



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Gold Star Teens on the Habitat dock
Photo Julie Morgan

Gold Star Teens return to Bonaire

For the sixth year, Gold Star Teen Adventures (GSTA) have returned to Captain Don's Habitat for a week of scuba diving training, camaraderie, leadership training, and a lot of fun.

If you have not heard of GSTA, the organization was founded by Special Forces US Army member Kent Solheim after he lost part of a leg from a combat injury. As he healed, he reflected on what life would have been like for his two children had he not come home and was inspired to found an organization to support teenagers who have lost a military or first responder parent in action. It's not grief camp, but a chance to develop.

Imagine you are growing up, proud of your parent serving in the military until one day, you hear he was killed in action. You stand out at school as kids whisper about you; perhaps you withdraw emotionally. A number of teens have told me how much of a relief it is not to have to explain anything about their family. GSTA offers a supportive community, where your loss is the same as other kids, where you don't stick out...and you learn, play, and grow.

The scuba academy program encompasses a lot of training. Their largest group earned their NAUI Advanced certification, taught by volunteer instructors like Danny of south Florida. A smaller advanced group completed their Rescue certification along with first aid. I've always felt that Rescue engenders real change. As one teen told me, you don't just dive for yourself, you dive for others.

A fundamental tenet of scuba diving is the buddy system, and interdependence is also a tenet of GSTA. I



Gold Star divers explore the Hilma Hooker

accompanied a group of teens doing their first big wreck dive on the Hilma Hooker. I was impressed as two Habitat boats filled with teens tied up to the moorings. Everyone was prepared, and though the curtain wall of excited bubbles was impressive, there were no problems. Everyone got back on with enough gas in their tanks, and they navigated the site to perfection.

Their day begins just after sunrise with physical training for all GSTA participants, planks, burpees, push-ups, and core work. "No excuses, even in paradise" is their motto. It made me tired just watching them! The evenings not devoted to night diving include a talent show and a dance party, with music by Roger Haug (dive shop manager by day, deejay by night).

GSTA funds every teen who comes to Bonaire regardless of their financial situation. It's a tax-exempt organization, a 501-c3, and I took a hard look at their IRS 990 and audit documents (it's required for all such organizations to file publicly available financials), and boy, are they clean. Rarely have I seen a group where almost no monies go to administration, and almost all goes to its programs.

These kids are inspiring, and some of the nicest young people I've met. It's great to see them at Captain Don's Habitat every summer, and I look forward to encountering them in early August next year.

If you would like to learn more about GSTA, check out their website, www.gstadventures.org.
Mel McCombie / Photos Julie Morgan

Government in crisis or just government as usual?

What the heck is going on with the island government? Depends on who you believe.



(L-R) Commissioners Anjelica Cicilia and Nina Den Heyer resigned from the Executive Council, July 26.

The official announcement

July 26, 2025, two Executive Council members, Commissioner Nina Den Heyer and Commissioner Anjelica Cicilia personally presented their letters of resignation, effective immediately, to the deputy acting Island Governor, Ingrid Sealy, in her capacity as acting chair of the Island Council.

On Monday, July 28, the Governor, John Soliano, informed the Island Council that, in accordance with Article 54 of WolBES, he was taking over the administration of the Executive Council. If more than half of the positions within the Executive Council are vacant, the Governor is legally required to temporarily stand in for the Executive Council to ensure administrative continuity.

On July 30, 2025, three members of the Island Council submitted a formal request to convene an additional decision-making meeting to address the appointment of new commissioners. This meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2025, at 7 p.m. and will shorten the Island Council's recess period. All other scheduled meetings will proceed as usual.

The neutral press coverage

Both [Hans Hofstra at Bes-reporter.com](#) and [Antilliaans Dagblad](#) repeat the official announcement, then add background information and additional facts. Soliano's temporary take over from the Executive Board (BC) is mandated in the Public Bodies Act BES (WolBES) to ensure continuity of management. Soliano says the regular services of the OLB to citizens will continue as usual. He says he is acting carefully, independently and supra-politically. According to Soliano, August 14 is the earliest possible date for appointing new commissioners, partly due to requirements such as applying for a Certificate of Good Conduct. Soliano has said nothing about the cause of the resignations. He says it's up to the two commissioners whether to announce their reasons for leaving. That's a political matter.

The non-neutral coverage

[Astrid Duijff and René Roders, authors of the book *New Politics on Bonaire*, published this year.](#)

Duijff and Roders say, "We see a crisis, but we are watching a play about barter." The following summarizes their version of the story.

Clark Abraham's minority government depends upon the support of two former members of the MPB faction who resigned to become single-person members of the Island Council: Daisy Coffie (M21) and Cyrill Vrolijk. (Vrolijk received 30 votes in the last election.) Both found joining Abraham's DP coalition an easy decision as a consequence of the Island Council's vote to increase their parliamentary group allowance by more than 250%.

In the new Executive Council (BC), Abraham appointed himself the finance portfolio and convinced Anjelica Cicilia and Nina den Heyer to become specialist members of the Provincial Executive. However, Duijff and Roders say, Abraham wasn't looking for independent competence. He wanted subservient competence to his style of governing: big talk, few accomplishments, and squabbling.

Duijff and Roders believe Abraham wanted to get rid of Cicilia with minimal political damage to himself. He offered Coffie Cicilia's portfolio and she accepted. Cicilia resigned. To Abraham's surprise, so did Den Heyer. The Executive Council is reduced to one person. Before Abraham can appoint Coffie, Soliano exercised his mandate to take over temporarily until the Island Council meets to select a new Executive Council.

Cicilia and Den Heyer resign
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TASTE OF BONAIRE
BONAIRE
SUMMER
EDITION
WILHELMINA PARK
09 AUGUSTUS 2025
18:00 - 22:00

Go Solar with Blue Sky Solar Bonaire

With more than 3000 hours of sunshine per year, Bonaire is the perfect location for Solar Energy. But unfortunately, most of the island continues to rely on old technology that is powered by unsustainable fossil fuels.

Many of us wonder why there isn't more sustainable energy on the island but when Remco Goyer and Esther Groenewoud moved to Bonaire from the Netherlands in 2022 they did something about it. They had come to get away from boring management jobs, the harsh winters and enjoy the sun and ocean. But on receipt of their first WEB bill, they thought, "Why is there no solar?"

Esther said, "We came to enjoy life, we weren't planning to do solar."

But they were interested in providing more sustainability to the island and their solar business began as DTM Bonaire BV. In October 2024 they rebranded the company and changed the name to Blue Sky Solar Bonaire.

Remco said, "I want to make solar available for everyone. People that need it the most can't afford it. We want to help create subsidies for schools, sports halls and government buildings. We hope the government will give that to the island. The idea is for the government to give a loan for payment for the system and once it is paid off, it will run on its own."

Blackouts are still a regular occurrence on Bonaire but with solar that can be a



The team completes the solar installation on Carolyn and John Anderson's house Photo Julie Morgan

thing of the past. Blue Sky Solar Bonaire provides complete systems with solar panels and battery storage so even if the grid goes down, the power stays on.

There are two types of solar systems. Grid Tied: panels, power inverter providing power to the home and a Hybrid system: panels, solar inverters, battery and

WEB connection. There is also an Off-Grid System designed for a kunuku space with panels, solar inverter, battery and some kind of generator. Blue Sky Solar is totally customized and individualized to the clients' needs. The installation is as big as your energy consumption or need.

The return on your investment can be

as little as two and a half years for a Grid-Tied system with batteries or four and a half years for a Hybrid system installation.

The process is easy. It begins with an appointment to see the property. They check the present consumption when

Blue Sky Solar to page 5

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 f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



The non-neutral coverage,
continued

[Harald Linkels, Bonaire.nu, "Political Party M21 chooses power over morality on Bonaire"](#)

Linkels blames Coffie for the resignations of commissioners Nina den Heyer and Anjelica Cicilia. He says M21 is responsible for the departure of two of the most effective deputies of the rainbow coalition because Coffie applied political pressure on Abraham. If M21 leaves, the coalition fails. Abraham had to sacrifice Den Heyer and Cicilia as an act of political survival.

Linkels accuses M21 of hypocrisy. Its press release "invokes integrity, equality, social justice and ethical leadership," but "what has happened in Bonaire in recent days is one of the deepest valleys in the political history of the island. Not showing words or roaring press statements what a party stands for — deeds do." (see M21's release below)

[Kadushi "COLUMN – DEVIL'S PACT" Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties](#)

According to Kadushi, the story is "Dirty and rotten. The island government—it must be said—is riven by betrayal, blackmail, lies, theft, deceit, nepotism, and corruption, all driven by the pursuit of self-interest. Just when you think the island's political clique can't

possibly sink any lower, it descends another rung on the ladder of civilization. Last weekend, two political corpses simultaneously rolled down the stairs of the Government Office. Each with a knife in their back: victims of the bad and the ugly of Bonairean politics."

Kadushi added another detail to the story: Abraham "thought he could still appease Cicilia by offering her a generous salary as director of the R&D department. Understandably, she declined the dubious pleasure of submitting to a narcissistic boss as a civil servant."

Daisy Coffie (M21) press release

July 28, 2025 – M21 is aware that the current situation may raise questions or concerns, but we affirm that we remain steadfast in our principles and mission. We believe that a Bonaire with well-being and prosperity for everyone is only possible by continuing to build stability, transparency, and innovation. Our core values of integrity, freedom, tolerance, equality, solidarity, social justice, and peace guide us in every step we take. This ensures that the government always represents and serves the people of Bonaire in an ethical and responsible manner. We have great confidence in the people of Bonaire. Together, we can continue to build the Bonaire that everyone deserves. Nos ke paso nos por!

DMR



The governing coalition pictured in October 2023

Wearing white to symbolize their unity, and holding the list of 50 objectives they intend to achieve, the members of the newly formed 2023 coalition were (L-R) Dany Crestian, Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai, and Clark Abraham of the Bonaire Democratic Party (PDB); Daisy Coffie, M21 party, and Cyrill Vrolijk, formerly of the Bonaire People's Movement (BPM) party, now Independent.

In the new 2023 government, Daisy Coffie and Cyrill Vrolijk remained on the nine-member Island Council. Clark Abraham, leader of the PDB, moved to the three-member Executive Council to be joined by two invited, non-political, specialist members, Anjelica Cicilia and Nina Den Heyer.

POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

Aug. 1. The battery box of a truck was destroyed and two batteries stolen from business premises on Kaya Antonia.

July 29. A man, 49, was arrested on E.E.G. Boulevard for attempted theft after being identified on security camera footage trying to break into a business.

July 25. A tablet, a laptop, soft drinks, and cash were stolen from a youth center on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar.

July 23. The padlocks on a container were broken and two grinders, a welding machine, two radiators from a machine, and a pressure washer were stolen from a business on Kaya Sonmontuno.

July 22. A dark green garbage container located outside the yard of a house on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia was stolen.

Arrests

July 31. At approximately 4:45 p.m. the Special Assignments Group (GBO) arrested a man, 19, on Kaminda Djabou for public violence.

July 22. Around 9 p.m. a man, 22, and a man, 20, were arrested for assault, assault with a weapon, and public violence. The arrests took place after a report was received by the central emergency dispatch center about a fight between several men on Kaya J.N.E. Craane near the "Waf di Piskadó."

July 22. A man was arrested for possession of counterfeit money. Further investigation by a bank revealed that the money was not counterfeit. The man was immediately released.

Driving under the influence

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

From July 4 to August 3 14 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. 13 drivers registered a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles, after which they were arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. One driver had to go to the hospital for a medical checkup, so was not arrested at the scene. A few hours later, he was breathalyzed again and again breathalyzed above the legal limit.

Police confiscated four driving licenses. They banned other drivers from driving for 1 hour, 3 hours and 4 hours, the length of the ban depending on the driver's blood alcohol level.

One driver was stopped for a routine check. One was driving erratically. Three drivers crashed into stationary objects.

Police warn of battery theft

The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) has recently received several reports of battery thefts on business premises.

We are warning business owners and local residents to be extra vigilant. The thefts appear to be primarily targeting truck battery boxes parked on business premises in and around Kaya Korona.

One drove his car into the garden gate of a house on Kaya Flamingo. Another drove his car into a wall at the entrance of a supermarket on Kaya Industria. The third driver crashed into the concrete meter box of a house on Kaya Maraka. Two drivers collided with each other on Kaya Korona. One driver veered onto the wrong side of the road, colliding with a pickup truck whose driver was not impaired.

Three drivers did not have a driver's license. Two could not produce valid insurance.

Traffic accidents

Aug. 2. Around 1:15 p.m. a pickup and a car collided on Kaya Industria. One of the drivers complained of pain and was checked by paramedics. The road was closed until emergency services had completed their work.

July 26. Around 10:15 a.m. a driver lost control of his car and crashed into a lamppost on Kaminda Gurubu, near Bona Bista, and was injured. The lamppost broke in half and threatened to fall to the road at any moment. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The road was closed in both directions to prevent traffic from proceeding until WEB completed its work.

July 25. Around 10:15 a.m. a cement truck overturned on Tras di Montaña, near Subi Colombia, on the road to Rincon. Police and an ambulance responded to the scene. The truck could not climb a slope and began to roll backward. The driver decided to steer the truck to the side of the road, but the load caused the vehicle to overturn. Police closed the road to traffic until all work was completed. The driver was medically examined by paramedics and given a warning for driving with an invalid license.

July 21. Around 6:30 p.m. at the intersection of Kaya Korona and Kaya Papa Cornes a car swerved to avoid a collision with a scooter, but the scooter driver lost control and fell to the ground. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Fire

July 30. Around 9 p.m. a large number of car wrecks were reported on fire in the Santa Clara area. Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control after about an hour and a half by using an excavator.

July 25. Around 4:10 a.m. a car parked in the yard of a house on Kaya Jagueribe was reported on fire. The fire department arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. The car was completely destroyed.

The police urge everyone to contact the police immediately if they encounter any suspicious situations or behavior near their business premises.

We also advise businesses to implement additional security measures where possible.

occupied, calculate use day and night, examine the breaker box, plan for future expansion and evaluate the overall need. Remco takes a drone shot of the roof and then provides an image with the projected solar panels in place. A quotation is sent and if approved the work takes six weeks.

Blue Sky Solar Bonaire has everything necessary for an installation in stock. They use top of the line products from companies known for energy sustainability: Victron Energy with 50 years in energy management, EG4 Electronics batteries and Jinko Solar panels.

Blue Sky Bonaire's seven-member crew includes Remco and Esther. They make two – three installations per week with the majority of their work residential.

One in three homes in the Netherlands now has solar panels and the Dutch government subsidizes solar for homeowners and business owners. Top solar users worldwide are China, United States, India, Japan, Brazil and the Netherlands.

Contact Blue Sky Solar Bonaire for a free consultation or customized quote - call +599-7841782, email: info@blueskysolarbonaire.com or visit <https://blueskysolarbonaire.com>.

(See Blue Sky Solar Bonaire ad on page 14. In our online issue, a click on the ad will take you directly to their website.)

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
I recently contacted a real estate broker on the island and asked them to list my house for sale. To my surprise, they offered to buy it from me on the spot. What should I do??
Ken A.

Hi Ken,
Thank you for your question. First of all, it is important to realize that there are virtually no government regulations or industry controls on the real estate brokers on Bonaire, so any broker might claim to be the "most trusted" broker on the island.

It is always important to check the brokers references by talking to the references they give, AND asking around for other references since most business people will never refer to an unhappy client.

If you are considering selling your property to a real estate broker who you asked to list it for sale make sure you get a second opinion from at least one other broker. This suggestion applies if a real estate broker OR other buyer offers to buy your house from you directly. The broker or other buyer who wants to buy your property directly may offer you a lower than market price expecting to quickly resell your property and make a quick profit for themselves or just to get a better price.

Whenever you are considering listing your home for sale, it is always a good idea to talk with two or even three brokers to see how they value your home and to see how you feel about working with them to sell your house.

Best 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



Esther Groenewoud and Remco Goyer
Photo Julie Morgan

Almost 100 unregistered tankers sailing under CAS flags

At least ninety Russian and Iranian oil tankers sail under the flags of Aruba, Curaçao or Sint Maarten, countries that do not even have their own ship registry. The ships also carry false certificates purportedly issued by CAS that cover inspections, insurance coverage, and training of crew members, among other functions. These revelations have been reported by the public research platform Follow the Money.

The false flags allow the tankers to operate stateless without valid registration, without insurance, and beyond international supervision. More than seventy of them transport oil from Iran or Russia, and almost forty are on Western sanctions lists. They help finance Hezbollah, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, the Houthi movement and the Russian army, among others.

Unregistered, uninsured tankers operated by crews with uncertain qualifications pose a continuous, worldwide threat to the environment. Many likely load crude at the docks in Venezuela.

Most of the false documents are issued in the name of Sint Maarten by a company that calls itself Maritime Safety & Technical Administration (MSTA). The company claims to be located in Beverly Hills, California, but presumably operates from India. In the first half of 2025, MSTA registered 39 new tankers. It registered 30 in the second half of 2024. MSTA, whose websites refer to a fictional "St. Maarten ship registry," also offers ship registrations for non-existent states such as Matthew Island and East Timor, as well as landlocked Laos.

The Dutch government warned the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that the fraud was being perpetrated against Sint Maarten in April 2024. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management said the problem is Sint Maarten's to solve. However, Paul Ellinger of the shipping inspectorate on Sint Maarten says the island does not have the resources to tackle fraud on an international scale. *DMR (Source: Bonaire.nu)*

Rotary helps Bonaire Wolfpack compete internationally

The Bonaire Wolfpack Baseball Foundation was founded in 2020 to introduce young people on Bonaire to the world of baseball and thus support their personal and athletic growth.

Recently, Wolfpack board members Anthony Ignacio and Kumar Piar talked to Rotary about the development of the young players. In 2023, a national team was formed to represent Bonaire internationally. The team immediately made an impression in the Coach Pitch World Series in Illinois that year. Last year, this team even came first in the World Series. And this year, the team became champions in the Latin America U9 Tournament in Colombia. This

earned the team the honor of representing Latin America at the prestigious U9 Mustang World Series in Vacaville, California.

Participating in international competitions gives young people a huge boost and, at the same time, the opportunity to be scouted. For example, one of the children received a scholarship to attend high school in the United States and further develop his baseball talent.

Participating in international competitions is expensive. That is why the Rotary Club Bonaire donated \$5,000 in June to help cover the costs.

Rotary News Release



Rotary president, Barbara Griot, with Wolfpack board members Anthony Ignacio and Kumar Piar

1,000 Mangroves planted for World Mangrove Day



Some 60 volunteers who weren't afraid to get a little muddy planted 1000 baby red mangrove plants.

In honor of World Mangrove Day on July 26, the Mangrove Maniacs, with the help of an army of 60 volunteers, planted 1,000 red mangroves along Bonaire's southwest coast. This large-scale community effort highlights the island's commitment to restoring and protecting its vital coastal ecosystems.

Mangroves play a critical role in the health and resilience of coastal environments. These salt-tolerant trees serve as a natural buffer between land and sea, stabilizing shorelines, reducing erosion, and absorbing wave energy during storms. Mangrove forests are also biodiversity hotspots, providing essential habitat and nursery grounds for fish, birds, and crustaceans. In addition, they naturally filter water, improving coastal water quality and clarity.

For Bonaire, mangrove restoration is especially important in the island's low-lying southern region, where rising sea levels, sedimentation, and salt intrusion

threaten both nature and infrastructure. Replanting red mangroves in this area helps rebuild natural defenses while strengthening the ecological balance, supporting fisheries, birdlife, and the long-term health of the marine park.

Mangrove outplanting is a part of the Mangrove Maniacs regular outreach program. Combining weekly volunteer work in Lac Bay channels with more accessible opportunities like the quarterly coastal outplanting and public presentations! Funding for this project is made possible through a number of grants and local support including BestLife2030, DinamoFond, STINA-PA, Public Entity Bonaire, Bloomberg Philanthropy and of course, with the hard work of our volunteers.

Want to get involved? Follow the Mangrove Maniacs on social media for all upcoming events!

Jessica Johnson / Photos via Mangrove Maniacs



Lucia Podipney and one year old son Reef joined the outplanting on World Mangrove Day.

Mangroves in the Dutch Caribbean: Vital, Vulnerable, and Vanishing

On World Mangrove Day, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) sounded the alarm: mangroves, nature's coastal protectors, are under serious threat across the region.

The Ministry of LNVN plays a crucial role in nature conservation in Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius, as outlined in the Nature and Environmental Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands (NEPP) 2020–2030. A joint statement published by WWF and island partners estimated €300 million in additional funding is needed to meet the NEPP's 2030 milestones. Roughly half of this is required for direct conservation and restoration of nature (such as mangroves, coral reefs, forests), while the other half is needed to upgrade critical environmental infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment systems.

It's a big number, but big problems demand bold investments if we want to see real, lasting change for nature. Delaying action will only make future solutions more expensive and less effective, while ecosystems continue to degrade.

See the entire article in DCNA BioNews: <https://dcdnature.org/news/>

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Bonaire joins the REEF GAFC

In July, Bonaire proudly took part in the REEF Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC)—a global citizen science initiative encouraging snorkelers and divers to document reef fish populations. The local event led by REEF expert surveyor Carmen Toanchina, drew an enthusiastic crowd interested to learn more about marine life and contribute to global reef conservation efforts.

The event began with a lively and educational Fish Identification Presentation at Trans World Radio Headquarters, where 47 participants gathered to learn how to recognize key reef species. Carmen's presentation highlighted the ecological importance of algae grazers such as parrotfish, surgeonfish, and blennies, which help maintain healthy coral ecosystems by keeping algae in check. She also introduced attendees to the fascinating world of cleaner fish like gobies and wrasses, as well as less commonly seen species like the elusive black brotula. The talk concluded with an overview of sharks and their critical role as apex predators in maintaining reef balance.

The next morning, some members of the group applied their new skills during a snorkel survey session at Regatta Headquarters. Participants recorded an impressive 58 fish species in a single outing. Notable sightings included several species of Parrotfish and Surgeonfish, one Chain Moray Eel and a couple of Spotted Moray Eels, several juvenile Highhats and Spotted Drums, an Orang-spotted Blenny and a very rare sighting of the Hairy Blenny Complex.



For many, this marked their first contribution as citizen scientists. By submitting their data to REEF's global Volunteer Fish Survey Project, participants became part of the largest marine life database in the world, helping researchers monitor ocean biodiversity and reef health.

The Great Annual Fish Count is held every July, with similar events taking place around the world. Whether a beginner or seasoned diver, anyone can

take part and make a meaningful contribution to ocean conservation.

To learn more or get involved, visit www.REEF.org/GAFC and www.biodiversebonaire.com

Special thanks to all participants who made this year's event a success.

And this month, August 26, 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio Carmen is offering another free fish ID class. Don't miss

this opportunity to learn about the beautiful fish of Bonaire and become a citizen scientist through REEF's [Volunteer Fish Survey Project](#).

Whether you're a seasoned diver or just curious about reef life, this session is open to everyone and promises to be both fun and informative. We've got a few surprises in store, so don't miss out—come learn, laugh, and fall in love with the reef all over again!

Carmen Toanchina

A Garden? Just Do It!

I know how hard it is to grow tomatoes on Bonaire

by Angliet, Nature Lover

I always thought the tomato was a very easy plant to grow because it is popular in world cuisine, found everywhere and I've grown it easily in the many places I've lived. Plus the tomato is the most commonly homegrown vegetable and garden plant.

When I moved to Bonaire I immediately made myself a little garden and tried tomato plants but unfortunately with no success. I tried to grow tomatoes again and again. I decided I would never give up and I kept on trying collecting all types of information about tomatoes to keep me inspired.

There are many varieties of tomatoes varying in shape, color, taste, and volume. There are: Cherry Tomatoes, Vibe Tomatoes, Beefsteak Tomatoes, Roma Tomatoes, San Marzano tomato, Cherokee Purple, Pink Tomatoes, Elongated Romello Tomato, Currant Green Zebra, Heirloom Tomatoes, Mortgage Lifter, Black Krim, Brandywine, Sweet 100 Tomatoes, Tigerella, Tomato F1, Honeycomb, Gardener's Delight, Tomato Consuelo F1, Sungold orange, black and purple tomatoes and more.

If you like burgers here is a funny list for the best tomato topping: the Big Beef, Brandywine, German Johnson, Better Boy and Parks Whopper.

The tomato plant is the species *Solanum Lycopersicum*. Its fruit is an edible berry that is eaten as a vegetable. But there is a warning as the tomato plant contains poison in every green portion. The tomato belongs to the *Solanaceae* or nightshade family, just like spinach, peppers, potatoes, eggplant and bembé.

If you want to try planting: Choose a sunny spot with at least 6-8 hours ample sunlight in well-draining fertile soil with a PH of 6.6 – 6.8. Bury the stem of the young plants up to the first set of leaves to encourage strong root growth. Use stakes, cages or trellises to support the plants. Especially during the dry periods, water regularly and deeply to maintain consistent moisture levels.

Use organic mulch around the plant to help retain moisture and regulate soil temperature. Rabbit manure is a great



source of healthy food for tomatoes. For pests, allow air-circulation to prevent diseases and remove affected leaves and dry leaves and parts. Harvest the fruit when slightly ripened to fully colored and with a bit of soft touch to the skin and you can enjoy them at their best.

The tomato has great health benefits: good for your heart, helps prevent prostate cancer, improves vision, digestion, good for your bones, eases inflammation, boosts immunity, intestinal health, Diabetes, regulates blood pressure and protects the brain. It's good for your skin as it helps boost collagen production which helps keep skin firm and youthful looking. Tomatoes are a good source of Vitamins C and K, Betacarotene, Lycopene, antioxidants and potassium.

With all the rain this season and moisture in the air, maybe our gardens will produce great looking and tasteful tomatoes. Never give up, just do it.



Angliet Baidjoe 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.

TERA CORRA CELEBRATES 175 YEARS



Tera Corra commemorated their 175th anniversary as a bario with a weeklong celebration from July 27 – August 1. Members of the community gathered on

July 27 and initiated the celebration by lighting a fire and relating stories passed down for generations of the beginnings of Tera Corra (variously spelled Tera

Cora or Tera Kòrà).

The village came into existence in February 1850 when Commander Jan Schotborg Claaszoon, forced 45 families revolting against slavery to move from Rincon to an area in southern Bonaire known as Mundu Nobo. The slaves would walk from there to work in the salt mining at Pekelmeer or Salina, a much shorter distance to the salt pans than from Rincon. The thinking was they could be working rather than walking. When slavery was abolished in 1863 many would still work the salt, but some became fishermen. In the early 20th century, the area became known as Tera Corra for the red earth. The families celebrated the traditional feasts of Simadan, Bari, San Juan and San Pedro and many still do today. Many of the descendants of the original 45 families still reside in Tera Corra.

On the official celebration day of August 1, Governor John Soliano and other government officials gave speeches in honor of the day. Participants performed spoken word poetry, theater and cultural dance. A Simadan for Union parade led by Luis Moka and the Palu Grandi Band

featured a new Simadon song, Mundu Nobo. Some 30 participants dressed in folkloric dress joined the walk from Jossy Boekhoudt sports field to end at the large Tamarind trees in Tera Corra where the festivities were held.

On August 2 – Onnie’s market was held during the day beneath the tamarind trees along side bouncy houses for the kids. In the evening attendees played Dam, Bolas, dominos and danced to the music of Hashtag, Oceanband, Haitian Kampo and Tutifrutti. Several booths offered homemade BBQ, local food and drinks. The celebration ended with a fireworks display.

The week was organized by the Commission for 175 years of Mundu Nobo/ Tera Corra. Special thanks to Bonaire Archaeological Institute, GPS Entertainment, MAC Enterprises B.V., Flamingo Party Rentals, all stakeholders and volunteers.

(Ref: Intangible Cultural Boneiru; Landschapsbiografie)

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Bolas was one of the games played in the evening. Photo Julie Morgan

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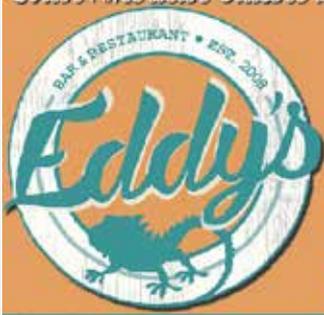
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OLB still keeping too much money

The Executive Council has \$75 million surplus sitting in the bank. Its revenues are higher than projected. Its expenses are lower than projected because it is failing to fulfill many of its mandated governing responsibilities. And it doesn't invest. Provincial Executive Member Abraham (Finance) has proposed to the Island Council that the expenditures he should have made this year be deferred until next year. *DMR*

TCB needs funding, BHM needs financial management

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), owned by the Public Body Bonaire (OLB), is responsible for building Bonaire's vital tourism sector of the economy. Bonaire Holding Maatschappij NV (BHM) is responsible for managing TCB and other publicly owned companies such as WEB, Selibon, and Flamingo International. BHM and TCB are together searching for a solution to a critical funding problem.

BHM has announced it is withholding a budget approval for TCB, accusing TCB of entering into Minimum Revenue Guarantee contracts with JetBlue and other airlines in 2024 without providing a risk analysis for the contracts.

TCB responds that the Executive Council at the time instructed it to enter into the agreements but did not budget the funds. Further, TCB says its mandate from the OLB is to bring more visitors to the island, but the OLB does not budget money for TCB's marketing efforts. Therefore TCB and BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) have to pay for what should be a government function. TCB director Elesier Angel said the tourism board needs at least 5 - 5.5 million for operations and marketing.

BHM director Adely Susana-Jansen was appointed 2020 and given the challenging task of improving the corporate governance of the public limited companies (NVs) under BHM, which was recognized at the time as an essentially non-functioning management body. *DMR*

Property values being reappraised

Tax appraisers from Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland are going to Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba carrying out property valuations. Their valuations will determine the property tax property owners will pay from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030. For the levying of property tax, the value of immovable property is reassessed every five years.

The valuations will be conducted by independent, certified appraisers appointed by Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland. They will determine the value of, among other things, commercial buildings, hotels, educational and healthcare institutions, utilities, and similar properties. The valuations are based on visual observation from public roads, supplemented with data from the land registry, building information, and other public sources.

Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland would like to highlight the following: • All collected data will be treated with strict confidentiality; • The appraisers will carry valid identification; • The work will be carried out without prior notice or contact with property owners or users; • No access will be requested to homes, buildings or premises.

The valuation is solely for the purpose of determining property value for tax purposes. It is explicitly not related to enforcement or compliance checks. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland at +599 715-8585 or via balie@belastingdienst-cn.nl. *DMR*

R&O Department making roads safer

The Spatial Planning and Development Department clearing crews are working across Bonaire to make roads, roadsides, public spaces, and squares clean and safe.

Clearing crews are removing overhanging branches, tall grass, and other vegetation that obstructs visibility

or poses a traffic hazard to road users and pedestrians. Cleared roadways also improve drainage during the rainy season.

Work is currently underway in the following neighborhoods, among others: • Playa • Nikiboko • Bario Tera Kora • Bario Amboina • Kaminda Lagoen • Nawati and Nort Saliña • Tourist Road and Karpata • Republiek.

Road users should be aware of temporary closures slow-moving vehicles, and warning signs along the roads that indicate where work is taking place. *DMR*

R&O Department preparing for rainy season

Getting ready for the rainy season, the Department of Spatial Planning and Development (R&O) has begun cleaning and flushing street drains and manholes at various locations on Bonaire.

Street drains and manholes collect rainwater and discharge it through underground pipes. If these become clogged with sand, leaves, or debris, water can accumulate on the street, causing inconvenience and dangerous situations.

The cleaning work will be carried out in phases so that as many streets as possible are prepared in time for heavy rainfall. During the work, parts of the street may be closed off or manholes may be temporarily inaccessible.

The gullies will also be cleaned to improve drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in and around residential areas. That work will begin soon too. *DMR*

Creating Optimal Health - The Power Nap

A Global Tradition with Modern-Day Perks by Irene da Cunda Costa

The humble nap, a brief moment of rest in the middle of the day, has been embraced by cultures for centuries and is now making a comeback in modern workplaces. Once thought of as a sign of laziness, naps are now recognized as a powerful tool for boosting productivity, creativity, and overall well-being.

Napping can be traced back to ancient civilizations. The Romans were known for their midday meridiatio, a rest period in the heat of the day. In Islamic cultures, the qailulah, a short nap after the noon prayer was recommended by the Prophet Muhammad himself. Perhaps the most famous cultural embrace of the nap is the siesta in Spain. Derived from the Latin word sexta (meaning the sixth hour after dawn), the siesta traditionally happens between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., especially in regions with hot climates. Similarly, in Italy, the riposo sees shops closing in the afternoon so people can rest. Across much of Latin America, the nap is more than custom, it's a lifestyle.

While many parts of the Western world have historically frowned upon napping during work hours, the tide is turning. Companies in countries like Japan, the United States and China are now seeing the value of giving employees a rest break.

In Japan, where overwork has historically been a concern, a phenomenon known as inemuri (which loosely translates to "sleeping while present") has long been

tolerated, even respected, as a sign of dedication. Now, more structured nap policies are emerging in the corporate world. Google, Nike and Zappos are leading the way in the U.S., offering nap pods or dedicated nap rooms in their offices. In China, midday naps have been a right written into labor law, and many workers nap right at their desks. Some South Korean companies now even offer paid nap breaks.

A short nap of 10 to 20 minutes can improve alertness, enhance mood and increase cognitive performance without the grogginess (also known as sleep inertia) that comes from longer naps. NASA studies on pilots found that a 26-minute nap improved performance by 34% and alertness by 54%. Other research has linked napping to better heart health, lower stress and improved memory consolidation.

Naps longer than 30 minutes can lead to grogginess, and napping too late in the day can interfere with nighttime sleep. The key is timing and duration. A "power nap" of 10–20 minutes is ideal for most people.

A nappuccino—also known as a coffee nap—is a clever energy hack: you drink a cup of coffee (usually espresso or a small black coffee) and immediately take a 20-minute nap. As you wake up, the caffeine begins to take effect, maximizing alertness. During the nap, your body clears adenosine, the brain chemical that promotes

sleepiness. When caffeine kicks in (~20–30 minutes after drinking), it blocks remaining adenosine, so you wake up doubly refreshed.

With growing awareness of mental health, burnout, and the benefits of rest, the nap is being reframed, not as a lazy indulgence but as a strategic recharge. And during the global pandemic, with remote work becoming common, many found themselves naturally incorporating naps into their routine. It's a sign that the way we think about productivity is evolving and sleep is no longer the enemy.

Whether you call it a siesta, riposo, qailulah, or just a quick snooze, this small pause in the day can offer big benefits. So, the next time you feel the mid-afternoon slump, consider taking a nap. Your brain might thank you. If you prefer the nappuccino option, you might as well reach for a coffee and then take the nap.



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

Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

There's Camouflage, and then there's Frogfish Camouflage



"Here I am, a simple rock covered with succulent growths for you to nibble on or hide among. Nothing to worry about, nothing at all." Photo Dee Scarr

be mistaken for a sponge. The advantages to looking like a sponge include: you can go anywhere and look like you belong, because sponges grow pretty much everywhere; you're unlikely to be gobbled up by a predator, since sponges are distasteful if not poisonous to most marine critters; and, finally, that sponges are completely unthreatening to all other marine animals.

Question: What in the world is the value of looking unthreatening? Wouldn't a frogfish be better served if its resting spot frightened other critters away?

Answer: Since the frogfish is a predator of small fishes, it's best served by something that doesn't threaten small fishes.

Predator? A shark is a predator, a moray eel is a predator, a barracuda is a predator, right? Predators are sleek and fast. They have sharp plentiful teeth.

And, a predator is just an animal that eats other animals, and that's what frogfish do. Their technique is to lie in wait

– blending in to an unthreatening background – until a little fish of just the right size ventures into just the right place. Just the right place from the perspective of the frogfish, that is. From the perspective of the prey fish, it's just the *wrong* place. At that point the froggy opens its mouth wide and **GULP!** sucks the prey in, headfirst. If the prey fish is too long to be engulfed by its initial lunge, the frogfish's sharp, plentiful, (and tiny) teeth keep its struggling prey from escaping; instead, the prey's struggling *pushes* it farther into the predator's body. At the same time, the auxiliary jaw in the frogfish's throat is *pulling* the prey fish farther into the froggy's body. A relatively long prey fish, such as a wrasse, actually ends up rolling in a somersault before its body can be fully swallowed by the frogfish.

How many other predators can turn their prey's struggles into helpful acts?

Even though there are many fishes

who are just the right size for frogfish to eat, the chances are pretty small that they happen to get into just the right position to be swallowed by a frogfish. Getting its prey into position brings us to what is probably the best-known characteristic of frogfish: their lures. Frogfish are anglerfish; their first dorsal spine has evolved into a "fishing pole" with a lure at the end. They don't need to wait for prey passively, they extend that lure out from its niche and wriggle it, just like any other fishing person. The lure, which is unique for each species of frogfish, draws the prey into (you guessed it) just the right position for a successful lunge.

The striated frogfish is different from most frogfish in that, instead of resembling a sponge, it looks like a rock covered in algae. Long, filamentous algae that must be very attractive to many of the little critters on the froggy's menu, critters who can't help but notice the plentiful algae on that rock. Once a critter is attracted, the striated frogfish uses its official lure to get it into position, and then -- **GULP!**

It's a good thing for us that frogfish don't get big enough to eat people.

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.



Fresh melon soup with tropical fruit and lemon ice cream by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



Boil 1 dl (1/2 C) water with 100g (1/2 C) sugar for the sugar water. Puree melon together with cooled sugar water, liqueur and lemon juice into a smooth soup. Cut the tropical fruit into edible pieces and place them on a deep plate. Pour the "melon soup" around it.

Roll the lemon ice cream ball in the finely chopped pieces of fruit until it is breaded all around and place it on the fruit on the plate. Garnish with a sprig of mint and possibly some crispy bits such as marshmallows or coconut biscuits.



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

Melon soup: 1/2 Galia melon or honeydew melon • 1 dl (3.38 oz) sugar water • 1 lemon, squeezed • 1/2 dl (1.69 oz) liqueur, melon or passoa.
Fruit: 150 g (2/4 C) fresh tropical fruit, pineapple, papaya, mango or dragon fruit
Ice Cream: 1 large scoop of Lemon ice cream • Small cubes/crumbs of tropical fruit • Sprig of mint

Global butts



Clean Coast Bonaire (CCB) volunteers have collected a total of 48,816 cigarette butts since the program began in 2018. Most of them came from Te Amo Beach. Butttt...it's important to remember that this is a global problem. An initiative called the PeukMeuk collected a whopping 964,000 littered butts in the Netherlands in July. Solutions such as changing the design to not include plastic filters, restricting smoking in public areas such as beaches, and more awareness about this pervasive pollutant are needed on a local and global scale. Release Clean Coast Bonaire

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/terramuseumbonaire/>

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)

Saturday, August 9	Taste of Bonaire (Summer Edition) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices. On stage: Tes a Fesa; DJ Marv; Brassband The Boyz; Dance Group Peru & Miss Teen Bonaire 2025 candidates. Co-host: Curoil.
Sunday, August 17	Animal Shelter Market 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Reserve your stall now. see page 15.
Tuesday, August 26	Free fish ID class 7 p.m. Trans World Radio. Led by Carmen Toanchina. Learn about the beautiful fish of Bonaire and become a citizen scientist through REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project . See page 7.
Friday, August 29	Ocean film with David Attenborough. Free at Parke Isidel Starts just after sunset. see page 13. For info on film visit: https://www.oceanfilm.net/home/
Saturday, August 30	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Theme: <i>Do not eat cactus soup and clean your hands in my hair.</i> Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/

Tennis players can register now

Tennis Mixed Competitions. Registration for mixed competition in Sept/Oct is open to all categories. Register as a team or individual. Matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts. Match days are Sept. 21 & 28, Oct. 4, 18, 25, and Nov. 1.

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, August 10	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Church Services

Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m./10 a.m.

International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO): Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services in English.

United Protestant Congregation

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

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. August 6	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. August 12	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Wed. August 13	0730-1800	ENCHANTED PRINCESS 3660 guests	South
Thurs. August 14	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. August 20	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps meeting: Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Saliña, 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>

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. Held last Tuesday of the month. 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

NA - FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO FIGHT A DRUG ADDICTION: Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. Monday 7 – 8 p.m. National Register of 30. Dutch/Papiamentu. Contact Wensley 7007289 or Remco 7841782.

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: June 15. Visit BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association on Facebook.

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

<https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/>

Tennis Mixed Competitions. Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts. Match days are Sept. 21 & 28, Oct. 4, 18, 25, and Nov. 1.



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. Aug. 4 & Aug. 11 - Divi Resort in the Pure Ocean Garden; Aug. 18 - Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort; No Manta Presentations Aug. 25 – Sept. 8. Presentations resume Sept. 15th! :) Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](#)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire. Come to an informative presentation on restoring Bonaire's coral reefs. Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 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. 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 Sobremesa won't be open regularly from July 5 to August 20. That doesn't mean nothing will happen at the gallery. There will be workshops and there might even be an impromptu expo. If so it will be announced on our Facebook page and Instagram and if you are in the neighbourhood: open doors mean you are welcome to come in.

Summer rate to rent the gallery for a workshop is only \$40 (without using our materials). If you are interested in hosting something cultural at Sobremesa or need to contact us for anything else, these are the people to contact:

July 5 till July 25: Saskia Vermeer: +599 796 5212
July 25 till August 16: Louise van der Zwaag: +599 784 2127

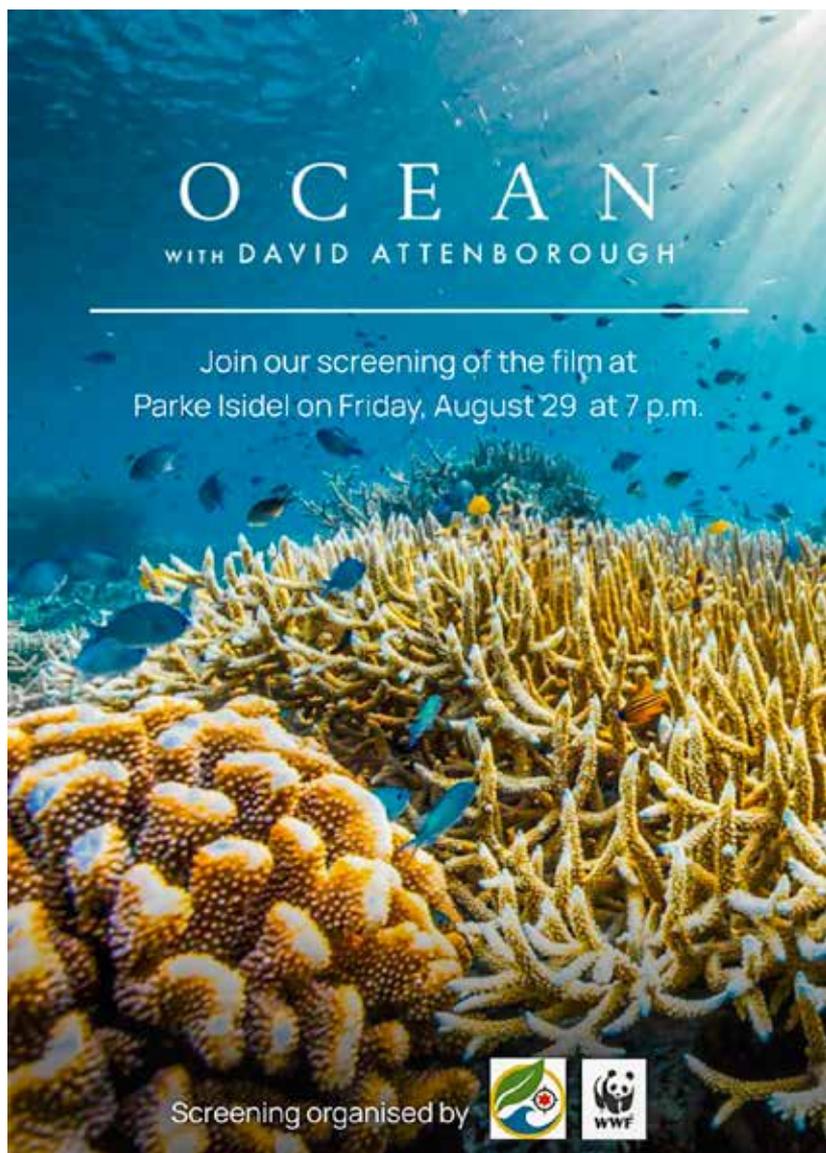
For those who love to make art themselves:

- 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

Coming Up

Thursday, Sept. 4	Concert Classical Music Board
Saturday, Sept. 6	Bonaire Day Public Holiday

Bonaire Nature Platform to host film



Join Bonaire Nature Platform at isidel Beach Park on Friday, August 29 to explore the wonders, and warnings, of our changing seas in the documentary Oceans, by David Attenborough.

With the generous support from WWF-Netherlands, the entire community of Bonaire is invited to this free outdoor screening.

This eye-opening film takes viewers beneath the surface of the world's oceans, showcasing the beauty and diversity of marine life while drawing attention to the urgent threats posed by climate change, overfishing, and pollution. Through powerful storytelling and stunning cinematography, Oceans serves as both a celebration of life underwater and a sobering call to action.

Bonaire Nature Platform aims to spark a local conversation about the global climate crisis, and what it means for Bonaire. Rising sea levels, coral bleaching, and shifting weather patterns are no longer just distant problems as early effects are already evident on our reefs, coastlines and communities.

So, grab your blanket or lawn chair and invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy an inspiring evening under the stars to watch Oceans. The film will begin just after sunset.

For more information about the film, visit: <https://www.oceanfilm.net/home/>

Let's come together to protect what connects us all: the ocean.

Dive Friends July clean up

Dive Friends Bonaire quarterly underwater cleanup at Bonaire's South Pier on July 26 yielded the collection of 608 pieces of unwanted trash littering the ocean floor. The majority of refuse recovered by the 45 volunteer divers was plastic at 353 pieces. In addition they found 59 pieces of cloth, glass/ceramic -55, metal -110, paper - 6, rubber pieces - 5, wood - 3 and mixed items - 17.

As always Dive Friends held a fun pot luck BBQ and raffle with amazing prizes for the participants at their Hamlet Oasis location.

The next and final Dive Friends quarterly cleanup for 2025 will be October 25 at the North Pier. Thank you everyone who helped keep our sea clean.

For more information visit [Dive Friends Facebook page](#).



Funds available to involve young people in community service



The governmental initiative, 'Bo granito pa Bonaire,' (BGPB) offers funding to organizations and companies to set up youth projects. The project should give young people aged 12 to 30 the opportunity to acquire new experiences and knowledge through work in the community. An organization or a company may be active in any field. All funded will work with the BGPB project coordinator to develop a tailor-made route.

BGPB is looking to fund projects offering the following possibilities for growth:

- 1. Encounters**, young people come into contact with inspiring people and organizations.
- 2. Development**, young people develop their talents and skills.
- 3. Working together**, young people and organizations and companies contribute to the strengthening of our community.

Karel Partoredjo the policy advisor at the Directorate of Society and Care who is responsible for the BGPB programme, hopes that more organizations will apply for BGPB funding. "It is important that the organizations who want to do something for young people apply. Young people deserve a chance to discover their talents and learn how to work with others. It is also important that they learn to give back to society. So we teach young people to be positive in life."

Organizations or companies that wish to join BGPB can call +599 796 2999 or email doemee@mdt-bonaire.com.

'Bo granito pa Bonaire,' is a collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), Maatschappelijke Diensttijd Nederland (MDT) and the Directorate of Community and Care of public body Bonaire (OLB)

Miss Universe Bonaire contest ahead



L-R I-shilah Benita, Roderick Beaumont and Nicole Peileker

In a presentation on July 23, the Miss Bonaire Foundation introduced the two candidates for Miss Universe Bonaire 2025 at the Corralium Hotel. One of these special women will go on to compete in the 74th Miss Universe Pageant to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on November 21.

Roderick Beaumont, president of the Miss Bonaire organization and national director of Miss Universe Bonaire explained the rules of the competition and the importance the worldwide pageant has for the island.

Competing for the title of Miss Universe Bonaire are:

A 41 year old Nicole Peileker who is a mother of four. She has a dream to inspire and motivate young people big and small that it is never too late to follow your dreams and what your heart believes.

I-shilah Benita is 21 and works at Kmar Bonaire and represents the Nieuw Amsterdam neighborhood. She has experience in the world of modeling and beauty.

On August 16, the ladies will compete in swimsuit, gala dress by designer Julio Mora and an interview for the final selection of who will be the new Miss Universe Bonaire 2025.

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Pets of the Week

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

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

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



Christopher

Meet Christopher.

This beautiful little tabby with green eyes is around 2 years old. He was brought to the Shelter in May. Christopher used to be a streetcat and in the beginning we thought he was really sad because he would just lay around all day. But as it turns out Christopher is very happy to leave the street life behind and just enjoys relaxing preferably on a nice pillow or blanket. He is very affectionate and just loves cuddles and pets. Christopher is a real gentleman, lives very well with other cats and loves children. We would really like to give Christopher a second chance in a good home, where he can get his own pillow or catbed and be treated like the loving “gentlecat” he is. *Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*

Meet Scottie.

Scottie is 4 years old and has been at Animal Shelter Bonaire for a few months. He’s blind in one eye, giving him a unique and lovable look. But it doesn’t slow him down at all, he can do everything any other dog can do.

He’s a relaxed and calm dog who rarely barks and always greets you with a happy smile. Scottie loves to cuddle and chill on your lap. He’s gentle, great with other dogs, and absolutely loves people. A true sweetheart and everyone’s friend.

Come meet him soon! *Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers*



Scottie

Animal Shelter Bonaire

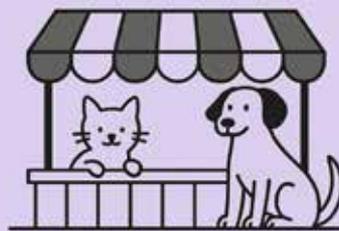
Animal Shelter Bonaire Market, Sunday, August 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Animal Shelter Bonaire Market is just weeks away and there are still a few booth spots available.

This is the perfect way to promote your business and support our animals as the booth fees go directly to the Shelter. If you want to provide extra support you can earmark a percentage of your booth sales to go to the Shelter.

We are accepting donations for sale at the Shelter booth or if you are a business looking to sponsor anyone with quality items to sell, please get in touch.

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 17 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



It promises to be a wonderful day with fun booths and delicious food. Come join us, enjoy, and support our animals!

Interested in a booth or donation?

Email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com now to reserve your spot or offer items.

Spaces are limited!

See you there, and thanks for your support!

Marissa Lamers

Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Dokter

How can something change so fast?

When it was clear that I would move to Curaçao in 1979, I was very happy. Everyone who emigrated was asked to attend informative gatherings. We had to see a psychologist who could prove that we were fit to live in the Caribbean and were physically tested to see that we were healthy and didn’t need medical care to begin with. And there were anthropologists who taught us about the Antillean culture.

One thing we learned was, that in the Antilles there was a matriarchal culture. The grandmother was the most important figure within the family circle. She was the one who decided how all children were brought up and educated. When there were grandchildren, the parents could leave the house to work while grandma stayed home and was responsible for all the kids.

At first I could not believe it, but once on Curaçao I saw it with my own eyes and I loved it. I was also brought up like this, as my parents were divorced and Mom and I lived with my grandparents and grandma’s sister.

Everybody in the families respected grandma and al-

most everyone turned out to become fine, law-abiding citizens. But now, almost 50 years later so many things have changed.

Very young children (toddlers) walk around with a cellphone or a tablet in their hands and so do many of their mothers. The very young mothers are dressed in a style that I like to call challenging. The children are not talked to, but more or less screamed at. Groups of school children flock the streets and act silly. The grandmother is nowhere to be seen but very likely at home or attending gatherings for the elderly.

I am very relieved to notice that there are still parents and grandparents like many I have known who really care for their children and see to it that they go to school, behave and make their grandmother proud.

Maybe we should change the system again by having the youth stay with grandma again. And have the youth help out in the care centers for the elderly and be inspired to learn to be nurses, care-givers, doctors, or even good carpenters or technicians. Maybe we could get the “technical” school back again, because Bonaire needs

technicians who can build houses and maintain them and we wouldn’t need so many people from abroad coming to do this kind of work.

There is still so much the youth can learn from the elderly and the elderly also need the youth to teach them all they know.

And to be really honest, I think a baby, toddler or even bigger children would really like to know that there is always someone at home. And that they can sit in Granie’s lap, feel the love and eat the wonderful soul food that “wela” cooks. The tasty, filling food that makes you feel soooooo good and really cared for.

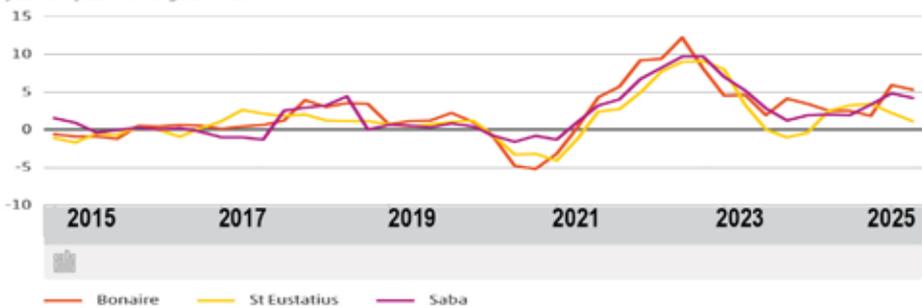


Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.

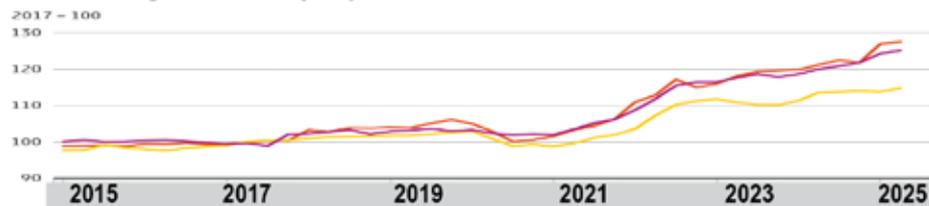
Inflation eases slightly in the Caribbean Netherlands

Inflation in the Caribbean Netherlands

year-on-year % change of the CPI



Consumer price index (CPI) in the Caribbean Netherlands



Consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 5.3 percent more expensive in the second quarter of 2025 than one year previously. In the previous quarter (Q1 2025), inflation on Bonaire was 5.9 percent. This is reported by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) based on the consumer price index for the Caribbean Netherlands.

On St Eustatius, prices were 1.1 percent higher in Q2 2025, year on year, compared with 2.2 percent in the previous quarter. On Saba, inflation was 4.2 percent in the second quarter compared to 4.8 percent in Q1 2025.

Prices on Bonaire were 0.5 percent higher than in Q1

In Q2 2025, prices on Bonaire were up by 0.5 percent over the previous quarter. This increase was partly due to a 3.5 percent rise in prices for recreation and culture. Among other things, print media and consumer electronics became more expensive. Prices for education rose by 5.3 percent, and prices for clothing and footwear rose by 3.1 percent. This was mainly due to a price increase in baby and children's clothing and women's shoes. Prices for furniture fell by 2.7 percent in Q2 compared to Q1. Passenger transport by air became 2.6 percent cheaper.



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