



# BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Photo Julie Morgan

## Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon 2025

Due to the month-long Dia di Rincon celebration, Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon was held just a bit later than usual on May 4. This was the 22nd Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon and it did not disappoint.

The 30 k (18.64 m) walk and 31 k (19.26 m) bike from White Slave dive site to the San L. Beltran Church in Rincon is the primary fundraiser for Bonaire's Special Olympics athletes.

Special Olympics swimmer Lucille Pikerie is primarily responsible for the beginning of Bonaire's Walk-a-Thon. In 1995 Bonaire competed in the Special Olympics World Games. Held in Connecticut, Pikerie was one of four Bonaire swimmers to compete.

Swim coach and National Director for Special Olympics Bonaire at the time, Ria Dokter remembered, "Lucille told me, 'We need money to go; we have to do a Walk-a-Thon'."

Dokter who attended that first World competition with the team didn't know what a Walk-a-Thon was. But a few years later in 2002 the first fundraising Walk-a-Thon began with the help of former Bonaire resident Elizabeth Whitney.

Now 22 years later, the Walk-a-Thon has become a yearly event, ex-

cept for the Covid years, and the turnout in support of the Bonaire's Special Olympics athletes never falters.

The Special Olympics National Director Anne-marie Mercera revealed that 899 tickets were sold at \$20 each, but not everyone chose to lace up their running shoes or climb on their bike. Some 475 people did walk and 50 biked even though the heat

was a bit of a challenge.

Luckily the volunteers were out in force manning the many water sites keeping everyone smiling, providing water, fruit, lollypops and at the Karpata station hot dogs and homemade fish soup were available. The Red Cross and a special van were cruising the route to give anyone a lift who needed a break before reaching the final destination in Rincon. On

check-in at the church, the walkers and riders received a certificate of completion and a homemade breakfast and drinks.

Bonaire Special Olympics began in the 70's and has competed in the World competitions in 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2019 and 2023. The next World Games will be held in Santiago, Chile in 2027.

Walk-a-Thon t-shirts were provided this year by Indebon/OLB (local government). The bags were donated by Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire. Other sponsors were Best Brands, Napa Autoparts, Multipost, Budget Car Rental, Silvan/Gerald Silberie, Rocargo, FKPD, ZW Groep, Jong Bonaire, Marketeers, Punta Blanku, Van der Tweel and Mac Enterprises. Monetary sponsors were: Playa Trading, KFC, WEB Bonaire, Maduro & Curiel Bank, Bonaire Lions Club, Flamingo TV, Fundashon Wega di Number and Cecilia Motors.

According to Special Olympics Board Chairman Rolanda Helburg-Makaai and National Director Anne-marie Mercera, the 2026 Walk-a-Thon is already scheduled for March.

Thanks to the Walk-a-Thon fundraiser, Bonaire's 30 Special Olympics athletes and 10 coaches will compete in the Dutch Caribbean Kingdom Games in Curaçao in November 2025.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan

Look for more photos of the 2025 Walk-a-Thon on [The Reporter's Facebook page](#).





## Lagun frustrations may be approaching critical mass

“We are taking matters firmly into our own hands,” the Executive Council declared in a post regarding the Lagun Landfill crisis that appeared briefly on the OLB website. Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond responded in a long letter addressed to the Public Body Bonaire (OLB): “the Executive Council has taken nothing in hand and has committed to nothing.” For almost 100 people who attended a town hall meeting May 2, the main topic was waste management. Pro Lagun, a group representing the people living near the landfill, is circulating a petition. “Enough is enough,” the petition says. “Our health and the environment must be protected.”

The Pro Lagun petition voiced desperation. “We call on the Board of Directors of Bonaire, Selibon N.V., and the responsible authorities in the Netherlands to take immediate action ... to stop pollution, completely extinguish underground fires and prevent recurrence in the future.” The group said their next recourse might be the ombudsman, or perhaps legal action.

Helmond’s strongly worded letter and a follow up press release accused the Executive Council of “neglect of duties.”

## Fishermen say marine slipways are becoming unusable

Piskabon, the Fishermen’s association, is organizing stakeholders in the local fishing community, recreational boaters, and marine users to raise support for upgrading the island’s slipways where boats are launched and recovered. A meeting is scheduled for May 14 and a petition is being circulated. *DMR*

## Search is on for Caribbean scientists

Local researchers Renske Pin and Steffen van Heijningen have posted a short online survey intended to find scientists with island roots who could fill research positions in the Caribbean countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The initiative is aimed at anyone with a link to one of the six Caribbean islands within the Kingdom – Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and Saba (the so-called ABCSSS islands) – who is active in science or research.

These can be researchers who work on the islands themselves, or members of the diaspora who use their knowledge from abroad. Many Caribbean students study abroad and build an academic career there. Some return, others remain involved from a distance. Those who fill out the survey can also indicate whether they are open to future collaboration or involvement in projects on or with the islands. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Find the questionnaire at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZWT8FP>

## Bonaire Court of Audit investigates social housing shortage

The Bonaire Court of Audit is investigating the role of the public body in the shortage of affordable housing. It is collaborating with the Netherlands General Audit Office which is investigating the role of the Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning in the shortage. The Bonaire Housing Agreement, which targeted 500 new social rental homes to be built by the end of 2025, was signed in 2019. In 2023 only 562 social housing units were available, but 1,764 applicants were waiting for housing. And the shortfall has grown since.

The local Audit Office has sufficient funding for only two investigations a year. Last year, the office issued a critical report on the OLB’s purchasing policy, but the Island Council did nothing with it. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

Helmond said the Executive’s announced plan is “insufficiently concrete,” “not realistic,” “legally unfeasible.” “The project structure to address the situation is still largely unstaffed, and the plan fails to provide clarity on required capacity, mandates and budgets. It also lacks a detailed schedule with start and end dates, risk analysis or a strategy for stakeholder communication.” Helmond says the administrative action would resume if the Executive Council did not submit a feasible plan by June 6. He will again take charge of the landfill problems.

At the townhall meeting Bart Rutten, program manager of Afvalbeheer op Maat Bonaire (Tailormade Waste Management) said that “many initiatives had been discussed. It remained unclear when and how the plans will actually be implemented.” Nicolette Verduin, Director of Public Health (GGD), said a recent survey of residents revealed that a majority is concerned about their health because of the situation around the landfill.

During the town hall meeting Provincial Executive Clark Abraham asked Bonaireans for their trust and patience and assured them, “We are committed to solutions.” *DMR*

## Szabó wants time to rewrite growth report

The state Commission for Demographic Developments in the Caribbean Netherlands 2050 has released its “Targeted Growth” report. Apparently the Commission and the State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Zsolt Szabó differ in their visions of how the growth of the CN should be managed over the next five years.

In March 2025, the Standing Committee on Kingdom Relations instructed Szabó “to explicitly indicate the Cabinet’s response to the report Targeted Growth of the State Commission.” In a letter to the House, Szabó’s explicit response is that the report is not yet ready for the Kingdom Relations Committee’s perusal. He says he is still negotiating with the Executive Councils of all three islands to create “a long-term vision up to 2050, in which the priorities of the State Secretary on the themes of economic development, good governance and solid finances are included.” He says he “expects” to share his version of the report with the House and with the Kingdom Relations Committee after the summer. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

## CAS aid cut by Trump government

The Trump government’s shut down of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has terminated funding in countries around the world, including Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. When Member of Parliament Raoul White (GroenLinks-PvdA) in a written question asked State Secretary Zsolt Szabó whether the Dutch government considers it self responsible for compensating CAS for the loss of this financial support, Szabó said no. BES has not been receiving USAID funding, as far as anyone knows. *DMR*

## The Hague corrects slip of the tongue

The Government Information Service published the agenda of Prime Minister Dick Schoof’s May “international working visit” to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The Information Service issued a correction, presumably when someone pointed out that a trip to BES from the European Netherlands is not international. The prime minister will fly 7000 kilometers. But his plane will take off in the Netherlands and will land in the Netherlands. *DMR*

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# KPCN Open Day

If you've ever wondered what Bonaire's local police department (KPCN – Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland) actually does, a visit to Open Day on May 10 would have supplied the answers. KPCN organized this day as a type of job fair, and while the focus was on recruitment, it was a great way to see how they actually work.

The parking lot was organized with tables from the different departments. The employees answered questions and handed out literature. Police demos were held to see the officers in action. Guests could even inspect the inside of the on-duty vehicles.

KPCN is the law enforcement agency of the Caribbean Netherlands, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. Some 240 employees serve under that umbrella but only a select few are actual police officers.

**KPCN is made up several departments with several divisions: Basic Police Care, Information and Intelligence and Operational Support**



**Bike team officers fend off a knife wielding criminal and then arrest him in a demo.**

Photo Julie Morgan.

**Under these departments are:**

- **Basic Police** or police on the street, bike team, traffic, HR and special training, arrest team and barrio police.

- **Information and intelligence** – Investigation, cybercrime, vice, child crime, forensics, stats and data, detectives, inspections of illegals and deportation. They investigate all types of cases from theft to drugs.

- **Information and Operational Support** include the dispatch department which employs 30 people. They are on the job 24/7 answering both 911(in-

ternational) and 112 (Dutch) emergency calls for St Eustatius, Bonaire and Saba. Their responsibility is to deploy help for the fire department, police, ambulance and sometimes KMAR (defense). They dispatch officers via the most efficient route in regard to traffic.

The KPCN presented several scenarios of police work. The first demonstration showed how the

**KPCN - Open Day to page 10**

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# POLICE REPORT

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

## Property crimes

**KPCN is looking for owners of stolen tools** (See images on page 17 of our online issue: <https://bonairereporter.com> )

**May 7.** The left wing mirror was stolen from a Toyota Vitz that was parked at an apartment complex on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid.

**May 6.** Around 3:45 p.m. an armed robbery took place at the post office. The masked suspects then fled in a white Mitsubishi pick-up that police found and seized near Yato Bako. The Coast Guard helicopter helped in the search but the suspects have not yet been found. KPCN requests anyone who has information to contact the police.

**May 5.** An orange Atika Profi concrete mixer was stolen from a company on Kaya Nikita. The barbed wire was cut and a padlock destroyed to gain access to the grounds.

**May 3.** A white freezer with various meats and two transformers was stolen from a sales tent on Kaya Leocadio M. Pourier during the night.

## Fatbike thefts

**May 3-4.** Three black bicycles (fatbikes) were stolen. One fatbike was parked with a chain lock at a catering establishment on Kaminda Lac. Two fatbikes were stolen from a scooter parking lot at an apartment complex on Kaya Sabana; one was stolen on Saturday and one on Sunday.

**May 3.** Two black fatbikes that were stolen from the Playa center area were found by the police after a search. These were confiscated for further investigation.

## Arrests

**May 8.** Around 11a.m. a man, 20, was arrested near Fort Oranje on Plaza Reina Wilhelmina for insulting a civil servant on duty. He first insulted the police officer who spoke to him about driving a scooter without a license plate and helmet, then when he was spoken to about his behavior, he insulted the officer two more times. The suspect's scooter was also confiscated.

**May 4.** Around 1:35 a.m. a man, 36, was arrested on Kaya Korona for vandalism. During a fight at a catering establishment on Kaya Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez the suspect had been injured. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

## 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. 30 to May 9** five people, two men and three women, were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. One driver was driving a scooter. One driver was arrested on Dia di Rincon.

Police banned three of the drivers from driving: one for 3-hours, one for 4-hours, and one for 6-hours. Two drivers' licenses were confiscated.

One driver had been stopped for a routine check. Three drivers had driven off the road: one car crashed into a fence, one ended up in a ditch, and one in the mundi. The scooter driver collided with a motorcycle on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot.

## Traffic accidents

**May 6.** Around 10:50 a.m. a single-vehicle collision occurred on the E.E.G. Boulevard. Due to driving at high speed, the driver lost control, left the road and ended up in the bushes. As a result, he was unable to leave the vehicle independently. The police, fire brigade and ambulance went to the scene. The driver was checked by the ambulance personnel, but was unharmed. The driver did not have a valid driver's license.

**May 6.** Around 9:45 a.m. a car and a scooter collided at the roundabout on Kaya Internashonal. The driver of the scooter was injured and was treated on site by the ambulance personnel.

**May 6.** Around 7:45 a.m. Three cars collided in a chain on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The ambulance was sent to the scene to check one of the drivers.

**May 5.** Around 5:40 p.m. at the intersection of Kaya Aripuana and Kaya Coratijn an electric scooter with two minors on it did not give way to a passenger bus, causing a collision. One of the minors was injured and was treated by the ambulance staff.

**May 5.** Around 2:45 p.m. a golf cart overturned at the look-out point in Gotomeer. Two victims, including an injured minor, were taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

**May 4.** Around 6:35 p.m. on Kaminda Lagun a car crashed into an electricity box on the side of the road and came to a stop a short distance away. The passenger was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**May 2.** Around 4:10 p.m. at the intersection of Kaya Liberta-

dor Simon Bolivar/Kaya Hermandad and Kaya General C.M. Piar two scooters collided. One of the drivers was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

## Traffic violations

**May 8.** During a traffic check on Kaya Industria 25 cars, 1 scooter and 1 motorcycle were checked and seven fines were issued. The fines were for driving without: 4x a valid driver's license; 2x valid insurance; and 1x for a helmet.

**From April 29 to May 9** police fined drivers for: riding a scooter without a license plate and without a helmet, driving a car without a valid driver's license, and driving a motorcycle without a license plate and with a worn tire.

## Fire

**May 7.** Around 7:40 p.m. a car was reported on fire at the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko Noord and Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. The fire brigade extinguished the fire that damaged the front of the car. The cause of the fire is still unknown. No one was injured.

## Shooting

**Apr. 30.** Around 8 a.m. a shooting was reported at a house on Kaya Den Haag. During the night, the residents heard shots and in the morning they saw that a firearm was being fired in the direction of the house. There were no injuries. A car with bullet perforations was seized on the spot. The investigation into the case is ongoing.

## Dia di Rincon.

The morning and afternoon were quiet. However, police had to ask many drivers to remove their vehicles parked behind barricades that blocked access by emergency services. During the day the Red Cross and the ambulance were called for number of people who became unwell.

Police checked the drivers in the 'simadan' parades. All drivers' licenses were in order and all drivers successfully passed the breath test for alcohol consumption.

During the night several fights were reported. Around 9:45 p.m. a woman hit with a glass bottle needed medical treatment from ambulance personnel. Around 11:50 p.m. two men, aged 23 and 25 were arrested after a fight at a catering establishment. Around midnight, a conflict at Kaya Commerce escalated into a fight and two men aged 24 and 42 were arrested.

## Bonaire's Dynamites Undeclared



Bonaire's Dynamite team proved to be as explosive as their name in the Copa ABC softball tournament at Aruba's Madushi Stars Field April 24 – 27. The modified slow-pitch softball team under the coaching expertise of Carlos Santiago blasted one team from Curaçao and three from Aruba. The Dynamite went into the final game undefeated against the host Sweet Devils coming out on top with a score of 3-2.

Standing L-R: Dyshemar, JP, Thammy, Vyrviene, Marjolene, Adina, Michenou, Genevieve, Genesis, Judeline, Ainsley, Raysa, Shuba  
Seated L-R: Carlos, Julissa, Pierina, Philny-Dayenne, Leentje, Aquina



# 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.*

## Special Municipalities?

Dear Editor,

It is now fifteen years ago since the parliamentary treatment of the ‘Wet Openbare Lichamen [Public Entities Act] Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba’ (WOLBES) was completed. But it almost didn’t get that far. The Tweede Kamer [Second Chamber] doubted whether the democratic content of the form of government presented in the law was sufficient.

However, that problem was circumvented in the decision-making process by calling the Openbare Lichamen “bijzondere gemeenten” [by calling the Public Bodies “special municipalities”]. But without defining this con-

cept in the law or in the explanatory memorandum, and without improving the law in any way.

After being invented, the empty phrase “bijzondere gemeente” [“special municipalities”] has continued to lead a life of his own. Politicians, journalists and civil servants chose this term en masse when they meant the Openbare Lichamen [Public Bodies]. To this day. But isn’t it high time to finally include this concept in the law and elaborate on it?

With kind regards, *Gerrit van der Meij, retired senior civil servant, Den Haag*

## May 4, 2025. Remembrance Ceremony Speech by Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond

Less than a kilometre from here, people were imprisoned during the war, in camp Playa Pariba. It was a colourful collection of prisoners: Dutch members of the NSB, German, Austrian and Italian residents of Aruba and Curaçao, German sailors, but also communists. And people who took action against the colonial power from the Netherlands. Even Jewish refugees were housed there. All together, in one camp. A small melting pot.

What must it have been like for the rest of Bonaire? Every time I am there, I ask myself this. There is nothing left to see of the camp. The wood from the barracks was used to build the beach hotel on the same spot. In the meantime, it has grown into the Divi (Flamingo) hotel. A place where diving tourists and other sun seekers enjoy their breakfast, the swimming pool or the view over the sea. It is now a symbol of freedom, while Playa Pariba was a symbol of unfreedom, in an unsafe world.

A lot has changed in 80 years, also for Bonaire. You can see that everywhere on our island. That small island community of 6,000 people has grown into a melting pot of 25,000 Bonaireans from all backgrounds. People who were born and raised here, just like their ancestors. But also people for whom Bonaire became a dear home later in life. People like me.

But no matter where your cradle stood, we all have something in common. Each of us wants to live in peace and security. And many of us are watching with suspicion what is happening in the world now. Just like 80 years ago, you can have the feeling that the world is on fire. You can feel insecure and unsafe. I know for sure that none of us longs for a world of war and conflict. On our beloved Bonaire, too, we want to live together in peace and harmony.

We will have to do something about that ourselves. How can we guarantee peace, freedom and safety on Bonaire? I believe that it all starts with ourselves. The way we treat our neighbors, colleagues and acquaintances. Wherever they were born: on Bonaire, in the Netherlands, in Venezuela or somewhere else. Whatever their skin color. Whatever their mother tongue. Whatever their faith or belief. And: whoever they love.

Peace, freedom and safety start with an open attitude towards all others around you. An open attitude, because the other person is allowed to be there. Because he or she has just as much right to a place under the sun. And just as much right to be seen and heard. To live and love on Bonaire. And I say that explicitly here on this square, because not so long ago, completely different words



were also heard in this place. Words that did violence to the freedom of fellow Bonaireans.

So it is not always easy. Where people differ from each other, there can also be major clashes. And so we will have to continue to make an effort to understand and empathize with each other. Try harder to find understanding for someone else’s pain or desire. But, I must honestly say, I sometimes find that difficult myself. When I am in the Netherlands, I notice that I am seen as someone ‘from the islands’. While here I am often seen as ‘one of them’, from the Netherlands.

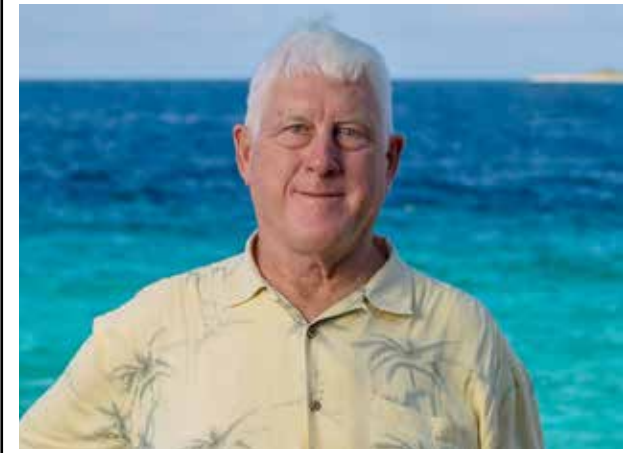
I understand that all too well. But at the same time it sometimes makes me feel a bit displaced. And I believe that more people will recognize that feeling. That is precisely why it is important that we continue to recognize the most important thing in each other: that we are all human. And if we realize that, we must also do our best every day to understand each other well. And that is not always easy either, because we have different (mother) languages. Many of us speak either Papiamentu or Dutch. Two languages that are spoken by only a few people worldwide. And more and more fellow Bonaireans speak English or Spanish. Two world languages. So – in a world that is changing rapidly – it may be important to give English and Spanish more space.

But whoever we are, we share the same deep love for this island. This island has grown and changed since World War II. All of Bonaire is now a special melting pot of beautiful and different people. But no matter how different we are, we are all people who can and may learn from each other. We all want our beloved Bonaire to remain an island of peace and freedom.

I am reminded of a poem by the famous Persian poet Rumi. It is called ‘*The Inn*’ and goes as follows:

## Ask Bob

*Bonaire real estate advice*



**Hi Bob -  
Someone told me that I need a letter from the government in order to sell my property on Bonaire, is that true?**  
**Frank M.**

Hi Frank, that’s a good question. It is true that you need a letter from the government to sell your house, but ONLY if you are selling a property (home, apartment or building) that is located on LEASED land (erfpacht). If your home is on owned ground (eigendom) it is not necessary. This rule exists because it is not allowed to sell vacant leased land. You are allowed to sell your property on leased land if there is a building on it that is wind and water tight. What you need to do is send a letter to the DRO asking for permission to sell your property. If you are listing your property with us, we take care of this process for you. Once the DRO receives your letter they visit the property to make sure there is a wind and watertight building on the property. If there is a building there, they will send you back a letter granting permission to sell your property. You will need to provide this letter to the Notaris so that he can transfer the deed if you are selling your property. 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**

*This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.*

*A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.*

*Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.*

*The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.*

*Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.*

By embracing even discomfort, we can live together in harmony each day. I truly believe that we can make this ideal a reality.

Together, and in freedom!

*Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond*



# Pope Leo XIV



On May 8, the second day of the conclave at the Sistine Chapel in Rome, 133 cardinals voted Robert Francis Prevost as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Born in Chicago, Illinois Prevost is the first American pope. He chose the name of Pope Leo XIV.

In his first address as pope to a crowd in St. Peter's Square he said in Italian and Spanish, not English, "We must seek together how to be a missionary church, a church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to receive, like this square with open arms."

As an American, he is positioned to stand in contrast to the energized conservative Catholicism of the U.S. and has pushed back against the militant vision of Christian power of the Trump administration. Months ago, he expressed criticism of Vice President JD Vance's remarks that Christian theology could justify turning away migrants and strangers in need because it actually ranks caring for family first. A Cardinal at the time, Prevost said in his social media account, "J.D. Vance is wrong: Jesus doesn't ask us to rank our love for others."

Pope Leo XIV is 69-years-old and the Vatican views him not as the first pope from the United States but the second pope from the Americas. He served two decades in Peru where he became a bishop and a naturalized citizen.

Pope Leo XIV has spent much of his life outside of the United States and speaks five languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. He can also read Latin and German. (*New York Times excerpts*)

# Pets as Family

Most everyone you know has a story about their cat, dog, bird, horse, fish, well, you get the idea. We call them our pets and anyone who has one or more knows they take care of us as much as we do them. They are funny and cute and our phones are full of hundreds of images of the critters that we will gladly share with anyone even if they aren't interested. But *The Reporter* is interested.

We're starting a new feature *Pets as Family* and this is your opportunity to share a story, an incident and a photo or two about your favorite or not so favorite pet with the readers of *The Reporter*. Check your memory banks and photo collection and send us something that you have been talking about for years. To start things off, our sometimes contributor Virginia Knight sent this story about Artie the Dog.

## Artie the Dog

Somewhere in *The Bonaire Reporter* archives is the first story of Artie the dog. Artie was a plain, black, starving Bonaire street dog with a broken rib (probably from someone kicking him or hitting him with a broom or both). That story focused on Artie who changed his entire life by wandering into the Sand Dollar complex and was fed by multiple owners. One owner in particular, Cindy Eskwith fell in love with him. Cindy unfortunately had terminal breast cancer and like Artie, a broken rib. The last thing her husband wanted was to adopt this smelly dog with diarrhea but love prevailed. Artie's reign of terror began.

Probably one of the worst dogs ever to walk the earth, Artie destroyed everything. Seemingly motivated by a strong desire to return to the freedom of Bonaire street dog life he barked when left alone, shredded entire porch screens (twice) and bolted out any doors not totally secured. He ran away when called for the following seven years of his life. Running like a wild animal even if you were his master and even if you had a huge steak with which to lure him. He'd get within one foot of you while you hopefully offered him a steak then turn and bolt. He caused near traffic collisions on Bonaire and elsewhere, jumped in mud then onto a white bed rubbing all over to

dry off. One person remembered finally catching him, grabbing him into his arms whereupon he promptly pissed all over that person.

He flew in airplanes (lying in the cabin aisle usually) from Bonaire to Colorado, Montana, Florida. He was a nonstop shedder and nose drooler. Once he swallowed an entire bird, wings, beak and all while being told to drop it. In short he had more fun than any dog I've ever known. He loved baking in the hottest sun imaginable with that black coat.

Why would anyone keep such a creature? He was beside Cindy when she died, beside anyone who he loved who was under the weather. He could do a headstand against a wall just to make you laugh. He always hated brooms and feet.

Artie lived for 14+ years. People on Bonaire always ask me about Artie and will be sad to learn this dog, who perhaps epitomizes some wild defiant streak in all of us has passed on.

*Ginny Knight,*



Sargassum is still rolling in. Join this whatsapp chat to help.  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CYdCmF6yTc08cWuHBGAFRM>



An advertisement for Buena Vista Optics featuring a close-up of a person's face wearing large, dark sunglasses. The text "Buena vista" is written in large, bold, pink letters. Below it, in smaller black text, is "Perfect Service and Quality - Our Passion!". Further down, it lists "Experienced Staff - Eye Exams on Site - Insurance Accepted-Advanced Equipment", "Lens Fabrication - Over 1000 different frames and sunglasses", "Ray Ban, Oakley, Maui Jim and more", and "Mon-Fri 9-12 / 2-6". At the bottom, it says "Kaya Grandi 36 Optics Tel: +599-7179181".



# Concerned parents seek clarity and solutions for Bonaire's growing school challenges

A group of concerned parents on Bonaire is meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) to raise pressing questions about the future of education on the island. As Bonaire's population grows, families are increasingly concerned that the island's school system is not expanding quickly enough to meet rising demand.

The parents have outlined two key areas for discussion:

## 1. A Clear Plan for School Capacity

The group is calling for greater transparency and a concrete plan from the local government to ensure that every child on the island has access to a place in school. While funding from the Dutch Government has reportedly been allocated for new school buildings and the expansion of existing ones, progress has been slow. Rising construction costs on the island have posed significant challenges to the implementation of these projects.

The parents recognize the complexity of the issue but emphasize the need for a well-thought-out and realistic approach. Education is a fundamental right, and families are urging the government to communicate how and when these much-needed learning spaces will be delivered.

They hope that the meeting with OCW will provide clearer insight into how available resources will be used, and what concrete steps will be taken to resolve the capacity issues in the near future.

## 2. School Assignments Based on Neighborhoods

The second concern relates to how students are currently assigned to schools. Currently, placements are determined by a lottery system. As a result, children from the same neighborhood often end up at different schools across the island. This not only creates longer travel times and contributes to traffic congestion but also makes it harder to create a sense of community among families.

Parents are therefore asking the government to explore a system in which school assignments are primarily based on residential location. Under this model, preference would be given to families living closest to a school. Families would still have the option to apply for schools outside of their neighborhood, but priority would be given to those within the school's neighboring areas.

Such a shift, they argue, would support stronger community ties and promote a more efficient and practical school commute for families.

**The group of parents emphasizes that this initiative is not about placing blame but about working together toward constructive solutions.** They view the upcoming meeting as an opportunity to begin a meaningful dialogue, one that supports Bonaire's development while prioritizing the educational needs of its youngest citizens.

As the island continues to grow, they stress that now is the time for the education system to grow with it.

Jessica Johnson



The parent group has started a petition. You can find it at <https://chng.it/n6hKZLcNdj>

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## Climate Case plaintiffs confront Schoof at Bonaire's slave huts



Prime Minister Dick Schoof was met by plaintiffs in the Bonaire Climate Case during his introductory visit to Bonaire. During their visit to the white slave huts, they held a banner with the text 'Schoof, don't let our heritage disappear into the sea'.

The slave huts on the southern part of the island are important cultural-historical heritage. With this action, the plaintiffs draw attention to the climate case that they are pursuing together with Greenpeace Netherlands against the State and demand fair climate policy from the Prime Minister. The residents of Bonaire are in danger of losing this important tangible reminder of the painful slavery past due to rising sea levels as a result of the climate crisis.

David Martinus / Greenpeace.

Photo: Plaintiffs Danique Martis, Onnie Emerenciana, Jackie Bernabela with Prime Minister Schoof at the slave huts on Bonaire.

## de Vries 'hands over the key' at JICN



On May 5th, director Wibo de Vries symbolically handed over the key to the Caribbean Netherlands Judicial Institution (JICN) to his future successor Peter Hengeveld. The symbolic transfer marks the beginning of a transition period in which both directors will work together to ensure a smooth continuation of leadership and vision.

Hengeveld said, "Wibo has built something truly impressive. He not only led the organiza-

tion, but also laid a solid foundation on which I can proudly continue to build. I look forward to doing that together with the team, because I can't do it alone. It's the people who make the difference. Together, we will keep building a safe, just and humane institution. What Wibo started, we will continue. And together, we'll make it even better."

Photos via JICN



SACA Art Center opened a new exhibit of 33 paintings on May 10 by the artistic team of The Island Goats otherwise known as Dilon Rannou, Damon de Vries and Darwin Luna Colorado. This first show for the team was attended by a large crowd of local art enthusiasts.

The paintings are representations of life on Bonaire through the language of broad colorful elements in a kind of flowing entangled puzzle. Some are funny and full of sarcasm. A few of the works are collaborations between the artists.



#2 Boynayriano Flow, Dilon Rannou, acrylic/ oil Photo Julie Morgan

# Export the goats



(L-R) Damon de Vries, Dilon Rannou and Darwin Luna Colorado Photo Julie Morgan

Dilon Rannou said, “I want to be able to have a platform to help other creatives. People that are super talented.”

Rannou is responsible for bringing The Island Goats together and each artist expressed their gratitude for his inspiration.

As for Dilon’s own work, he said, “My work is Me on the canvas, it’s my spirit and form of meditation or therapy for me. I started painting in 2020 during the Corona period and started doing graffiti. I got in trouble with the police and moved onto canvas.”

Rather than finding a vision from other painters, Dilon is inspired by all types of music, listening to the vibe to inspire the colors of the painting.

Darwin Luna Colorado said of his work, “It’s Bonairean Color and freedom. It’s all things from my childhood, reflections of when I was young in school. I learned a lot about creating art in prison. There were several teachers that inspired me and I would give the prison experience a 4.8 out of 5 experience. And Dilon really inspired me too. The Goats, we even have a group tattoo, something we will carry for life.”

Damon de Vries said, “From a young age I was a sketch artist. Dilon encouraged me to start painting my past experiences with the colors of Bonaire. I have always been drawn to superstition combined with fantasy and realism. I love playing with colors, but I have struggled. Practice makes progress. I plan to represent Bonaire wherever I go.”



Photos:  
Above - #7 La punta vibra, Darwin Luna Colorado, acrylic Photo Julie Morgan

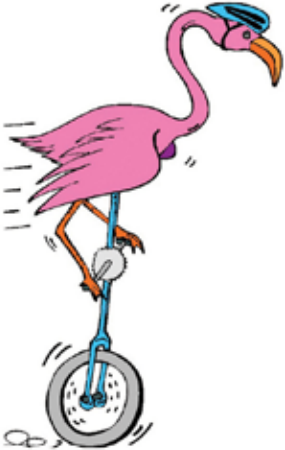
Below-First on the wall - Whichdoctor / Witchdoctor, Darwin Luna Colorado Photo Julie Morgan

Recently the Goats were discovered by Pavle Mihalic, creative film director and production designer for The Ninth Continent in the Netherlands. An exhibit at the Ninth Continent, featuring the work of The Island of Goats is scheduled for September 6.

The Island of Goats will be on exhibit at SACA till June 11.

Julie Morgan

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# KPCN Open Day

from page 3

bike police would apprehend a suspect who goes calmly versus another who resists. In another demonstration a police car with a fully clad SWAT team stopped a car and arrested the driver. And finally the onlookers were given an up-close look at the maritime boat and how police would resuscitate a collapsed individual. Guests were also given a view of the KPCN central control room. .

To work as a KPCN officer, an individual must be at least 17 years old, have an MBO degree, Dutch nationality and pass a fit or sport test (test available to view on YouTube. The KPCN course to become an officer takes two years. Accepted candidates will begin in February 2026. Candidates will be able to apply beginning May 14. For more information contact KPCN.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



A KPCN dispatcher for 14 years, Marionela Josephia provides information to an inspired youth.

## Make Bonaire Accessible

*Mother’s Day* by Ria Evers-Dokter

As I write this column, it is almost Mother’s Day. It is a day I really do not like very much. When I grew up there was always a big fuss about that particular day. I grew up in a home where there were three women and a man, Oma, Oma’s sister, Opa and my mom. We lived outside the village, not far from the beach during the summertime. After tourist season, we lived in the village. There were not many shops because we lived on a very small Dutch island.

And every year when Mother’s Day was coming, we would be preparing to go live outside the village again, almost in the dunes, close by the sea.

When I had to get dressed, there were three women fussing: Mom wanted me to wear a particular dress, Oma wanted me

to wear another and Oma’s sister had a clothing style in her mind for me. All three wanted me to look my best. Opa did not mind very much, he just loved me no matter what clothing I wore he was fine with it. Whatever I wore, he did not mind as long as everything fitted well and was clean.

I could feel my three mothers also wanted me to look my best. And when the choice was made, I always looked and felt like a princess.

The little shops in the village were just grocery stores or bakeries. There were no presents in the windows unless it was Christmas time.

At kindergarten we would craft things for Mom. And here I had a problem, be-

cause I had three women mothering over me, so who do I craft something for? I decided to lay the artwork somewhere where someone would eventually find it. Then I went outside and picked bunches of wild-flowers. One bunch for each of the ladies that brought me up and it made everyone happy.

When I grew up, I attended kindergarten teachers’ college and had to run internships where we would craft a lot for Mother’s Day. I always wanted to do my “flower thing,” but that was not allowed as it was very impractical.

In the big city, the windows of the shops were filled with so many presents for moms and so it was very hard to pick. Plus, I only had money for one present.

Then I got a job in Germany, in a huge mental hospital, in the children’s ward crowded with children with disabilities.

Most of them did not have a mom and if they did, the moms did not show up. So, there was no crafting there. It was heart wrenching. From then on, I decided to never do anything for Mother’s Day. I never became a mom, but I always received many cards. I became a mom one could pick and that I liked.

I wish all Moms and all “special Moms” a very special Mother’s Day. And please remember: it is only a matter of love.

*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.*



## Creating Optimal Health

*Modes, Part 2* by Irene da Cunda Costa

### *The modes, the poison is in the dose*

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

In the previous issue, I wrote about the automatic mode and the mindful mode. Today I cover the other two modes, the survival mode and the social/reproductive/digestive mode.

I have written extensively about **survival mode** in previous articles, which is essentially the fight-or-flight response. Survival mode is triggered when a stimulus is interpreted as a threat, activating the sympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system, thereby preparing the organism for the fight-or-flight reaction. The threat can be real or imagined. Potential dangers vary widely, from actual life-threatening events such as an earthquake, to losing one’s job

or a loved one. While these are more obvious threats, there are also subtler ones, including assaults on self-esteem inflicted by an abusive parent, employer, or partner who constantly demeans us, financial difficulties, or lack of time, among other possibilities.

The **social/digestive/reproduction mode**, is when the parasympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system is activated, breathing and heartrate slow down and circulation is evenly distributed to the organs, so functions like reproduction and digestion can be properly performed. Sympathetic and parasympathetic regulate each other to ensure the survival of the species. If we’re constantly in survival mode, we don’t eat, socialize, or reproduce. If we’re always relaxed, when the saber-toothed tiger comes, it eats us. Nature doesn’t want that. The healthy and functional way is to alternate between the two, depending on the situation.

An example where we can see overlapping modes is when we automatically judge certain situations as threats, when they are not, this will activate the survival mode even when it is not necessary. Survival mode is useful when it saves us from a real threat, but when the threats aren’t real, but rather my own interpretation, sometimes conscious or automatic, the mode ceases to be functional. In this case, practicing mindfulness can help us detect which mode we’re in. Since mindfulness begins in the body and ends in the body, it is a powerful practice for self-regulation and self-knowledge. Mindfulness or psychotherapy can help us detect automatic thoughts which can lead us to make erroneous assessments of reality mistakenly leading us to activate survival mode when it’s not appropriate.

Body and mind function as a unified entity. The survival mode can also be activated if we breathe poorly, using accessory muscles, so mastering some breathing techniques that help us regain balance is also helpful. Also, when we are in survival mode, automatic responses are more likely to be activated, and some of these may be

dysfunctional for the situation.

In short, there are four basic modes, upon which other modes can be built, the model can become as complex as we take it, as shown by the countless maps of the psyche developed by different psychological schools of thought. These four are basic and easy to identify and they are all necessary for survival. We should not obsess over any of them. In this case we can also apply what Paracelsus taught us: that the poison is in the dose, but also the ability to respond with the appropriate mode according to the circumstances improves when we train our flexibility, both emotional and physical.

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





# Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

## We haven't had A QUIZ for a while:



Shame on this diver if she was hitching a ride on a fish who didn't want to be held! Of course, 1. The grouper is totally calm. 2. The diver is me, the place San Salvador (Bahamas), the year 1978. We routinely fed the groupers and they were totally acclimated to being stroked. Please note: when a fish is touched by a wet, flattish surface (such as a bare hand, underwater), the fish's mucus coating is completely unaffected; the mucus does not transfer to the hand. Photo Dee Scarr Archives

7. Sea hares got their common name because

- a. they reproduce like rabbits
- b. they have rabbit-ear-like projections on their heads
- c. when startled, they jump
- d. they live in burrows
- e. they have large eyes

8. Batfish got their common name because

- a. they use sonar
- b. at night they swim to the surface and eat bugs
- c. they use their long rostrum to "bat" at their prey, stunning it before gobbling it down
- d. they're vaguely bat-shaped when viewed from above
- e. they hang from the underside of ledges

9. The giant Pacific octopus lives longer than most other octopuses, living up to:

- a. 3 years
- b. 7 years
- c. 10 years
- d. 25 years
- e. 50 years

10. Which of these activities is the least stressful to the marine animal/s in question?

- a. holding your hand out to a cleaner shrimp
- b. hovering over an octopus den
- c. swimming toward a marine turtle
- d. grabbing a ride by holding a grouper's tailfin
- e. flash-photographing spawning fish

11. Skilled divers fine-tune their underwater position by

- a. sculling with their hands
- b. using their BCD
- c. holding onto their buddy
- d. holding onto the coral
- e. holding onto a boat anchor

## Reef Glimpses Quiz answers on page 13

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.



1. Which of the following protect their eggs until hatching?

- a. yellowhead jawfish
- b. seahorses
- c. sergeant-majors
- d. all of the above
- e. none of the above

2. Which of the following protect their eggs until hatching?

- a. barred hamlets
- b. trumpetfish
- c. blue marlin
- d. green turtles
- e. all or none of the above

3. When swimming in pairs and intensely-colored, which of the following are probably courting?

- a. banded butterflyfish
- b. honeycomb cowfish
- c. French angelfish
- d. bar jacks
- e. stingrays

4. Longspine urchin spines are:

- a. perfectly smooth
- b. always black
- c. layered like roof tiles
- d. not all that sharp
- e. all of the above

5. Because sand tilefish and \_\_\_\_\_ both live around sand and rubble areas, sand tilefish rockpiles were once attributed to:

- a. Razorfish
- b. Spanish hogfish
- c. Garden eels
- d. Arrow crabs
- e. None of the above

6. Yellowtail snappers

- a. hang out in the blue water near the reef
- b. are willing to eat just about anything
- c. compete with other yellowtail snappers for food
- d. learn to hang out with lionfishers
- e. all of the above

## Parmaham, benedict Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

4 fresh eggs • 4 slices of Serrano ham • 80 g (2.8oz) cream cheese • 40 g (1.5 oz or 1/3 C) grated parmesan • 4 dates • 30 g (1/3 C) walnuts • 4 lettuce leaves

**Hollandaise sauce:** 4 egg yolks • 75 g (2.65 oz) vinegar • 100 g (5 T) melted butter • Pepper/salt. Place egg yolks in an iron bowl and add vinegar, salt and pepper. Beat mixture over a pan of water at 100 degrees until fluffy. Stir in warm melted butter until you have a nice smooth sauce.

Bring water with some salt and a dash of vinegar to the boil and let it remain warm until just below boiling point. Crack the freshly-baked egg into a small bowl. Make a rotating movement in the water with a spoon to create a small whirlpool, drop the egg into it and let it poach gently until the desired doneness. Place some cream cheese, date pieces and walnut on the slices of Serrano ham and place the patted dry poached egg on top and roll it up. Sprinkle with some parmesan and let it melt in the oven. Place the ham roll on a lettuce leaf and spoon a generous amount of sauce over it. Garnish with some walnuts and date slices.



Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares the recipe for one of his personal dishes created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients. Corjan is currently working as a Sous Chef at "The Reef Bar" at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.



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**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/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

**SACA Art Center** Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public.

**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 <b>16</b> - June <b>14</b>          | <b>Group art exhibit SACA Art Piano Gallery</b> Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. Sun.- Fri. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Artists: Marianne Brooks; Leslie Tucker; Allied Lippinkhof; Jozee Tjoa; Eric Cremers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| May <b>10</b> - June <b>11</b>            | <b>Export the Goats art exhibit SACA Art Front Gallery</b> Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. In. Wed to Sun 3-10 p.m. M. & Tu. closed. Artists: Dillon Rannou; Darwin Luna Colorado; Rimmon de Vries. See page 8.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Wed. May <b>14</b> - Thurs. May <b>15</b> | <b>Interactive Papiamentu theatre 'Stimá i protehá'</b> For teens and adults. Theater and workshop on domestic violence. May 14: Sentro di Bario Nikiboko 6:30 - 9 p.m. May 15: Rincon (Kaya Lourdes 10) 6:30 - 9 p.m. Register for free via WhatsApp: +599 770-0344                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| May <b>16</b> - May <b>17</b>             | <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 <b>28</b> - June <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| May <b>18</b> - May <b>28</b>             | <b>Children's Music Week "Dream."</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| May <b>22</b> - May <b>25</b>             | <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 <b>29</b>                             | <b>Ascension Day.</b> A legal holiday. Much is closed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| May <b>29</b> - June <b>12</b>            | <b>Bonaire Culinary 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-culinary.com">https://bonaire-culinary.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Sunday, June <b>1</b>                     | <b>ReeFiesta 2025.</b> Sign-up now open! Join us for a free, hands-on coral restoration dive or snorkel, followed by a beach celebration to honor Bonaire's reefs. Spaces are limited — <a href="https://www.reefrenewalbonaire.org/get-involved/reefiesta-2025/">https://www.reefrenewalbonaire.org/get-involved/reefiesta-2025/</a><br><br><b>My Guardian Group Bonaire Walk &amp; Run.</b> 6:30 a.m. start: Bachelor's Beach. End: Frans Paradise in Lac Bay. Register May 1 to 30 limit 500 participants. <a href="https://dutchcaribbean.myguardiangroup.com/events/my-guardian-group-walk-and-run-bonaire-2025">https://dutchcaribbean.myguardiangroup.com/events/my-guardian-group-walk-and-run-bonaire-2025</a> |
| May through July Wed. June <b>25</b>      | <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 <b>15</b> - <b>22</b>                | <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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



**Young Bonairean artist Fary** released her first single "E Konekshon" along with an accompanying music video on May 9. Her song explored the emotional and spiritual connection between man and woman - what brings two people together, what makes you decide to live together within a marriage. "I want to be a singer who makes music that empowers women," says Fary. "Songs that create awareness, make women feel good, and help them be confident in every step they take in life. My next song coming soon is called 'Don't Give Up'." ACE release

# Events, Meetings, Sports

**12 steps meeting:** Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Salina, 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. Sportpark Rudy Boezem. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>

**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

**Sunfish Race Days:** Barring inclement weather: 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.** • No more presentations in May. 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/>

**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)

## 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, June <b>1</b>           | <b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 8-10 a.m. Te Amo. 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> |





In the photo we can see the concentrated atmosphere that was at the tournament.  
Thanks to jf Shireen Coffie!

On April 24 and 25 Serapio Pop, trainer and coach of Bonaire Youth Chess Club (BJSC), organized three chess tournaments: one for beginners, one for U13 and Open.

Five young people from Strea Briyante school (Shining Star School) and four from BJSC participated in the tournament for beginners. On Thursday the 24th Kayden Espinal, Gregory Mogica and Jaconbi Mendoza had the best performance. Friday the 25th Jacobi Mendoza lost to D’Seandrick Wiel and Gregory. Kayden Espinal missed a couple of games and fell short. Gregory Rosa Mogica won all his games and became the undefeated winner.

Jacobi Mendoza won second place in a decisive game against Mayrickson Vlijt.

- The top five posts:**
- 1. Gregory Rosa Mogica 8 points WINNER. Skol Strea Biyante
  - 2. Jacobi Mendoza 6 points BJSC
  - 3. Mayrickson Vlijt 6 points Skol Strea Biyante
  - 4. D’Seandrick Wiel 4 ½ points BJSC
  - 5. Kayden Espinal 3 ½ points BJSC

As an organizer I am extremely pleased with nine players and stimulated by them. Thanks especially to jf Shireen of group 6-7-8 of Strea Briyante who looked after the house and took the players back and forth to the Neighborhood Center.

Finally I would like to thank Indebon, Access, jf Shireen, Charles Lont and Kathiusca Ojeda and the parents for their cooperation.

*Serapio Pop,  
trainer and coach BJSC*

| 2025 Cruise Ship Schedule |           |                                  |       |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| DATE                      | TIME      | CRUISE SHIP                      | PIER  |
| 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 |
| Thurs. June 5             | 0700-1800 | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests | North |
| Wed. June 11              | 0800-2200 | CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests     | South |

### 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

**\*\* answer key \*\***

- 1. D, all of them: the jawfish holds them in his mouth, the seahorse in a pouch, and the sergeant major’s eggs are attached to a surface, where he guards them. All these protectors are male, by the way.
- 2. E, none of them actively protects their eggs until they hatch, although female turtles bury their eggs before abandoning them.
- 3. B. Honeycomb cowfish become intensely bluish when courting. Banded butterflyfish and French angels are routinely in pairs, and bar jacks often hunt in pairs.
- 4. C. You can feel the layering if you find a detached spine and run your finger along it.
- 5. A, razorfish. A single research paper inaccurately attributing the rockpiles to razorfish was referenced for years.
- 6. E. Yellowtail snappers are the champs of eating everything possible.
- 7. B. Sea hares do look a bit rabbit-like.
- 8. D. It would be fun if it were one of the other options, though, wouldn’t it?
- 9. A. This short lifespan of an amazing creature seems so wrong, but if octopuses lived longer, they’d have taken over the world by now.
- 10. A. If they clean you, they’re accepting you as a fellow marine animal.
- 11. B. Sculling is useful in an emergency, but good buoyancy control is what’s necessary

### 100 Days of Captain Don



Captain Don Stewart, the father of diving on Bonaire, is turning 100 on June 25th. The first resort dedicated to diving, Captain Don’s Habitat, is holding a 100 day Captain Don birthday party. Many events are planned for the 100 days with a huge party on his official birthday. The resort commissioned artist Ghislaine Monte to paint a mural based on a photo of the Captain underwater.

Habitat management said, “This is an inspiring tribute to the man who helped shape Bonaire’s marine legacy. More than just art, this mural offers guests a moment of reflection and connection with our island’s story and its legendary founder.” Julie Morgan

### TCB reports April’s statistics



According to preliminary visitor statistics published by The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) Bonaire received 18,858 stayover visitors in April. This represents a 14.3% increase compared to April 2024, when 16,505 visitors arrived.

Visitors from the Netherlands formed the largest group, accounting for 39.6%

of total arrivals with 7,476 visitors. U.S. visitors were the second-largest group, making up 24.8% of arrivals with 4,676 visitors.

Dia di Rincon played a significant role in attracting more visitors from Curaçao and Aruba. *Press Release TCB*



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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)



## Benno

### Meet Benno

Seven years old and truly a one-of-a-kind dog. He's always happy, super relaxed and just the perfect cuddle buddy.

Benno thinks he's a chihuahua, he loves to curl up on your lap for a snuggle and will happily stay there, gazing at you with those loving eyes. He's social, great with other dogs, sweet with children and easily adapts to new situations. One of those dogs that instantly steals your heart.

Benno can't wait to move into his forever home where he can snuggle on laps all day and soak up all the love he deserves. Come meet him soon!

*Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers*

### Hi, this is Vincent.

Vincent is 4 years old with black and white fur, otherwise known as a tuxedo cat.

He was brought to the Shelter as a tiny kitten after being found wandering alone on the streets of Bonaire. Vincent does not know anything outside a Shelter life and is the longest resident cat. He is very kind and gentle, and will come sit next to you, waiting patiently to get some love and attention. Vincent does really great with other cats and dogs don't bother him.

We would really like to find him his forever home! And even though we all love him at the shelter, after four years with us he really deserves to have his own home with a great family.

Will someone please give our sweet Vincent a home?

*Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*



## Vincent

## Animal Shelter News

### From Fear to Joy: Poppy's Remarkable Transformation



But with a lot of patience, consistency, and love, something incredible happened. Day by day, Poppy began to trust. And now? She's a completely different dog. Bright-eyed, tail wagging, full of joy, and playing non-stop with her new doggy friends. She finally knows what love feels like and she's ready to start a brand-new life.

Who would've thought this scared little soul would become such a happy, loving companion?

Poppy is now four months old and will eventually be up for adoption.

*Story / Photos: Marissa Lamers*



Just a month ago, little Poppy was brought into the shelter by Dierenbescherming Bonaire. She had been found on a car scrapeyard, terrified, unfamiliar with human contact, and with a dislocated paw. It was clear she had been through more than any dog should.

After the vet carefully reset her paw, the waiting game began. At first, she wouldn't let anyone near her. We had to move her gently from kennel to kennel just to clean, as picking her up or touching her was out of the question.

## Record proceeds Rotary Feria 2025

According to preliminary figures, Rotary Club Bonaire's Feria raised around US\$ 28,000 this year. As every year, all proceeds will be spent on social causes in the coming year.

On King's Day, the Rotary Club Bonaire organized its annual Feria. The Feria, which once again took place on Wilhelminaplein this year, was an unprecedented success. Again, many residents and businesses brought in used items over the past few months, but this year there were also an unprecedented number of new items made available by local businesses. New furniture, lamps, as well as brand new refrigerators and washing machines were for sale at very friendly prices on the square. The many bargain hunters were therefore eagerly waiting behind the ribbon to stream onto Wilhelminaplein after the starting signal by RCB chairman Jan Okhuijsen.

There was something for everyone to buy, and there was also a play corner set up for the children. Even the weather cooperated with the Feria this year. Thanks to the overcast sky, the Wilhelminaplein was comfortable all day. It therefore also remained very cosy at the Feria between eleven o'clock and two o'clock, in other years the time when it got too hot for many.

As always, the items left over after the Feria were collected by the Animal Shelter volunteers for sale in their Pakus di Pruga.

The Rotary Club Bonaire thanks all the individuals and companies who brought in items and also all the volunteers whose efforts made the day an unprecedented success.

*Rotary Release*



# A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Even though Mother's Day is over for this year, I still want to give this phenomenon some attention. In fact everyday is a Mother's Day. Is there any other day that mothers are not busy for their family? They are always taking care of the whole household and are always there for their children with endless patience and understanding.

Mom's are like centipedes, they are always busy. Working moms bring in an income, grandmothers babysit their grandchildren, moms look after their elderly parents, take care of a sick neighbor and others. There are travelling moms, gardening moms and more. The work they do is priceless and it never stops; once a mom, always a mom.

For all they do, a mom deserves a hug every day, not only on Mother's Day. Everyday they deserve some attention and a listening ear. "How was your day mom?" Or how about a bouquet of flowers or a box with fruit from your garden, a relaxing day at the beach, a quality time afternoon with nice homemade drinks or herbal tea, a family exercise walk along the boulevard and/or an evening out with lots of fun. Any treat is okay, when it shows your love for her because that is the greatest happiness for a mom: warm love and sweet attention from her children and family.

Here is a beautiful deep red flower on the table for all moms for their lifetime of unconditional love and care to their family and their great support in society. A belated Happy Mother's Day, meant for each day of the year, for all kinds of moms.

I remember Mother's Day as a child at Grandma's.



A beautiful red flower for all the moms.  
Photo: Elisey Kostsov.

That was the day that, weird as it sounds, she was working the most. Because all my aunts and uncles with their families used to come to visit her. Early in the morning at 5 a.m., Grandma used to butcher a few (older) chickens and then began cooking. I used to help picking fresh vegetables from the garden such as string beans, eggplant, tajeblad, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers and sometimes a pumpkin and or watermelon. Also plantain which were good the whole year. She would wok, stew, cook and bake the whole day. Grandma loved to spoil us with the most delicious Indian food prepared in big old fashioned pots and pans cooked on a wood fire. The

wood fire gives the food a rare great taste which makes me nostalgic thinking of it all. Grandma's Mother's Day was to comfort us and she was happy when watching us enjoying her outstanding cuisine. That's how moms are; when the family is happy, they are most happy.

"Mother's Day" was the idea of an American teacher from Philadelphia in 1908. She admired her mom because she was always there for her and had role of support in society. The teacher wanted to give an awareness to the world about the endless attention, care and love of mothers. The first national Mother's Day was celebrated in 1914 by proclamation as a national holiday in the United States. Today it is celebrated worldwide.

### How to recognize a ripe tamarind

By the way, some friends wanted to make tamarind juice for a Mother's day picnic on the beach and wondered how to recognize a ripe tamarind.

The answer is that you have to pick them from the ground. If they are still on the tree, it means they are green and you can not use them yet. As soon as they ripen they come off the tree and one can easily remove the dry skin from the fruit inside. To know if the tamarind is ripe, squeeze the brown skin. If it breaks easily it means the fruit is ripe.

Lately I have found a lot of tamarind all over the island. I use them in all my food, teas, cold beverages and share with my friends. Very healthy stuff with a great taste.

So, go Caribbean with tamarind.



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



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# KPCN looking for owners of stolen tools

During a recent house search on Bonaire, the police found a number of tools and construction equipment that they believe to be stolen. The origin of these goods is currently unknown. The police are therefore looking for the rightful owner(s). Do you recognize (one of) the objects found or do you know who they might belong to? Please contact us. As the owner, you must report with proof of purchase.

You can reach the police on +599 715 8000, by e-mail via [politie@politiecn.com](mailto:politie@politiecn.com) or you can visit the police station at Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #4.

