



Photo Julie Morgan

## ***Dia di Rincon - bigger than ever***

After a month-long celebration, Dia di Rincon 2025 has ended. Anyone who attended will agree this, the 36th celebration of Rincon Day, has to be the biggest ever. Since April 30th became the official holiday in 2020, Dia di Rincon has been celebrated from March 29th to May 1st. This year's Dia di Rincon commission organized 23 events with music, food, art, sports, and culture and the parade groups grew to approximately 600 participants.

The founder of the original Rincon Day, Francisco "Broertje" Janga, a politician from Rincon, wanted to ensure the culture and history of the oldest settlement in the Dutch Caribbean would not be forgotten and set the date on April 30, then known as Queen's Day.

The events began with Sende Mecha, the lighting of the flame. 2025 is the second year Rincon residents came from the N, S, E and W singing, dancing and carrying torches to meet at the statue of Broertje Janga. There they lit a fire to open the official celebration of Dia di Rincon.

The Festival Kanto Krioyo, a competition of singing, song writing and poetry, was held over four days. The winner's song was adopted as the official song for Rincon Day 2025. The winner was Edson Frans and the youth winner was Juliendra Janga.

Other events included Luna Yen, the celebration of the full moon, held monthly in Bonaire. People come together to read poems, and tell stories.

A film about Rincon by Calvin Richi and Sendion Balentin called *Na Tranke* premiered. The director employed local residents as actors to tell the story.

And for the second year in a row, Simidan di Grandinan, an elderly parade, was held. A small walking musical band played cultural instruments and sang as traditionally costumed groups from Kas di Kuido, AKSESO, ZW, Kalor di hogar, and Kas di Mim-

ina either walked, were pushed in a wheelchair or rode in a little train. (see story on page 10)

New this year was the opening of the Kaya di Arte with local artist Nochi Coffie. Coffie discussed his work based on historic Rincon. A veteran football (soccer) game was held over several days.



Starting at 6 a.m. on Rincon Day the Kareda di Pia Rincon (foot race) was held as part of International Sports Week. The 20 m (16.7 k) journey challenged runners and walkers to travel from Kralendijk stadium to Rincon.

The monthly Nos Zijlea was held at Mangazina di Rei, just outside of Rincon, with presentations about local healing and, of course, great local music, food and crafts.

The commission set up an impressive Wall of Honor for the Rincon residents who have made significant contributions to the community. (see page 8)

The month-long celebration culminated with Rincon Day. Vehicles were bumper to bumper from Kralendijk traveling to be a part of the big event. Buses were available beginning at 9:30 from Kralendijk to Rincon. Local food, drinks and BBQ were available by vendors as music played throughout the streets to entertain everyone waiting for the groups to make an appearance. The colorful folkloric dress of each group is something that can only be seen on Bonaire. Unlike Bonaire's Karnaval, the participants danced and sang to the old cultural songs, although the songs were electrified, played by bands on huge semi-truck flatbeds as they traveled along the streets of Rincon. The number of group participants was larger than ever including a group from Curaçao: The Precious Diamonds numbered 200, Tourism Corporation Bonaire 208, E simia bon planta 120, Kasamento or wedding group 20 and a harvest group of 10 walked with a couple of baby goats.

The celebration continued through the night with people dancing and celebrating to the music of local bands. On May 1, a final celebration was held in Kralendijk with the groups taking a turn through the streets.



## Town hall meeting on Lagun crisis scheduled for May 2

On May 2 the BC will hold a town hall meeting for discussion of its proposed solution to the waste management crisis at the Lagun landfill. Of the many points of view likely to be expressed at the meeting, three have been announced in recent news releases.

### The executive council's view

According to the Executive Council press release, the island government has "taken control firmly into its own hands." It "is giving the waste file high priority" and is "fully committed to structurally protecting public health and the environment."

According to the release, "the current problems are the result of decades of uncontrolled waste management [by Selibon]." The OLB has given Selibon until September to solve the problems. If Selibon fails, the Executive council promises it will continue to "take control firmly into its own hands." This week the international engineering consultancy firm Royal HaskoningDHV (<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com>) delivered a "vision for the future" of sustainable waste management on behalf of the Executive Council.

### The Lagun residents' view

Attorney Barbara Nagelmakers announced on April 22 that she has filed, on behalf of residents of the landfill Lagun area, an objection with the Executive Council against the decision to temporarily tolerate Selibon's continued activities. That decision prolongs the risks to public health, nature and the environment until the fall. The residents, who have had to flee several times due to toxic smoke released during fires, want the OLB to shut down the landfill until it can be operated safely.

In a 4.5-page objection, the attorney countered most of the Executive Council's argumentation. For instance, the island government says that immediate closure of the landfill will lead to dangerous and unsafe situations. "So you are maintaining a dangerous and unsafe situation to prevent that?," she countered. She also pointed out that the OLB, a shareholder in Selibon, is itself Selibon.

### The central government's view

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Zsolt Szabó, in a long (more than 5,000 word) update to the House of Representatives, summarized "the chronology of the facts, and highlights the legal foundations, relevant inspection reports, administrative measures and a judicial rulings." He said that the Court of First Instance had ruled the public body had neglected its duties in the landfill case. Szabó said that the OLB has subsequently failed to propose serious solutions.

Therefore, Szabó declared, "the intergovernmental supervision, by the acting National Representative, will be continued." In other words, Jan Helmond will resume his rehabilitation of the Lagun landfill that he began last fall. (The court suspended Helmond's work for a few months to give the Executive Council another opportunity to step up.)

Szabó emphasized that the primary responsibility lies with the Executive Council, and that cooperation between the Executive Council, the acting Kingdom Representative and the Kingdom is essential for a sustainable solution to the waste problems on Bonaire. The government, he said, expects the Executive Council "to implement structural improvements in the area of licensing, supervision and enforcement." *DMR*

## Accord will raise islands' healthcare to European standards

A Health Accord is being introduced for the Caribbean Netherlands State Secretary for Youth, Prevention, and Sport, Vincent Karremans, announced in a letter to the House of Representatives. He said the purpose of the plan is to raise the islands' healthcare system to the standards of the European Netherlands.



Vincent Karremans, State Secretary for Youth, Prevention, and Sport

Under the accord, local healthcare providers, the Dutch government, and the public entities of Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius will improve their collaboration and coordination. Areas of agreement will include prevention, adequate staffing, and improved medical referrals.

During a working visit to the islands, Karremans confirmed that significant progress has been made in improving healthcare on the islands since 2010. Some statistics still do not look good, however, when compared with the European Netherlands. For instance, nearly 26% of men and 36% of women on the islands are severely overweight, compared to about 16% in the European Netherlands. Other chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure are also more prevalent.

The Health Accord, the State Secretary says, will also include agreements on enhanced prevention efforts, including public education, healthy school meals, after-school activities, and investments in sports facilities. He believes the accord should also support such local initiatives as the Bonairean program Bon Salú. On Saba and St. Eustatius the high cost of healthy

food and the lack of agricultural production also need to be addressed.

A major concern the accord will address is the shortage of healthcare personnel. The small scale of the islands limits training opportunities. Karremans wants Dutch educational institutions to be involved. They should create internships, lateral-entry programs, and improved employment conditions he says.

Medical referrals to hospitals in Curaçao, Aruba, Colombia, or the European Netherlands must also be improved. Karremans wants to establish agreements for better communication, aftercare, and digital data exchange between institutions.

The State Secretary further wants to create a structural collaboration between healthcare, social services, and local governments. He aims to improve the sharing of health data, organize a biennial healthcare summit, and clearly define responsibilities.

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the State Secretary will update the House on the progress of the Health Accord, which will then be formalized at a healthcare conference in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Karremans also addressed other, related, actions the government has in mind. Healthcare professionals with Dutch registration will more easily be able to work in the islands. Money will be available to help renovate the sixty-year-old health center on St. Eustatius. A multilingual campaign against domestic violence has already been launched in four languages.

*DMR (BES Reporter)*

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## Join the Walk-A-Thon May 4

Remember to register and pick up your Walk-a-ThonT-shirt at the Special Olympics offices behind big Catholic church Kralendijk  
 Fri. May 2. 7-9 p.m.  
 Sat. May 3. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.





# Freixenet and ALCON challenge servers



The Karel's Beach Bar team: L-R Sharon Porras, Chantal Visser – manager, Charles Lont – ALCON, Zutje Engelhardt – Freixenet Challenge winner, Yenni Villalobos, Claudio Russel and Ima Ogardo Valdano bartender. Not pictured but also participating were: Jenni Campuzano, Aron Perez and Rayli Albarra.. Photo Julie Morgan

The bubbles were flowing the entire month of April at Karel's Beach Bar with a Freixenet Cava Challenge to find the server who could sell the most bottles of the world's popular bubbly. The servers

incentive: to win a double magnum bottle of Freixenet Cordon Negro Cava.

Each server of the Karel's team headed up by Chantal Visser met the challenge

with enthusiasm, team spirit and energy resulting in the sale of 15 bottles in April. Of the seven competing servers the winner, Zutje Engelhardt, sold six bottles.

**Freixenet Cava Challenge to page 5**

## FOR SALE! Kaya Grandi 92 Modern Penthouses & Apartments



Live the island dream just steps from world-class diving and snorkeling sites. This property offers 2 top-floor penthouses with each 2 bedrooms and 4 one-bedroom apartments on the second floor, all within walking distance of downtown Kralendijk's shops, bars, and restaurants. Vacation, mid- and long-term rentals allowed.

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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. 23.** Around 6:20 p.m. a man, 39, was arrested on Kaya Dradu for theft of various electronic devices and pieces of jewelry from a home on Kaya Amalia. The suspect was recognized on camera images. A house search was also conducted and the suspect's car was seized. Various items relevant to the investigation were also seized.

**Apr. 21.** Surfing gear and items of clothing that were lying on the terrace of a tourist accommodation on Kaminda Sorobon were stolen.

**Apr. 21.** In a burglary at an apartment complex on Kaya Pos Di Wanapa the items taken included an ASUS laptop with its charger, jewelry, cash, Zinner sunglasses and an Apple fast charger.

**Apr. 20.** In a burglary at a house on Kaya Rafaela a door was forced open and the items taken included a HP laptop and jewelry.

**Apr. 20.** A report was filed of vandalism and theft from a car parked next to a house on Kaya Kokolishi. The left rear door was destroyed and a tool bag with contents was stolen from the back seat.

**Apr. 19.** A rented gray Kymco Agility scooter, license plate MF-4772, was stolen while parked with a steering lock in front of a house on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham.

**Apr. 19.** A license plate B-9365 was stolen.

**Apr. 19.** In the evening hours of Wednesday, April 16, various goods were stolen from a catering establishment located on Kaya Neerlandia after it had closed.

**Apr. 18.** Around 3:45 p.m. police stopped a man on an E-bike for a routine check on Kaya Esther. The check showed that the E-bike had previously been reported stolen by a car rental company. The man, 62, was arrested for buying, owning or selling a stolen vehicle and receiving stolen goods.

**Apr. 17.** A scooter battery was stolen from a scooter parked at a company on Kaya Grandi. The cables were cut to disconnect the battery.

**Apr. 17.** Various rooms of a tourist accommodation on Kaya America were broken into and a number of goods stolen.

**Apr. 16.** Around 9:55 a.m. a man, 71, was arrested at the police station for theft and receiving stolen goods. The arrest took place in connection with an ongoing investigation.

**Apr. 14.** A grey men's bicycle of an unknown brand was stolen Sunday 13 while left unlocked behind an ATM on the premises of a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham.

**Apr. 12.** A black rented bicycle (fat bike) of an unknown brand, model V-8 was stolen while left with a chain lock in front of a house on Kaya America.

**Apr. 12.** A gray/black rented Kymco Agility scooter, license plate MF-1352 was stolen while parked with a steering lock on the grounds of an apartment complex on Kaya P.N. Antonio Neuman.

**Apr. 11.** A black rented bicycle (fat bike) Class 29 was stolen while parked in a closed area at an accommodation on Punt Vierkant.

## Arrests

**Apr. 27.** A woman, 29, was arrested on Kaya Maria C. Hellmund-Boom for assault.

**Apr. 19.** Around 7:15 p.m. a man, 18, was arrested at the Plantage Aruba for violation of the Opium Act BES. The suspect was probably trying to smuggle narcotics into the Judicial Institution Caribbean Netherlands (JICN) when he brought clothes for a detainee. The plastic bags with suspected narcotics have been confiscated.

**Apr. 17.** A search was conducted in the morning at a house on Kaya Karpitan under the BES Opium Act. During the search a small quantity of suspected narcotics was found and seized for the investigation. During the search, the Special Assignments Group (GBO) stopped a suspicious car on Kaya Patachi for inspection after a short chase. A firearm was found there. The three men, aged 22, 18, and 27 were arrested for violation of the BES Firearms Act.

**Apr. 16.** Around 9:50 p.m. the control room received a report of a man, probably under the influence of alcohol, who was causing a nuisance at a catering establishment on Kaya Korona. When the police arrived, the man was asked to leave the catering establishment. He did not comply, refused to identify himself and insulted the police officers. The man, 49, was then arrested.

**Apr. 16.** Around 5:30 a.m. two house searches were carried out on Kaya Johanna in Antriol under the Opium Act BES. During the house searches, suspected narcotics and cash were seized. The Special Assignments Group arrested a man, 49, for violation of the Opium Act BES and money laundering and a man, 51, for violation of the Opium Act BES.

**Apr. 15.** Around 3:55 a.m. a fight was reported at a house on Kaya Mandolin which left one person injured. When the police arrived, the other party was no longer there and the victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Around 6 a.m. that same morning, the central control room received another report of a fight at the same address, but when the police arrived, the other party had already left on his bicycle. After searching, he was found in the area. Here, another altercation between the suspect and those involved broke out which almost got out of hand, forcing an officer to use 'pepper spray.' The man, 48, was arrested for failing to comply with police orders and assault with the use of a weapon.

**Apr. 13.** A pursuit took place around 10:50 p.m. which ended with two arrests. On Kaya Patachi near Kaya Purunchi, the patrol managed to block a car that was driving without lights and that had ignored a stop sign. When the officer tried to handcuff the driver, he resisted. The passenger grabbed the police officer and pulled him away with force, and the driver ran to a house. There, the driver struggled and the officer used 'pepper spray.' On the property of a house, three more men approached the officers, forcing the second officer to fire a warning shot into the air. Another patrol then arrived as reinforcement. The suspect again refused to be handcuffed and approached them aggressively, forcing one of the officers to use 'pepper spray' again. After this, the man, 24, was arrested for ignoring a stop sign and resisting arrest. The passenger, a woman, 23, was also arrested for insulting and obstructing an arrest. The car was taken to the police station.

## 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 Apr. 17 to 26** nine people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. One person who tested over the limit at the site tested below the limit at the station. Another driver was too inebriated to take the tests.

Five drivers were banned from driving: two for 4-hours, one for 5-hours, one for 1-hour and one for 3-hours. One driver's license was confiscated. Two drivers were driving without valid driving licenses.

Two drivers had been stopped for routine checks; one driver crashed into a lamppost; another crashed into a parked pick-up. One was stopped because his vehicle was making excessive noise from the exhaust; two drivers had collided with each other; and one driver reversed into a police vehicle while the officers were busy directing traffic.

One driver was fevering (doing circles) at the intersection with Bulevar Julio A. Abraham and Kaya Industria. He then drove onto Kaya Industria at high speed, lost control, crashed into several concrete blocks and then into a pick-up truck parked along the road. A pedestrian who was walking along the road to his vehicle was also injured in the collision.

## Traffic accidents

**Apr. 27.** Around 9:35 a.m. a car with three occupants overturned on the road to Rincon, near Tanki Maraka, leaving one of them trapped in the vehicle. The fire brigade helped the trapped victim out of the car that was was lying on its roof in the bushes next to the road. All three occupants were taken to hospital by ambulance. Later, the victim who had been trapped was rushed to Curaçao for further medical treatment.

**Apr. 26.** Around 3:45 p.m. an accident with a scooter occurred at the 'Plaza Fraternal Di Tilburg' near Kaya Korona. Two people fell off a scooter, and both were injured. They were treated by the ambulance staff. The driver was warned for driving without a license.

**Apr. 20.** Around midnight two people fell from a scooter on Kaya Ir. Randolph Statius Van Eps and were injured. The driver lost control and drove off the road into the bushes. Both driver and passenger were taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Apr. 20.** Around 5:10 a.m. a car overturned on Kaya Internashonal near Te Amo Beach. When the police arrived, all occupants were already out of the vehicle. The driver stated that she was driving on the Bulevar E.E.G. towards Playa and lost control. The three occupants were taken to the hospital by ambulance.

**Apr. 19.** Around 3 a.m. a driver died from his injuries in a single-vehicle collision on Hanchi Amboina. The driver is said to have lost control in a bend, causing the car to collide with a rock, overturn and come to a standstill against the fence of a house. As a result of the collision, the driver ended up in the garden. The ambulance crew immediately started resuscitation and transported the victim to the hospital. Despite their efforts, the driver died from his injuries. He was a 25-year-old man with initials S.W.L.D. born in Peru. There was one person left in the car, but he was unharmed.

**Apr. 17.** Around 5:20 p.m. a car and a pick-up collided on Bulevar E.E.G. Due to the failure to give way, the pick-up crashed into the car. The driver of the car had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. As a result, the breath test was only performed on the driver of the pick-up, with a negative result.

**Apr. 14.** Around 2:45 p.m. an accident was reported with a vehicle at a home on Kaya Breda. The vehicle was accidentally started while it was still in "reverse." As a result, the victim, who was standing next to the vehicle, was hit by the driver's door, causing her to fall and sustain injuries. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

## Fire

**Apr. 21.** Around 8:15 p.m. a fire was reported on Kaya Rafaela. When the police arrived, they saw that a car parked in front of a wooden house was on fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. According to the fire brigade, the fire started under the hood and was probably caused by a short circuit. No one was injured.

*See page 6 for the April 28 fire in Playa.*

# 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.

## Bonaire's True Status Must Be Respected: Private Citizen Dr. Willem A. Cecilia Denounces Misinformation from Bonaire Human Rights Organization

As a proud inhabitant of Bonaire, I, Dr. Willem A. Cecilia, feel compelled to publicly denounce the false and misleading claims recently published by James Finies of the Bonaire Human Rights Organization in the Saint Martin News Network.

These claims, suggesting that Bonaire must be relisted as a non-self-governing territory and alleging Dutch “colonial manipulation,” completely misrepresent the political, legal, and historical facts about Bonaire’s status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

As documented by legal scholar Dr. S. Hillebrink in Political Decolonization and Self-Determination: The Case of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (2007), Bonaire’s right to self-determination was formally recognized in the early 1980s and continues to be protected under international law, including the United Nations Charter and General Assembly Resolutions 1514, 1541, and 2625.

Bonaire’s people have the right to shape their political status through democratic means. Our current constitutional status is not the result of colonial domination, but of a negotiated and recognized expression of self-government. That said, it is important to be honest: our situation is not perfect. Much work remains to be done to achieve true equality with the citizens of the European part of the Netherlands.

We continue to face challenges in ensuring that the same level of social, economic, legal, and political rights enjoyed in the Dutch continent are fully and fairly extended to Bonaire. However, this ongoing struggle for equality must be based on facts, constructive dialogue, and democratic principles — not on misinformation and divisive rhetoric.

It is entirely false and legally unsound to argue that Bonaire should be returned to the list of non-self-gov-

erning territories. International law, as Hillebrink explains, does not permit unilateral relisting where a full measure of self-government has already been achieved.

The portrayal of Dutch Special Envoy Edison Rijna at the upcoming Global Sustainable Island Summit (GSIS) as a “colonial manipulator” is equally misleading. While criticisms can be made of any political representative, it is wrong to depict legitimate climate advocacy and island cooperation efforts as deceit. Although Bonaire may not lie in the hurricane belt, we face real environmental challenges, including drought, freshwater scarcity, a sea level rise that will cause permanent inundation of parts of the low-lying nature reserves of the salinas, Lac Bay and Klein Bonaire. and coral reef degradation — issues that demand responsible engagement with international partners.

Furthermore, inflammatory accusations about “forced euthanasia” laws, cultural destruction, and demographic manipulation are grossly exaggerated and lack credible evidence.

Real challenges exist — in governance, education, and healthcare — but these require honest dialogue and grounded solutions, not hyperbole and conspiracy theories.

I urge CARICOM leaders, the Caribbean community, and all friends of Bonaire to distinguish truth from distortion.

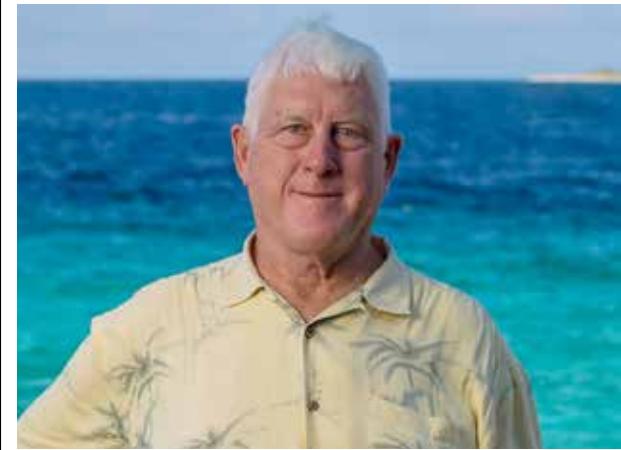
Bonaire’s people deserve to have their dignity and democratic achievements respected, not undermined by sensationalism.

*Dr. Willem A. Cecilia  
Bonaire*

Finies article can be found at: <https://smn-news.com/index.php/letters/47557-dutch-envoy-rijna-ex-governor-of-bonaire-misleads-caricom-serves-dutch-interests-not-the-people.html>

## Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



**Hi Bob -  
I'm buying a house on Bonaire, should I have a technical inspection of the house before I buy? Lou V.**

Hi Lou, that’s a great question. We always advise our buyers to request a technical inspection of any property they are planning to buy, and to make a contingency of a technical inspection part of the purchase agreement. There are a number of qualified people who can perform the technical inspection for you. The inspection will check all parts of the house, and provide you a written report detailing the issues they find if any. If there are serious issues with the house, the buyer can choose to cancel the purchase agreement, but that rarely happens.

**The most common problems we see are:**

- **Sewer line issues:** In older homes you can have tree roots that grow into the sewer lines that run from the house to the septic tank or the public sewer. This problem can make your sinks or toilet drain slower than usual. This can usually be easily resolved by a plumber, although sometimes the pipes need to be dug up and replaced.

- **Termites:** A pest inspection can usually detect the presence of termites. This is most common in homes that have been vacant for a long period of time. This issue can normally be resolved by having the foundation treated for termites by a pest control company.

- **Roof leaks:** Roof leaks are a common issue on Bonaire. A good inspector will usually get on your roof to check or check using a drone. Most roof leaks can be repaired by a local roofing company once you can find the source of the leak. They can be caused by broken roof tiles, blocked or dirty gutters or poor roof drainage if you have a flat roof.

Regards, Bob Bartikoski,

*Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner*

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at [info@bonairehomes.com](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com).

Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

## Freixenet Cava Challenge from page 3

The Freixenet challenge was set up by Umberto Marino, Sales Manager Caribbean, for Freixenet Mionetti and organized by Charles Lont of ALCON Wines Bonaire.

Lont awarded the double magnum bottle to Engelhardt with her somewhat envious team members looking on. Engelhardt plans to open the bottle on her upcoming wedding, a true “Cheers to Life” occasion.

A big congratulations to the whole team for their outstanding effort and support of Freixenet Cava.

Marino and ALCON’s next big chal-

lenge for the servers will be in a few months with a double magnum bottle of Mionetto Prosecco as the prize.

Freixenet family winery is from the Penedès area near Barcelona, Spain and has been in operation for over a hundred years. They produce five sparkling wines and including a rosé. The most popular bubbly by far is the one in the recognizable black bottle, the Cordon Negro Cava selling 55 million bottles worldwide.

*Story / Photo Julie Morgan  
See ALCON ad page 10*

**Photo: Charles Lont of ALCON congratulates Zutje Engelhardt, winner of the Freixenet Challenge at Karel's Beach Bar.**





# Greenpeace says the Netherlands won't meet 2030 target for decreased gas emissions

Greenpeace activists demonstrated April 25 in front of the Catshuis hoping to draw the attention of Council of Ministers meeting. They held up a banner with the text 'See you in court.' The activists from all over the Netherlands, including Bonaire, want to make it clear that failure to comply with climate agreements will have consequences at the court when the Bonaire Climate Case is heard there in October.



the Dutch State. The aim is to protect Bonaire from the consequences of the climate crisis, because the Netherlands is not yet doing anything concrete about the crisis.

Vellekoop said, "The Netherlands must reduce greenhouse gas emissions as

quickly as possible. But while we need to accelerate climate policy, this cabinet is actually putting on the brakes. The spring memorandum shows that the coalition is not giving priority to the target of 55% less greenhouse gas emissions in 2030... The court will have to decide in the Climate Case whether the Nether-

lands must at least adhere to these targets from the Climate Act."

It has been clear for months that the government is not on track to at least achieve the climate target of 55% less greenhouse gas emissions in 2030. Minister Hermans is coming up with new climate proposals today, but the leaked plans absolutely do not show that the climate target will now be achieved.

"What we are seeing now is a series of gifts for the industry, no climate policy," says Vellekoop. "We do not know who this VVD minister is trying to convince, but the State will have to come up with a better story in court. Otherwise we are afraid that the scenario of the lawsuit about nitrogen will repeat itself."

*Greenpeace Release*

Marieke Vellekoop, director of Greenpeace Netherlands said, "This cabinet is following the same path with the climate as it did with nitrogen: postponing, avoiding, postponing. But for Bonaire, there is no more time for dawdling."

The Hague will consider the Bonaire Climate Case on October 7-8, in which Greenpeace Netherlands and eight residents of Bonaire are facing off against

## Fire in downtown

Our apologies to those involved. We got the original fire story wrong.

A fire broke out store and office building in the Bonaire Mall in downtown Kralendijk on Monday afternoon, April 28. The cause of the fire is still being investigated. Firefighters had the fire under control by the early evening hours but

had to work late into the night to suppress the smoke.

A bystander told us that a woman and her dog were trapped on the top floor and had to be lifted down by a cherry picker from WEB. We were also told that she was then hospitalized for medical treatment and observation.



The fire was detected at noon while many people were away from the offices for lunch. They lost personal belongings and office contents. The offices affected included the Directorate of Supervision and Enforcement of the Public Body of Bonaire (OLB) and Office Guardianship Council (RCN). After closing hours on Tuesday, the building was still filled with smoke and gases and people had not yet been allowed to return to the building. Other premises in the area remain unus-

able as well.

Because of smoke in the area, some residents were temporarily housed elsewhere until it was safe to return to their homes. Jong Bonaire had been prepared as an evacuation site.

*DMR*



## Training Bonaire's professionals to spot trafficking

In April, professionals from the judicial and care chains attended training sessions on dealing with human trafficking and smuggling.

Participants from the judicial chain attended a specialist training on April 14 and 15 that focused on identifying and then reacting to suspected human trafficking and smuggling. On April 16 and 17, care professionals took part in training aimed at both introductory and advanced levels, tailored to their daily work.

Human trafficking is a serious and often invisible form of exploitation. Victims are forced — through pressure, deception or threats — into labour, sexual acts, or criminal activities. Young people are particularly vulnerable: they may be pressured into transporting drugs, stealing goods, or laundering money.

During the training, the section on the exploitation of young people made a strong impression on participants. It sparked open conversations about how signs can be recognized in practice and what role each professional can play.

Later this year, similar trainings will be held on St. Eustatius and Saba so all of the Caribbean Netherlands has the opportunity to strengthen knowledge, improve early detection, and collaborate more effectively within the judicial and care chains.

### Signs of human trafficking may include:

- Someone who does not have control over their own documents (such as a passport or ID);
- People who appear fearful, dependent or withdrawn;
- Young people with expensive items

or cash, without a clear explanation;

- Individuals working without pay, in poor conditions, or at odd hours.

It is important to always report suspicions of human trafficking. You can do so via KPCN at the email address [meldmensenhandel@politiecn.com](mailto:meldmensenhandel@politiecn.com) or anonymously via the tip line: 9310.

For more information, visit:

[www.rijksdienstcn.com](http://www.rijksdienstcn.com)

Together against human trafficking — our islands, our responsibility.

*RCN press release*



# OLB still not spending available funds board says

The financial management of the public body Bonaire continues to deteriorate, the Financial Supervision Board (Cft) has reported to the House of Representatives. The budget documents submitted by Deputy of Finance Clark Abraham for 2024 are so incomplete and out of date that the Cft cannot assess whether the budget complies with the standards of the FinBES Act.

The Cft estimates the OLB had an unintended budget surplus of \$31.3 for 2024. That constitutes 31 million dollars that were available and should have been spent but weren't spent, and still weren't spent after the Executive Council was informed of the omission.

The board says the OLB does not have the "implementation power" to manage its finances. The necessary competencies do not exist under the current Executive Council.

The Cft repeated its previous warnings concerning Abraham's intention to start collecting Bonaire's taxes himself. The Cft says that would just be another burden on OLB's short-staffed financial operations. "There is a risk that the public body will collect less taxes as a result than is currently done by the Tax and Customs Administration of the Caribbean Netherlands," the Cft told the House." *DMR*

# OLB restores WEB subsidies for low income Bonaireans

The OLB has stepped in to restore the subsidy of WEB and PAGABON charges the central government cancelled as of January 1. Previously everyone received the subsidy. Now only those who qualify as low-income get it. People must answer a few simple questions to confirm they are eligible.

To apply, contact [www.bonairegov.com/stroom](http://www.bonairegov.com/stroom). For questions or help with applying online, call or send a WhatsApp message to +599 701 1055 from Monday to Friday during office hours or email: [koriente@bonairegov.com](mailto:koriente@bonairegov.com).

- The applicant must have been registered with the Civil Affairs Department for at least five years in a row.
- The net income of the applicant, and of the adults living with him/her, must not exceed a designated threshold. The rules can be found in the image on the website.
- Single applicants without children cannot have savings exceeding \$5,509. Applicants living with others are limited to savings of \$11,017. *DMR*

# Drones to be legal in BES

The Council of Ministers has approved a proposal to amend the current aviation legislation for the Caribbean Netherlands to allow for the flying of "unmanned aircraft" (drones).

The intention is to create "a robust regulatory framework" that will determine categories of drones, operator certification, operational rules, airworthiness requirements, and air traffic rules. *DMR*



**Rotary Club of Bonaire's FERIA is held annually on Kingsday. On April 26, 2025 stalls filled Wilhelminaplein laden with marvellous bargains on furniture, lamps/lighting, electronics, household goods, decorative items, linens, and clothes. Last year's FERIA raked in well over \$20,000 thanks to some really great donations. As *The Reporter* goes to print, the Rotary committee is still preparing its 2025 press release. Since 1982, The Rotary Club of Bonaire has used funds raised to support various charitable activities and projects on the island. Photo Julie Morgan**

# Caribbean exempted from onerous U.S. port fee

At the request of CARICOM, the Trump administration has agreed to exempt Caribbean from proposed steep port fees Chinese built vessels would have pay. The charge could exceed \$million per port call.

The charges threatened to raise shipping costs sharply, disrupt supply chains, and fuel inflation across the region, which relies heavily on imports for food and other essentials.

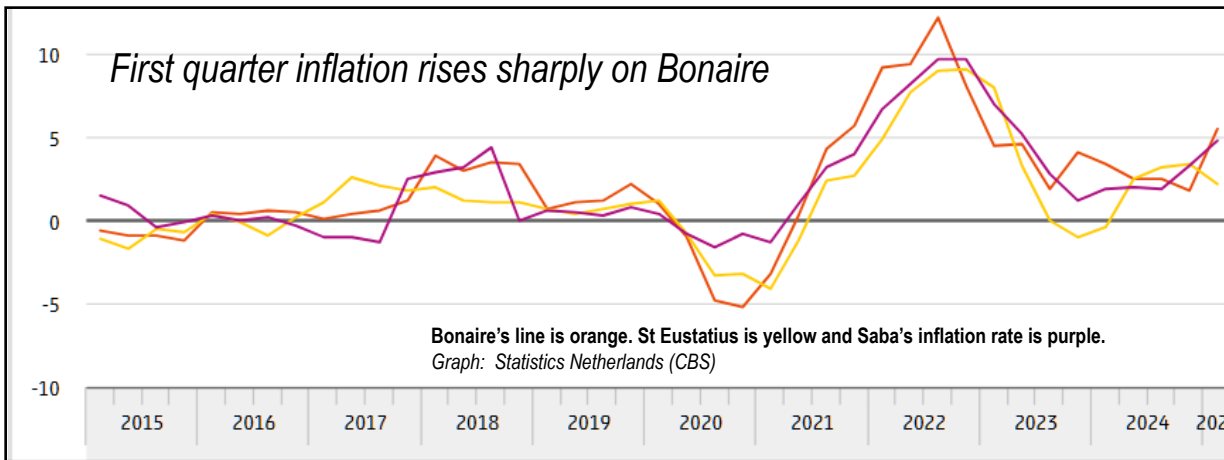
The recent decision by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) applies the exemption to ships operating within 2,000 nautical miles of the U.S. and Caribbean, ships under 55,000 deadweight tons with fewer than 4,000 TEUs, and certain bulk and liquid cargo vessels. (A TEU is the space occupied by a 20-foot shipping container.) *DMR*

# Home grown pigs to be added to Bonaire menu

The Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV) service is preparing the island to start raising pork to supplement the fish, goat and lamb already available locally. LVV director Maurice Adriaens reports that "We are now building the facilities and we are looking for a farmer who can take over the actual production and operation."

Getting the project rolling will require more than a pen and some pigs. The production of local feed crops must also be launched. The initial goal would be the slaughter of about 10 pigs every 4 to 5 months. One sow will produce three litters of approximately ten piglets per year.

*DMR*



Consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 5.5% more expensive in Q1 2025 than a year earlier, in Q1 2024. And they were 3.7% more expensive than in just the previous quarter, Q4 2024.

The increase in costs between year-end 2024 and the opening quarter of 2025 was caused partly by rises in the cost of housing, water and energy. For example, water bills rose by 47.4% compared to Q4 2024 because of an increase in standing charges. Electricity prices also rose by 22.0%, because the central government stopped subsidizing standing charges as

of January 1, 2025

Prices for clothing and footwear also rose by 3.9 percent, mainly due to price increases for women's clothing and shoes.

On the other hand, prices for transport fell in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024. The price of petrol fell by 6.7% compared with the previous quarter, and the price of diesel fell by 7.0%.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) tracks changes in the consumer price index in the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*





## Rincon's Wall of Honor

Rincon Wall of Honor was erected along the parade route for the 2025 Dia di Rincon month of celebration. According to Dia di Rincon Commission member Iliena Carolina, 32 framed portraits of Rincon residents are honored in this display for their significant contributions to the community.

Carolina said, "Last year they did a small one, but we decided to expand it as there are so many people who did something special for Rincon."

A local artist painted the flying lorikeets under the portraits with a little help from members of the committee. Several of the people on the honor wall are still living.

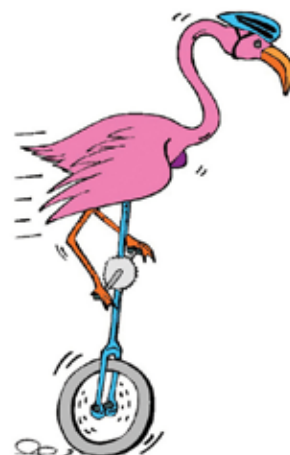
*Story and photos Julie Morgan*



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# Help save the island from the sargassum invasion

As sargassum continues to roll in on Bonaire's eastern shoreline, the new "Sargassum Removal" group at STINAPA is coordinating volunteers who are pitching in to clean up the mess in Lac Bay and Lagun. This is an ongoing project that needs volunteers who work whenever they can and for as long as they can.

People can volunteer by contacting "Sargassum Removal" at [https://chat.whatsapp.com/CYdCmF6yTc\\_08cWuHBGAFRM](https://chat.whatsapp.com/CYdCmF6yTc_08cWuHBGAFRM).

Workers are racing to remove the fresh sargassum weed from the shoreline before the tide can roll in and cover it. Sunken sargassum putrefies, sucking oxygen out of the water as it turns to muck and threatening the nursery sites in the seagrass for young fish, crabs, lobsters and other marine life.

Volunteers use rakes, pitchforks, and wheelbarrows to gather the fresh sargassum and transport it to diked holding ponds where it can drain and dry. The muck has to be scrapped up and hauled to the holding ponds too.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own tools and wheelbarrows if possible. If not, they should come anyway. "Sargassum Removal" has some tools available.

Sargassum are algae that float freely in large separated mats that form a massive habitat for a wide variety of sea life. The algae is now feeding on runoff pollutants in the water and the mats are growing thicker and joining up. Sargassum now forms a 8850-kilometer-long belt from West Africa to the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

DMR



## Photos with comments from the front line.

Top: "It's bad at Foodies Lagoon. A thick mat of Sargassum came in overnight. Come whenever you can, as this will probably take all day and more. We have some tools, but if you have a rake, pick fork, or wheelbarrow, please consider bringing it."

Left: "New Sargassum has continued to invade our shores this week, and STINAPA has done a dynamite job scraping it off the beach with heavy equipment. Over the past week, we were clobbered with a huge amount of weed, which exceeded our capacity to clean up to the degree that some of it decomposed enough to sink, as we see at low tide."

Photos by Sabine Engel, (Mangrove Maniacs)  
Comments from the group



# Kids had so much fun at Bonaire's International Sports Week



Some 15 sports were on display during the third Bonaire International Sports Week that began April 4 and ended with the Rincon Run/Walk on Dia di Rincon April 30. Though many of the sports were for local participants a few welcomed in-

ternational athletes from Aruba, Curaçao, the Netherlands and the U.S.

Approximately 850 athletes saw competition in the beach tennis tournament, Bolas, volleyball, rugby, girl's fastpitch softball, frisbee, swimming, pickleball, bil-

liards, tennis, mountain biking, obstacle course and the Sunfish ILCA races. The kids seemed to have the most fun with the obstacle course and bouncy houses.

The sports were held at the Sporthall Jorge Nicolaas, Rudy Boezem Beach Park, Kralendijk Stadium, Rudy Boezem Ball park, Parke Tului, Gold Finch, Kas di Regatta and Jato Baco.

Photos Julie Morgan



# It felt so good, we still count

Everything for the Dia di Rincon Simadon Grandinan parade on April 25 was well prepared in advance with just the right planning and measurements taken. Even though it looked routine, it was far from that. When organizing such a big event one has to be well prepared and be sure everything is in order.

The elderly were happy to participate and when we finally found ourselves in Rincon, in the large court of CoCaRi everyone was smiling. Different organizations for the elderly came to participate and we all looked absolutely stunning. Every group was dressed in beautiful, colorful and bright folkloric gear. In our hands we had little baskets with fruit and vegetables or a stalk of maishi chiki

(corn), a Rincon flag and our happy faces were the finishing touch.

A few groups of musicians joined us, because you cannot have a Simadan without the proper music.

When all the headscarfs were tied properly and the musicians were ready, we counted down. "Remailo" sounded accompanied by the toot of the conch and off we went. Singing and shuffling as we left through the gate. Those who could walk, did so and those that could not, were pushed in a wheelchair by a volunteer. There was also a train full of other elderly.

Along the route were many onlookers,

people that had come to Rincon just to witness this wonderful event. And we, the elderly, were very happy to be there. It felt so good that we still count.

The tempo was perfect, not too fast but also not too slow. Every now and then a friend, neighbor or family member jumped in and joined us for a while.

Many pictures were taken. When you participate in such an event, you have no idea how it looks, because you are too busy to think about that. But the music of the harvest songs that everybody sings, makes you feel very happy and if you do not know all the words, you still can sing the chorus.



Throughout the parade, the organization made sure that we would not get dehydrated and handed out little bottles with water or packages with juice and even snacks.

Every now and then we would stop for a while, to rest, wait for the rest to join us again and admire this wonderful harvest parade we took part in.

There was a small group of musicians who were very young but that did not matter at all. Aux contraire, they played their hearts out and were very, very good. They even explained things about the instruments they played to people who asked questions.

And then, before we knew it, we were at the end of the Simadan, back again in the courtyard of CoCaRi.

Volunteers were there ready to hand us cold drinks, delicious sandwiches and snacks. Participants who needed help for the restrooms were assisted. The sun had disappeared and the Simadan was over.

On the way back to Kralendijk, we all talked about everything we had seen and how much we had enjoyed being in the event.

Next year we will be back!  
Count on us.

*Ria Dokter*

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### Royal Awards 2025 Bonaire

On Friday, April 25, 2025, eight special residents of Bonaire were honored for their years of dedication to society when they received a Royal Award from Governor John Soliano:  
**Three were awarded Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau:** Evelina Francisca Anthony-Betancourt for her services

to the fields of elderly welfare and education; • Edilse Sylvia Goeloe-Frans for her years of dedication to care and welfare work; • Wietze Oene Maria Koopman for his commitment to combating poverty and promoting consumer interests.  
**Five were appointed a Member in the Order of Orange-Nassau:** • Lourdes Angela Hart-Perdomo Molina and

Raimunda Leocadia Martis for their work as informal caregivers; • Marina M. Melis for her service in animal welfare and nature conservation; • Omaira Orjuela-Marsera for her service in the field of care and elderly welfare; and Gravey Thomas Anthonij for his contribution to youth welfare and football.

### Is language a bridge or barrier? author asks

Education advisor/researcher Juana Kibbelaar has written a book, *Language: bridge or barrier?*, on the decades-long discussion about the language of instruction in Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. Kibbelaar argues that the debate should not be about making a choice between Papiamentu or Dutch as the language of instruction: Papiamentu-speaking children need both languages.

According to her, the debate is solved by the goal of education: to ensure that children can develop by acquiring knowledge and learning basic skills. According to the author, this requires a good command of a ‘major language’ such as English, Spanish or Dutch in addition to their mother tongue. Because, unlike Papi-



Director of Education Staff and Primary Education Daniëlle Schiet of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science receives the book *Language: bridge or barrier?* from Juana Kibbelaar. Photo via René Zwart

mento, major languages provide access to an unlimited wealth of information. And Papiamentu-speaking children need that information to develop their (professional) knowledge and (professional) skills, so that they will later have a good connection to the labor market and further education.

Juana Kibbelaar emphasizes that more attention to Dutch at school from an early age does not come at the expense of Papiamentu, but rather strengthens the mother tongue. With the other insights that she describes in her book, a better educational return can be achieved across the board.

DMR

The book can be downloaded as a PDF via <https://fundashonlike.com/nl/2025/04/10/taal-brug-of-barriere-pleidooi-voor-gelijke-onderwijskansen-in-het-koninkrijk/>

### Creating Optimal Health Modes, Part 1 by Irene da Cunda Costa

**The modes, the poison is in the dose**  
The “modes” are four basic ways of functioning and relating to oneself, others, and the world in general. These are: the automatic mode, the mindful mode, the survival mode and social or digestive mode.

They are neither good nor bad, and all of them are vital for our survival... the poison is in the dose, the secret is in their balance. An excess of any is unhealthy, and so is its absence.

**Automatic mode** allows us, for example, to walk and chew gum simultaneously. It involves tasks we learned with effort and now perform without thinking, like walking, biking or driving. These activities are essential but often overlooked as they require minimal energy and focus, appealing to the economy of habit.

Just as we learned to walk or drive, we also learned to assess reality, make judgments about ourselves, others and situations, and based on these judgments, we make decisions. Initially, it took a great deal of conscious effort, but later, much of the process has also become automatic. Automatic mode operates unconsciously but can be brought

to awareness with effort. It often benefits us by saving time and energy, acting as a shortcut in decision-making. Antonio Damasio explains that even for major life choices like career, life partner, or residence, we don’t evaluate every detail due to impracticality. Thus, visceral automatism helps catalyze decisions.

#### Up to this point, everything seems to be working fine...

Of these automated evaluations, judgments, and responses, some aren’t always beneficial. Although most of them are functional, some can be dysfunctional. In their origin, they might have been useful strategies for survival and protection. However, many automations are now outdated and dysfunctional. To identify these, we need to switch to a **mindful mode**, observing without judgment and fully experiencing each moment with awareness. Many times, these automatic thoughts are difficult to detect. Sometimes we react inappropriately or defensively when no one is attacking us and that might be because of automatic thoughts that are elicited by the situation. These reactions stem from past experiences where we felt vulnerable or hurt. Reflective practices like psychotherapy and mindfulness help us recognize and manage these thoughts. Mindfulness trains our internal observer to slow down the flow of our thoughts and identify emotional expressions in the body.

Mindfulness exercises are to be practiced so we can use

them when we need them, but they are not intended to be constant; they’re impractical that way. They help us recognize, train and strengthen our internal observer. Mindfulness leverages our ability to reflect on our thoughts. Living mindfully all the time would be like experiencing life as a newborn, with everything being new and requiring full attention. It’s neither possible nor desirable. The goal is to be able to enter and exit mindfulness at will; flexibility is key.

Body and mind function as a unified entity. Enhancing physical flexibility contributes to mental agility. This is where the practice of yoga becomes significant. Although not exclusive, yoga is among the most comprehensive methods to cultivate mindful awareness and the ability to transition into and out of such states. The scope of yoga practice extends beyond the confines of the classroom and the mat, permeating various aspects of life.

In the next issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*, I will share thoughts about the other two modes. Don’t miss it!



Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition (I-USC) and Yoga Instructor.



## Elesiër Angel confirmed as Statutory Director TCB



Elesiër Angel writes:

*I am incredibly proud and deeply honored to step into the role of CEO at Tourism Corporation Bonaire. This opportunity is not only the result of years of hard work, but also a true privilege that I embrace with humility and purpose. Leading the organization that represents the heart of our island, our tourism industry, is a responsibility I take very seriously.*

*Bonaire is a unique and precious island, not only because of its natural beauty, but because of the strength, warmth, and resilience of our people. My vision for tourism is rooted in that deep appreciation—for our heritage, culture, our community, and our environment. As such, I will continue to advocate for a balanced and sustainable approach to tourism development—one that ensures our economic growth does not come at the cost of our nature, our heritage and or our way of life.*

*We have the opportunity to shape a future where tourism supports our local economy, respects our environment, and uplifts our community. And I am committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders—public, private, and the wider community—to protect what is ours and to move forward with professionalism, intention and care.*

*This is a new chapter, and I look forward to leading with dedication, transparency, and a deep love for our island. Together, we can strengthen our position as an island that puts people and planet first.*

**It's in our nature.**

Thank you! Saludos,  
Elesiër Angel  
Statutory Director Tourism Corporation Bonaire

## Steak tartare - 4 persons Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

**Tartare:** 240 g (8.5 oz) beef tenderloin, finely chopped • or if you don't want to spend so much, 120 g (4.25 oz) beef tartare and 120 g (4.25 oz) minced beef • 4 g (2/3) mustard • 1/2 T Worcestershire sauce • 10 g (3/4 T) tomato ketchup • 20 g (1 1/2 T) mayonnaise

Prepare the tartare with the flavorings and season further with salt and pepper if necessary.

**Garnish:** 5 chives, finely chopped • 1 sprig parsley, chopped • 15 g (1 T) gherkin, finely chopped • 15 g (1/T) shallot, finely chopped • 10 g (3/4 T) capers, finely chopped • 1/4 Spanish pepper, finely chopped

**Truffle mayonnaise:** 80 g (2/3 C) mayonnaise • 20 g (1 1/2 T) truffle tapenade

Stir together.

**Presentation.** Deep fry 3 slices of pani puri (From India- a breaded hollow spherical shell) until they form a nice ball. Cut in half and fill with the garnish, which you can then stir into the tartare yourself. You can eat the fried pani puri as a crispy side dish. If desired, garnish with fried capers, red onion rings, parsley sprig, chives and lettuce leaf



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



## Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr Sea Slugs - maybe not as rare as we thought

When we think "snail," what's the first thing we think of? For me, it would be "shell," that wonderfully creative and often beautiful protector of a snail's soft body.

Some of the closest relatives of snails, however, have no shell at all. How in the world do they protect themselves?

Octopuses and squid easily defend themselves with their speed. If that

doesn't work, they have sharp beaks with which they can bite; squid have similar devices in each of their suckers! Octopuses, the most intelligent of the invertebrates, can change colors to virtually disappear, and/or squeeze into a crevice and literally disappear. And they can ink. They're definitely well-defended.

**Sea slugs continued on page 15**



The Striated Sea Hare is known for its breeding aggregations, some of which took place on Bonaire last month. Photo Bernadette de Jonge -Lubbers



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Accessibility is a word that covers a lot and the more you think about accessibility, the more you see it covers.

*To be able to function in a way that is acceptable.* I feel a person with disabilities should have this right. And because we are all different, we all have different needs.

This diversity makes planning and delivering care hard for government and care providing organizations, but at the very least everyone should have basic care, no matter what.

And that seems to be a big problem in Bonaire when it comes to decision making, planning, ordering materials and hiring staff and specialists.

One may call me “hard-headed,” but I will keep on advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. Our disabilities may differ, but we all have the same rights to care.

- It should not be possible for a care

# Make Bonaire Accessible

## Accessibility for all

by Ria Evers-Dokter

shop to decide what is best for the clients.

- It should not be possible that clients with the same problems, get different care products than others.
- It should not be possible that certain care is not provided because it is a holiday.

And I also feel that not only the Bonaireans have a right to care. We have so many people with different nationalities living and working here but I hardly ever see them making use of the care offered on Bonaire, except at the doctor’s office and hospital.

Let’s keep in mind that we are all human. We all are not the same, but our needs do not differ that much. But most of all we all need people. We must never feel left out.

So, if the care facilities cannot deliver specific personal care, one or more volunteers of organizations should be on hand to ensure the much-needed care is provided.

In Holland there is one such organization called “Humanitas.” <https://www.humanitas.nl/over-ons/about-humanitas/> They train volunteers to provide specific care and offer all kinds of help for those in need of specific care. When the care organizations cannot deliver, they provide nursing, hospice service, night care, transportation, meals, etc.

They also provide training for volunteers and teach the people they help to help themselves and so much more.

I feel that an organization like Humanitas could add so much to the general care on Bonaire.

In addition, I would like to add, we have a great need for care items like Rollators, canes and scooter mobiles but we cannot afford them. Presently in Holland there are places that collect these items, repair them and send them off to Africa. This is very strange, since Bonaire is a part of the Netherlands and wouldn’t it be more fitting if those items were sent to Bonaire?

Bonaire is well on the way to improving accessibility, but there is still so much to do and change. Let’s get to it.



*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.*

### Protecting your plants

I have a poisonous plant growing in my old, partially open greenhouse. I put it there because it cannot stand a lot of sun. I like the plant because it is a decorative vine and grows nice and big crawling and hooking itself through the whole greenhouse. In fact it’s too big now, but so beautiful, I don’t want to minimize it.

A few months ago I added to the greenhouse a blue pea and chayote plant, which the iguanas love, to grow among the poisonous vines. And you know what? They are growing like crazy with no iguanas in sight. What is the secret? The iguanas won’t eat them because they are afraid to get a bite of the poisonous plant. Aha, so that is a great protection and an idea for you – poison ivy to protect your plants against iguanas.

Here’s a way to protect your fruit from the loras. Cut the top of a fruit tree when it’s young so it grows wider instead of taller. The loras like to sit high in trees and eat the fruit but when the tree is low to the ground with wider stems and the fruit hangs low, the loras will stay away most of time. And you can easily pick the fruit from the tree.

I also have a neighbor’s dog jumping over the gate and poohing in my garden. I sprayed ammonia at the gate and for the time being, no dogs. I guess it works with wild cats too.

### Protecting your lungs

This time of year, there is a lot of dust all over the island due to the strong winds and Sahara dust. This causes problems for some people with lung issues. Here are some hints to detox the lungs if you have issues (or even if you don’t).

For a steam treatment to help breathing use: green tea, ginger, thyme, eucalyptus and ginseng.

Lung cleaning: ginger and honey with citron is good to start the day and it calms before sleeping.

For lung health: curcuma is a spice well known for its anti-inflammation ingredients. Used in the right dosage, it can be added to smoothies, dahls and warm drinks.

Try yoga breathing exercises. The

techniques help to extend the capacity of the lungs and helps with better breathing.

Air cleaning plants added to your house improve the air quality. These plants grow easily on Bonaire and require little maintenance: Boston fern, sanseveria, aloe vera and plantain.

Drink a lot of water, tea and juices. Fill a water container in the morning with

eight glasses and by the end of the day it should be finished.

And when a lot of dust is blowing, stay inside or use mouth masks outside.

### Did you know that?

- You should always rinse all your packed (in plastic) vegetables because of possible bacteria. Even if it was washed before it was packed, it is still necessary.
- Coffee waste is good for the garden but it also attracts roaches. So keep an eye out for the bugs and use it sparingly. If you use too much it might be too strong and some plants might die. If you want to get rid of the roaches in a nature friendly way, put an empty wine bottle in the garden and fill it with some coffee waste.
- Granulated eggshells are also good for plants, so re-use them in your garden.
- Teabags added to the soil will help against the drought because they keep it moist.
- Coconut fiber is very good for plants. It’s a good compost and it keeps the soil moist but bugs like it as well. So don’t put it too close to the house, or you might get the bugs inside too.
- The coco fiber is also very good as a tea. I use it all the time with some hot water and strain it with some lemon or mixed with other fresh herbal leaves. It’s a great healthy tea and helps balance your sugar level and its good for the colon.

Go ahead, try these hints, and use all the goodies of nature from your garden. Just do it



*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.*



Because of the poisonous vine surrounding them, the iguanas don’t touch the other plants they love to consume.



# Basketball gains momentum

In a landmark step toward strengthening the future of basketball across the Dutch Caribbean, the basketball federations of Aruba, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Sint Maarten and the public entity of Saba have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI), committing to deeper collaboration and shared development of the sport across the islands.

Signed on April 13, the LOI, sets the foundation for increased communication, player and coach development, knowledge-sharing, and potential joint programming in youth basketball, 3x3 as well as 5x5 basketball, officiating and competition structure.



While the agreement is non-binding, it signals a clear collective ambition to elevate the standard and visibility of basketball within the region.

Interim president for BBF said, “We believe in the power of sport to connect and uplift our communities. This LOI reflects not only our shared vision, but our determination to

work smarter together.”

## Collaborative initiatives underway prior to the LOI:

- “Weganan Interinsular” Basketball Event inter island

tournament on April 11 – 12, brought together young athletes from all Dutch Caribbean countries/territories.

- Referee Development a course by NBB (Nederlands Basketball Bond) offered a step up in officiating standards that focuses on rule consistency, professional development and alignment with International officiating practices.

- Fast Break coaches course by NBB educated and certified 95 youth basketball coaches for all six islands in 2024.

## Reef Glimpses: sea slugs, *continued from page 13*

What about other shell-less snails? A quick flip through the Sea Slug section of Reef Creature Identification reveals that one sea slug defense is size: most barely reach a single inch (5 centimeters) in length. Something that small would be tough for us to see in almost any color or pattern of colors, whether it blended into its background or not! I see one of these tiny sea slugs occasionally, though. I think it’s the Black Aglaja. Whoever it is, it’s a totally black slug, usually less than half an inch (1.25 cm) in length, moving along at slug speed (that is, barely moving) over essentially white sand, looking like nothing more than a tiny piece of algae. I can’t always find them when I look for them, and I wonder how many I’ve swum over without noticing. And this is a black critter on a white background!



This headshield slug looks like the Leech Aglaja except that its tails should be of equal length. Aglaja is from the Greek for “beautiful,” more fitting than the “leech” part of its name!

Photo Julie Morgan

“Defense mechanisms [of sea slugs] include smelly or bad-tasting glands, purple dye, and white nauseating secretions,” according to K. B. Meyer in the Peterson Field Guide to Southeastern and Caribbean Seashores. He explains that the purple dye is released in a thick cloud which “seductively undulates” in the currents above the sea hare, while the sea hare remains, unmoving, beneath it. The conclusion is similar to octopus-ink situations: “The predator is confused about which target to attack.”

Did you know that Bonaire’s best-known sea slug, the lettuce slug, gets some if not all of its food by sunbathing? After the slug eats algae, the algae’s chloroplasts continue the process of photosynthesis -- from inside the lettuce slug! Even hungry predators avoid lettuce slugs, though, after tasting the secretions of what Meyer calls the “repugnatorial” glands. (I think he coined the word repugnatorial, and it’s great, isn’t it?) Back in the 1980’s when Bonaire’s yellowtail snappers were gulping down everything that might possibly be food, even the yellowtails spit out lettuce slugs, instantly and consistently.

So, as long as we’re not trying to snack on sea slugs, we can safely appreciate their beauty and diversity – once we find them! The initial Reef Creature Identification Guide included fifteen types of sea slugs; the third edition of the Guide, 21 years later, includes 53 species! Those extra 38 species didn’t simply appear, they were around the whole time, but had managed to avoid the attention of divers.

When I visited Dominica a few years ago, I witnessed one reason that the larger sea hares have been noticed. Actually, it would have been tough not to notice the dozens of 6-to-12-inch sea hares on algae-covered rocks in less than six feet (2m) of water depth, especially since groups of them seemed to be hooked together.

Hooked together?

Sea hares are simultaneous hermaphrodites, which means that each individual has functioning male and female reproductive organs. They don’t fertilize themselves, but copulate in chains, in which each individual acts as a male to the sea hare ahead of it, and as a female

to the sea hare behind it. Their eggs are deposited in strings as quickly as two inches (5 cm) an hour! And each string

may contain up to a million eggs! Since the oceans are not overflowing with sea hares, we can conclude that the eggs’ defenses are not as effective as those of adult sea hares.

Probably a good thing.

Scarr’s accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don’s Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award (“the Emmy of the diving world”) in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.

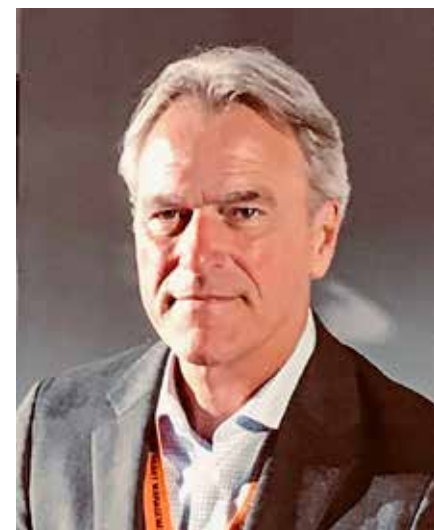


## Weero Koster Joins Reef Renewal Bonaire Board of Directors

Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) has announced that Weero Koster is joining their Board of Directors. Koster has 25 years of international experience in energy, climate and environmental law. He has served as a partner at Norton Rose Fulbright and as an advisor to both the Dutch Ministry of Climate and Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire. His expertise in ESG, nature protection and supply chain decarbonization aligns with RRFB’s mission to scale science-based reef restoration and enhance long term ecosystem resilience.

Koster said, “I’m honored to join the board of Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire whose pioneering work in coral reef restoration has long inspired me.”

Having lived on Bonaire and dived its reefs for over two decades, Koster brings both his professional expertise and personal passion for reef protection.



Weero Koster

REEF RENEWAL press 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](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

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

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

**Library:** Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. 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](http://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/terrarmuseumbonaire/>

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

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

April 17 - May 10	<b>Janny Stoker Art Expo</b> at Sobremesa, Abraham Blvd. Tu-F 2 to 5; Sat. 11-2.
Friday, May 2 Saturday, May 3	<b>Get your gear for the Walk-a-Thon</b> 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. For more information visit <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsBonaire">Special Olympics Bonaire</a> on Facebook.
Sunday, May 4	<b>Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-a-Thon</b> The 30 kilometer journey begins at White Slave and finishes in Rincon. Transportation is available from the Kralendijk 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.
Monday, May 5	<b>Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.</b> The only Manta presentation in May will be at Dive Friend Hamlet Oasis.
Saturday, May 10	<b>Mother's Day Concert</b> Enjoy romantic, classical and Flamenco sounds from many corners of the world. 7 p.m. at Corallium hotel. Tickets \$50 include glass of wine or soft drink. Tickets at Delmar bookstore, Lisa Convenience Store (cash).

## Finding Bonaire's artists



During the Kanto Krioyo Festival, April 9 – 12, the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) began its registration campaign “Kultura ta mi.” The goal is to register all artists, cultural makers and creatives on Bonaire and make them visible in a central cultural database.

The campaign was received enthusiastically. Where the original target was 50 registrations, more than 40 people were registered during the first two days of the festival – and that number continued to rise. The reactions from the community were positive: many artists indicated that they needed more cooperation, professional guidance and activities such as workshops and jam sessions.

For more information or to register as a cultural maker, call +5997175330 or +5997965677 or email [segni.bernardina@bonairegov.com](mailto:segni.bernardina@bonairegov.com).

# Events, Meetings, Sports

**12 steps meeting:** Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Salifia, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

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

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



**Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** • The only presentation in May will be May 5th at Dive Friend Hamlet Oasis. We will return in June. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org) ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)



**Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: [info@reefrenewalbonaire.org](mailto: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/> **2025 sea turtle nesting season** May to December. You can join a nest monitoring patrol on Klein Bonaire. M, W or F. \$40 donation for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (and residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

## Coming Up

May 16 - May 17	<b>PWA World Cup for youth windsurfers on Bonaire.</b> Afterwards the young windsurfers can fly to their sister island, Aruba, to compete in the <b>Aruba Hi-Winds 2025</b> , May 28 - June 2
May 22 - May 25	<b>Bon Doet organizes two days of volunteer help</b> for Bonaire's foundations and associations. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/bonairedoet/">https://www.facebook.com/bonairedoet/</a>
May 29	<b>Ascension Day.</b> A legal holiday. Much is closed.
May 29 - June 12	<b>Bonaire Culinaire Spring Edition.</b> Use this 15-day event to discover the wide variety of restaurants Bonaire has to offer. Bonaire's culinary hotspots create a 3-course menu for a reduced price. <a href="https://bonaire-culinaire.com">https://bonaire-culinaire.com</a>
May through July Wed. June 25	<b>100 days of Captain Don.</b> Captain Don's Habitat diving resort will celebrate with lectures, presentations, parties, raffles, music and great photo opps. The grand event on Don's birthday, June 25, will be like the old days with a free rum punch party, music and snacks.
June 15 - 22	<b>Pride Bonaire</b> Events will include a film, pub quiz, Latin night Pink Edition at Cuba Companie and a great closing party at Tera Kora Ranch. See pg 17.

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# Take the survey about Fontein

Plantage Fontein is one of the few places on Bonaire where fresh water naturally runs freely and most anything will grow. The plantation is rich in history and culture, lush in greenery and unlike any other place on the island.

Owned by a family in Aruba for many years, Fontein was closed to the public until recently.

In 2023 the Bonaire government was able to reclaim the beautiful and unusual property. With the announcement, OLB (local government), STINAPA, SKAL

(art and culture) and Tourism Corporation Bonaire suggested tentative ideas and plans for Fontein to be used for agriculture, a cultural tour site. They also talked of revitalizing the freshwater swimming pool for the public.

Now the OLB wants your opinion of the perfect plan for this unique area on Bonaire.

To learn more about Fontein watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk365oJr3NE>



Take the survey at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMk\\_NaVpa2\\_2CpQmoOMEzhijESE4QTXjdYa3S9KXtBPmYy6A/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMk_NaVpa2_2CpQmoOMEzhijESE4QTXjdYa3S9KXtBPmYy6A/viewform?usp=header)



Organized by Fundashon EQ Bonaire, the third Pride Bonaire week will be held June 15 – 22. The idea is to provide an opportunity for fun gatherings for everyone and educate everyone of Bonaire about the LGBTQI+ community. To do this, Pride Week will include activities where Diversity, Inclusion and Discrimination are central. The organizers are striving to ensure every one of every age group in the community feels welcome.

Each year EQ creates a slogan for

Pride Week. The first year was “Nos t’ei” (We Are), second year was “Huntu” (Together) and for 2025 it will be “Amor” (Love) because love for each other, our fellow humans is now more important than ever.

So far, the schedule includes a film, pub quiz, Latin Night Pink Edition at Cuba Companie and a great closing party on June 21 at Tera Kora Ranch with various international artists and amazing DJs.

Funding and support for the event is still needed and you could help. This could be as simple as creating a Pride themed window at your business or taking it a step further with a financial donation. Contact EQ Bonaire:

Facebook: EQ Bonaire  
Instagram: @pridebonaire  
Email: [Info@pridebonaire.com](mailto:Info@pridebonaire.com)

## Boaters warned

Some operators of boats and water scooters have reportedly been operating their vessels unsafely in waters popular with the divers, snorkelers and beach visitors to Bonaire. The locations named have included Klein Bonaire, Te Amo Beach, Donkey Beach, the Harbor area, Cha Cha Cha Beach, Spice Beach and surrounding areas.

The Multidisciplinary Maritime Hub

Bonaire (MMHB) have reminded boaters of the relevant regulations. The maximum sailing speed for all vessels in the Bonaire National Marine Park is 10 km per hour / 5.4 knots. The Bonaire National Marine Park extends from the high water mark to 60 meters of water depth and 75 meters from the coast. Also, boat owners are required to have a valid registration and sailing permit with them at all times. *DMR*



### You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/</a>
Sunday, May <b>11</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>
Friday, May <b>16</b>	<b>STCB fishing line clean up for Bon Doet</b> Email <a href="mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.org">cepa@bonaireturtles.org</a> .
Next quarterly clean up in July	<b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.</b> 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. <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a>

## Church Services

### Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon–6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur 7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: 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
Fri. May 2	0800-1800	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Wed. May 7	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. May 14	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. May 15	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Mon. May 19	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Tues. May 20	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Wed. May 28	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
	0700-2200	LOGOS HOPE 1050 guests	North

*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](mailto:sobremesabonaire@gmail.com)



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# 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](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)



## Harvey

Hello, my name is Harvey.

I am a 2 and a half year old boy that has spent the majoritof my life at Animal Shelter Bonaire, 2 years and 3 months to be precise. I am a little shy, but I do

love cuddles and attention. I would need a little time to adjust to small humans, but once I know them I will treat them like my own. I am a tabby with a white bib and I have beautiful green eyes. Although I am pretty content here, and I like all my cat friends but I would really like to find a home that I can call my own. I am happy to share with other cats. Will you give me a chance?

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

### Meet Yodi

Yodi is a sweet little 10-year-old dog. When she first came to us, she needed some time to come out of her shell, but with patience and love, she's really blossoming.

She enjoys being picked up and cuddled—but only when she's in the mood. Yodi also appreciates her independence and likes to quietly do her own thing. She is good with other small dogs and puppies.

Lately, she's been showing more trust in people and is learning to enjoy affection more and more.



## Yodi

We're looking for a warm, loving home where Yodi can continue to grow and feel safe. Could you be the one to give this little lady the cozy life she deserves?

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

## Animal Shelter News

### The Importance of Proper Coat Care for Dogs



At Animal Shelter Bonaire, we often receive dogs in poor condition with severely matted coats and nails that haven't been trimmed in far too long.

Just this past week, we welcomed a few such cases.

Fortunately, local groomer Agnes van Geffen kindly offered her time and skills, giving them a much-needed makeover—free of charge!

Thanks to her generosity, these lovely dogs are now clean, comfortable, and more than ready to find their forever homes.

(Photos show before & after grooming.)

Regular grooming is essential for a dog's health and comfort—especially for small, long-haired breeds like



Maltese, Shih Tzu, Maltipoo et cetera. Ideally, long haired dogs should visit a grooming salon at least every 10 weeks to prevent painful matting and overgrown nails.

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

*This little cutie has been adopted.  
"Sunshine" is now busy exploring his new home.*

## The Food Bank has a new website

We are proud to announce the launch of our brand new website. The Bonaire Food Bank Foundation has created a fresh, clear and user-friendly online place where you can find everything about who we are, what we do and - ??especially?? - how you can help.

What you can expect on the new site:

- Information on our mission and methods of work
- How to donate easily
- News and updates on actions and projects
- Ways to contribute yourself, as a volunteer or sponsor



We believe that open and transparent communication contributes to our common goal of preventing food shortages and supporting the most vulnerable on Bonaire.

[www.voedselbankbonaire.org](http://www.voedselbankbonaire.org)

Take a look, share it with others and help make a difference!

Together, we can make Bonaire stronger.  
Stichting Voedselbank Bonaire





### No Easter eggs were found in the Easter Sunday, April 20 STCB underwater cleanup.

But the 28 volunteers did recover a full tub of fishing line, 11 hats, two pairs of sunglasses and other miscellaneous refuse. STCB's (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) goal is not to collect trash but fishing line as it can be death if a sea turtle, lobster, eel becomes hooked or tangled in the fishing line. Please join us on the dive to help cleanup the line – you never know what you will see. The next STCB cleanup will be on May 16 for Bon Doet.. Photo Julie Morgan

### Dive Friends divers clean up under the town pier

Dive Friend's second quarterly cleanup for 2025 was held April 26 at Bonaire's North Pier (Town Pier). The 50 participants gathered approximately 377 pieces of trash and two tires weighing 150 kg (331 lbs).

Here is how it all broke down with plastic being the clear winner: 175 pieces of plastic, 53 pieces of glass, 52 pieces of cloth, 53 pieces of metal, 7 pieces of rubber, 26 pieces of wood and 11 pieces mixed materials.



**From May 1 to October 31, it is prohibited by law to catch lobsters in the waters surrounding Bonaire, Klein Bonaire and Lac.**

This seasonal closing of the lobster period is in place to protect lobsters during their breeding period. Lobsters reproduce in the summer when the ocean temperatures are warm. Female lobsters are capable of laying hundreds of thousands of eggs, twice during their reproductive season. By giving lobsters the chance to reproduce undisturbed, we help maintain a healthy and sustainable population for the future. This is the reason why lobsters are categorized as protected species during this season.

Please do not catch, buy, serve or eat lobster from Bonaire during this season.

*This regulation is based on Artikel 11 van het Eilandsbesluit onderwaterpark Bonaire, which can be found here:*

<https://lokaleregelgeving.overheid.nl/CVDR696068/1>

As usual Dive Friends hosted their quarterly BBQ / Potluck in the evening which is always a fun get together with fellow volunteer divers. Plus, the raffle includes some great prizes. The next quarterly cleanup is set for April 26. Visit Dive Friends on Facebook for more information. *J.M.*



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