are inspired by her love of Bonaire and mostly by her love of the island's nature. "I love how life happens here mostly outside, the colors, the shapes, the light. It makes me happy. That and the spontaneous lifestyle, the atmosphere, the music that is around always and everywhere." It resulted in a series of paintings and collages that she named: Mi dushi Boneiru.

Sobremesa would like to welcome everyone for the opening Thursday April 17 at 5 pm (till 7pm). The expo will run until May 10. Opening hours of Sobremesa are: Tuesday to Friday 2-5 pm and Saturday from 11 to 2.

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: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. 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 in English.

United Protestant Congregation

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

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. April 16	0730-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. April 17	0830-1700	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Mon. April 28	0730-1800	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS 2440 guests	North
Wed. April 30	0830-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
	0700-2200	LOGOS HOPE 1050 guests	North

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tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
tandprothetische praktijk



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



Sam

Hello, this is Sam.

Sam is a beautiful 1 year 7 months old tabby with an orange spot on her head.

She came to the shelter when she was 2 months old and has been with us for almost a year and a half now.

When you come into the Cat Palace to meet her, she

will quickly run away to her favorite hammock, where she will wait for you to come over and pet her. This is her weird cute little habit. But once you start petting her she will not want you to stop giving her attention. Who would like to give this cute girl a loving home?

Come meet Collum at our cat palace! And let this little lion steal your heart!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet Auntie Tofu!

Sweet Tofu was brought to us together with her mom and six younger siblings. One by one, they all found loving homes—except for Tofu. She's now 1 year old and still waiting for her forever family.

Tofu is a beautiful, playful, and affectionate girl who loves cuddles and being around people. She has a gentle heart and a joyful spirit that's impossible not to love.

Will you be her new best friend? Come meet Tofu at Animal Shelter Bonaire and let her steal your heart!

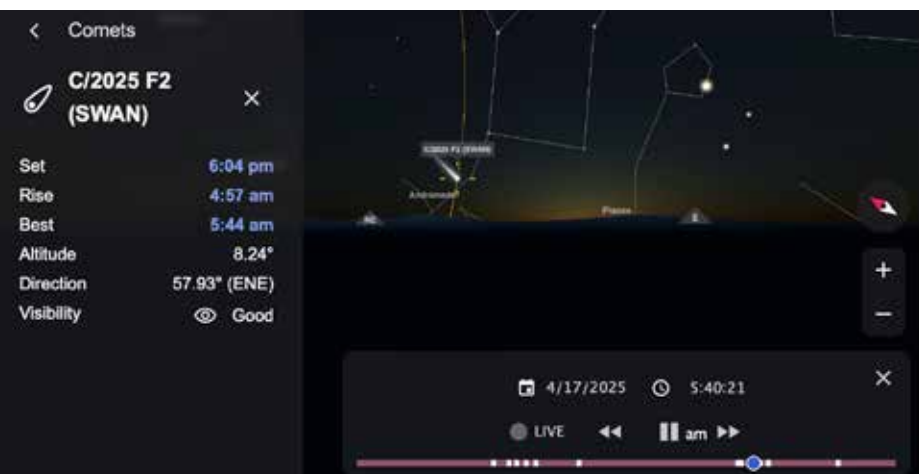
Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers



Tofu



Bonaire's sky park You can see the new comet Swan



Use timeanddate's Interactive Night Sky Map to find Swan's comet at your location. Seen here is the night sky for Kalendjik April 17, 2025, and the visibility is good at 5:40 a.m.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/night/caribbean-netherlands/kralendijk-bonaire>

An emerald-colored comet was discovered April 1 simultaneously by three amateur astronomers. The green comet, dubbed SWAN25F before being officially recognized by NASA, is predicted to reach its closest point to the sun on May 1, when it will get within 31 million miles (50 million kilometers) of our home star.

Graham Jones of timeanddate.com: "The names given to comets include a reference to the person or team that made the discovery. But things aren't always completely straightforward. In the case of this particular comet, SWAN refers to the Solar Wind Anisotropies (SWAN) instrument on board the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) — a spacecraft built to study the Sun.

"The comet is named after the SWAN instrument, because it was first seen in SWAN imagery," explains timeanddate.com astrophysicist Dr. Renate Mau-land-Hus.

"However, we should also give credit

to three amateur astronomers who actually found the new comet within the SWAN images: Vladimir Bezugly, Michael Matti-azzo, and Rob Matson."

Comets are small celestial bodies that orbit the Sun. Primarily made of dust and ice, they are thought to be remnants of the formation of the Solar System.

Harry Baker, LiveScience.com: "Photos show that Comet SWAN significantly increased in brightness between April 3 and April 6, before dimming once more. The icy outburst, which temporarily caused the comet to brighten, could be a sign that it is a 'cold volcano.' The eruption also may have implications for whether the comet will be visible to the naked eye — but it is too soon to tell for sure."

For the complete stories and many more facts go to:

<https://www.livescience.com>:

<https://www.timeanddate.com>

<https://earthsky.org>.



VACANCY: BOARD SECRETARY

Volunteer position

Would you like to support the welfare of animals on Bonaire?

Animal Shelter Bonaire provides shelter, care, and rehoming for stray cats and dogs on the island. To strengthen our dedicated board, we're looking for a volunteer secretary who brings structure and enjoys contributing behind the scenes.

Your responsibilities include:

- Preparing agendas and taking minutes during monthly board meetings
- Managing documents (employee contracts, KVK and other documents)
- Various administrative tasks and duties
- Participate in decision making actions by board
- Stepping in for the chairperson when needed (occasionally)

You bring:

- Strong written communication (in English)
- Digital skills (Excel, Word, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.)
- An eye for detail, structure, and a heart for helping animals

What we offer:

A meaningful volunteer role where just a few hours a month can truly make a difference. You'll join a warm and committed team working together for Bonaire's animals.

To apply, email shelterbonaireboard@gmail.com
We'd love to hear from you!



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CELEBRATION

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APRIL 24TH - APRIL 29TH



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OPENING HOURS

Penha Kaya Amsterdam April 22 - 26 - 09.00 - 18.00 | April 27 - **CLOSED** | April 28 - 29 - 09.00 - 18.0

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KALENDER

Luna kultural 2025

FECHA	ORARIO		AKTIVIDAT	LUGA
29 MART	18:00	22:00	SENDE MECHA 2025	PARIBA DI MISA I BUSTU BROERTJE JANGA
4 APREL	19:00	24:00	DEN TRIN EDISHON SPESIAL	PABOU DI SANTANA
9 APREL	20:00	24:00	FESTIVAL KANTO KRIOYO GRANDI	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
10 APREL	20:00	24:00	FESTIVAL KANTO KRIOYO GRANDI	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
11 APREL	20:00	24:00	FESTIVAL KANTO KRIOYO HUBENIL	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
12 APREL	19:00	21:00	FESTIVAL KANTO KRIOYO GRANDI	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
13 APREL	20:00	24:00	LUNA YEN	DEN DAM PARIBA
19 APREL	20:00	23:00	DAMA I KABAYERO KULTURAL	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
20 APREL	17:00	21:00	CHIKITIN KRIOYO	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
21 APREL	08:00	24:00	SIMADAN DI PASTOR	MISA DI RINCON
23 APREL	18:00	22:00	SENA NA MESA LARGU	KAYA C.D. CRESTIAN
24 APREL	17:00	24:00	FUTBOL VETERANO	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
24 APREL	19:00	24:00	APERTURA KAYA DI ARTE	KAYA COMMERCE/ E.B. SINT JAGO
25 APREL	17:00	20:00	SIMADAN DI GRANDINAN	DEN KAYA DEN RINCON
25 APREL	17:00	24:00	FUTBOL VETERANO	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
25 APREL	19:00	24:00	FOYAN BOYS 30 AÑA	KAYA E.B. SINT JAGO
26 APREL	10:00	15:00	NOS ZJILEA	MANGASINA DI REI
26 APREL	17:00	24:00	FUTBOL VETERANO	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
26 APREL	19:00	24:00	DI KUNUKU PA KUNUKU	DEN KAYA DEN RINCON
26 APREL	22:00	03:00	KONSIERTO KRIOYO PA BIDA	STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAT
27 APREL	04:00	07:00	JUVEDAM	DEN KAYA DEN RINCON
27 APREL	08:00	03:00	SIMADAN DI SHON CAIN	RINCON DEN NÒRT
28 APREL	17:00	03:00	TOPA MI DEN COCOROBI	COCOROBI
29 APREL	16:00	19:00	ANTESALA DIA DI RINCON	DEN KAYA DEN RINCON
29 APREL	20:00	22:00	TRAILERNAN DEN UNION	AREA VELT PARIBA
29 APREL	19:00	24:00	BAN TOPA DIA DI RINCON	DEN KAYA DEN RINCON
30 APREL	08:00	03:00	DIA DI RINCON	RONT RINCON
1 MEI	10:00	01:00	SAKA RATON/KAREDA DI BAISKEI	DEN KAYA DEN RINCON