



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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



Photo Julie Morgan



If sign language or signing is a foreign language to you and you find yourself fumbling to communicate with a deaf person, then you must see the fun, new locally produced television series, *Waya Bo Man* (waving your hands). The 10-part series is sure to bring awareness, education and communication to the hearing population and perhaps more acceptance to the deaf community of Bonaire.

The first episode of the series, airs on World Deaf Day, September 28, and it is already receiving rave reviews following the premier held at Delphins Resort, September 20.

Idea for *Waya Bo Man* came from sign language expert Esther and her sister Linda de Veer as a project for their production company Fundashon di Curason (Foundation of the Heart). The de Veers approached OLB for support and got a green light and everything fell into place as it aligned with one of the government's incentives.

Esther contacted Reksel Engelhart to appear as host for the series.

Reksel said, "I didn't know any sign language, so I knew it was going to be a challenge. And I love a challenge. I had never spoken to any deaf people, so I did a little research. It was a blessing and fun and the crew was amazing."

Throughout the series, Reksel guides the audience through the colorful world of deaf culture joined by two eleven-year-old girls, Miek and Jelaya acting as reporters. The girls travel the Island talking to residents about life and deafness. Deaf expert Maxima transforms the speakers' words into the flowing gestures of sign language and Esther shares her knowledge and vision on screen.

A highlight of the first episode is the 15 kids from Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador learning

to sign and raising their voices and hands in harmony to the *Himno di Boneiru*, (*Anthem of Bonaire*).

Nine well known Bonaireans are featured throughout the series struggling to communicate with deaf people in different situations. Former Bonaire commissioner Angelica Cicilia tries to gesture with Darcy Delannoooy about a scuba tank at Dive Friends. And Mimi Dongen of Hospice Kas Flamboyant does her best to order an ice cream from Shudeyka

Pourier at Lucianos with some very creative and humorous miming.

The premier viewing MC'd by Judith Brekelmans, received overwhelming *Waya Bo Man* (applause) and captured the heartstrings of some 90 people in attendance who were either in the film or involved in some way. And everyone learned to sign a few sayings.

Fundashon di Curason is a small production company headed up by the de Veers sisters who previously worked in television in the Netherlands. Esther works as producer/interpreter on the series, Linda as director, Casi Roosje was the cameraman and editor and Barbara Huveneers worked as production assistant.

Linda said, "This is just the beginning. There will be more projects in the future."

Airing schedule for the series:

Nos TV Bonaire, September 28, World Deaf Day, episode one, 3:15 p.m. and repeat at 9:15 p.m.

Energia TV Bonaire, October 1 at 6 p.m. and October 2, 8 a.m.

For a trailer of *Waya Bo Man*: https://youtu.be/0IBmOgjXJU?si=Xt07qC2KQij_GJb



Waya Bo Man producer and interpreter Esther de Veer signs the conversation between film premier MC Judith Brekelmans and film series host Reksel Englehart

Photo Julie Morgan

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



The public discourse goes nuclear

In the public discourse, the sovereignty debate has become more strident on both sides. The sovereignty issue has cast a long shadow ever since, prior to 10-10-10, Bonaire, St Eustacia, and Saba asked to leave the Netherlands Antilles and join the Netherlands. The people on the smaller islands decided they no longer wanted to live under Curaçao-style governance. The Dutch agreed to create BES, a public body consisting of three separate public bodies, each a municipally itself, within the government of the Netherlands. The Dutch had a condition: the new municipalities had to agree to abandon their own inherited versions of Curaçao-style governance. They had to learn to govern themselves in the Dutch manner.

Two separate concepts of sovereignty emerged. The Dutch believe public bodies achieve sovereignty by governing themselves honestly and responsibly. Some people on the islands, however, still believe sovereignty means the local oligarchies get to continue practicing the Curaçao-style governance of their forefathers.

The OLB's point of view

In mid-September the Island Council adopted a new line of public defense of its assumed sovereignty. A joint delegation from Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba visited the parliaments of Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten. They proposed all six islands of the former Netherlands Antilles unite in opposing the government's violation of their joint rights to self-determination and give each other moral support.

Seeking a broader alliance was a dramatic new tactic; therefore the members of the Island Council raised the temperature of the debate. But their objections to being supervised remained familiar and consistent. The issue, they said "is not oversight due to failing governance, but about a structural overhaul that severely limits local autonomy and decisiveness." In other words, "We would govern better if the Dutch would stop preventing us from governing better."

The Bonaire delegation listed concessions it felt it had negotiated successfully in its earlier discussions with State Secretary Van Huffelen. The most important was the tentative agreement

The sovereignty issue has blown up in everybody's face. It has become clear the more conservative coalition now in power in the European Netherlands is going to renege on an earlier tentative agreement to loosen the reins on BES during the upcoming revision of the WolBES and FinBES acts.

The executive body has cried foul. Abraham has dramatically been trying to recruit the former Netherlands Antilles islands. He wants them to band together in opposition to their shared victimhood. (See below: *The OLB's point of view.*)

More or less simultaneously, many stakeholders have decided to go public and announce they are fed up with the Abraham style of governance. Some Dutch agencies who have been politely fencing with Abraham over various issues have adopted a stronger, openly accusatory tone. Various island constituencies have decided to stop trying to reason with Abraham and are demanding responsive, responsible governance. (See below: *The critics say*)

DMR / Photo RCN

to eliminate the position of National Representative. The Bonaire executive complained that Van Huffelen's successor, Zolt Szabó, had arbitrarily cancelled that provision. Moreover the Island Council said, Szabó's successor, Eddie van Marum, has shown no interest in discussing the pending WolBES revisions with them.

The Executive Council has received strong support from a respected knowledgeable source. Willem A. Cicilia, former Island Registrar for Bonaire, of Plataforma Boneiru Nobo i Mas Autónomo (PBNO), has called the government's current internet consultation on the revision of the WolBES and FinBES legislation "unlawful" and "a hollowing out of the self-governance of the BES islands."

Further, newly appointed deputy Anthony Weber, who replaced Abraham as Deputy for Finance, has acknowledge the OLB's chaotic finances and promised they will be overhauled totally.

DMR

The critics say

The Financial Supervision Council has sent Governor John Soliano a letter confirming that coalition leader Clark Abraham has made a mess of things as Deputy of Finance. It cited unusable financial reporting, unlawful expenditures, "unbudgeted expenditures and withdrawing funds from the general reserve and designated reserves without approval from the Island Council, "violation of the FinBES Act, and deficient financial management and budgeting processes."

The Business Federation Bonaire (BFB) and the Union Sindikal Boneriano (USIBO) sent the Executive Council and the Island Council a joint letter. "We would first like to emphasize that we support greater self-determination and autonomy. However, autonomy is only sustainable when the island's governance is sound and its implementation capacity is present and strengthened." The letter cited the Selibon case, the illegitimate budget surplus, the lack of resources for tourism, the stagnation in permitting at the DRO department, and the lack of public transport.

The Unión Patriótico Boneriano (UPB) questioned the Executive Board regarding the Tourism Tax. Island Council member Pablo J. Kroon asked about how much money was being collected and whether it was being spent in accordance with the act. In particular, is the money supporting tourism and the fishing industry?

The National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen issued a new report, Break the Silence. The Ombudsman spoke more assertively than in previous reports. He said the local government treats citizens carelessly. He cited a long list of government failures. The public entity does not respond promptly and constructively to complaints, queries, applications for permits, and other requests for public services. Public health threats at the landfill—which, van Zutphen says, should be closed immediately. The lack of public transportation. Illegal excavations. Lack of nature permits. Poverty and inequality on Bonaire.

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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: 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, Brian Niessen, Ginny Knight.
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CCC launches new scientific expedition

Starting in Curaçao, the Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS) launched the first stage of its annual whale and dolphin expedition across the ABC Islands. The seven day research trip will continue towards Aruba and Bonaire. On the very first day at sea, researchers encountered over 200 dolphins from two different species just a few miles off the coast.

This is the third year that CCS has conducted large scale expeditions in the region, combining international expertise with local partnerships. During last year's CCS symposium, Curaçao's Minister of Health, Environment and Nature expressed interest in creating a marine sanctuary to protect the island's rich diversity of whales and dolphins. If realized, Curaçao would follow Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, Saba, and the Dominican Republic in leading regional conservation efforts.

The expedition is led by Stacey MacDonald, Regional Coordinator for the Dutch Caribbean at CCS: "As a child of this island, my mission is to ensure that future generations in Curaçao can continue to marvel at the richness of our marine environment, which is also one of the pillars of sustainable development."

Whales and dolphins are vital to healthy oceans: they regulate food webs, store carbon, and enrich ecosystems. Protecting them is crucial not only for biodiversity but also for the long term sustainability of communities that depend on the sea. CCS expeditions follow a standardized protocol endorsed by UNESCO's Ocean Decade, ensuring that data contributes to global knowledge on species distribution, migration, and threats.



This year's expedition is supported by WWF, Blue Marine Foundation, Kooyman, Delphinarium, CESAM Floreal, and Fondation de la Mer. Local collaboration is key, with associations such as COIA, GMN, FKUP, and Piskabon, together with local fishers, working alongside scientists in

monitoring efforts. The partnership between governments and CCS, combining political will with regional expertise, form the cornerstone of success.

wwf.nl press release

Photo: Caribbean Cetacean Society



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POLICE REPORT

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



Missing tourist found

Netherlands Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) announces that the American tourist, Jessica Collins of 47 years of age, has been found safe and sound. The search is cancelled. Thursday, September 25, police can confirm that Jessica Collins is safe and well. The Department of Foreign Supervision (Vreemdelingtoezicht) of KPCN took Mrs. Collins (staande gehouden) for control due to her undocumented stay on Bonaire. KPCN thanks all partners and citizens who contributed to the search for Mrs. Collins.

The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) was looking Collins since her disappearance was reported to police in the morning hours of Thursday, September 18, by a local cruise ship contact person.

On Wednesday, September 17, the woman disembarked from the Carnival Horizon cruise ship with a backpack and never returned. Part of Collins' luggage and personal belongings were found still on board the ship. However, she did take all her identification documents with her when she disembarked.

Property crimes

From August 19 to September 17 more than 11 break-ins were reported. Five tourist accommodations were burgled (multiple units were broken into at one tourist accommodation) and stolen items included cash, jewelry, phones, laptops, airpods and clothing.

Elsewhere on the island: a cooker was stolen from a food outlet; tools were stolen from two construction site containers and a garage; a radio was stolen from an after-school program; truck batteries and a quad bike were stolen from two businesses.

Dive sites saw five additional thefts. While owners were snorkeling at Te Amo Beach a bag and contents were stolen from a golf cart, and at Tolo a fishing rod and a cooler were stolen from the bed of a pickup truck. At the Andrea 2 dive site, a woman lying on the beach was surprised by an unknown man and forced to give him her money. At Weber's Joy dive site, dive bags and their contents were stolen while the owners were diving. At Something Special dive site on Kaya Playa Lechi a mobile phone was stolen while the owner was diving.

Scooters. During this time two scooters and fat bike were stolen, and five scooters were found by the police, two while being ridden, three during a house search.

At a supermarket and in parking lots.

A shopper forgot his shoulder bag and its contents in a supermarket on Kaya Industria. CCTV footage showed an unknown man taking the bag and carrying it away. • The left wing mirror of a Hyundai i10 was stolen from a car parked in a parking lot next to a security guard at a tourist accommodation on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard. • A phone and cards were stolen from a car parked at construction site.

Four theft arrests: A man, 27, was arrested for attempted theft and vandalism. He was caught during the attempted burglary but managed to escape. He was later identified through security camera footage and subsequently arrested. • A man, 49, was arrested for stealing a bag from a golf cart at Te Amo Beach. • A man, 21, was arrested for receiving stolen goods. He was riding a scooter without a helmet and was stopped for a check. He tried to run away,

after which he was found again. He was found to be riding a stolen scooter and the scooter was confiscated. • A man, 54, was arrested for theft. He was identified on security camera footage while committing the theft at a business premises.

Arrests

Sept. 12 -19. Three people were arrested for vandalism. A woman vandalized a car. • A suspect vandalized a supermarket on Kaminda Lac and then cycled away. • A man damaged a water pipe at a residence.

Sept. 18. A house search was conducted at a residence on Kaya Shoshori in connection with an ongoing investigation into a public assault. Nothing unusual was found during the investigation.

Sept. 10. Two people were arrested. The Special Assignments Group (GBO) arrested a man, 38, for threats and violating the BES Firearms Act. a house search was also conducted. In connection with an ongoing investigation, a man, 25, was arrested on Kaya Pos di Amor for public violence.

Sept 9. A man, 41, was arrested for threats.

Aug. 17. Two people were arrested. One man, 34, was arrested for threats and one man, 43, was arrested for assault and aggravated assault.

Traffic accidents / DUIs

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

From Aug. 16 to Sept. 16 police reported 12 collisions. On Kaya Soeur Bartola a car collided with a scooter. On EEG Boulevard a car collided with a motocross. On Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund, near Plasa Machi Mimi, a scooter mounted the sidewalk, rear-ended a mobility scooter, then fell from the high sidewalk into the sea. On the road to Rincon, near Fontein, a pickup truck overturned after colliding with a car and landed in the mondi. All occupants were able to get out of the pickup truck on their own. Two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia, Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana, and Kaya Raspa. On Kaya Neerlandia a car reversed out of a parking space onto the street, and collided with another car. A car and a dump truck collided at the intersection of Kaminda Yato Bako and Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. On Kaya Korona a pickup truck had crashed into the fence of a house and a traffic sign. At Kaya Nikiboko Noord and Kaya Sonmontuno a car turned in front of the scooter, causing a collision.

Three drivers failed to produce valid proof of insurance; two were driving without a driver's licence.

Three other collisions involved drivers who tested over the limit for alcohol. Another driver, reported for dangerous driving, was unable to provide a breath test at the scene despite several attempts. Following the breathalyzer test performed at the police station, his driver's license was confiscated. A moped driver who was stopped for driving without a helmet, failed the breathalyzer test and received a three-hour driving ban. Another driver who was arrested after driving without lights, swerving, and in the wrong lane on Kaya Korona produced an invalid driver's license which was confiscated.

Traffic violations

Sept. 13. In the early evening hours the KPCN (Royal Netherlands Police Force) and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee) conducted planned traffic checks at three different locations: Kaya Thomas Marchena, Hanchi Amboina, and Kaya Nikiboko Noord. A total of 50 vehicles were stopped and checked, and eight tickets were issued: driving without a valid driver's license (3); driving without a valid driver's license and insurance (4); not wearing a seat belt (1).

The fine for the aforementioned violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.

Public order

From Aug. 16 to Sept. 16. Three people staying on the island Illegally were transferred to the Immigration Control Department of the KPCN (National Immigration and Nat-

uralization Service). • Police controlled a fight between groups of students at a school on Kaya Barakuda, , arresting a 15-year-old and taking another student to the police station, where he was confronted about his behavior in the presence of his parent. • Police investigated a fight at a restaurant on Bulevar Miguel A. Pourier, in which someone was injured, sustaining a cut with an unknown object during the fight. • An industrial accident was reported at a building on Sabadeco Terrace. A worker fell from a height and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Police increased surveillance in Kralendijk, reducing the nuisance caused by motorcycles and fevers near Kaya Grandi. During the surveillance, scooter riders were warned about riding without a helmet. Young people were also confronted about unsafe behavior with e-bikes, such as riding without lights and recklessly weaving between cars.

Fire

Sept. 17. A man, 60, was arrested for vandalism and arson. On the 16, a fight was reported between several people on Kaya Papa Cornes. Police found a car completely destroyed, including broken windows and other visible damage. The car's owner filed a police report. Police also found that the complainant was in possession of drugs that they seized and immediately destroyed. Around 11:15 PM that same evening, the same car was reported on fire at the intersection of Kaya Amalia and Kaya Papa Cornes. The vehicle was completely engulfed in flames, and the flames had spread to a nearby tree. An ambulance was also dispatched to the scene for a resident who had inhaled smoke. The fire department extinguished the fire.

Sept. 17. Around 8:15 a.m. a fire was reported at a house on Kaya Isabel. A wooden shed (storage room) was on fire that could spread to the house. Due to an explosion in the storage room, the neighbors were also evacuated, and Kaya Korona was partially closed until the fire was extinguished. The fire department extinguished the fire. WEB also responded to the scene to shut down the power.

Sept. 13. A completely burned out car was reported in the mondi near Kaminda Sorobon. It is not known when the vehicle caught fire or was set on fire.

Aug. 19. Around 10:05 a.m. a driver stopped his car in the middle of the street near the roundabout at Kaya Niki-boko Zuid and Kaya Industria when the car's engine began smoking. He immediately called 911 for assistance. Bystanders managed to extinguish the fire before the fire department arrived, limiting the damage. The fire department then cooled the engine. Police temporarily controlled traffic until a tow truck removed the car.

Illegal parking

Sept. 16. Around 9:30 a.m. a patrol observed approximately 10 cars illegally parked near Kaya J.E. Nicolaas, where a no-parking sign is in effect on both sides of the road. The cars were parked on the sidewalks and in the roadway itself. Ten drivers received fines, and three cars were towed. Most drivers indicated they hadn't seen the sign, were late for an appointment, or were unaware that parking on the sidewalk is prohibited.

When the patrol left and later returned, cars were again observed parked in the same spot. These cars were towed, and the drivers received fines. This same check was also conducted on Kaya Bonaire, in the downtown area, and on Kaya Prinses Marie, where cars were also towed or drivers were fined.

The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) warns drivers that illegally parked vehicles in unauthorized locations will be fined and towed. Offenders can receive a fine of up to \$85, and the towing costs are the owner's responsibility.

Sept. 12. Four drivers were again issued fines. Even if the drivers tried to move their vehicles at that moment, they were still fined. One pickup truck was towed away.

Aug. 18. The police began placing warning letters on vehicles parked illegally or stationary on Kaya Bonaire and in the vicinity of the hospital, in areas not designated for parking in response to new traffic signs installed by the Public Entity of Bonaire.

Piskabon Fishing Tournament award ceremony held



Overall winner was 12 year old Marjuel Nicolaas

During the Virgen del Valle celebrations on September 13, in Sorobon, the six winners of the September 6 Piskabon Fishing Tournament received their awards. The captains of the six winning boats, along with their partners, received prizes from Piskabon representatives.

The winners were

Small boats: 1. Lila B-294; 2. Thelma B-279; 3. Marjuel B-947; Most weight gained: Lila B-294

Large boats: 1. Maximore B-34; 2. Day and Night B-177; 3. Fatima. B-627; Most weight gained: Day and Night B-177

The small boat Lila, captained by Piku (Francisco Margaritha) and Gato, had the biggest fish: a Buni halfash weighing 14.20 kilos, with a total for all fish caught of 88.10 kilos. The small boat Thelma, with fishermen Shurendy Martina and Jfemale fisher Joudaine Den Boef, weighed a mulatto fish of 13.50 kilos, for a total of all fish, 38.15 kilos.

Our absolute winner from last year, and also the youngest fisherman was 12-year-old Marjuel Nicolaas. He and captain Marlon Nicolaas in the small boat. Marjuel brought in a Buni weigh-

ing 13.45 kilos, with a total of 31.60 kilos for all fish caught.

Alex Martis and his female partner, Nidia, on the large boat Maximore brought in a mulatto weighing 25.05 kg and a total for all fish caught of 57.70 kg. Large boat Day and Night crewed by Tico Emerenciana and Ondeu, weighed in with a Buni of 13.70 kg and a total of fish caught was 103.70 kg. Errol Ravini and Lutson Craane on the large boat Fatima, weighed in with a Buni of 12.65 kg and a total of 53 kg for all fish. .

Piskabon is the interest group for fishers on Bonaire. The association is committed to supporting and representing fishermen, strengthening local fishing practices and promoting sustainability within the sector. By working together with partners and government entities, Piskabon works towards a future proof fishery that is socially, economically and ecologically balanced.

For more information, please contact: Cooperatieve Visserij Vereniging Piskabon; piskabon@gmail.com; +599-777-8318.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice

Hi Bob,
I have a good job and I would like to buy my own house. How do I get started?

Donna G.

Hi Donna – That’s a really good question and everyone has to start somewhere.

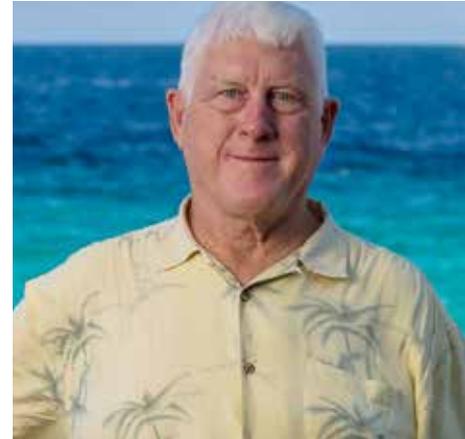
Here are some tips to get started:

Look at your salary, or income if you own your own business.

- Banks are willing to loan you money, but they want to be sure you will pay back the loan, so they only allow you to spend about 30% of your salary on a mortgage loan. That means if your salary is \$3,000 per month, the bank will usually allow your mortgage payment to be no more than \$1,000 per month. which means you can borrow a total amount of about \$140,000 to buy a house.
- If you have a car payment or children that will reduce the amount the bank permits you to spend on your mortgage payment.

Save your money: Even if the bank agrees to give you a mortgage to purchase a house, you will still need to have some of money in your savings to pay for the rest of the cost of buying a house.

You will also need to save money to pay for transfer costs such as transfer tax, notaris costs, deed registration and part of the property taxes. These costs usually amount to about 7% of the purchase price of the house.



If you have a salary of \$3,000 per month and you want to buy a house for \$180,000, the money would work out as follows:

• Bank Mortgage for:	\$140,000
• Down Payment:	\$ 40,000
	(from savings)
• Notaris fee/Transfer tax (7%)	\$ 12,600
	(from savings)
TOTAL	\$192,600

I know this seems like a lot of money that you have to save up to buy a house, and it is. The best thing you can do is to start saving now, and you can see you money grow over time into a downpayment on your own home. Everyone has to start somewhere.

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

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.



Dear Editor,
Police for hours parked on the sidewalk where they today gave people tickets and removed cars. Date of police car parking: September 15th 12.12 hours to 15 hours.
And we get tickets or they tow our car away. I will go to court if they tow my van away. I will take these pictures to court.

Kind regards, Thérèse Rosier

OLB Job Fair

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) cordially invites everyone considering a new career step to the “Feria di Karera.” This job fair, organized by Plenchi di Trabou, will take place at Jong Bonaire on Friday, October 3, from 12 noon to 7 p.m. OLB recruiters and advisors will there to tell visitors about the many opportunities within the OLB. Opportunites exist both for those just graduated and those with work experience who are looking for a career change.

OLB press release



The critics say, continued

The Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate currently has a inspection team at the Lagun Landfill. The Inspectorate acknowledges that the Executive Council has submitted to the Ministry requested documents to justify the millions in subsidies that The Hague provided for the Customized Waste Management Program (AoM). However, the accuracy of the information received has been questioned, and the House of Representatives has requested additional information.

The House of Representatives' patience with the waste crisis on Bonaire has run out. A widely supported motion urging the government to intervene is already penciled in. Some parliamentarians want to wait for the Environment and Transport Inspectorate's report in mid-October. Others disagree. "We can't keep muddling

through," said Aukje de Vries (VVD). Faith Bruyning (NSC) requested a two-minute debate so she could submit a motion to end "failed governance." The committee wants the two-minute debate to be held before the election recess that begins on October 3.

The board of the Pro Lagun Foundation met the National Ombudsman, Reinier van Zutphen at the landfill in mid September. They are especially concerned about the ongoing uncertainty concerning health damage they may have suffered, along with previous residents and the Selibon who work at the location on a daily basis. They advocate a preventive health examination for anyone who has been exposed to the dangers. The Pro Lagun Foundation also wants a new collection and processing location where waste can be collected and disposed of separately.

Selibon's financial situation is so precarious that the

company is close to being broke, the Executive Council has been informed. Three issues seem to be involved. First, the OLB has stopped paying Selibon, reportedly because of a controversy between Provincial Executive Member Clark Abraham and the Selibon management. Second, the island government's service fee to Selibon for cleaning public spaces has not covered Selibon's costs for years. Third, Selibon used to serve 3,000 households. Now it serves 10,000 with essentially the same manpower and equipment. The equipment is wearing out, as are the people. Interim director Edsel Winklaar says a \$6.5 million cash infusion is needed to restore the company to financial and operational health.

The Data Protection Authority for the Caribbean Netherlands (CBP BES) has reported serious shortcomings in the handling of personal data by the Public Entity Bonaire (PEB). *DMR*

Scavenger clues teach kids Bonaire's history

A fun part of Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) tourism month is the yearly Tourism Scavenger Hunt. The event educates Bonaire kids about the historical landmarks and touristy places in the downtown.

This year's hunt was held September 20 for kids 8 – 12 years old. Each of the 11 teams of five kids were given a fruit themed name which they could incorporate into their attire and the most creative was rewarded.

At the end of the hunt, lunch and a participation gift were given to each child. The groups had an adult leader.

Absolute first place winner was Group Bokoba (banana), leader – Xioella Janga; Second place: Group Apel (apple) with leader Jolinda Craane and Third place was Group Druifi (grapes) and leader Samvid Janga.

The most creative costume went to Group Anasa (pineapple) with leader Shakeynie Nicasta. Winners will be awarded their prized at Taste of Bonaire on September 27.

TCB Press release.



Snap general elections coming on October 29

The coalition headed by Prime Minister Dick Schoof, Independent, collapsed in June when PVV leader Geert Wilders pulled his party from the cabinet. The other coalition parties, VVD, NSC, and BBB, refused to adopt Wilders' ten-point plan for a strict asylum and migration policy. Hopes of creating a new coalition faded in August when foreign affairs minister Caspar Veldkamp's NSC resigned after the two other parties, VVD and BBB, would not support sanctions against Israel.

So the next election will be held less than a month from now, on October 29. The scheduled date was March 15, 2028.

When submitting the resignation of his cabinet Schoof said, "We had four very different parties in terms of ideology and what they wanted for the Netherlands." *DMR*

Progress made on enlarging island council

The Council of Ministers has approved a bill intended to strengthen the BES boards, effective March 17, 2027, the assumed date of the next elections. If Parliament agrees, Bonaire's council will increase from nine to eleven, and the executive board from three to four deputies.

The OLBs and central government agreed to the expansion during the 2024 renegotiation of the Public Bodies Act (WolBES) and the Finance Act BES (Fin-BES). The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has been conducting support programs for the BES island councils and executive boards. *DMR*

Insured dental checkups uncertain in BES

The House of Representatives has adopted a motion intended to include coverage of annual dental checkups to the basic health insurance package, but it did not

specifically extend the coverage to BES. Everyone would qualify for an annual dental checkup, regardless of their income or supplementary insurance. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport says its policy is to interpret the basic health package the same in both parts of the country when possible.

The dental checkup coverage would cost approximately €300 million. The House has yet to allocate the money. *DMR*

Post office announces mail disruptions

Flamingo Express Dutch Caribbean (FXDC Post) cannot sustain normal delivery service because of the prolonged absence of two delivery personnel. Delays will be inevitable.

FXDC Post also reminds customers that all mail shipments to the U.S. have been temporarily suspended, letters and parcels both. *DMR*

Bonaire Culinary Week begins September 25



stated, “The Rum Runners crew is back for the Bonaire Culinaire Fall edition 2025. This edition’s menu is packed with sunny Caribbean vibes, tropical twists and island flair. And guess what? To celebrate our return to this event the Chefs and Bartenders teamed up.

There’s a brand-new rum pairing option to spice things up even more. It’s the

ultimate combo of food, fun and flavor you don’t want to miss.”

While savoring the Bonaire Culinaire Special at any of the participating culinary hotspots, you stand a chance to win an array of exciting prizes. How about redeeming a 5 course dinner for two person including a winepairing? You could also walk away with delicious cupcakes

from *Sweeti Bakery*, *Macaroca* giftcard of \$100, dinner for two at *Koló*, *At Sea* gift card of \$50, charcuterie platter for two at *Wines & More* and other enticing rewards.

Discover the list of participating restaurants on our official website, Bonaireculinaryweek.com. And don’t forget to follow us for the latest updates on Facebook. Secure your reservations in advance, as availability is limited.

We can’t wait to welcome you to this gastronomic celebration. Bonaire Culinaire is an initiative driven by passionate, local entrepreneurs who are determined to put Bonaire on the global culinary map.

We are proud to acknowledge our generous sponsors, who play a pivotal role in making this event possible. A heartfelt thank you to The Wine Factory, Real Dutch Bakery, Pietersz and Orco Bank for their unwavering support. Their commitment to promoting culinary excellence on Bonaire is truly commendable.

Elise Weerstand

Brace yourselves food aficionados and culinary enthusiasts. The highly anticipated Bonaire Culinaire Fall Edition is set to tantalize your taste buds, September 25 - October 9. This remarkable 15-day culinary journey invites you to indulge in the finest offerings from Bonaire’s top-notch restaurants and other epicurean havens. A record number of 25 esteemed culinary hotspots have each crafted a delectable menu or exclusive special in celebration of this exceptional event.

With over 25 years of experience in the hospitality business chef Juan de Sousa welcomes you to *C’est La Vie*, a small scale restaurant where you can be treated by his passion for cooking. A good selection of wines plus a fantastic menu prepared directly for you. Besides the regular menu there is a Pasta Menu every Wednesday and Thursday for lunch and Dinner. Dishes like the French Onion Soup, Octopus Carpaccio and the famous Escargot are waiting for you. Reservations are highly appreciated due to the limited seating, Welcome to C’est La Vie.

Rum Runners owner Floris van Loo

What ARE Bonaire’s living conditions?

CBS conducts Omnibus Survey in the Caribbean Netherlands

Between September and December 2025, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) interviewers will be visiting randomly selected residents of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba. These residents will be invited to take part in the Omnibus Survey, a large-scale survey on living conditions in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Through this survey, CBS collects information on topics such as health, housing and safety. These data are essential in order to obtain an accurate picture of the well-being of the population of the islands. Reliable figures on daily life in the Caribbean Netherlands are of great importance to policymakers, researchers, businesses and the residents themselves.

A total of 2,029 residents on Bonaire, 674 on St Eustatius and 578 on Saba will be approached. CBS underlines that the cooperation of the selected participants is crucial in order to obtain a complete and representative picture.

The confidentiality of the collected data is guaranteed by law. CBS takes strict measures to protect the privacy of all participants. Interviewers conducting the survey will carry an official CBS ID card for identification purposes.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact CBS

via +599 717 8676. CBS can be contacted from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. You can also send an email to caribischneiderland@cbs.nl.

More information about the Omnibus Survey can be found on the web page: <https://www.cbs.nl/omnibus>.

Statistics Netherlands press release



Another book for young Papiamentu readers



Author Angliet Baidjoe presents her set of four children’s books to Provincial Executive Member Peter Silberie. Photo OLB

Author Angliet Baidjoe’s fourth book, *Bonnie the Fish*, was published in August. With these books, Angliet Baidjoe helps primary school children to read and learn in their own language, while also discovering other languages. Each book presents the child with multiple languages. *Donkey Bibi*, *Kaki Cactus*, and *Bonnie the Fish* can be read in four languages: Papiamentu, Dutch, English, and Spanish. *Boom Kumba* doesn’t include a Spanish translation.

The stories connect with the lives of children on Bonaire and all have an educational message. For example, *Donkey Bibi* is about caring for animals, *Boom Kumba* about the consequences of the climate crisis, *Kaki Cactus* about respect and connection, and *Bonnie the Fish* about being curious about the world)



Screen shot from Bonnie the Fish on YouTube, Tales of Angliet without forgetting your home.

Angliet Baidjoe is currently working on a new children’s book, which will be published in October.

OLB press release

Did you pay your Nature Fee?



All conservation projects, research, education and work we do are made possible by the nature fee you purchase. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication to preserving our nature. Thank you for purchasing your nature fee. Available online at STINAPAbonaire.org

What did you do on World Cleanup Day?

If you didn't participate in an organized event on World Cleanup Day September 20 to collect the trash in our oceans, along our coast or on our roads perhaps you made a difference in another way.

We all can do our part whether it is by limiting use of plastic products, recycling properly or cleaning up an area on your own. We all need to do something as the global waste problem worldwide and keeps growing. Unfortunately, the problem won't end until legislation worldwide is passed to reduce the amount produced at the source.

The World Bank tells us the planet produces over 2 billion tons of solid waste annually and this is expected to increase 70% by 2050. In the Caribbean, around 145,000 tons of garbage, a third of all urban waste, ends up in dumpsites every day.

And then there is plastic. According to UNESCO, plastic debris kills more than 1 million seabirds every year and more than 100,000 mammals. A few years ago, the Bonaire government banned single use plastic: straws, cups, plates, cutlery etc, and difference was evident. But what about all the plastic bottles of soda and product packaging? (IFC April 2024))

More than 460 million metric tons of plastic are produced every year for use with an estimated 20 million metric tons of plastic litter ending up in the environment. Plastic pollution affects all land, freshwater, marine ecosystems and the climate when it is produced. (IUCN)

Bonaire has several organizations that schedule cleanups on a regular basis and anyone is welcome to join:

One Hour Cleanup Power collects washed up trash on Bonaire shores every Saturday and anyone that has helped out can attest the majority of refuse is plastic.

Clean Coast Bonaire's prime goal is to collect micro plastics. They alternate sites to pick up the tiny plastic that has broken down and washed onto our shores.

Dive Friends does a quarterly underwater cleanup and the next one is coming up in October.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) gathers once a month for an underwater cleanup to collect fishing line that can harm our marine life.

On World Cleanup Day, One Hour Cleanup Power was out there combing the shores. STCB held a cleanup under the North Pier with 18 divers and Scuba Do enlisted 10 divers to clean up various dive sites along the coast. Selibon set up areas around Bonaire for residents to dispose of their trash.

Thank you to everyone who did their part to keep our island and ocean clean. We apologize if we missed a group that participated in World Cleanup Day 2025.

Story / photos Julie Morgan



Scuba Do cleanup participants on World Cleanup Day. Photo Julie Morgan



Diver recovering fishing line at STCB's World Cleanup Dive. Photo Julie Morgan

French toast with Peanut Punch by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

Peanut punch is an old Caribbean drink that gives a real energy boost and is very tasty



For the drink: 2 cups of chocolate milk, or homemade with cocoa powder. • 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter • 1 dl 3.38 oz coconut milk • 3 tablespoons sugar • Possibly a dash of (Rincon) Rum • To taste, pinch of nutmeg or cinnamon powder
Heat chocolate milk and stir in rest of ingredients, using a hand blender if necessary.

For the French toast: 4 pieces of (old) bread • 2 eggs
Stir eggs into peanut punch and soak the bread in it. Now fry the soaked sandwiches in the frying pan with butter until nice and crispy and brown.

For the garnish: knob of butter • 4 pieces of fresh pineapple • 1 tablespoon sugar • 1 dl (3.38 oz) coconut milk
Brown pineapple in the butter, add sugar and let it cara-

melize in the pan. Pour in coconut milk and let it boil until the caramel dissolves and the sauce thickens slightly.

Place French toast on a plate and divide pineapple and sauce over it. If desired, sprinkle with some icing sugar



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.

Make Bonaire Accessible - Sing, sing, sing..... - by Ria Dokter

Just yesterday I got a shopping bag full of magazines. I love to read, but magazines are also wonderful. You get a lot of useful (mostly) information. There is often a puzzle or two and when you are finished reading, you can make somebody else happy by passing them on.

The magazine I read yesterday was a special one for the elderly. Full of interesting information and great tips. Health is also often addressed and there is always something special for every reader.

Music and singing was brought to the attention of the readers. I love music and missed playing my c.d.'s out on the porch so I decided to buy a small c.d player and when I put this on my Facebook page I was even given a few great c.d's. Imagine: sitting on the porch, the sun is rising, the world is still very quiet and I play my classical music softly. Sometimes I hum along and would like to sing too, but that would disturb the neighbors I guess. But still..... I would love to sing.

I remember there was once a choir on Curaçao, formed by former school-teachers. In November 2016 they came to Bonaire and performed like magic. They only sang children's songs and sang their hearts out and

everybody loved them.

They performed at Kas di Kuido and it was touching to see and hear how everyone in the house enjoyed the songs and sang along.

In the meantime I learned that patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease love to sing and remember all the words to old songs. And it made me wonder:

Would it not be possible to form a choir for the elderly on Bonaire?

We have a lot of 65 plus inhabitants and Bonairians love to sing the old songs. All these factors combined would make a great choir, don't you think ?

On Bonaire we have enough space for training with all the daycare facilities for the elderly. And there are many elderly learning to play instruments, like the kuarta at Hofi Kultural. We would only need to find a choir leader, a conductor. And of course we would need a group of musicians who can play along.

It seems so easy to do, that I am sure it is possible. This would mean another activity could be offered more for the elderly. Plus: a choir would contribute a lot to the cultural scene. The young ones could learn a lot from the elderly. At least, that is how it should be.

I can already see it, when the Bonaire Classical Music Board offers a concert and the elderly choir performs at their best! And imagine the elderly choir performing at Dia di Bonaire, dia di Rincon, dia di Antriol, dia di Tera Kora and dia di Nort di Salina. And in all churches at Christmas time.

Let's just do it and get ourselves a real choir. Put your thinking caps on and offer your help when you really have something to offer.

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she 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.



Rainbow Warrior to visit Bonaire



On September 27 and 28, the public is invited to visit the ship from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Marieke Vellekoop, director of Greenpeace Netherlands explained the government is pursuing anti-climate policies and violating human rights. The only way to rectify this is to reduce emissions as quickly as possible and to engage in dialogue with Bonairean residents about Greenpeace and climate justice on Bonaire.

Greenpeace Netherlands and eight co-plaintiffs from Bonaire will face the Dutch State in the District Court of The Hague. The government is not doing enough to

protect us from the effects of climate change. Especially for the residents of Bonaire, there are hardly any plans to keep them safe in the face of the climate crisis. The government needs to limit the dangers by reducing CO2 emissions faster. Namely, a maximum of 1.5 degrees of warming means smaller risks for Bonaire and all of us. The government must make plans for the protection of the whole of the Netherlands, including Bonaire.

Support the climate cause Bonaire: demand justice!

Register to visit the ship and learn more regarding the court case by sending a WhatsApp or message to press

officer Laura Polderman, +316 2900 1140.

Greenpeace is an international environmental organization that addresses major environmental and climate problems through scientific research, lobbying, demonstrations, and peaceful actions. In the Netherlands, Greenpeace has 320,000 donors. Greenpeace accepts no funding from governments or corporations, making it 100% independent and existing thanks to the donations of its donors.

. Greenpeace Press release.

RRFB helps pillar coral reproduce



RRFB divers search the reef for signs of pillar coral spawning. Photo Julian Beccari

corals show greater resilience to bleaching than wild colonies.1, 2

By applying these research-backed techniques at scale, RRFB produces tens of thousands of young corals each year. In addition to pillar coral, their team produced 56,000 staghorn coral larvae last week and raised over 26,000 young, grooved brain coral earlier this year.

This work is made possible through the support of Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire (OLB) and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Quality, and Nature (LVVN) via the Nos ta Biba di Naturalesa project. It's also part of a collaboration with SCORE International and FUNDEMAR aimed at testing new coral breeding technologies across the Caribbean.

1. Roach, T. N. F., et al. (2025). *Intergenerational metabolomic signatures of bleaching resistance in corals*. Nature Communications. 16, 5971. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-61102-8>

2. Miller, M. W., et al. (2024). *Assisted sexual coral recruits show high thermal tolerance to the 2023 Caribbean mass bleaching event*. PLOS ONE. 19(9), e0309719. **Contact:** Caitie Reza caitie@reefnewalbonaire.org August 20, 2025

Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire is a non-profit organization focused on strengthening Bonaire's biodiverse coral reefs as they face mounting challenges in the Caribbean.

In collaboration with research partners and regional practitioners, RRFB uses researched-based techniques to increase the abundance and genetic diversity of vulnerable coral populations.

Today, with the help of 17 partner dive operators around the island and a dedicated team of volunteers, RRFB has outplanted over 70,000 corals back to the reef, covering an area of over 13,000 square meters.

To learn how to get involved or lend support, please visit www.reefnewalbonaire.org or email info@reefnewalbonaire.org.

Growing research has shown that coral breeding and fragmentation, techniques that underpin RRFB's work, can give corals a better chance to survive changing ocean conditions. In two recent landmark studies, scientists found that heat-tolerance can be passed from parent corals to their offspring, and that young, lab-reared



A young pillar coral "settles" on or permanently attaches to a special substrate in RRFB's lab

In a historic first for Bonaire, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) collected spawn from the critically endangered pillar coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) last month. The young corals will soon be transferred into underwater nurseries, where they will be carefully monitored as they grow before returning to the reef.

Pillar coral populations on Bonaire have declined sharply in recent years due to the spread of SCTLD and consecutive marine heatwaves, leaving only scattered colonies that are often too far apart to reproduce naturally. As the "canary of the reef," this species is highly sensitive to ocean change and often the first to show signs of stress. Without intervention, pillar coral faces functional extinction on the island - as has already happened in Florida and elsewhere in the Caribbean.

"Helping pillar corals reproduce here is more than just a milestone for us - it's a lifeline for a species that is vanishing from Bonaire's reefs," says RRFB's Lead Restoration Technician Cheyenna de Wit.

The success underscores the critical role of active coral restoration. While improving water quality and reducing local stressors are essential, they cannot alone save dying species like pillar coral.

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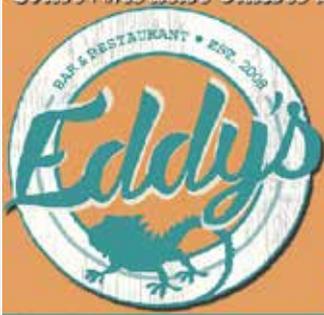
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Culinary team holds first fundraiser



Bonaire Culinary Team 2025 L-R: Akeesha Cicilia, Elise Weerstand, Christian Silva, Jake Kelkboom and Chelsey Trinidal.

Bonaire’s new culinary team 2025 is hoping to bring home the gold in the Caribbean and Mixology Competition in Barbados this November. But they need a little help getting there with your support. They are holding a series of fundraisers that focus on their artistry with food and drinks.

The first fundraising event was September 21 at The Jungle with over 50 in attendance. The culinary team Akeesha Cicilia, Elise Weerstand, Jake Kelkboom and Chelsey Trinidal delivered some amazing dishes to the guests:

Sopi pampuna, ceviche white fish with mango and yucca chips, Kaasbal & fish kroket, Wasabi & Kroyo Mayo, Beef tetaki, Fried shrimp, Chicken or avocado tostadas, Tuna sushi bite, Funchi + Baka stoba + papaya slaw, Pumpkin cake and tamarind tart.

As for the drinks to accompany the great cuisine, guests enjoyed most anything they wished including some specialties by former gold medal winner bartender Kelvin and new member of the culinary team Christian Silva.

Coach for the team, Floris van Loo of Rum Runners, was on hand to ensure everything went smoothly.

Over the years Bonaireans have proved their culinary skills by bringing home the gold year after year.

If you missed this fundraiser, the Bonaire Culinary team will be holding more unique fundraisers including a barbeque and evenings with bites and drinks. The next one is scheduled to be at Joe’s Restaurant in October.

Story / photo Julie Morgan

Massive amounts of trash found floating in the BNMP



Over the weekend of Sept 20, World Cleanup Day, Judi and Matt Radtke were diving Klein Bonaire and saw plastic garbage bags floating in the water 20-30 meters across.

Judi said, “We saw plastic bags as far as the eye can see. The trash was all different. It was heartbreaking.”

A tremendous amount of trash is floating all over the island in the waters from Candyland to Klein Bonaire and Red Slave to up north. The trash was so thick, it was difficult for the divers to surface without the refuse surrounding the divers. Divers removed bags from soft coral and fish were biting the bags.

Judi said, “We spent an hour only collecting the larger trash bags and didn’t make even a tiny dent. I don’t know how any turtle can survive this.”

Unsure if the marine park has been notified.



Bonaire’s sky park - False Dawn

See the video at: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>

Trace Dominguez of StarGazers.com tells us:

“Almost a thousand years ago the Persian poet Omar Khayyam wrote about a mysterious ‘False Dawn’ which can only be seen during the fall.

“To find it - Hit a very dark place two hours before sunrise and look East. There’s no moon, so preceding the Sun will be a cone-shaped patch of light extending from the horizon half-way up the sky. This is Khayyam’s ‘False Dawn.’

“Astronomers call it ‘Zodiacal Light.’ It’s a humongous cloud of cosmic dust extending from the Sun past Mercury and Venus and slightly beyond Earth. This is the dust leftover from the formation of our Solar System – still orbiting the Sun today. It will be roughly the brightness of the Milky Way, so if you can’t see that it might be too bright where you are. If so, try again.

“The False Dawn appears in late August and reaches maximum brightness around the September equinox [September 22, 2025], then dims until late November.”



Zodiacal light seen from Paranal Observatory, Cerro Paranal, Atacama Desert, N. Chile <https://www.britannica.com/science/zodiacal-light>

Reef Glimpses - Another Look at Cleaner Interactions by Dee Scarr

Do you remember when you first heard about underwater cleaner stations? For me, it was a long time ago. I'm sure I was amazed, but I'm also sure I was learning a lot of amazing things for the first time back then.

Let's look at cleaners.

An underwater cleaner is an animal who eats parasites, hitchhikers, or other unwanted lodgers, directly from their host, at the request of the host.

The request of the host? Yep. After the host locates a cleaner service, it adopts a position, or coloration, or other behavior that signals readiness to the cleaner. Yellowtail snappers turn pinkish and hover with their heads lowered. Bar jacks come to a screeching halt over isolated coral heads on the sand and wait patiently for the resident cleaners to get to work. Busy cleaner stations sometimes have a line of waiting clients!

Performing cleaning services for grazers such as turtles and parrotfish seems safe, but what protects cleaners when they work on predators like trumpetfish or groupers? I remember watching a couple of gobies as they scurried around the outside of a trumpetfish. The event caught my eye because the trumpetfish was hovering horizontally rather than vertically. Then I saw the gobies cleaning it. And then – I did not expect this -- the trumpetfish fully extended its mouth, and the gobies accepted the invitation and darted inside! My buddy and I could actually see the gobies bustling about, *inside* the trumpetfish's elongated mouth, *through* the trumpetfish's skin.

That was a once-in-a-lifetime sighting for me (so far, anyway). More common, at least when tiger groupers were more common, was the sight of one hovering, its extra-paleness making its shifting parasites easier to see. Eventually the grouper would open wide, and the cleaners would continue their work inside the grouper's mouth, sometimes even exiting through its gill flaps.

Both trumpetfish and groupers are predators, so the cleaners who service them are usually primary cleaners; that is, cleaning is their full-time job. Primary cleaner fish, such as gobies and juvenile French angelfish, are often barred (vertical stripes) or striped. The stripes enable them to adver-



Hoping to get cleaned by the shrimp, I was instead helped by a goby and, to my surprise, by the arrow crab.

Photo Dee Scarr

tise their trade, and once they're invited as cleaners, the predators don't generally perceive them as prey, so everyone – except the parasites – profits by the interaction.

Some crustaceans are also cleaners. Banded coral shrimp wave their bright whiskers in invitation to cleaner clients, as do their golden coral shrimp cousins. Pederson's shrimp sort of vibrate their antennae in invitation as they dance around their anemones.

Dedicated cleaners are bold; they trust their uniforms enough to clean even divers on occasion. My hand has been cleaned by gobies and Pederson's shrimp. The late Christopher Reeve, on a Touch the Sea dive, described the shrimp cleaners on his hand as feeling "like a caress."

Secondary cleaners are those creatures who aren't fully dedicated to cleaning. These part-time cleaners are daring opportunists, because although divers aren't part of their instincts, I've met each of the ones that follow.

A juvenile French angelfish had stationed itself around a broken, abandoned fish trap. The little angel would flutter all around my buddies and me, advertising

cleaner services, but it never would come in to clean. Then one day, one diver wore a brightly-colored flower-print diveskin, and we apparently finally spoke a language the angelfish understood! The little angel finally cleaned, nibbling eagerly away at the suit, and even followed us for a bit when we moved away.

Another time a sharpnose puffer zipped

over from behind me, catching my eye as it passed my mask, and began nibbling on a loose thread on my wetsuit wrist. Eventually the puffer gave up on the thread and departed. (That was the only time my many raggedy wetsuits attracted a cleaner...)

The anemones that Pederson's shrimp live with host other animals as well, who are thus given plenty of demonstrations of cleaner services. In one case, when I held my hand out hoping to be cleaned by the Pederson's shrimp, an arrow crab sidled over. Using its long claws, the crab efficiently removed some dead skin from around my thumbnail.

Nearby, a ringed anemone with a Pederson's shrimp cleaner station hosted a pair of resident snapping shrimp. Snapping shrimp provide security, protecting their anemones from bristleworms, for example, very efficiently. As I held out my hand to the Pederson's shrimp (who ignored me), the snapping shrimp would peek out from under the anemone. Then one day – and from that day forward -- one of the snapping shrimp came out and cleaned my fingers!

Such caution on the part of cleaners is definitely sensible. There's a story going around about a lionfish, native to the tropical Pacific and invasive in the Caribbean.

Reef Glimpses - Cleaners to page 19



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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)

Friday, Sept. 26	Last day to submit photos to TCB Photo contest https://bonaireisland.com/photo-contest/
Saturday, Sept. 27 & Sunday, Sept. 28	Visit the Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register to visit the ship and learn more regarding the climate court case by sending a WhatsApp to press officer Laura Polderman, +316 2900 1140. See page x.
Saturday, Sept. 27	Taste of Bonaire Theme: World Tourism Day Wilhelmina Park 6-10 p.m. Music groups Hashtag, Grupo Kariño and DJ Jewels. Food, culture, local hand-crafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants at special prices. Karaoke party at Tera Cora 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free entry. Tera Cora Ranch, Kaya Theresa F. Ilario, Kralendijk — no reservations needed, just bring your best friends and voice. From Bohemian Rhapsody to Shallow, Dancing Queen to Livin' on a Prayer, they've all the hits that get the crowd going. Facebook Event Link: https://www.facebook.com/share/17AH4449rd/
Sunday, Sept. 28	Alzheimer Awareness Walk 6 a.m. Start at Cargill Salt Company, walk to the White Slave huts and back. \$10. Wear a white T-shirt and you will receive a Fundashon Alzheimer sticker at the start. Tickets at Brandaris Café, 22 Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar (+599) 717-4596. All proceeds go directly to Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire
Friday, October 3	OLB Job Fair (Feria di Karera) Jong Bonaire 12 noon to 7 p.m. OLB recruiters and advisors will be there to tell visitors about the many opportunities within the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). Opportunities exist both for those just graduated and those with work experience who are looking for a career change.
Sunday, October 5	Klein Bonaire Swim Swim from Eden Beach to Klein Bonaire to support Jong Bonaire, see page 15 Sign up online: https://form.jotform.com/252395233999876
October 7 - 11	Regatta 2025 , see also page 15
Tue. October 7	Registration & goodie bags (17:00-19:00) • Captains meeting (19:30-20:00) • BBQ for participants, staff & vip's (20:00)
Wed. October 8	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-17:00) • Nations Flag Parade (17:30-18:45) • Opening ceremony on main stage (19:00-20:00)
Thur. October 9	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-17:00)
Fri. October 10	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-17:00) • Regatta Happy Hour at Kas di Regatta with entertainment (14:00-19:00)
Sat. October 11	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-16:00) • Awards ceremony on main stage (19:00)
Wed. October 8	Regattaloop 41st Edition 2 km/5 km run. Limited to 150 runners. 5:30 p.m. start at Playa Stadium, and finish at Karel's Beach Bar. Bringing young and old together. Adults \$10. Under 15 free. Register at sports hall
Sunday, October 12	Remax Fall Kick-Off Pickleball Tournament 8 a.m. -3:30 p.m. Jorge Nicolaas Sports Hall. Singles & doubles play for competitors at all levels. \$15 includes lunch & a drink. Sign up online through: https://www.globalpickleball.network First create a Global Pickleball Network (GPN) account, then join the Pickleball Association Bonaire network to register. Registration ends Oct. 5.
Sun. October 19	Duo Xtreme, 15th edition annual mountain bike race. 55-km Fun Race and 75-km Elite Race. Cyclists ride in pairs: starting and finishing together. 6:30 a.m. Start & finish Eden Beach Register at https://timing.events/Event/Register?id=108
Sat. October 25	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. GET RID OF YOUR DRUG ADDICTION Monday 19:00-20:00. Kaya Tanki Matrimonio 30. Dutch & Papiamentu. Call Wensley 700 7289 or Remco 784 1782.

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: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook.

Tennis Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome. **Free Kid's Clinics at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Tue & Fri 4-6 p.m. Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, Mon & Thu 4-6 p.m.** 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. 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. Presentations resume Sept. 15th Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. 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/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, Oct. 12	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule			
DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. September 24	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. September 25	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Fri. September 26	0700-1700	CARNIVAL CONQUEST 3783 guests	North
Wed. October 1	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. October 6	0800-2200	GRAND PRINCESS 3006 guests	South
Thurs. October 9	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	South

SEE, FEEL & TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE

Cultural Event **NOS Zjilea**
It doesn't get more local than this!

Quote of the month:
"Barku ankra no ta gana flete"
[There is no gain without effort]

Musical band **Tutti Frutti**

With different mini-workshops and interesting demonstrations

Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our cultural park on the east side road of the valley of Rincon

Free Entrance



Join the Jong Bonaire Fundraiser Swim to Klein

On Sunday, Oct. 5 swimmers will enter the water at Eden Beach Resort/Spice Beach Club for Jong Bonaire's fundraiser swim to Klein. Fee (entry & t-shirt): Adults: \$25 Children under 12: \$15. The swim race begins at 7:30 a.m. The fun swim starts at 9 a.m. Hundreds of people plunge in, some using fins, masks, and very inventive flotation devices. The swim to Klein is 800 meters (about half a mile). If you prefer not to swim back to Eden Beach Resort, boats will be available at Klein Bonaire to bring you back. Vigilant safety measures ensure the safety of the swimmers. Register early: <https://form.jotform.com/252395233999876> then get your T-shirt at Jong Bonaire on Fri. Oct. 3, 6-8 p.m. or Sat, Oct. 4th, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. More info at: <https://www.facebook.com/jongbonaire.71>

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

ALZHEIMER AWARENESS WALK

JOIN THE ALZHEIMER AWARENESS WALK ON SEPTEMBER 28 AT 6:00 AM!

KARAOKE Party

Tera Cora Ranch
September 27
20.00-1.00

Hosted by **DJ KES**

Fall Kick-off PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Get ready for an exciting competition!

October 12th 2025
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Sport Hall **JORGE NICOLAAS**

Registration Deadline:
OCTOBER 5th 2025 NOON

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15

Paulo: 700 0958 Henk: 780 8540
GPN Pickleball Association Bonaire

DUO XTREME

BONAIRE

SAVE THE DATE
19 OCTOBER 2025

Free tennis lessons in the barrios



Kids can join Bonaire Lawn Tennis Association's (BLTA) free neighborhood tennis program in both Nikiboko and Nort'i Saliña. The only condition, kids must come in sports clothes and preferably with sports shoes. All tennis equipment is provided free of charge. This project's aim is to contribute to the Island's children's healthy develop-

ment through sport. 'Tennis in de Wijk' (Tennis in the Neighborhood) is a collaboration of Indebon, Public Body Bonaire (OLB), and the BLTS. Classes take place at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. In Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, classes are on Mondays and Thursdays, also from 4 to 6 p.m. *BLTA press release*

EVENT SCHEDULE



OCTOBER 2025

7TH | DAY 1
 REGISTRATION DAY AND GOODIE BAGS (17:00-19:00)
 ● CAPTAINS MEETING (19:30-20:00)
 BBQ NIGHT FOR PARTICIPANTS, STAFF & VIP'S (20:00)

8TH | DAY 2
 SAILING RACES AT KAS DI REGATTA & SKAL (09:00-17:00)
 NATIONS FLAG PARADE (17:30-18:45)
 OPENING CEREMONY ON MAIN STAGE (19:00-20:00)

9TH | DAY 3
 SAILING RACES AT KAS DI REGATTA & SKAL (09:00-17:00)

10TH | DAY 4
 SAILING RACES AT KAS DI REGATTA & SKAL (09:00-17:00)
 REGATTA HAPPY HOUR AT KAS DI REGATTA WITH ENTERTAINMENT (14:00-19:00)

11TH | FINAL DAY & AWARDS
 SAILING RACES AT KAS DI REGATTA & SKAL (09:00-16:00)
 AWARDS CEREMONY ON MAIN STAGE (19:00)







FOR FLAG PARADE
 REGISTRATION AND INFO
 PLEASE CALL: +599 9 560 7440

300 school kids learn to swim



Bonaire's floating pool, across from Parke Tului, has proved to be a success for the island. Approximately 300 children have received swimming lessons there and it's very popular with all swimmers and snorkelers.

On September 16 Indebon's Terrence de Jongh and deputy Peter Silberie visited the pool for an inspection. De Jongh said every week seven primary schools with approximately three hundred children are-

making use of this pool. He noted every year Indebon has tried to give more children the opportunity to participate.

Silberie said studies are being done to explore the possibility of building an official swimming pool of either Olympic size or 25 meters. Maintenance cost are being taken into account as they can be high..

OLB press release

Waking up isn't just about dragging yourself out of bed—it's about declaring ownership of your day before the world makes demands of you. How we navigate those first minutes often sets the tone for the entire day. Upon waking, our brains pass through a liminal state, with elevated theta brainwave activity that promotes clarity, creativity and receptiveness.

Those first moments after sleep are powerful. Your mind is clear, your body is resetting, and you have a window of influence to shape the entire direction of your day. If you win the morning, you win the day.

When you rise, your body flips the switch from rest mode to go mode. Cortisol, your natural "get-up-and-go" hormone, is peaking. Your brain is still in a creative, receptive state. This is the golden hour where momentum is born. Waste it scrolling your phone, and you hand control to everyone else. Use it wisely, and you step into the day with focus and strength.

When we wake, our body shifts from parasympathetic dominance (rest and digest) to sympathetic readiness (alertness and activity). Cortisol levels naturally rise in the early hours to help us feel awake, while body temperature gradually increases to fuel energy. Yet, this natural rhythm can be disrupted by poor sleep hygiene, late-night screen exposure, or inconsistent wake times. That's why a conscious, steady routine matters—it stabilizes circadian rhythms and reduces the foggy disorientation many experience upon rising.

Here's a morning routine that works in your favor:

1. Get up at the same time, a steady wake-up time trains your body and removes the sluggishness of unpredictability.
2. Skip the phone grab, don't let your day start with someone else's agenda. The inbox can wait. Your first thoughts should be your own.
3. Hydrate like a champion, after hours of sleep, water is fuel. One glass before coffee primes your energy and sharpens your mind.
4. Expose yourself to natural light, open the blinds, step outside, or switch on a bright light. Sunlight flips your internal switch from sleepy to sharp.
5. Stretch, exercise, or just walk. Movement gets your blood pumping and tells your body it's time to perform.
6. Guard a moment of stillness, doesn't need to be long, take a few minutes to journal, meditate, or simply breathe. Own your mindset before the chaos begins.
7. Set a daily intention, instead of drowning in to-dos, ask: What's the one thing I will own today? This transforms busy days into purposeful ones.

When you own your morning, you stop reacting and start leading. You walk into the world already centered, already moving with purpose. Over time, this compounds into greater productivity, calmer moods, and stronger resilience. The morning is your launchpad.

Marcus Aurelius, the Stoic emperor, put it bluntly: "At dawn, when you have trouble getting out of bed, tell yourself: I am rising to do the work of a human being."

That's not just philosophy—it's a battle cry. To get up with intention is to choose strength over weakness, focus over distraction, and discipline over drift.

Your morning is the one piece of the day fully under your control. It's where you decide whether you'll play offense or defense. The truth is simple: if you wake up and drift, life will push you wherever it wants. But if you wake up and act with clarity, you'll drive the day instead of being driven by it.

So tomorrow, don't just wake up. Rise. Claim the morning as yours. Because when you own the morning, you don't just set the tone for the day—you take command of your life. Own the morning, own the day, own your life



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.

Parke Tului is getting a makeover



New sports deputy Peter Silberie and INDEBON's Terrence de Jongh are keeping close tabs on the rejuvenation of Park Tului. In an inspection visit on September 11 commissioner Silberie commented that the park will be for families to bring their children for fun. He noted the children's playground will be enlarged, and requested all residents and visitors to help care for the park and keep it beautiful.

Jongh announced they hope to reopen the park between the end of October and the beginning of November. This is just the first of Bonaire's parks and sports fields scheduled for renovation.

OLB Press release./Julie Morgan photo

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tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
taudrotoliejeklebe tandzijl

This lionfish, in the Caribbean, put itself at a cleaner station and then gobbled down every cleaner who approached. Confidence turned out to be overconfidence on the part of the cleaner fish, resulting in their removal from the gene pool...

Doncha love how terrestrial nature programs enthuse about egrets removing annoying critters from cattle? Ooh, one type of bird, helping some herbivores. On a single dive off Bonaire, we can see several different kinds of creatures, all energetically cleaning parasites from several different types of clients.

In fact, have you ever wondered how many cleaner stations you could find on a single dive? (Super-achievers could also count the number of different cleaner critters, and how many different clients they see.)

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.



Jude Finies to attend ICOM in Dubai



By invitation Jude De Wolff-Finies, Terramar Museum director, is representing Bonaire at the distinguished International Council of Museums (ICOM) in Dubai, November 11 – 17. Over 129 countries will be represented by more than 4000 museum experts. This 27th ICOM conference theme is "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities".

Discussions will focus on: how museums can adapt to global changes and demographics, how to cultivate institutions that serve the changing needs of the public, restoration, lifestyles and heritage, the vital role of museums in helping navigate and access opportunities in social economic in environmental challenges and the future of museums.

Along with the other museum professionals and cultural leaders, Finies will be a part of discussions on preservation of cultural identities and programs on heritage, youth and new technologies.

Finies invitation to ICOM is due to her

impressive achievements as a cultural leader and advocacy in strengthening Bonaire's cultural and museum infrastructure as in her work in the Raad voor Cultuur (Council for Culture). A few of her other notable contributions are in establishing structural support for local cultural institutions in the 2022-2025 Culture Agreement. Finies led a special project for Dutch slavery past with Dutch Central Bank which positioned Bonaire in the national dialogue and reparative cultural effort with Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK).

She has cofounded several important cultural platforms: Frente Kultural (cultural lobbying) and Aliansa Kultural. Her academic paper "Give Culture a Real Chance" is a message about cultural diplomacy. As the director of Terramar Museum she bridges museum practices with cultural policy and diplomacy creating broader conversations on decolonization, regional autonomy and sustainable cultural governance in small island contexts within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Julie Morgan

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



Wopper

Hello, this is Wopper. He was surrendered to the Animal Shelter Bonaire in 2023 at only 2 months old. Wopper is a ginger and white cat, with green eyes. He is pretty shy around new people, but loves cat treats. Especially the liquid snack, you can steal his heart with those. He loves to take naps and is mostly found in a cat tree. Wopper gets along well with other cats. Wopper can be a bit anxious, and it would be best if he was adopted by a family without children. We really hope someone will give Wopper the forever home he deserves, and the patience and love he needs so he can be his best self.

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt



Buzzy

Dear dog lovers, we would like you to meet our sweet Buzzy. He came to us with his two sisters and they have already found their forever homes.

Buzzy can be a little shy when he first meets you, but after the first meeting he will be crazy about cuddles and likes to go for walks. He is very good with other dogs, not a dominant dog and will fit right into your household. Buzzy is good with kids of all ages and he even likes cats.

Because of his long fur, he will need some grooming to keep his coat nice and shiny and tangle free.

Do you think you can give this boy a loving home and the attention he needs? Then don't wait any longer and come meet Buzzy.

Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt

A Garden? Just Do It! - The burning sun

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Dear garden friends, there is so many things to say. Let me start with a subject that one cannot look away from, the weather, the heat, the burning Sun! It's torture. I am experiencing the heat these days and it's the same for plants and animals. At 6 a.m. before the heat begins I'm already busy in the garden watering the plants that look weak. I cover the big containers of plantain and coconut trees to provide them with shade and coolness. I use old laundry racks and put them over the containers .

On top of that I lay the banana and coconut leaves. It looks like a roof top of leaves. Of course it works perfectly for putting the potted plants under trees where there is shade all day. Mango trees, tamarind trees, wayaka trees and others are a great idea for shading smaller plants. I use old chairs I've collected and put construction parts of old beams on them so you get a kind of long table under the big trees. I put the potted plants on top. All the material is recycled stuff from Selibon or friends. Pallets would work but they aren't the most desired due to termites.

I also add a lot of dried leaves to the plants as they keep the soil cool and moist and limit the amount of watering needed. But remember, spots with moist dead leaves around the plants are perfect habitats for bugs, insects and nests for mice and rats. So every two weeks, turn the heap of leaves upside down to prevent these pests around your house.

If you can, catch as much rainwater as possible from the good showers we have



Bembe, Bonaire's own veggy, is also in urban markets in Portugal. Photo Angliet Baidjoe

in between the heat. Get some paint buckets at Selibon, remove old dried paint and catch the rain for the plants. Close the buckets with the top to prevent breeding of the dengue mosquito. Don't throw liquid paint in the garden. It's very poisonous for the soil, all life and your own health. I first let the paint dry and then peel it off and throw those parts of dry paint in the Selibon Klike. I have a whole line of these buckets under the roof and when there is a heavy shower, I go empty the full buckets on the plants and trees and then catch the water again. The more wet the soil is the longer the plants can make use of it to grow

nice, vital and healthy. I don't mind to getting wet, I won't melt. Everyday I enjoy the garden with all its goodies, so I want to give back as much as I can to nature and to my health. It takes some effort to take good care of the garden these days, but I am so proud when people visit me and are astonished of my green garden. It's a good stimulant and motivation to keep on going. And when I pick the fruits and vegetables from my garden, it makes me forget all the effort and gives me a great feeling and happy appetite.

This morning one of my kunukeros

friends passed by to pick up some dry leaves. While busy raking she told me that she wants to organized a SAM. "A SAM, what is that I asked?" She said that in the past the local kunukeros used to organize groups of friends and family to help each other on the farm. A kind of a farm co-operative. She wants to bring back that idea. It's also a kind of connecting, especially about farm subjects and to produce more food. This is a great idea and stimulates urban agriculture and fights climate crisis. Yes, together we can move mountains and let things grow.

Last but not least, I recently visited the big urban markets in Portugal. It was a pleasure enjoying all the food, fruit, flowering plants, fruit trees, meat products, all kinds of cheese and homemade products. The markets are so diverse and colorful with a lot of people from everywhere. And in the midst of it all, I saw kalaku and bembe vegetables for sale. The same veggies as here on Bonaire. I was surprised because I had not expected these unknown veggies in Portugal on their menu.



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.



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Nos ta biba di naturalesa – We're part of nature

On Bonaire, nature is not just scenery. It is life itself. Coral reefs feed our families and welcome visitors from around the world. Mangroves guard our coasts. Dry forests hold the land in place. Every flamingo, every fish, every cactus tells the story of who we are.

Yet this lifeline is under pressure. Erosion clouds the waters reefs need to survive. Plastic drifts where fish should swim. Free-roaming goats strip the hill-sides bare. And climate change makes the pressure heavier—hotter seas, stronger storms, a rising ocean.

Still, there is hope. What we protect today will be here tomorrow. That is why *Nos ta biba di naturalesa* is more than a phrase. It is a movement. A reminder that we are part of nature, not apart from it. Our future depends on how we care for the land, the sea, and each other.

Every resident, every visitor, every child growing up on Bonaire has a role to play. Some dive, some farm, some fish, some simply walk the beach. Each act of care, big or small, makes the island stronger for the changes ahead.

And when we look around—with open eyes—we see why it matters. The reef glowing beneath the waves. A flamingo lifting into the sky. The wind moving through cactus hills. Each moment of wonder reminds us: we are part of nature, and nature is part of us.

Join the journey:

facebook.com/NTBDN

youtube.com/@NaturalesaBonaire

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

2025

Dear spawning community, wow, 2024 was rough. Corals in our region suffered from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease plus the hottest year on record. By fall spawning season, surviving corals were too stressed to spawn and much of the Caribbean saw nearly complete spawning failure. But this year, the water is cooler and surviving corals are spawning. We do suggest watching for an extra month if possible, because early full moons and cooler water may delay spawning as corals recover/recalibrate. Wishing a prolific spawn to all!

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean 2025, continued

September Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Sun 7-Sep	Mon 8-Sep	Tue 9-Sep	Wed 10-Sep	Thu 11-Sep	Fri 12-Sep	Sat 13-Sep	Sun 14-Sep	Mon 15-Sep	Tue 16-Sep	Wed 17-Sep	Thu 18-Sep	Fri 19-Sep	Sat 20-Sep
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:41 PM	6:41 PM	6:40 PM	6:39 PM	6:39 PM	6:38 PM	6:37 PM	6:37 PM	6:36 PM	6:35 PM	6:34 PM	6:34 PM	6:33 PM	6:32 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral							6:48–7:48 PM (Expected nightly to at least Sept 27: new observations welcome any date)							5:28–6:48 PM	
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:54–10:24 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral									7:02–8:32 PM						
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral									7:07–8:07 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)						
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral									7:53–11:08 PM						
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral									8:09–9:09 PM						
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral				8:11–9:21 PM											
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral							8:06–9:21 PM (Spawns from at least mid-Sept to mid-Nov: new observations encouraged!)								
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral				9:01–9:51 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Sept 5: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)											
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral				9:11–9:51 PM (As early as 9/5)											
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral									9:19–10:54 PM						
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral									9:44–10:49 PM						
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral									9:44–10:54 PM						
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							9:54–11:19 PM								
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral									10:07–10:52 PM						
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral									9:57–11:07 PM						
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral									all night						
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral									all night						

With early full moons and cooler waters, Sept/Oct corals may shift toward Oct more than usual

October Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Mon 6-Oct	Tue 7-Oct	Wed 8-Oct	Thu 9-Oct	Fri 10-Oct	Sat 11-Oct	Sun 12-Oct	Mon 13-Oct	Tue 14-Oct	Wed 15-Oct	Thu 16-Oct	Fri 17-Oct	Sat 18-Oct	Sun 19-Oct
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:22 PM	6:21 PM	6:21 PM	6:20 PM	6:19 PM	6:19 PM	6:18 PM	6:18 PM	6:17 PM	6:17 PM	6:16 PM	6:16 PM	6:15 PM	6:15 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral							6:29–7:29 PM (Expected nightly to at least Oct 26: new observations welcome any date)							5:09–6:29 PM	
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:35–10:05 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral									6:43–8:13 PM						
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral									6:48–7:48 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)						
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral									7:34–10:49 PM						
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral									7:49–8:49 PM						
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral				7:52–9:02 PM											
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral							7:47–9:02 PM (Expected nightly across the October lunar cycle: new observations encouraged on any date)								
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral									9:00–10:35 PM						
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral									9:24–10:29 PM						
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral									9:24–10:34 PM						
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							9:34–10:59 PM								
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral									9:48–10:33 PM						
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral									9:38–10:48 PM						
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral									all night						
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral									all night						

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean 2025, continued

November Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Wed 5-Nov	Thu 6-Nov	Fri 7-Nov	Sat 8-Nov	Sun 9-Nov	Mon 10-Nov	Tue 11-Nov	Wed 12-Nov	Thu 13-Nov	Fri 14-Nov	Sat 15-Nov	Sun 16-Nov	Mon 17-Nov	Tue 18-Nov
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral	SUNSET	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral										6:17–7:17 PM (Expected every night through the end of Nov)					
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral										7:22–10:37 PM					
			7:33–8:48 PM (Has been observed from mid-September to mid-November, new observations are highly encouraged!)													

Fall Sponges, Stars, Gorgs, and More

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	9-Aug 7-Sep 6-Oct	10-Aug 8-Sep 7-Oct	11-Aug 9-Sep 8-Oct	12-Aug 10-Sep 9-Oct	13-Aug 11-Sep 10-Oct	14-Aug 12-Sep 11-Oct	15-Aug 13-Sep 12-Oct	16-Aug 14-Sep 13-Oct	17-Aug 15-Sep 14-Oct	18-Aug 16-Sep 15-Oct	19-Aug 17-Sep 16-Oct	20-Aug 18-Sep 17-Oct	21-Aug 19-Sep 18-Oct	22-Aug 20-Sep 19-Oct
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber															12:00–6:00 PM
<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm															12:00–7:00 PM
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	Long-Spined Sea Urchin															12:00–9:00 PM
<i>Neofibularia nolitangere</i>	Touch-Me-Not Sponge						2:00–7:00 PM									
<i>Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunicia</i>	Sea Rods									starting at 7:00 PM						
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>	Black Sea Rod									7:00–11:00 PM						
Ophiuroidea	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star									7:30–11:00 PM						
<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> spp.	Sea Plume									8:00–11:00 PM						
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm									9:00–11:30 PM						

Abbreviations & Colors

- NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon
 - MBS: Minutes Before Sunset
 - MAS: Minutes After Sunset
 - Palest Green: Spawning may be possible but data are sparse: Please help by diving on these dates
 - Light Green: Spawning is possible: Spawning has been observed on these dates
 - Medium Blue: Spawning is likely: Spawning is often observed on these dates
 - Darker Blue: Spawning is very likely: Spawning is reliably observed on these dates
- Times are show using a 12h clock (AM/PM)



Tips for Success

- Spawning is never guaranteed in a changing climate: When in doubt, dive!
- Our predictions don't include buffers; be sure to enter the water well before the predicted spawning time
- Dive at sites with high coral cover
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize time
- Use a moderately bright dive light
- Scan the water for clouds of spawn:
 - Spawn from most brain, star, elkhorn, and staghorn corals looks like snow, confetti, or polka dots
 - Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals (and male great star corals) looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand
 - Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!)
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times, visit www.timeanddate.com

More Info & Ways to Help

- **Bonus features and PDF download:** Download this PDF, get notified when future calendars are released, and help us measure our reach: Please take our quick survey at www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2025.
- **New Coral Breeding Reference Sheets:** This new community resource for coral propagation, led by Val Chamberland, is now available to download here: <https://www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting>.
- **Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is now collecting and distributing regional spawning data. Therefore, if you monitor spawning, please record as many of the following details as possible: Date, location, site name (or lat/long), depth, species, setting time (if seen), spawning start and stop times, area monitored in m2, # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all very welcome! Send reports to carmabilog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@secore.org, or kristen@marhaverlab.com. You can also post your observations at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch>.
- **Huge thanks** to everyone who has shared observations over the past 30+ years. Last year was tough but we are optimistic for 2025. The Curacao team wishes everyone a safe and productive spawning season!
- **Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007–2025."