

**BONAIRE****May 28 - June 11, 2025. Year 32, Issue 11**

The REPORTER



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



The Blue Defenders headed up by Casper Duoma and Cora Knopper normally concentrate on cetaceans but when they saw the sargassum blocked inlet to Pekelmeer they knew the young flamingos would soon be without food and could die. They set

up a call to action asking for help to clear the blocked culvert. Some 15 people showed armed with rakes and shovels and got to work. There would have been more but many people were helping out with BonDoet.

STINAPA and Cargil brought heavy equipment and had to return three times to clear the massive build up of sargassum.

Photo Julie Morgan

We're not going to run short of sargassum

At a time of depleting resources world wide, Bonaire can rest assured that plenty of sargassum will continue to wash ashore in the foreseeable future. Satellite data this year shows a new record amount of sargassum floating in the region. The previous record was set in 2023. This year shows a 200% increase.

Selibon and STINAPA are getting better and better at clearing the seaweed from our beaches before it dries, rots, and pollutes the coastal areas. So we have plenty of it. Someone just has to figure out a use for the stuff.

On May 15, a meeting on sustainable waste management and the seaweed sargassum took place in the Barcadera building of Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB). Various organizations on Bonaire – including WEB, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV), the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB), the Climate Table and Selibon – came together with researchers from Wageningen University & Research (WUR). They are working on a project that investigates how organic waste and seaweed can be put to beneficial use.

The project, BONCIRC, will run until the end of June 2025 and focus on the smart reuse of local organic waste, such as food waste, manure and plant waste. It is also investigating whether sargassum can be put to good use. Compost, animal feed, and biogas have been mentioned, as well as

pressing sargassum into blocks to use as building materials.

Local companies such as Selibon and the chicken farm Punta Blanku are actively involved. Wageningen University & Research and Biobox-E have joined the discussion. BONCIRC's goal is collaboration between local parties and international institutes and companies to ensure a greener, smarter and more sustainable Bonaire.

Converting sargassum to compost or animal fodder is not a new idea on the island. In 2022 two STINAPA researchers conducted a research project that delivered the disappointing discovery that sargassum is loaded with heavy metals absorbed from the water. The list included many that are

known to be toxic to humans and animals. Vegetables grown in composed sargassum revealed Arsenic and Cadmium levels that ranged from two or three times more to almost 40 times more than those grown in regular potting soil.

The health implications of these findings are still unclear. But studies suggest there may be no 'safe' levels of Arsenic. Long term ingestion of inorganic arsenic has been connected to skin lesions, cancer, developmental toxicity, neurotoxicity, cardiovascular disease, abnormal glucose metabolism and diabetes.

Since then, however, commercial products have been developed that purge Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, and Lead from sargassum, as well

as other bio-actives, metabolites, and growth compounds known to be unhealthy.

The immediate problem, however, is how to deal with the nuisance washing ashore on the island. Roxanne-Liana Francisca, manager of Washington Slagbaai National Park and biologist at Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA), says the situation is critical. "We use satellite monitoring to see how much sargassum is on its way.... There is currently a huge 'patch' floating between Trinidad and Bonaire" that could be as large as the surface area of Bonaire.

According to Francisca, the season is only just beginning. "Most of the mass is still outside the Caribbean. So it could go on for weeks, maybe months." She emphasizes that the seaweed does not come from the Sargasso Sea, but probably from the area between Brazil and Africa.

STINAPA is working with partners to look at structural solutions, including expanding the so-called "booms"—floating barriers that catch the seaweed before it comes ashore. "We are investigating whether we can extend the current boom or create a second location. But the longer the booms, the more pressure there will be. So it has to be well thought out and tested." For now, it's a case of making do with what we have. "It's a race against time," Francisca concludes. "And this year, it looks like nature has a big head start." *DMR*



Report says Bonaire needs many more police

Bonaire currently needs 45 full-time police officers but has only 15, according to the BES Law Enforcement Council's report 'State of Law Enforcement Caribbean Netherlands 2024.' Since February ten full-time Dutch police have been helping out the island police. In the same report the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) said that prosecution of criminal cases is more difficult because the quality of the police files it receives has declined and there's a shortage of hearing capacity at the Joint Court of Justice. Being shorthanded and overworked, the police are increasingly less able to investigate and document criminal offences thoroughly, so the PPS has to go to court with weaker cases.

Like the island population, crime is growing rapidly while fewer police are available to cope with it. The Council said that

tackling crime and safety issues on the islands is not solely legal responsibility, though. "Many of the underlying causes are social in nature, it says, "such as poverty, educational disadvantages, addiction problems and limited housing." According to the Council, ministries such as Education, Public Health, Social Affairs and Home Affairs need to be involved.

The island Executive Council sent a letter to the Minister of Justice and Security that echoes the Law Enforcement Council's report. The Executive Council said the problems revealed by the report have been known for years, the central government should take structural measures immediately, and the Executive Council "expects a concrete response from the government within two months." *DMR*

Parliament says "git 'er done"

Members of the House of Representatives were unanimously shocked by the report of five parliamentarians who inspected the Lagun Landfill on a working visit. They said the smoke, stench, and dangers to public health they found there are intolerable. "If this situation had occurred on Texel," one said, "action would have been taken long ago."

A majority of both government and opposition parties demanded the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) take control. The members expect all parties to cooperate to produce an action plan for the structural improvement of

waste processing and environmental management on Bonaire by the third quarter 2025 at the latest, including clear milestones, responsibilities and timelines.

While the House of Representatives said it has no confidence that the Executive Council of Bonaire can resolve the ongoing crisis, it insisted that everyone involved shares the responsibility. They should stop cross-blaming each other and co-operate to clean up the landfill promptly and permanently. *DMR*

Exec Council announces its Lagun Plan: Dutch money and expertise

The Executive Council has announced its plan for cleaning up the Lagun landfill calamity. It has proposed that Dutch experts tell it (the executive council) how to do the job and that Dutch money pays for the work. Then the OLB will create what everyone agrees is needed—a systemic waste management system at Lagun. This plan was announced in a letter the council sent to the four ministries involved (I&W, VWS, KGG and BZK) and to the cabinet, the House of Representatives, the Island Council and the acting Kingdom Representative.

"Given the scale and urgency of the problem, we urgently appeal for structural support from the government. This concerns both financial support and expertise and capacity to tackle the situation effectively and sustainably," the letter states. The Executive Council proposes an immediate allocation of \$1.5 million so it can get started. It says that tens of millions more will eventually be needed, but it cannot make an exact forecast until it figures out exactly what will be done.

And earlier 6.5 million euros subsidy from Infrastructure and Water Management for a "Customised Waste Management" program was not extended when the Executive Council and Se-libon failed to explain how that money had been spent.

The council's letter clarified why it has not invested any of its own money in the Lagun project. It said the project was so large the costs could not be predicted. Therefore the Council could not budget for it. Legally, the Council is not allowed spend money that has not been provided for in an approved budget.

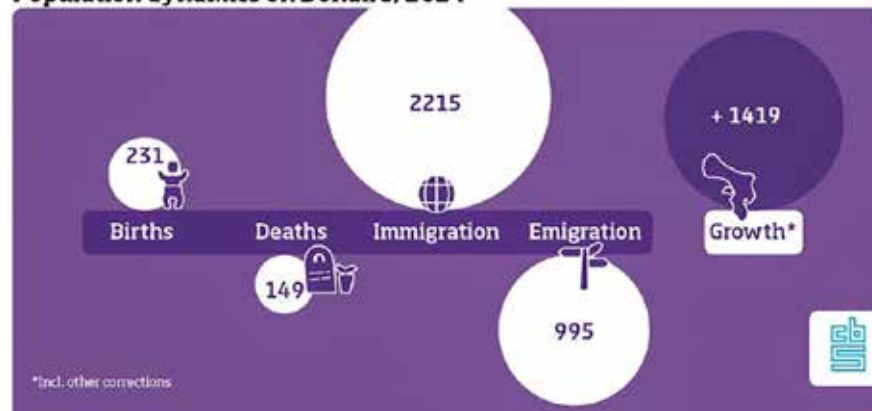
The letter also reaffirmed that the Executive Council has always taken the Lagun crisis seriously and has never wavered in its intention to do something about it. It says the Council aspires to make Bonaire a forerunner in sustainable waste management. *DMR*

The island population keeps growing

Bonaire's population on January 1, 2025 was 26,552. It had increased by 1,419 (6 per cent) since January, 2024. The natural population growth (births minus deaths) was only 82 people. But many more people came to live on the island than departed (1,220). The number of new people on Bonaire who were born outside the Caribbean Netherlands rose by more than 1,345. They were mostly born in the European Netherlands, Colombia, Curaçao and the Dominican Republic.

The population of the entire Caribbean Netherlands had reached nearly 32,000, an increase of 5%. *DMR*

Population dynamics on Bonaire, 2024



This Issue's Stories

A surplus of sargassum	1
World Ocean Day	3
9U baseball team champs	4
Fishers equipment stolen	5
Customs medals	6
90 years of aviation	6
Bon Doet - at animal shelter	7
BONAI exhibit in Leiden / Ancestry	7
TNR	8
Rotary: Community learning / LGBTQ+	9
Ambulans Deseo, Billy Valentijn	9
Ride for Roses check to Kas Flamboyant	9
Bon Doet helps elderly swim	10
Spring Culinaire- Foodies	13
Children's Music Week	14
ACU relocates	14
Children's Museum pilot	17
Poster and essay contest	17
Bon Doet-STCB fishing line cleanup	17
Isidel is one year old	20

Our Facebook page brings you news that arrives between issues

Columns

Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Island News:	
• Police understaffed; The Hague shocked by landfill; Ex. Council on landfill.	2
• Shortage propane bottles; Shortage social housing; UNICEF youth exchange; Water truck deliveries; Carol-Anne Soliano head of RCN Communications	7
Police Report	4
Opinion: Incomplete new electoral system	5
Ask Bob: Choosing a notaris	5
Pets as Family-Life with Kitty	10
Corjan Recipe: Mozzarella Soup	10
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Garden: World Ocean Day	12
Optimal Health: Hoarding	12
Reef Glimpses: Mermaids - Manatees	15
Accessibility: Missing people. Lonely	15
What's Happening: Events; Clean ups	16
Cruise ships; Church services	17
Business Directory	18
Pets of the Week:	
Cat - Ernst; Dog - Hogi	19
Shelter News: Lots of kittens	19

How to Find Us

Read us online: <https://bonairereporter.com>
<https://www.Facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>
 Also available in 77 locations on Bonaire
 Printed every two weeks

Next edition: June 11, 2025

Contributor's Deadline: Friday, June 6, 2025

Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599) 786 4055

Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com

Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff

Publisher: Julie Morgan

Production: Barbara Lockwood

Website: Michael Copini

Contributors: Brian Niessen Ginny Knight, Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Don

M. Ricks, Alan Zale, Irene de Cunda Costa, Marissa Lamers, Chef Corjan Hoogerheide,

George Buckley, Bo Attevelt

Distribution: Divi-Divi Airline,

Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao.

Founders: George & Laura DeSalvo

© 2025 The Bonaire Reporter



World Ocean Day / Month

World Ocean Month 2025 kicks off with World Reef Awareness Day on June 1 and once again Reef Renewal Bonaire Foundation (RRBF) has inspired reef lovers to be a part of their yearly Reef Fiesta. The response was so great to their first announcement that all 100+ spots were immediately filled. Reef Fiesta gives young and old a hands-on experience of what Reef Renewal Bonaire is doing to restore and encourage the growth of Bonaire's coral reefs.

June 8 is the official celebration for World Ocean Day. People all over the globe connect to protect and restore our planet. Thousands of events and over 2000 organizations in 180 countries work to educate and draw attention to the loss of biodiversity and the climate crisis. On World Ocean Day, Dive Center Scuba Do has organized a beach and dive clean up. Meeting time is 10 a.m. but spaces are limited so sign up soon by calling +599-777-3200 or email info@scubadobonaire.com.

And there are even more ocean related awareness days this month. We have World Environment Day on June 5, World Sea Turtle Day on June 16, World Croc Day on June 17 and World Horseshoe Crab Day on June 20.

What can you do on

World Ocean Day/ Month?

Bonaire has several cleanups scheduled weekly and monthly throughout the year and they are all dedicated to keeping our oceans clean and removing trash that

has drifted onto our beaches. Watch a nature film or documentary to become more aware of what is happening to our oceans. Clean up your neighborhood. Live Plastic Free – this is a tough one as plastic is everywhere. But we can all limit our use – no more disposable water bottles or sodas,

plastic bags or utensils. Eat sustainably caught fish. This is pretty easy on Bonaire as most fish is caught locally but not those cans of tuna, salmon, sardines and anchovies we buy in the markets. Many are caught in gill nets that wipe out complete coral landscapes and take by-catch which

diminishes all marine life. We only have one ocean even though they may have different names – remember all waters are connected. Finally share your underwater photos to educate and inspire others to celebrate the beauty of our oceans.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



FOR SALE! El Pueblo 2 Newly Built Villa with Ocean Views



- Located in El Pueblo, walking distance to dive sites
- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 2 car garage / parking
- Self cleaning pool, pool side bar with grill and smoker

- Roof terrace, solar system with batteries
- Completely furnished and move-in ready

Virtual 3D tour

Asking price \$1,700,000 US Dollars

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



RE/MAX
PARADISE HOMES
BONAIRE



POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

May 18. A Black Banana shoulder bag and its contents was stolen during a kite competition at the Kaminda Tras Di Montaña.

May 18. In the early morning hours theft was reported of electric fishing equipment from several boats that were moored at the fishing pier in Sorobon. (see page 5)

May 18. Around 2:30 a.m. a violent robbery took place on Kaminda Lac. Three people, one on a scooter and two on fat-bikes were leaving an event when three unknown men jumped out of the bushes and surprised them. The scooter driver was hit in the head and the two bicycles were taken.

Shortly afterwards, another report came in that two unknown men had robbed two people on a scooter near a club on Kaminda Lac. The people were pushed off their scooter, causing them to fall. The robbers tried to drive away on the scooter but because the scooter would not start, they took the scooter by the hand. A little later, the scooter was found by a patrol in the area.

May 14. A report was made of theft with violence. The victim stated that he got a lift from Playa during the night hours from a number of unknown men. He was dropped off at Donkey Beach (Playa Pal'i Mangel) on E.E.G. Boulevard. Shortly afterwards, he was attacked by the three unknown men and his belongings were taken.

May 17. The rear license plate V-2819 was stolen from a pick-up truck that was parked at a marina on Boulevard Julio A. Abraham.

May 17. A dark blue beach bag with contents was stolen from a car that was parked at Sorobon Beach.

May 13 / 14. Around 11:30 a.m. a man, 21, was arrested on Kaya Barakuda for receiving stolen goods after a report was received about a rented fat bike that was stolen the previous evening at a house on Kaya Alablanka. The stolen fat bike was also found and confiscated.

May 13. Around 5:40 p.m. a man, 23, was arrested on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia for receiving stolen goods. The suspect was stopped by a patrol because he was riding a suspicious scooter. During the check, the suspect could not show a valid driver's license or valid insurance papers. Police found that his scooter had been reported stolen. The suspect was im-

mediately arrested and taken to the police station.

May 13. A black OUXI V-8 fat bike was stolen while parked locked close to a catering establishment at the entrance to Kaya Grandi.

May 12. A black fatbike of an unknown brand was stolen while parked at a football field located on Kaminda Lac.

May 9. Two backpacks with contents were stolen from a rented pick-up that was parked unlocked at the dive site 'Tolo' located on the Tourist Road (Queen's Highway).

Arrests

May 18. Around 9:30 a.m. a man, 42, was arrested on Kaya Embira for assault.

May 17. Around 1 a.m. a woman, 44, was arrested at Kaya Nikiboko South for assault.

May 12. Around 9:30 p.m. a man, 44, was arrested on Kaya Mariana for assault. The suspect, who was drunk, entered a home without permission and assaulted a person.

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 May 9 to May 18 ten people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Three were driving scooters; one was driving a motorcycle. The motorcycle had no license plate, and was not insured. Two drivers were driving without a driver's license.

All of the DUI drivers were involved in collisions. On May 9th a cyclist on Kaya Bamba was hit by a car.

On May 18 the driver of a dump truck hit several lamp-posts and caused considerable damage to three vehicles on Kaya Korona. The driver left the scene but several people followed the truck to address the driver about his behavior while waiting for the police. A few minutes later due to the damage caused by the truck and the obstacles left on the road, a scooter driver driving under the influence of alcohol slipped, fell off his scooter and was found lying unconscious on the road.

On May 16 at the bend of Kaya Grandi and Kaya L.D. Gerharts a car that was driving on the priority road collided with a scooter that was crossing the road. The driver of the scooter ended up under the car. Bystanders helped to lift the car to get the driver of the scooter out from under it.

Six people were taken to the hospital for treatment. One person refused treatment and another was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel. Four drivers had their driver's licenses confiscated. Other drivers were banned from driving, the bans ranging from one hour to five hours.

Traffic accidents

May 17. Around 3:45 p.m. two cars collided on Kaminda Lagun and one of the vehicles came to a standstill against a traffic sign. One of the drivers was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

May 13. Around 3:10 p.m. a scooter and a pick-up collided on Kaya Grandi. The driver of the scooter was treated on the spot by the ambulance personnel. The driver of the pick-up was fined for driving without valid insurance.

May 10. Around 2 p.m. two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko Noord and Kaya Sonmontuno. Both drivers were fined for driving without a driving license. One was also fined for driving without valid insurance. One of the drivers was transferred to the Aliens Control Department of the KPCN because she was on the island illegally. She has since been deported to her country of origin.

Fire

May 18. Around 4:30 a.m. the central control room received a report of a vehicle fire in Tera Korá. The fire brigade arrived quickly and managed to get the fire under control but the pick-up and a jet ski had completely burned out. Another jet ski was also damaged.

Shootings and firearms

May 15. Around 5:30 a.m. a house search took place at Kaya Portugal in the Playa Pariba district in connection with a violation of the Firearms Act BES. The suspect was not found at the house at that time. A car was seized for further investigation. Around 9 a.m. on the same day the suspect, a 32-year-old man reported to the police station. He was arrested for violation of the Firearms Act BES.

May 14. Around 3 a.m. a resident of a house on Kaya Silofon in Nikiboko reported that he heard a loud noise and noticed that there was a hole in a window. Upon arrival, the police found that the hole in the window had probably been hit by a projectile. No one was injured.

CARIBBEAN ZONE CHAMPIONS

Bonaire's 9U Pony League Baseball team brought home the Caribbean Zone title in Barranquilla, Colombia earlier this month after defeating Puerto Rico in the preliminary world championship contest.

The team returned to Bonaire on May 14 to a large welcoming crowd at Bonaire International Airport.

With this big win the young Bonaire team will now head to the U9 Pony Baseball World Championship in Vacaville, California July 25 - 28.



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.

An incomplete new electoral system

Dear Editor,

The coalition agreement of the Schoof cabinet also includes a rapid change to the electoral system, with stronger regional representation than is currently the case.

Recently the first draft of this amendment was leaked. 125 members of parliament will be elected in 12 provincial constituencies. Which correspond to the current provinces. Sparsely populated districts will get few seats, densely populated ones more. The remaining 25 seats are awarded to (small) political parties that have fallen short of the new system compared to a national proportional election.

There is much to be said about the pros and cons of this new system, but how the 30,000 inhabitants of the BES islands will be represented in this system is completely unclear. They have no province above them. And

they cannot be added to a European district because of their constitutional position, which differs from the European part of the Netherlands. The only solution that fits the new system is that the BES islands will have their own Caribbean constituency.

Another group that has been forgotten are the many Dutch people that live abroad. They are now all registered in The Hague. About one million. That cannot remain the case in the new system. For them too, a separate constituency is the suitable solution, given their common interests as Dutch expats.

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

Piskabon condemns theft at Sorobon wharf

The Fishermen's Association of Bonaire (Piskabon) strongly condemns the theft of essential fishing equipment from three fishing boats docked at Sorobon Wharf during the night of Sunday, May 17th.

The five electrical fishing machines that were stolen directly impact the livelihoods of the local fishermen whose boats were targeted. These machines are critical tools for small-scale fishers. Their loss represents not only a significant financial setback, but a disruption to the Island's sustainable food supply.

Piskabon urges anyone with information about the theft to come forward. We also call on the communi-

ty to remain vigilant and to report suspicious activities around our harbors and wharfs.

"This is a hard blow to our fishermen, who work long hours under challenging conditions to provide fresh fish for our community. Such criminal acts not only cause economic harm but also undermine the trust and safety that our coastal communities rely on."

Piskabon continues to advocate for greater protection and surveillance at key fishing infrastructure points around the island to safeguard the essential work of Bonaire's traditional fishing community.

Piskabon Release

Customs employees receive medals for loyal and long-term service

On Sunday, May 18, twenty Customs employees of the Belastingdienst (Tax Authorities) Caribisch Nederland on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba received the 'Medal for loyal and long service to Customs.'

During an official ceremony, the medals and certificates were presented by the Director of Policy, Strategy & International Affairs, Ms. Mechteld Fletcher, and the Director of the Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland, Mrs. Claudia Toet.

Toet said, "This medal is more than a token of appreciation. It is a tribute to our Customs colleagues who, for many years, have contributed to Customs Caribbean Netherlands with heart and soul. Their dedication forms the backbone of our society and organization, and on Sunday we proudly took a moment to reflect on that together."

Belastingdienst Release

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob -

I just bought a property on Bonaire, and my broker told me that I get to choose which Notaris office will handle the transfer of the deed for my new house. Do you have any advice on how to choose?

Jason B

That is a really good question.

The Notaris you choose will handle all of the legal aspects of transferring the deed from the seller to you. The Notaris takes care of checking the legal status of the property making sure the seller of the property has the true, legal right to sell it. They also perform a title check to see if there are any legally recorded mortgages (hypotheek) or liens (beslaag) recorded against the property. If there are any mortgages or liens against the property it's the Notaris job to remove them before the deed is transferred so that as the new owner you have clear title to the property. The Notaris will also hold your security deposit in their escrow account until the deed is transferred.

There are only two Notaris office on Bonaire, Notaris Office Robin Rispens and Notaris Office Kenneth Arnds so it's not a complicated decision. Both Notaris do the same thing, and the fees they charge are the same. You can always ask your real estate broker which Notaris they work closely with or ask your friends which Notaris they used and whether they were happy with the service.

Congratulations on your of a new home on Bonaire.

Regards, *Bob Bartikoski,*

Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

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

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



90 years of aviation on Bonaire



From the first airplane that landed at Subi Blanku...

A collaboration between Bonaire International Airport and Fuhikubo has resulted in a 30 minute documentary of aviation on Bonaire.

The film originally premiered on May 11 at Plaza Resort and was shown again to the public at the anniversary celebration for Isidel Beach Park on May 23.

The documentary is loaded with old photos, film clips and words from the elders who experienced the growth of Bonaire's aviation firsthand. The film is in Papiamentu with English subtitles.

From the documentary, "During the 1920-30's, KLM was looking into the possibility of operating in this region. In 1934, 'KLM-West Indisch Bedrijf' was established and made its first flight to Curaçao at the end of that year. An active businessman from Bonaire at that time, Lodewijk Daniël Geharts, better known as LD, followed the developments of KLM very closely. LD was the pioneer

who brought change to Bonaire.

In 1935, LD went to the Netherlands where he met with the director and founder of KLM, Mr. Albert Plesman. At first, Mr. Plesman was not convinced... He explained to LD that he was not going to fly for only 3000 people, which at that time was the number of people living in Bonaire. LD persisted and finally managed to convince Mr. Plesman to have KLM-WIB fly to Bonaire.

The first airport was built on Sept 23, 1935 at Tra'i Montana, subi blanco and had a 475 m long runway. In May 1936 when the first plane arrived people were in shock and called it an eagle. People were afraid and free flights were offered and a few people agreed to fly.

With the beginning of World War II, when U.S. servicemen were headquartered at Tanki Maraka, the officers said Bonaire needed a better runway. The air-



officially becoming: 'Flamingo Airport.'



From 112 passengers in 1936.

port was moved to Lima, the present location, and was named Flamingo Airport.

The history of the airport through the years is documented in the film and it is fun to see the progress made in bringing air service to Bonaire. A trailer is available along with post entries every week called Throwback Thursday on the Bo-

naire International Airport Facebook page.

BIA director Maarten van der Scheer plans for future viewings of the film and a 90 year anniversary celebration later this year.

Julie Morgan

What a wonderful weekend - Bon Doet 2025



Bon Doet provided a team of 25 volunteers at Animal Shelter Bonaire and eight from Sunbelt Realty at Pakus di Pruga on the weekend of May 16 and 17. The helpers rolled up their sleeves, cleaned and painted, added some new plants and both places are looking fantastic. Masha danki! See you at the next Bon Doet!

Islands short of gas bottles

Hundreds of households on Bonaire and Curaçao are waiting for gas cylinders to be delivered. A recent inspection revealed that many 100 pound gas bottles are no longer usable and had to be taken out of circulation. Curgas and Curoil Bonaire expect normal delivery service will be restored in one to two weeks. *DMR*

Government has seven months to build 322 more social housing units

According to the General Audit Office (AO), the government has committed itself to building 500 social housing units by the end of 2025. Of those, 178 have been completed. The AO questions whether the remaining 322 will be ready when the year ends. The AO is even more dubious about the government's 2030 goal, which is 1,700 more homes in the "affordable" category.

The Court of Audit says the Minister Mona Keijzer of Housing and Spatial Planning "is consulting with all parties involved to stimulate the construction plans. But she must do more to resolve the bottlenecks." One of those bottlenecks is "a lack of clear rules regarding spatial planning," a responsibility of the Executive Council. Two other bottlenecks are shortages of building capacity and of building materials.

Despite those three choke points, non-affordable housing and commercial buildings keep springing up on the island, almost overnight. *DMR*

End proposed for law protecting child abusers

Members of Parliament Don Ceder and Mirjam Bikker (both Christian Union) are proposing that the statute of limitations on sex crimes against minors in the Caribbean be ended. When parliament removed the statute from Dutch law in 2016, they forgot to include the BES Islands. Children often do not realize they are being abused or repress the memories. Removing the statute of limitations will allow abusers to be charged later. *DMR*

Water deliveries picking up again

WEB got behind on its water truck deliveries. One of its trucks had to be taken out of service for scheduled maintenance even as usage was increasing because of increasing temperatures. That truck is back in service now, and the drivers are working longer hours to catch up. *DMR*

UNICEF helps young leaders build a network

From April 20 to 23, 2025 18 young people aged 14 - 27 from Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius met in Sint Maarten for a youth exchange sponsored by UNICEF Netherlands. The first-ever Inter-island Youth Participation in the Caribbean Netherlands focused on promoting youth participation and empowerment.

A series of interactive workshops focused on leadership, community development and advocacy were organized to provide young people with the skills and knowledge needed to become effective change makers.



"Greater involvement, fresh perspectives and innovative solutions from young people on these issues can only be achieved through participation," says Margje Troost, senior specialist on children's rights for the Caribbean at UNICEF Netherlands. "To enable young people to learn, grow and contribute to the well-being of their communities, they need to be given the right tools, such as a network and information about and access to their civil rights."

"It was a good experience, I learned a lot, got to know other islands and networked with many young future leaders," says participant Ramso (18).

OLB release.



Carroll-Ann Soliano appointed communications manager at RCN

As of 1 June 2025, Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN) has appointed Carroll-Ann Soliano as the new Communications Manager within the Shared Service Organisation Caribbean Netherlands (SSO CN). This unit handles communications for the various executive ministries in the Caribbean Netherlands. Born and raised on Bonaire, Carroll-Ann returned to the island in 2002 after completing her studies in the Netherlands. She has been working at RCN since 2010, holding several positions within the communications department, including protocol officer, communications adviser, and senior communications adviser.

With her many years of experience and extensive network, Carroll-Ann has become a familiar face at RCN. Colleagues describe her as a committed, loyal, and connecting leader who brings out the best in others. She is known as a 'working manager' with a down-to-earth leadership style.

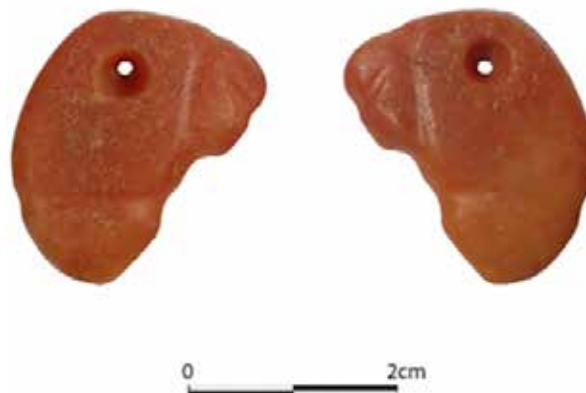
Carroll-Ann Soliano: "I look forward to contributing to clear and open communication with my in-depth knowledge of the region and broad network within the Caribbean Netherlands. I bring a warm heart for our communities and a strong network both within and beyond the islands. Together, we make the difference."

RCN Release



Queen Máxima recently opened the exhibition *Above the Ground Level* at the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. It displays archaeological finds from the past 25 years – from both the European Netherlands and the Caribbean islands, including Bonaire. Provincial Executive Nina den Heyer and BONAI director Lauriane Ammerlaan were present on behalf of Bonaire.

Caribbean heritage organizations and the National Museum of Antiquities collaborated on the exhibition. The objects and stories were chosen by Bonaireans themselves, working with FuHiKuBo and BONAI. During the opening, heritage professionals from the Caribbean spoke with Queen Máxima about the meaning of the objects. A striking piece is a rare carnelian pendant from around 1200–1400, excavated on Bonaire in 2022. This find tells about historical connections be-



Amulet of carnelion, found on Bonaire.

Photo: Minja Hemminga/Archol

tween the islands and South America.

The exhibition book also highlights broader themes such as colonialism, oral history and family stories. These stories, often not written down, are passed on through genealogical research and archaeology and were discussed by archaeologist Daudi Cijntje, who among others coordinated the objects from the islands.

New heritage project: Protehá mi

Workshops in archeology and ancestor research are being held this month to share and collect stories, experiences and opinions on Bonaire's heritage. Conducted in Dutch and Papiamentu, they will explore questions such as: How is heritage experienced? Which sites are known? How do these relate to personal family stories?

Lauriane Ammerlaan (Stichting BONAI, Maaik de Waal (Universiteit Leiden/ARGEograph) and Daudi Cijntje (Archol) want to collect stories of the island's previous inhabitants before they disappear completely. Based on the ancestral stories, the workshop participants will jointly locate archaeological sites, record them on a map, and discover the meaning these sites have for the community.

Our stories must be preserved and we will do this together.

Spaces are limited. You can register via [docs.google.com/Tayernan/Workshops 'Proteha mi'](https://docs.google.com/Tayernan/Workshops%20Proteha%20mi) (link shortened) Or via Lauriane Ammerlaan (BONAI): +599 795 1425 / info@bonaibonaire.com

BONAI Release

TNR program hits milestone

Flamingo Island Veterinary Center's (FIVC) Stray Cat Project Bonaire reached a milestone last week with the Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) of their 150th cat since they began in August 2024.

Once a month or sometimes more, TNR volunteers camp out in different areas on Bonaire with special trapping cages to capture feral cats and kittens to be neutered and then returned to the site they were found. The program has proved successful throughout the world, and it is working here too. Can you imagine how many kittens might have been born to live a short life in the wild, hit by a car or starved to death, if the 150 cats had not been treated in this program? (see chart on page 9)

The process is simple. FIVC is notified by Bonaire residents of a stray colony and TNR goes into action. Many of the callers are good hearted locals actually feeding a litter of cats and watching the cycle of babies born again and again until it becomes overwhelming. Once at the clinic, volunteers prep the felines for surgery: anesthetize, check for a chip, free the airway and check if the cats temperature is suitable for surgery. A painkiller is given, and the surgical area is shaved and washed. In most cases for females, the ovaries are only removed but if the cat is pregnant the uterus is also tak-



TNR volunteers L-R Sophia Aldwinckle and Gwen Versteegh (Margez) prep the felines for surgery.

Photo Julie Morgan

en. For males the testicles are removed.

The area is sutured internally so the cat can't remove the stitches. On waking, the cat's temperature is taken, they are fed and monitored for 24 hours before being returned. Each procedure takes approximately 30-45 minutes.

Some 15 volunteers regularly help and are super important to the program. The veterinarians give their time because they believe strongly in the program. Some of the doctors are on vacation on Bonaire, hear of the project and find the time to assist.

The project survives financially through grants. Stichting Dierenlot has contributed greatly supplying the trapping cages, anesthetic and suture material. But more support is always needed.

Veterinarian Mirte Kruijt has been with the program since the beginning and hopes in the future the government will support pet welfare by requiring tagging, registering and chipping of all pets. If responsible pet owners neuter and spay their cats the problem would not exist.

Nearby Saba has taken extreme measures by adopting an island wide removal of feral cats. Traps are being

set to capture the cats and those unchipped will be euthanized. Cats which appear domesticated will be held until claimed or rehomed while kittens will be raised and rehomed through the Saba Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In some TNR programs each cat is tested for feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline HIV (FIV) but costs are prohibitive here.

Mirte said, "One test for FIV/FeLV is about \$25 which makes the whole TNR a lot more expensive. You need to wait 5-10 minutes for the results, so that means longer anesthesia. And then, what do you do with the results...euthanize? And a lot of cats with FIV can live a very happy and "healthy" life. If a cat looks really ill, then we might test and euthanize on a positive [test] result."

Anyone wishing to report a cat colony please contact the Stray Cat Project Bonaire at TNR-Bonaire@bonaiveterinarycenter.com or visit the Flamingo Island Veterinary Center on Facebook for updates when the volunteers will be in your area. If you are interested in volunteering your time or contribute monetarily, please contact the program.

Julie Morgan



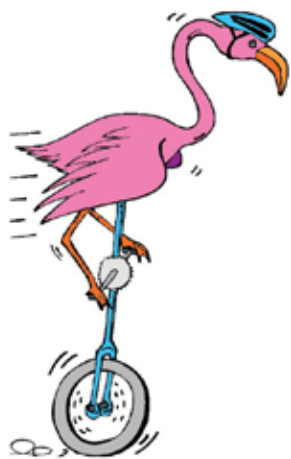
Veterinarian Karen Bus-Raeman is vacationing on Bonaire and for the second year has helped out with the surgeries.

Photo Julie Morgan

Below: A young feline patient receives her first meal after surgery. Photo Julie Morgan



DE FREEWIELER



Sales & Repair:
Road, Mountain & Dutch Bikes.
Giant, Specialized, Bikkell
& Golden Lion Bikes
Parts and accessories for all brands of
bikes
Beautiful bike clothes, shoes, helmets
House and car keys duplicated
Kaya Grandi #61 "The blue building"
Open 8:30-12:30, 14:00-17:00
Owner Operated Call 717-8545
Website: www.freewielerbonaire.com
Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com



Community learning and LGBTQ+ discussed at Rotary's May Meetings

Rotary members heard talks on developing a sustainable learning community and supporting Bonaire's LGBTQ+ community at their May meetings.

Developing a sustainable learning community

Evelien Ketelaar of Bureau Hebe and Daphne Goudsmit of Theatre Makers Radio Kootwijk specialize in connecting people from diverse backgrounds so that they can work together. Bonaire's schools have tasked them with shaping and guiding the development of a sustainable learning community that connects educators with outside experts, leaders and entrepreneurs. And organisations like Rotary can help by establishing contacts, say Ketelaar and Goudsmit.



Evelien Ketelaar
Director and advisor
Bureau Hebe

In a next step, a citizenship festival will be organised in October. Schools have been given the formal task of developing young people into responsible citizens. Safety, social development and identity are components of this development. But schools cannot accomplish this task alone. Input from organisations in care, culture, art, climate, entrepreneurs, and local government is needed.

Supporting Bonaire's LGBTQ+ community

Judith Brekelmans is Chairperson of the EQ foundation which advocates for the LGBTQ+ community on Bonaire. The foundation offers a listening ear to anyone who is different from the heterosexual norm. 'Don't take your own life, you'll be fine.' is often the message because young people who do not conform to the 'norm' have a particularly hard time on Bonaire. Judith calls on everyone to help. This can be done very simply by wearing a multicolored pin that means: I want to make the effort to understand you.

In the 10 years of its existence, the EQ foundation has established good contacts in The Hague. But it has not succeeded in having similar contact with authority figures from OLB. On the island the hetero-normative image plays a big role in the community and in the churches.

Pride week is back June 16 to 21. Planned activities include a healthcare symposium on transgender people, a live singer, a drag king and at the library, a programme by artists for children featuring nature's many examples of divergent sexual selection.

Rotary Releases



Daphne Goudsmit
Theatre Makers
Radio Kootwijk



Judith Brekelmans
Chairperson
EQ Foundation

Making a difference

Kas Flamboyant Hospice and Fun-dashon Ambulans Deseo Boneiru (FADB) have been busy this past month granting wishes and gratefully receiving a little financial support. Kas Flamboyant received a check for \$9995 from the receipts raised in the 2025 Ride for Roses Walk, Run, Bike, Swim event held in February. The funds are earmarked for four new beds at the hospice.

FADB was able to help make Bonairean Billy Valentijn's dream to return to Bonaire come true. The bed bound Valentijn, living in the Netherlands now, received three wishes from FADB. With the help of the transport, he was able to

attend the Isidel Beach Park's one year anniversary, a soccer match, enjoy a drink at Karel's Beach Bar, an ice cream at Luciano's, swim at Sorobon and travel the scenic roads to Rincon and the salt flats.

FADB offers final wishes free of charge for immobile and/or terminally ill patients on Bonaire to give them one last meaningful experience.

If you would like to contribute or volunteer at Kas Flamboyant or FADB contact Mimi Dongen and Angelo Goeloe by email at: info@kas-flamboyant.com or call +599-717-8560. *Julie Morgan*



A large crowd of family and friends welcome Billy Valentijn home to Bonaire on May 20. FADB provided the transport via the Wish Ambulance.



Ride for the Roses board gifts the check, L-R: Coen van Gennip, Mimi Dongen, Angelo Goeloe, Anne-marie Mercera and Charles Lont. Page 9

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 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 gladly share with anyone even if they aren't interested. But *The Reporter* is interested. *Pets as Family* is your opportunity to share a story, an incident and a photo or two about your favorite or not so favorite pet. Check your memory banks and photo collection and send us something you have been talking about for years.

Life with Kitty

From the day a little red cat entered our lives, we knew he was special. He came screaming out of the agave and kept yelling for attention.

My husband (R.I.P.) sat at the table in his wheelchair and gestured that the little cat had to sit on the table. Which was very strange, because he had never wanted an animal on the table before. But now there was one!

And I was glad he was, because from the start the cat appeared to be a therapeutic animal. Starting with getting him a name: this was an interesting logopedical exercise. We chose it to be Kitty. Very easy to pronounce!

Bedtime was always fun, we never went to bed without the cat. And the cat had great bedding to choose from.

After his stroke, my husband suffered from seizures. Bad, long, frightening seizures. Normally we did not know when a seizure would surprise us. But since Kitty was in our lives, detecting seizures was not hard at all. Kitty knew! He would position himself close to my husband's head and stayed close to him until the seizure was done.

When my husband was alone in the bedroom, Kitty

would rush to his side, but only after calling me. I had never heard of such a behavior from a cat before, so I filmed it, to show the neurologist. He told us that this behavior he had never seen with a cat. Only with dogs. So we were very proud of our sweet Kitty. We could always rely on him.

When my husband passed away, Kitty was very upset. He did not understand what happened. He did not want to be close to my husband. But after the hearse left the house, Kitty would sit for hours at the gate and seemed to wait for my husband. Seeing an ambulance always upsets Kitty.

When I slipped, fell and broke my wrist after that Kitty was more upset than normal. I had left in an ambulance and those vehicles took people away from him. I know he was very afraid I would never come back.

After that Kitty would sit for hours at the gate of our community.

Now Kitty wants to sit in my former office, once in a while. This is where my husband's clothes still are. I open the wardrobe and leave Kitty in there for a few hours. When he is ready to leave, he asks to leave the room and



watches the door to be locked again.

I never wanted an animal that would live longer than I would. So, I am very afraid now. I really hope I will live longer than Kitty.

I have never heard of such special behavior before and am proud that he is in my (our) life. And I am afraid I spoil him rotten. He gets to eat what he really loves, but I think he really deserves that.

Ria Dokter

What a wonderful weekend Bon Doet 2025

Bon Doet treated 16 of Bonaire's elderly folks with a swim in the waters at Sorobon via the water wheel chairs and noodles.

There was nothing but laughter and big smiles the entire time and that includes the 16 volunteers.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get in the water and after the swim an assortment of pasteches were served.



Mozzarella soup a la caprese Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



Mozzarella soup: 500 g (4 C) mozzarella cheese, grated • 3 dl (1/2 C) heavy whipping cream • 100 g (1/2 C) Crème fraiche • 7 dl (3 C) vegetable stock • 1 onion, chopped • 4 cloves garlic, minced • 1/2 dl (3.5 T) Olive oil • 60 g (1/2 C) flour

Heat olive oil in a saucepan and fry onion and garlic (cook without browning). Add the flour, stir into a roux and cook briefly. Add stock, cream and crème fraiche and bring to the boil, stirring with a whisk. Let simmer for a while then add cheese and let it melt. Blend into a smooth mozzarella soup. Season with salt and pepper if necessary.

Garnish: 1 tomato with a lot of flavor • 1 bunch of basil • 8 cherry tomatoes • 4 Burrata mozzarella • Olive oil • Pepper and Bonaire sea salt

Cut the tomato into quarters, remove seeds and cut tomato flesh into cubes. Finely chop a few basil leaves and mix with tomato cubes. Season with olive oil, pepper and Bonaire sea salt.

Basil oil: 1 dl (1/2 C) olive oil • Rest of basil

Blend oil and basil in a blender until smooth.

In middle of a large soup plate, place the tomato mixture with some basil leaves and top with the Burrata mozzarella, sprinkled with some sea salt and pepper. Pour hot soup around it and spread some basil oil over it. If necessary, to make the soup a bit lighter, add a few spoons of cappuccino foam. Serve with freshly baked ciabatta bread.

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.



Venezuelan Gluten-Free Fresh Food

Yhanni's Arepas

Dine-in Garden/ Take-away

Mon-Tu-Th 12-7pm Fri-Weds 12-9 pm Sat-Sun 12-6 pm

Order +599-788-0035

Kaya Neerlandia 21-behind Budget Marine

TOKO BEACH

AT ISIDEL PARK

SEASIDE SNACKS & SOUVENIRS

Burgers, Fries, Ceviche, Ice Cream, Drinks & more.

OPEN EVERY DAY

tandoor palace

Book an ad.
We will tell your story.

Blue lagun cafe

Local lunch

Grab & Go meals!

+599 701 1373

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10AM - 8PM

Find us in the Dabboussi Center (AVIS)

Authentic Indian Cuisine

Open Six Days a Week

Lunch 12-3 p.m. / Dinner 5-10

(Closed Tuesday and Sunday afternoon)

Kaya Grandi 67

+599-717-6700

South American Cuisine with a Caribbean Twist

Eddy's

NOW OPEN for LUNCH

Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 11:30 - 2pm

DINNER

Mon-Fri 5:30-10pm

LIVE Music

Tuesday-Friday

599-717-6731

Gob. Debrot 79 - Reservations - www.EddysBonaire.com

LUCIANO

ICE CREAM

Kaya Isla Riba
(centrum Kralendijk)

DAILY 07:30-23:00

New 2

Bonaire District

Shopping Center - Hato

MON-SAT 9:00-22:00

KRALENDIJK - BONAIRE

Beer and Burgers

Tues-Thurs 5-10pm

Kaya Simon Bolivar 21 / 599-777-2907

<https://www.facebook.com/beerburgersbonaire>

DUSHI PALACE

Restaurant & Bar

A Happy Place

Mon-Thur
7a.m - 10p.m.
Fri 7 - 2a.m.
Sat 10-2a.m.
Sun 10 - 3a.m.

At the Hato Circle

599+712-7722

599-784-2038

Artisan Bakery Bonaire

The Only Sourdough & Plant-Based Bakery of Bonaire

Bobbejan's

796-4783

BBQ

WEEKENDS & TAKE AWAY ONLY

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY 6 - 10 PM

WINES & MORE

Take out or Dine in

Kaya L.D. Gerharts 10 Unit 1A - +599 785 0724

RUM RUNNERS

restaurant & cocktailbar

Open 7 Days a Week

Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner

Great Custom Made Cocktails

Spectacular Sea View

Captain Don's Habitat +599-717-8290 x 100

ROSA

The Italian homemade delicatessen

OPEN EVERY DAY FOR:

Monday untill Saturday

8am - 10 pm

BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER

Sun 8am - 4pm

They come to dive and dine.
Help them find you.

DAILY CATCH

FISHERMAN'S MARKET

Serving fresh catch by weight, breakfast, and lunch with a wide variety of dishes: sushi, tacos, ceviche, fried fish, salads, sandwiches, cakes and more.

Kaya L.D Gerhart's 6C

+599 787 1198

For menu visit:

www.freshfishbonaire.com

MON-FRI: 08.00-18.30

Sat: 08.30-16.00

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

My message for Ocean Day:

It's a great idea to give the ocean special attention with an Ocean Day. Science reminds us that the ocean is crucial for the existence of life on earth. For our survival we must begin to take care of the ocean and love it. It's an essential part of our life in each and every way.

As a participant in beach cleaning, I get a good feeling after an afternoon of this activity. It makes me aware that together we can make a difference and it's our responsibility to help nature stay in balance. In the end it is in the interest of the survival of humanity to restore the instability in nature.

I'm surprised to find all kinds of stuff at the shore. Most of it is plastic and there are all kinds of plastic items. It's hard to imagine that there are islands of plastic waste in the oceans and marine life is suffering. Only a certain part of the world's plastic waste ends up here but globally it is incredible.

The chemical plastic waste in plastic drains into the water of rivers, oceans, the soil and the air. All vegetation that grows on Mother Earth is affected. We drink and eat from the soil and so all that chemical poison reaches our body and that of the animals.

People and animals already have plastic stored in their bodies. We consume fish with plastic in their bodies, babies are born with microplastics in their cells and birds die from plastic poison. Scary! It's a dangerous development and it looks like there is no way back.

To prevent even more global nature instability we have to bring down the use of plastic in our daily lives. This is a task for every one living on the planet. Every little bit of plastic we use contributes to the plastic island in the oceans.



A pelican, one of Bonaire's ocean treasures that are endangered by plastic waste in the sea. Photo: Angliet

If each one of us stops using plastic as much as possible, it would make a big difference. If each one of us can stop and listen to the voice in ourselves that says: Change the addiction to plastic and make another choice. Save the oceans with all the life in it, save the soil and the nature around us.

Fighting climate crisis is not only the responsibility of governments, institutes and organizations. The truth is that it starts right here in the choices you make in your daily life: in the choice of items in your kitchen, using plastic bags and plastic stuff; dumping washing

machines, fridges and building waste in nature; burning items containing heavy chemicals that poisons the air; or poisoning the soil in your yard with chemical liquid waste such as old motor oil of cars. This is not only the task of Selibon or governments to fight climate crisis. This is each persons PERSONAL DUTY to be responsible for the safety of the place where you live. This is what each one of us, as habitants of Bonaire, has to feel for this island: the love and responsibility to keep Bonaire healthy and clean, green and beautiful for everyone here and for the generations after us. The soil must be healthy enough for every one to grow their own vegetables and fruits and enjoy gardening.

A beautiful Bonaire, a clean sea, healthy air, a balanced nature begins in your own mind and translates into your actions and attitude.

When the late president of the United States John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," he wasn't referring to our climate and plastic issues of today, but the words work in this context.

It's time to start with this message in your yard and garden, and then go farther to include your street and neighborhood. Needless to say, the impact will show. Together we can make the difference and let it work.

Start today, 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.

Creating Optimal Health - *Hoarding Behavior - Evolutionary Lag*

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Have you noticed that we all have a small (or not so small) hoarder inside? Hoarding behavior can be seen as an adaptive survival strategy in environments where resources were scarce and unpredictable. This is another example of evolutionary lag, where our original wiring no longer matches our current environment.

In the past, life was often unpredictable. Hoarding was a behavior that helped ensure survival during periods of winter or drought that could cause famine. As a result, individuals who were more prone to hoarding items had a higher likelihood of surviving and passing on their genes.

Hoarding had benefits for energy saving and daily routines, such as the time and effort required to make tools and weapons. Additionally, provisioned individuals had a better chance of survival if they fell ill or were injured.

In many social animals, including humans, controlling more resources is associated with higher status. This can lead to increased mating opportunities, the survival of one's genes and greater influence over the group, whether due to perceived power or because a significant portion of the group are one's own offspring.

Accumulation can also mitigate anxiety to some extent by fostering a sense of preparedness and security, as our brains have evolved to favor predictability and control.

In uncertain times like wars, depressions, or pandemics, people hoard items fearing future scarcity. This behavior, seen with toilet paper during COVID-19, activates an ancestral adaptive mechanism triggered by environmental instability. Even in a relatively stable environment, people

tend to accumulate possessions. Hoarding can become problematic and is often associated with consumer behavior. While saving for times of scarcity is not inherently negative, it is important to determine the boundary between functional and dysfunctional accumulation.

Contemporary hoarding disorder may be a result of, or an excessive manifestation of instincts that were previously beneficial. The fear of loss or the "just in case" mentality can become disproportionate characterized by abundance in today's society.

To address the consequences of this evolutionary gap, one approach is to consider Stoic philosophy. Marcus Aurelius advised asking oneself: "Is this necessary?" "Is this essential?" "Why do I do this?" He also suggested that seeking tranquility involves doing less, which can be extended to owning less. Activating mindfulness addresses the behavior rooted in survival mode, which if not detected, continues in automatic mode leading to the accumulation of objects that may not be needed. To prevent unnecessary accumulation, it is important to think before buying and consuming without necessity.

Let's also consider the items currently in possession, whether bought, inherited or received as gifts. The process of detachment involves giving away or donating such items. Questions like those posed by Marcus Aurelius are relevant: "Is this necessary?" "Is this essential?" Reflecting on how life would proceed without these items and what opportunities might arise from this emptiness is important. We also have to be aware and don't fall into the buy and dispose mode.

The minimalist movement provides valuable insights into reducing belongings to a minimum without compromising comfort or quality of life. This approach enables individuals to discern between essential and non-essential items.

Therapy can help us explore what void we are trying to fill or what we are protecting ourselves from with excessive accumulation. This might be an intriguing and intense personal journey.

Moving can serve as good exercise. It often helps minimize belongings by highlighting the accumulation of objects over time.

We face a crucial moment. Evolution made us fit for survival and reproduction in tough environments, not for health, happiness, or truth-seeking. If we let our primal instincts rule in today's world, our future is at risk. But with self-awareness, we can thrive. Self-awareness lets us see ourselves as distinct from others and our surroundings. While other species have this ability, humans possess it to the greatest extent. Let's make the most of 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 (IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

Spend this Spring's Culinair at Foodies



Have you ever driven by a restaurant a hundred times and thought I want to go there but it never happened because they weren't open or the timing was wrong. Foodie's is one of those restaurants for me. So, I was very happy when my Culinair assignment for The Bonaire Reporter turned out to be Foodie's. I had been there back in the 90's when it was known as Bon Tiki, but wow, has it changed. The new owners Gerbrand and Kelly Dongelmans have done wonders in expanding and updating the restaurant to a comfortable environment with views of Bonaire's nature from most every table.

Looking at the menu, one can clearly see why it's named Foodie's. There is literally something for everyone from a lunch with unique soups, salads and appetizers to their claim to fame, three or four course dinners.

For Culinair, the Dongelmans offered the three-course dinner with three favorite options from the menu doable for any taste or diet preference. I like the idea that rather than making something special for Culinair, May 29 – June 12, the selections are directly from the regular menu allowing diners the opportunity to try that same menu item in the future.

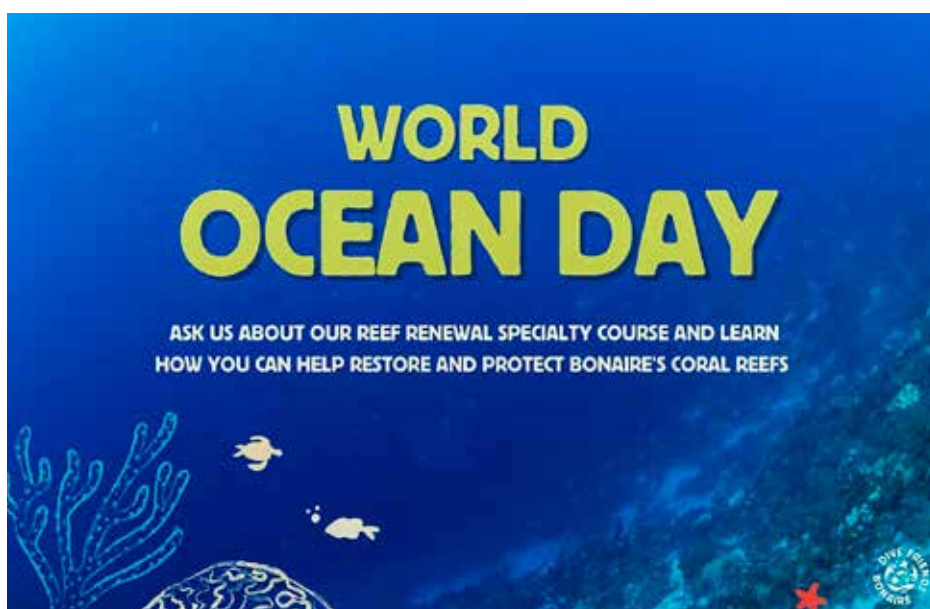
Foodie's is a lunch time favorite of my dining partner Leanne Pinkerton, but the dinner experience was new to her. Of the three offered appetizers for Culinair, Leanne chose the Truffle Carpaccio and was impressed with the thin slices of beef covered in fresh parmesan and roasted pine nuts on a bed of fresh arugula with a few cherry tomatoes.

It was a tough choice for me between the Vegan Aranciana Trio and the Tuna Tataki, but I opted for the tuna. I really enjoyed the slightly seared tuna coated in sesame. It was presented with just the right amount of fresh

**Spring Culinair at Foodies
to page 19**



Foodie's surprise dessert Photo Julie Morgan



**We love to
fly with you**

**Daily Flights to and from
Curacao and Aruba**

CHARTERS - CARGO - EXPRESS MAIL

FLYDIVIAIR.COM +599-717-2121

Children's music week brings out talent

The fourth edition of Children's Music Week, May 18 to 24 exhibited the growing talent of Bonaire's youth. From the opening to the final event the kids put their best dance moves and musical skills on display. With the ACE foundation's support, training and motivation the children are continuing to grow and showcase some amazing talent.

On opening night, the production theme was "Dream" (Soma) with 10 new songs produced through a collaboration of ACE, Santos Films and Jamz Caribbean.

Present for the opening was Deputy Nina den Heyer offering these words, "Music makes our bodies move, stimulates our feelings and is fundamental for both children and our elderly. Music is good for mental health."

Performances included seven singing and dance numbers by the ACE Teens, a video clip from singer Valeria, the Karnaval 2025 King of Tumba J'Shua Davelaar and Dia di Rincon juvenile Krioya winner Julendar Janga. The new Pony League U-9 baseball champs of Bonaire were the special guests of the evening.

Music week included workshops at the schools by musician Roel Callister and Nathaly Heyliger. The closing night included a presentation by ACE Teens and J-Sync from Curaçao.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



ACU Credit Union held a grand opening

ACU Credit Union held a grand opening for their members to announce their new location on May 24th. Guests were greeted by ACU Bonaire branch manager Avery Brodie, other employees and a welcome drink.



J-son Carter performs his amazing fire-eating act at the ACU grand opening Photo Julie Morgan



ACU employees plant a new frangipani tree at the grand opening of the new location to signify the growth of the Bonaire branch. Photo Julie Morgan

A covered tent was set up to accommodate guests as they found their seat to await the program. First up was a most unusual act J-son Carter, a fire breather born on Bonaire, He recently returned to the island to live after learning his fire breathing skills elsewhere.

Mistress of Ceremony Brodie spoke and introduced the other speakers which included Deputy Nina den Heyer, ACU general manager Eldrid Fos, and sales and service manager Nathalie van Sprang. Fos explained the new building is not just a simple physical expansion, but also a statement of the broader strategic direction of ACU.

A frangipani tree was planted by the employees to signify ACU is rooted in the community and growing in the future. Guests enjoyed a tour of the new building.

ACU began in 1962 in Curaçao and is 26,000 members strong and the largest of the three branches. ACU Bonaire has been in operation for 10 years and there is also one on St. Maarten.

ACU is a credit union for government employees but is branching out to include family members who qualify. Julie Morgan

Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

Mermaids



This young manatee left its mom to examine Julie and her photo gear.

Photo Julie Morgan

A few years ago, a manatee was seen off the coast of Bonaire! I was off-island at the time, and I remember how surprised I was that a manatee was seen here – mostly because I'd never thought of manatees around Bonaire. Manatees, I was sure, lived in the Crystal River and other places around Florida.

Well, they do live in Florida, but they've been known to travel: in 1995 and in 2006, a manatee was seen off New York City, of all places! And, I learned, the West Indian manatee has been split into two groups. The Florida manatees, the ones I knew about, live in the southeastern USA. The other group is called Antillean manatees, and they live off the Caribbean coasts of Central and South America. (So Bonaire's manatee visitor may not have travelled as far as I initially thought.)

But there's more! It turns out that, in addition to the West Indian manatee, there are two additional species of manatee: the Amazonian manatee and the West African manatee. The Amazonian's range is freshwater lakes and rivers in South America. The West African manatee lives along the west coast of Africa and in rivers until waterfalls or other obstacles block their progress upriver. I'd never heard a whisper about these manatees, have you?

I've never heard about manatee vocalizations, either, but the mamas and babies vocalize to each other during the 18 months or so that the babies nurse. And female manatees might emit low frequency sounds to attract males. Female elephants emit such low frequency sounds when they're ready to mate, and elephants and manatees are more closely related than we'd expect.

Manatees are classified in a group called the Sirenians, which includes only the manatees and the dugong. All of the Sirenians are similar in body shape and lack hind limbs and dorsal fins. The most obvious difference between dugongs and

manatees is that the tail of dugongs is fluked, like that of a dolphin, rather than rounded like a manatee tail. Another difference is location: dugongs live in the Indian and Pacific oceans, manatees in the Caribbean and Atlantic. Unlike manatees, dugongs are marine creatures who don't travel into fresh water. So, there are freshwater Sirenians, the Amazonian manatees; there are marine Sirenians, the dugongs; and the rest of the Sirenians – the West Indian and West African manatees – move freely between fresh and salt water, the only aquatic mammals who move between fresh and salt water.

The Sirenians, by the way, got their name from sailors who supposedly mistook them for mermaids.

Aquatic mammals include whales, dolphins, seals, manatees, and dugongs, but the only vegetarian aquatic mammals are the Sirenians. And, since plants need sunlight and Sirenians need plants, they all live in waters shallow enough for plant growth: usually shallower than 30' (10m).

In the 1990's David and I did a live-aboard trip around the islands of Vanu-

atu. One of our overnights was spent in the shelter of a small island with a single village and a natural bay for our vessel. Living in the bay when we were there was a dugong our guide called Dudley, who had a rope knotted around his tail fluke. The rope had been there so long that Dudley's skin was beginning to grow over it. Of course we wanted to get that rope off, but Dudley charged everyone who came too close to him. Looking back, I think that although Dudley was doing okay with the rope, and that taking it off might have caused infection or other problems, it's just as well we couldn't "help."

The villagers told us that Dudley had arrived with the rope. Apparently, someone had tried to capture Dudley, and Dudley had escaped. His aggressive behavior might have been a response to being hunted and thus suspecting all people, or he might just have been an aggressive individual. Aggression, however, is not a characteristic normally attributed to any of the Sirenians.

Unfortunately, being a shallow-water, slow-moving, non-aggressive mammal isn't the best recipe for longevity on a

planet with human beings. In fact, the Steller's sea cow is a perfect(ly horrible) example of a human effect on an animal. In 1741 a lost ship landed on an island in the Bering Sea in November. The starving crew members were saved by the numerous sea cows who lived there, who were calm, easy to capture, and tasty. When the crew got home, they spread the word, and by 1768 -- only twenty-seven years later -- the Stellar's Sea Cow was extinct.

Manatees and dugongs are protected by law in most of the countries they inhabit, but enforcement isn't always very good, or even possible in areas with many small islands. Also, in some areas manatee or dugong hunting is a tribal tradition; bones found in archaeological sites show that dugongs have been hunted by people for at least four thousand years. Other problems for manatees include boat propellers and habitat loss.

How can we help? When living animals become the focus of tourists, or photographers, or journalists, the profit to be made from their safety becomes greater than the profit to be made from their sale. Trips to see South or Central American manatees are available, and we're not so far away...

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.



Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Dokter

Missing people. Feeling lonely.

For most people being alone is not such a big deal. But when you are an elderly, losing a loved one often means that you are the only one left and being lonely and feeling lonely is what lurks behind a corner.

Most people lose a parent first. Or worse...lose both parents. When your family is small, there are mostly only brothers and sisters left. Some people don't even have brothers or sisters so when your parents pass away, you are an orphan. Often you have taken care of your parents, so the loss feels heavier. The feeling of unconditional love is gone and that is hard. Losing a brother or a sister is also hard because there is no one to share special memories with. You have a shared past and know so much about each other. You know each

other best. Who are you without that person you never had to explain anything to?

But when you are an elderly, your peers are often elderly. So when they pass away, you really are all alone. There is nobody left to share memories with, nobody to make you feel loved and nobody to be proud of. Everyone needs people around them. That is why women always seem to have a lot of girlfriends and a friend for every situation.

Some who struggle with missing family, pain, sadness and loneliness need mental help to make the loss feel bearable. So if you feel you need somebody to talk to, do so. Find someone who can help you. It does not have to be a professional. It can

also be a best friend, a neighbor or a colleague. Ask for a helping hand, ask for that comforting hug and ask for that listening ear. There is no rule or law that states that you are not allowed to cry or feel bad. There is no time frame glued to feelings or mourning.

When you are alone, there is also the fear of 'who will be there for me when I get really sick and need personal help.' Friends and neighbors can be a big help. And if you are really all alone, there are organizations you may approach. But it is always wise to invest in contacts. Join a club, learn to play an instrument or write poetry. There are always people who might become your friend or acquaintance.

And never be afraid to ask for help. People always need people, we are very social beings. So, try to mean something to somebody, try being a friend, a helping hand, a listening ear. We all need someone to lean on. You do not have to feel lonely.



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.

What's Happening

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

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

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

Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

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

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

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

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 16 - June 14	Group art exhibit SACA Art Piano Gallery 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 10 - June 11	Export the Goats art exhibit SACA Art Front Gallery 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..
May 29	Ascension Day. A legal holiday. Much is closed.
May 29 - June 12	Bonaire Culinaire Spring Edition. 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. https://bonaire-culinaire.com
Saturdays May 31 & June 7	Kids Art Studio at the Library ages 8-10. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Free but spots are limited! Bonaire Children's Museum pilot. Find QR code to sign up at https://www.facebook.com/kindermuseumbonaire/?locale=nl_NL
Sunday, June 1	ReeFiesta 2025. 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 — https://www.reefrenewalbonaire.org/get-involved/reefiesta-2025/ My Guardian Group Bonaire Walk & Run. 6:30 a.m. start: Bachelor's Beach. End: Frans Paradise in Lac Bay. Register May 1 to 30 limit 500 participants. https://dutchcaribbean.myguardiangroup.com/events/my-guardian-group-walk-and-run-bonaire-2025
May through July Wed. June 25	100 days of Captain Don. Captain Don's Habitat diving resort will celebrate with lectures, presentations, parties, raffles, music and great photo opps. The grand event on Don's birthday, June 25, will be like the old days with a free rum punch party, music and snacks.
Saturdays June 14 & June 21	Kids Art Studio at the Library ages 10-13. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Free but spots are limited! Bonaire Children's Museum pilot. Find QR code to sign up at https://www.facebook.com/kindermuseumbonaire/?locale=nl_NL
June 15 - 22	Pride Bonaire Events will include a film, pub quiz, Latin night Pink Edition at Cuba Companie and a great closing party at Tera Kora Ranch.
Saturday, June 21	International Yoga Day Free. 5:30 p.m. for a 5:45 p.m. start. Seru Largu. Walk a short meditation walk, then sunset yoga overlooking Klein Bonaire.

Walk a short mindful meditative loop with us followed by sunset yoga overlooking Klein Bonaire

17:30 for 17:45 start

21st June 2025

Seru Largu

What to bring:
Mat or towel
Water
Walking Shoes
Insect Repellent
Sundowner for afterwards!



More information and RSVP contact Kelly: +599 701 0110

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

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. <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 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 or app with 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Free Kid's Clinics 8-12 for beginners.



Echo Conservation Tours - Weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at info@echobonaire.org



Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m. June 2nd at Toucan Diving; June 9th at Divi. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantaatrust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at our brand-new office and visitors center on Kaya Aruba 4E every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> **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

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, June 1	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Next quarterly clean up in July	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

TCB announces essay and poster competition

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), in collaboration with the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), is excited to announce the launch of the 2025 FCCA Essay & Poster Competitions, open to all Bonaire students.

There are four competitions: Essay and Poster Junior (12 and under), and Senior (13 to 16.)

Competition Themes

- Essay Theme: "If I were a cruise passenger, what would I like to see or do in my country?"
- Poster Theme: "How to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities"

Three lucky students from Bonaire will be awarded fantastic prizes — including laptops and smartphones. Their achievements will also be honored at the international Seatrade 2026 conference.

The competition guidelines and forms are now available and can be obtained directly from the TCB.

TCB encourages all teachers, schools, and parents to encourage students to participate. All completed entries and forms must be submitted by the deadline to be announced soon. Stay tuned for further updates through TCB's official channels.

For more information, send an email to marketing@bonaireisland.com



Children’s Museum Opens

The new Bonaire Children’s Museum is hoping to bring the world to the children in Bonaire with an art studio and library. The children’s museum, located at the new public library, welcomes all children, locals and visitors, age 3 – 16.

The opening on May 17 included a presentation by Barbara Tedder, president of the Bonaire Children’s Museum foundation and manager of academic programs at the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam, and Ivy Adriaens Lo Tam Soen, project secretary. On hand for the presentation were ambassadors for the project: Nolly Oleana, Rudy Domacasse, Robert Smaal and Astrid Duyff. The presentors, ambassadors and parents took part in a visualization exercise. They wrote their dream, wish or vision for the museum on balloons and

then tossed them into the air.

The project has been in the works since 2021. It began with a feasibility study, then in 2023 the Bonaire Children’s Museum foundation was established. Finally now in 2025 the project plan was completed and the first pilot program was run at the opening.

The pilot program under the guidance of artist Qhyzhanne “Kiki” Martines, began with five and six year olds. The kids selected materials from a table full of fun art supplies: colorful paints, sponges, straws to make designs, markers and more. The kids went to work on paper covering the tables with adults offering any assistance needed with the materials. Over the next five Saturdays

kids in age groups 7 – 9 and 10-12 will be a part of the project. The goal is for the kids of all ages to collaborate on one project with the base designed by Martines.

The Children’s Museum team are Barbara Tedder, Corine van der Hout, Ivy Adriaens Lo Tam Soen, Astrid Duyff and Robert Smaal. Ambassadors not present for the event are Corine van der Hout and Governor John Soliano who helped describe the mission and vision for the museum.

Partners making the Bonaire Children’s Museum possible are FKPD, Bonaire Public Library, Children’s Museum Curaçao, Kooyman and Greg Hooi.

Julie Morgan Story / Photo



Museum team, ambassadors and parents take part in the visualization exercise. Photo Julie Morgan

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

What a wonderful weekend - Bon Doet 2025

Seventeen divers signed up through Bon Doet for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire’s (STCB) fishing line cleanup on May 17.

The divers collected a half bucket of line and another bucket of soda cans and plastic cups from the area surrounding the North Pier.

The next scheduled STCB fishing line cleanup date is not set but will be the end of June or early July.



2025 Cruise Ship Schedule			
DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. May 28	0645-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. June 5	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. June 11	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. June 17	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Thurs. June 19	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. June 25	0700-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Sun. June 29	0500-1600	SEVEN SEAS MARINER 730 guests	North
Thurs. July 3	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Wed. July 9	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. July 15	0800-1600	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. July 16	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Thurs. July 17	0700-1800	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	North

At Your Service


Online INTERACTIVE Page - just click on the ad

To advertise on this page: ad spaces are \$22 per issue for a minimum of six issues at \$132 + ABB 6% for a total of 139.92.
Contact us at bonairereporter2019@gmail.com or 786-4055 (cell/Whatsapp).

Bruce Bowker's
CARIB INN
OPEN DAILY
8am to 5pm
• Boat Diving
• Full-Service
Dive Shop
• Repairs
www.caribinn.com
JA Abraham Blvd 46
717-8819 • info@CaribInn.com



Yoga Sensibile
Eden Beach Resort
Mon. 8am & 5.30pm; Tue. Wed. Thu. 8am
Fri. & Sat. 8.30am; Private class on request
Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de
www.elisabettamaccari.com



JEAN SCEARCE Your Real Estate Agent On Bonaire
Bonaire Oceanfront # 7
\$ 449,000
2 bed / 2 bath
Located on the boulevard!
00 599 - 717 - 7362 Jean@bonairehomes.com




Bonaire Scuba
PRIVATE PADI COURSES
CUSTOM GUIDED DIVES
EQUIPMENT RENTALS
www.bonairecuba.com
+599-777-3483 (777DIVE)



CARIBBEAN ISLANDS
MANTA
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM



*Do you have a product
visitors can take home
as a gift?*

Advertise it here.

TEKIBON
(Tekila & Rum)
**Unique
Liquor Made
on Bonaire**
*Cruise Market
*The Place
(Souvenirs & Clothes)
Kaya Grandi 8
*Tambo
Kaya Grandi 11
+599-787-7348
+599-786-2686



The Reporter
read locally
AND internationally

Reach thousands
Advertise here

petals
BONAIRE
Order online!
www.petalsbonaire.com



THE STOREHOUSE
MANGASINA
STORING EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN



MANGROVE
MANIACS
LAC RESTORATION PROJECT



The Touch
KUNUKU SPA
HOT STONE MASSAGE
SEVERAL TYPES OF MASSAGE AVAILABLE
BOOK NOW
Kaya Caribe 57B +599 - 717 5303 / 785 6378



OUTDOOR
BONAIRE
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPELLING
ABSEIL • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING
+(599) 785-6272
hansoutdoor@hotmail.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com



THE STOREHOUSE
MANGASINA
Call 700-1753
www.bonaireselfstorage.com
info@bonaireselfstorage.com



ezone
Easy, Affordable, Fast
Shop on-line & we will ship to you
<https://www.getezone.com>



The brands you want
Xprodiver
Bonaire
The service you need
Atomic Zeagle
Hollis Oceanic
bonaire@xprodiver.com
777-7333 (REEF)



Elements
Hand made dichroic glass jewelry
since 2010
info@elementsbonaire.com
www.elementsbonaire.com
visit our stand at Cruises Market
Follow us on f i



*Help your
clients find you.
Advertise here.*

Bonaire Landsailing Adventures
Open daily for bookings
Reserve online
www.landsailingadventures.com



Denture Prosthetist
Full or Partial Dentures
New and Repairs
Call for an Appointment - 717-2248
Thijs van Zijl - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G.Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
tandprothetische praktijk



Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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



Ernst

Hi, this is Ernst.

Ernst is 3 year old, beautiful ginger and has the build of a real life Garfield. He always has a surprised derp

face, but is the most cute and gentle cat you can find! Ernst loves to snuggle at your feet and get pets. Ernst also has a very playfull side, but it is rare since he really likes just relax and enjoy the breeze, preferably with a lot of pets. He does well with other cats but does not like dogs. Ernst is also one of our cats that does not know anything but a shelter life. His mother gave birth to him on a parking lot under a car, and was found and brought to the shelter. His face always brightens up our mood at the shelter and we hope someone will give him the home he deserves, and he can bring a smile to his new family! .

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet Hogi

He was brought to the animal shelter as a puppy and was soon adopted. Unfortunately, after two years he was returned because he found the goats just a bit too exciting and couldn't resist chasing them. He's now been back with us at the shelter for about six months and is looking for a loving home. With his short legs, he's a smaller dog, and he absolutely loves attention and cuddles. He gets along well with other dogs and is always up for some company. We're hoping to find Hogi a warm, goat-free home where he can enjoy life to the fullest. Will you be the one to give him the second chance he deserves?

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers



Hogi

Animal Shelter News

Drowning in kittens



Right now, our shelter is fluffcating in kittens. We have over 30 kittens in our care and more arrive almost every day. For every kitten that finds a home, two more come in. It's heartbreaking, and it's unsustainable.

We want nothing more than to give each of these tiny lives the care, comfort, and attention they deserve. But space, time and resources are running out.

This is a crisis and we need your help.

• **Adopt** – If you've been thinking about adding a cat to your family, now is the time. Come and meet our kittens they desperately need loving homes.

• **Spay and neuter your cats** – This is absolutely critical. Every unsterilized cat contributes to the cycle. The procedure is free through local veterinarians:

Klinika Veterinario Bonaire (Dr. Fulco de Vries)

+599 717 4255. You can call directly to make an appointment, no extra steps needed.

Flamingo Island Veterinary Center. +599 717 3338

Make an appointment first, then stop by the shelter to pick up the form that covers the cost.

Spay, neuter, adopt. Together, we can turn the tide.

Story / Photos: Marissa Lamers

Spring Culinair at Foodies from page 13

ginger, edamame, seaweed salad and wasabi mayo. The accompanying soy sauce with a slightly sweet taste was a perfect compliment. The secret really was in the sauce –a bit of sweet chile sauce and sesame was added to the soy.

The main choices direct from the menu were Pork Tenderloin, Vegan Tomato Risotto and Catch of the Day. Leanne's choice was the pork. It was surrounded by perfectly grilled vegetables: green beans, asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, leeks and cherry tomatoes. Leanne chose a mushroom sauce which she said, "Was to die for." I enjoyed the Vegan Risotto with cashews on a bed of arugula but it proved to be too filling.

We were both full but made room for the surprise dessert, a selection of sweets selected by the chef. On this particular night the dessert included Spek Koek, a cake of very thin layers, a dark chocolate brownie, vanilla with chocolate bits, and a natural cheesecake with a hint of coconut and a drizzle of caramel. Each dessert was special in its own way.

Foodie's is a unique restaurant with seating for 120. There doesn't seem to be a bad seat or view in the house whether it is in an intimate cozy corner inside or outside on the deck with a view of Sorobon bay. The restaurant can accommodate large groups with an expansive table. There is a full bar and specials throughout the week. One big surprise is Foodie's is actually two restaurants in one with a smaller café style restaurant called PocoLoco, open for lunch and, of course, takeaway.

For Culinair we suggest bringing your appetite and make a reservation. Foodie's is open Weds - Sun 12 - 9 p.m. for the Culinair special. Cost is \$39.50 for the three course dinner – drinks are extra. To reserve a table call +599-717-5369 or on WhatsApp +599-786-3663 or email info@foodiesbonaire.com. Foodies is located at Kaminda Sorobon 106.

Story / photos Julie Morgan

Isidel is one year old

Isidel Beach Park celebrated its one-year anniversary with music, drinks, cake and showing of the documentary, 90 Years of Aviation on Bonaire. In the past year the park has evolved into a popular site for locals and tourists to relax, swim, dive, play with the kids, dine and enjoy a drink at seaside.

In a speech at the celebration, Director of Bonaire Overheidsgebouwen N.V. (BHM) and management at Isidel said, "Today we celebrate not only a year of existence, but also a year of growth, connection and meaning for our community. This park belongs to all of us. A place of meeting, recreation and connection. Let us together celebrate that today – and let us together continue to build our future."

Isidel is truly a park for the people. Visitors will find kiosks with healthy fast food, and a restaurant and bar operated by prize winning chefs. At the water's edge is a safe ramp and handrails that is wheelchair accessible for anyone wanting to



Adely-Susana-Jansen assists the kids in cutting the Isidel Beach Park one year anniversary cake.
Photo Julie Morgan.

dive, snorkel or swim.

In the past year, Isidel Beach Park has become the venue for Ride for the Roses, documen-

tary showings, music, art and culture nights with the Spoken Word and Full Moon Night.

And as promised in the plan-

ning stages, a boat slipway is on the horizon along with a charging facility for electric vehicles. Finally Isidel Beach Park will soon have its own website,

a mobile app to keep everyone updated and a Privilege Card for regular visitors.

Isidel Beach Park is open everyday
Julie Morgan



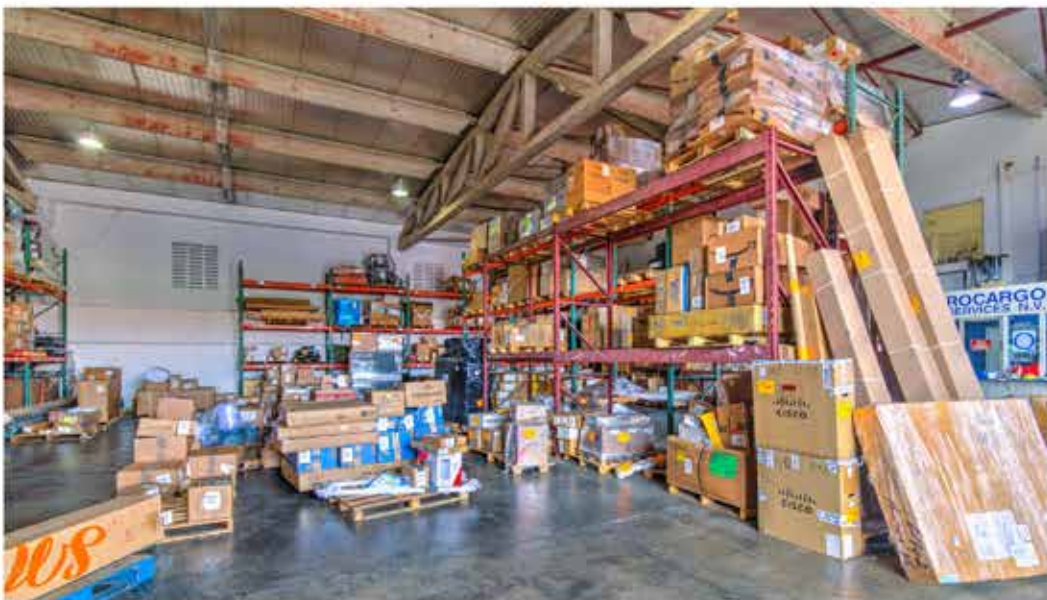
ROCARGO

LOGISTICS SERVICES B.V.



IFC | Experts in Expediting

For all your shipping needs to or from Bonaire



WEEKLY CONSOLIDATED CONTAINER SHIPMENT FROM U.S. AND EUROPE
CUSTOMS SPECIALIST - LOGISTICS PAPERWORK INBOUND AND OUTBOUND
MOVING AND RELOCATION
WAREHOUSING STORAGE - AIRFREIGHT

WWW.ROCARGO.COM - INFO@ROCARGO.COM