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Don't mess with Mother Nature

"Don't Mess with Mother Nature" was an ad slogan back in the 70's and the world should have listened. Today we are dealing with climate change because we did mess with nature. We polluted our air and oceans, over produced and used fossil fuels and plastics, over developed our coasts and overfished our seas. Are we over all that, not really, but nature organizations and even governments are working to find some solutions.

Last week on Bonaire a five-day workshop, Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience was held on Bonaire at Captain Don's Habitat. Scientists, restoration experts and park managers came together to share their core nature issues, actions and solutions to mitigate climate change.

Nature organizations came from Suriname, Colombia, Belize, Mexico, the US, Saba, St. Maarten, Martinique, Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba to contribute.

The workshop primarily focused on developing adaptive management strategies for coastal ecosystems. The nature organizations presented their current projects and received feedback from not only the participants but a panel of experts on mangroves, coral reef restoration and other categories.

Jessica Johnson of the Mangrove Maniacs explained Bonaire only receives 470 mm of rainfall per year and only 5% of the that goes into the soil, 10% into the sea and 85% evaporates. Bonaire is building more rooi (dry riverbed) and dam systems to get more water into the soil.

More trees and mangroves are planted. Agriculture is encouraged to combat deforestation and prevent erosion and runoff into the sea. The mangroves are threatened by silting and heavy sediment loads caused by the erosion. Along the southwest coast of Bonaire mangroves are planted to stabilize sediments and break the force of waves.

Duvan Rios and Luigino Franciso of Curaçao's CARMABI explained their vision of a mangrove park as coastal defense. To fight the impact of climate change they have developed a mangrove nursery but are finding challenges with soil and not enough water. They have hopes to establish two or three horizontal rope Reef Restoration nurseries. They work with CARMABI

park rangers, scientists, SECORE, Reef Renewal Foundation Curaçao, dive operators, schools and ranger youth.

Diana Benuffe of Roots of the Sea in Martinique is promoting nature, culture and environmental education. Martinique has 1,856 hectares (ha) of (mostly) red, black, white, and buttonwood mangroves. They began in 2022 to cultivate trees, restore the forest and raise public awareness. To date they have a mangrove site with 2500 plants and a nursery with 6000 plants. Their goal is to make the mangrove naturally resilient by contributing to natural regeneration. They are partnered with the Perry Institute for Marine Science in the Bahamas.

Sabine Brisneur and Hailey Beauperthy Nature Foundation of Sint Maarten explained that it has been years since they were able to organize activities. Their previous restoration efforts included coral restoration and seagrass transplanting. None of the areas are operational as they are under threat of development.

Oliver Kickman of Wageningen University discussed his cultivation work with sea urchins in Saba. In 1983 more than 95% of sea urchins in the Caribbean died from an unknown disease. Without the sea urchins grazing, algae coverage on the coral reef increased affecting mature corals and the establishment of young corals. A diadema booster is being used to restore sea urchin populations to improve coral reef coverage.

Caitie Reza of Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) said since 2012 their goal was to increase the abundance of coral, but recently their focus is on different techniques, not only coral fragmentation but also coral breeding. RRFB is working to boost genetic diversity by producing stronger coral strains that can withstand bleaching, the biggest climate change factor in the last decade. Their coral breeding program is focused on the species that are most vulnerable.

RRFB currently works with 16 coral species, has 15 nurseries and 20 restoration sites. They have outplanted 70k corals and produced 80k juvenile corals. They partner with 17 Bonaire dive shops and some 2300 RR divers. Reef Renewal is not just putting corals back on the reef but re-



Workshop participants visit Lac Bay and seagrass beds
 Photo: Darwin Luna Colorado of Skyview Bonaire

Cargill lease extended for a second year



Cargill’s lease of the salt pans, initially signed 60 years ago, expired in May 2024. The two parties, unable at the time to agree on renewal terms, signed an extension until May 2025. That agreement having expired six months ago, another has been signed to serve until May, 2026.

The OLB and Cargill point out that much has changed in 60 years, so the negotiation process will take time. Both declare they are committed to a successful conclusion, and Cargill affirms its good citizenship. Both parties are keeping tight-lipped about the issues being negotiated.

But it’s easy to understand why Cargill would be satisfied to continue to operate under one-year extensions indefinitely. The leasehold probably commits it to pay in 1965 dollars. And the island doesn’t seem to have much leverage in the discussions.

The environmentalists are pointing out that the real issue we all should be concerned about is the fact that the salt pans will likely be underwater before another 60 years pass.

DMR

Photo Julie Morgan

Three developments in the Lagun landfill story

1. For months several deadlines requiring the OLB to take firm control of solving Bonaire’s number one crisis, the poisonous Landfill, have been accumulating. All have now expired.

2. Pro Lagun’s lawyer has discovered that the Executive Board has been keeping secret, since early September, an advisory report on the landfill. The report was prepared by an independent committee. Pro Lagun has demanded the report be made public. The OLB says it cannot release the report yet because it is still deciding whether to file an objection.

3. With Selibon’s employees threatening to strike, the Executive Board has acknowledged the publicly owned company needs to be properly funded. According to estimates, the long-neglected company needs a cash infusion of \$8.4 million to become a sustainable business. The OLB is proposing to give it \$3.15 million instead. Then it can buy new garbage trucks, the board says. DMR

Trump takes firm military action in the Caribbean

According to *THE HILL*, a U.S. publication that focuses on politics, policy, business and international relations, there are now around 10,000 U.S. forces supporting counternarcotics operations in the Caribbean. The U.S. Navy has eight ships plus a submarine keeping an eye on Venezuela.

Judging from their actions so far, their mission is to blow up drug traffickers. Apparently anyone in a boat who appears to be Latino is a designated target.

Trump says his next step will be to start blowing up Venezuelans in their own country. For too long, he says, Venezuela has been exporting its hardened criminals to the U.S. Moreover, he is offended by Maduro’s dictatorial style of governing.

THE HILL didn’t say what the submarine is for. DMR



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Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr will return next issue



Map: New York Times analysis of satellite imagery, U.S. Naval Institute, LatAmMilMovements, Michael Bonet and M.T.Anderson. Oct. 17, 2025

Let us carry your weight

With approximately 60 dives accessible by shore, Bonaire is considered the number one shore diving destination in the world. Some of the dives are super easy but others may be a bit more challenging. Often people will forego the sometimes-wavy trek into the water and opt for a boat dive or not do the dive at all. But if you if you don't shore dive, you are missing out.

Maybe you just need a little help maneuvering through

the shore entry and exit and that is where Richmend Anthony's Island Adventure Services Bonaire can help.

Richmend has developed a specialty service for divers that can literally eliminate any worries of navigating entries and exits when shore diving. His logo is "Let us carry your weight" and he will literally be your personal dive sherpa. Richmend will carry your gear into and out of the water if you don't want to wear it on your back



Richmend helps into the water Roxanne Hook, a diver who visits Bonaire frequently.



or he can provide a strong shoulder to lean on if you're wearing your gear. He is the perfect man to handle your heavy camera equipment that can be cumbersome when dealing with rocky entries. And while you are underwater exploring Bonaire's amazing marine life, he will watch your vehicle and other belongings to prevent any possibility of theft.

Let us carry your weight, to page 16

FOR SALE Waterlands Village 10 Carefree Living at the Waterfront



Modern, well maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa with large covered waterfront porch

Resort amenities: communal swimming pool, sundeck with lounge chairs, palapa, shared boat docks, tropical garden, parking, gated community and on-site rental office **Virtual 3D tour**



Asking price \$ 650,000 US Dollar

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[f http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire](http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire)

POLICE REPORT

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

KPCN review Regatta Week

The first few days were peaceful. The police provided assistance where needed and also mediated in several situations. Several reports were received of people becoming unwell, prompting the Red Cross and/or ambulance services to be called.

Fights and Disruptions: Nevertheless, the central control room received reports of several fights. During the night of Thursday, Oct. 9 a fight broke out among a group of young people near Kaya Kòrsou, during which chairs were thrown.

On Friday, Oct. 10, a man was severely assaulted by another man in a violent fight in Kaya Grandi. The victim received medical treatment at the scene from Red Cross staff and then was taken by ambulance to the hospital. The other party was not found, and the case is under investigation.

Shortly afterward, a patrol saw several people running towards the parking lot in the downtown area where a group of people were fighting. A firearm was seized during the altercation.

The emergency dispatch center also received reports of fevering in the area around Kaya Grandi.

Boat Party: During the boat party on Saturday, Oct. 11 several bicycle and fat bike riders were approached because they were not allowed to cycle in the cordoned-off area. During the event, 31 people required medical assistance. After the boat party, several boats and seadoos went to Klein Bonaire, presumably to start another boat party. The owners were informed that this was not permitted, after which they left the location.

The KPCN thanks the organizers and the chain partners for their excellent cooperation throughout the week.

Property crimes

Oct. 11. While the occupants were taking photos at the Altamira Unjo viewpoint in Rincon cash was taken from wallets left in the vehicle.

Oct. 8. A burglary was reported at a tourist accommodation on Kaya Finlandia. Stolen items including wallets containing cash, bank cards, sunglasses, perfume, and a JBL speaker.

Oct. 8. Around 4:50 p.m. a scooter was found hidden in the bushes on Kaya Korona. The scooter had been stolen from Kaya Breda in September.

Oct. 7. A burglary and theft from a container were reported on the property of a house under construction on Kaya Xylofon in Nikiboko. The container's padlocks were destroyed. A Firman generator and various tools, including a screwdriver, a grinder, two hammers, a circular saw, and an outboard motor were stolen.

Oct. 6. At Te Amo beach a backpack was stolen from a golf cart. The items taken included an iPhone 15, a wallet, sunglasses, tickets, and cash.

Oct. 5. Around 1:30 p.m. a black Toyota Hilux pickup was reported stolen. The owner was able to track the vehicle's location to Kaya Tintorero. Upon arrival, the police observed the vehicle parked on the roadside with significant front-end damage.

Oct. 4. Two electric bicycles were stolen while they were parked locked in the front yard of a house on Kaya Embira.

Oct. 3. A fat bike was found hidden in the bushes along Kaya Viol. The bike was likely stolen and was confiscated for further investigation.

Arrests - fight leads to stabbing

Oct. 5/6. Around 10:50 p.m. a fight at a house on Kaya Juruena was reported. Both parties were injured, and private car drove one of the victims to the hospital before the police arrived. When police arrived at the house, they called for an ambulance because the victim still at the scene had bite wounds. This victim was taken to the hospital, and the patrol also moved to the hospital. Around midnight, the patrol reported a fight at the

hospital between a group of approximately eight people. One of the victims, who had just left the hospital, was stabbed. The victim was immediately brought back inside by paramedics for medical treatment. In connection with this stabbing, a woman, 42, was arrested for attempted manslaughter and assault with a weapon. The knife was confiscated for further investigation.

On Oct. 13, another woman, 31, was arrested at the police station as part of the investigation into the stabbing incident that occurred during the night of Monday, Oct. 6. The suspect was arrested for assault and aggravated assault with a weapon.

Traffic accidents / DUIs

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

Oct. 13. Around 4:10 p.m. a pickup truck, a motorcycle, and a cyclist collided on Kaminda Lagun. When the pickup truck turned in front of the motorcycle, the motorcyclist collided with it and fell. The motorcycle then continued to slide across the road and collide with a cyclist, who also fell. The motorcyclist was treated at the scene by paramedics. The cyclist was taken to the hospital.

Oct. 12. Around 8 p.m. a car overturned on Kaminda Djabou. By the time police arrived, the occupants were out of the vehicle. The driver stated that he lost control of the vehicle because a donkey crossed the road in front of him. Police discovered that both occupants were minors who did not possess a driver's license. The two joyriding suspects were taken to the hospital by ambulance for a medical examination. Afterward, both were taken to the police station where they were required to make statements in the presence of their parents and were sternly reprimanded for their behavior.

Oct. 11. Around 11:45 p.m. a car and an electric bicycle collided at the intersection of Kaya L.D. Gerharts and Kaya General Carlos Manuel Piar. The cyclist fell and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Oct. 7. Around 6:40 p.m. two cars collided on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver of car 1 complained of pain and was treated at the scene by paramedics. Paramedics also examined driver of car 2. The driver of car 2 was fined for driving without a license and without valid insurance.

Oct. 3. Around 2:50 p.m. two cars collided on Kaya Internashonal. One driver was treated by paramedics at the site and then taken to the hospital for further care.

From Oct. 3 to 15 two people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. One driver, aged 23, was given a four-hour driving ban. The other driver, a man aged 43, who had collided with a stationary vehicle on Hanchi Amboina had his driver's license confiscated.

Speed checks

Oct. 13. A laser gun speed check was conducted on Kaya Ir. Randolph Stadius van Eps and on Kaminda Tras di Montaña. A section of Kaya Ir. R. Stadius van Eps has a speed limit of 60 km/h. Two fines were issued for exceeding the speed limit. One of the drivers was also fined for not having a valid driver's license.

During the check on Kaminda Tras di Montaña, five tickets were issued for exceeding the 60 km/h speed limit. The measured speeds ranged from 60 to 116 km/h.

Oct. 3. A laser gun speed check was conducted on Kaya Cacique and Kaya Caribe in North Saliña. Five tickets were issued for exceeding the speed limit of 40 km/h. The measured speeds ranged between 50 and 67 km/h.

The speed limit in built-up areas is 40 km/h and 60 km/h outside of them.

Illegally parked vehicles

Oct. 13. During the morning eight tickets were issued for vehicles parked on sidewalks or illegally in the city center. Three vehicles were also towed.

Oct. 7. In the afternoon, eight parking fines were issued, and three vehicles were towed for parking on sidewalks or illegally in the city center. Even if drivers try to move their vehicles at that moment, they are still fined. Towing costs are borne by the driver.

Public safety

Oct. 14. Midday a pickup truck on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot was reported on fire. When the police and fire department arrived, they found that the vehicle was not on fire, but had overheated and was emitting a large amount of smoke. The pickup truck was towed away.

Oct. 10. Around 8:30 p.m. a fight was reported on Kaya Haldu. When the police and ambulance arrived, they found a man lying unresponsive in the street. A witness stated that the other party in the fight had run away. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Oct. 6. Around 5:25 p.m. a person was found floating in the sea at Chachacha Beach on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. The victim was pulled from the sea by bystanders. The person was unconscious and had a head injury. When the police and ambulance arrived CPR was immediately initiated, and the victim was rushed to the hospital. The victim was a tourist from a cruise ship.

Oct. 6. Two people, one a minor, were watching the sea from the rocks near Sabana Piedra Krus when a large wave knocked them down onto the rocks, causing serious injuries. They were taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Phoney money warning

Police warn that counterfeit five and ten dollar bills may be circulating on the island. *DMR*



The Bonaire Climate Table (Klimaattafel Bonaire) has published eight key climate ambitions for a liveable, resilient, and sustainable island. Titled "Our Island, Our Responsibility," the list is the outcome of months of community discussions with residents, students, civil servants, farmers, fishermen, entrepreneurs, and NGOs.

"This is our island, and this is our shared responsibility," said Nolly Oleana, Chair of the Bonaire Climate Table. "Everyone, from young people to local businesses—has a role to play in shaping a sustainable future for Bonaire."

The Climate Table began its open discussions in October 2024. It is due to end its activities in March 2026 when it will produce a climate action plan.

You will find "Klimaatintentie Bonaire 2025" at https://storage.pubble.cloud/0231088e/embed/2025/10/Carousel_Klimaatintentie_NL.pdf

JetBlue pulls plug on New York service

JetBlue has canceled its direct service between New York and Bonaire, one of several destinations it is abandoning. The immediate issue seems to be that the route was chronically under booked. Therefore JetBlue had to slash its prices in an attempt to fill seats. Bonaire's tourism professionals say that those seats would have been filled if Bonaire's government had increased its marketing efforts, as it agreed to as part of the subsidy contract. JetBlue reportedly has billed the OLB for USD 4.4 million lost under the guarantee contract.

BONHATA, the official hotel and tourism association of Bonaire, and BONHATA's partner in the arrangement, TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) tell one version of the story. (See below) The OLB, the guarantor, or purported guarantor of the subsidy under the agreement, has a different version.

BONHATA and TCB are the big losers. Both invested heavily in bringing JetBlue to the island, then in promoting the New York service. TCB's primary function is promoting Bonaire internationally as a tourist destination. International tourism drives the island's economy. Yet the Abraham government has been parsimonious in funding supporting tourism. BONHATA said Bonaire's reputation in the tourist industry has also been damaged by the government's negligence regarding JetBlue. Investors are reluctant to do business with governments who do not honor the legal principle sanctity of contract.

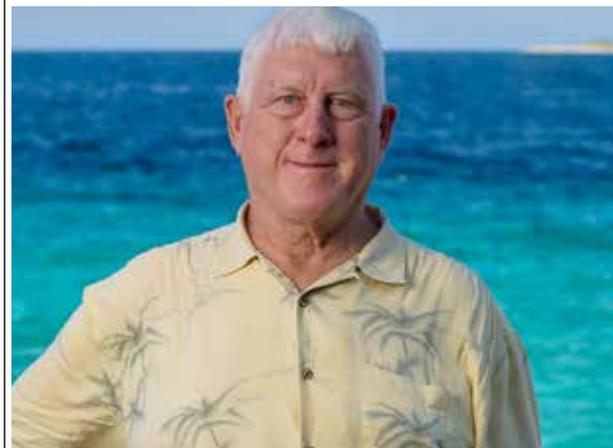
For years BONHATA and TCB have been trying to convince the Executive Council of the truth in the old adage, If you want milk, you have to feed the cow. The much debated Tourist Tax turned out to be a cash cow for the OLB. In addition, a dollar invested in promoting the island as a tourist destination returns to the island as many more dollars in business revenues and taxes.

The OLB responded to the JetBlue cancellation with a long press release that declared the Executive Council's good intentions, listed its excuses, and explained why other parties were to blame. According to the press release, the Executive Council "made an additional \$400,000 in marketing funds available to promote the flights. JetBlue matched \$300,000 of this, bringing the total available for promotion to \$700,000. The private sector also invested significantly. This makes it the highest amount ever spent on marketing for a new route to Bonaire." Both parties, OLB on the one hand and BONHATA/TCB on the other, have stated their case. Islanders can decide for themselves which sounds most credible. (See *The Bonaire Reporter* online (page 21) for OLB's Oct. 18, 2025 press release.) <https://bonairereporter.com>

Anthony Weber, the new Director of Finance and Director of Tourism, has issued a statement saying the OLB will pay Jetblue's claim under the guarantee contract. Weber also announced that a million dollars "has been allocated to support new initiatives to be implemented by TCB." *DMR*

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
My spouse passed away and I want to transfer the property into my name. Where do I start?
Thank you.
Sue

Hi Sue,
 Please accept our condolences on your loss.

To begin the process of transferring the property into your name, the Notaris will need the following eight documents from you:

- 1) Transfer deed
- 2) Kadaster inzage
- 3) Valuation letter of the property
- 4) Copy of your ID
- 5) Copy of the last will
- 6) Legal Opinion stating that you are the sole heir of your husband
- 7) Copy of your late husband's ID
- 8) Copy of the death certificate

If you don't have all of these documents we are happy to assist you in obtaining them. Please note that the cost of transferring the property into your name depends on the appraised value of the property.

All the best, *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



November 5th, 2024 inaugural flight to Bonaire. (L-R) Veroesjka de Windt, CEO of BONHATA, Miles Mercera, then CEO of TCB, David Jehn, Vice President of Network Planning and Airline Partnerships at JetBlue and Maarten van der Scheer, CEO of BIA.

BONHATA regrets loss of JetBlue route and lack of government action

The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) expresses its deep disappointment over the loss of JetBlue's direct route between New York (JFK) and Bonaire, effective January 3, 2026.

Since September 2024, BONHATA has repeatedly raised concerns about the vulnerability of this route and has proposed various solutions to prevent this outcome. Despite numerous letters, meetings, warnings, consultations, and commitments, we now find ourselves faced with the following situation:

- more than USD 4.4 million lost due to guarantee agreements,
- five fewer flights per week from North America in the upcoming high season, and

- significant reputational damage for Bonaire within the aviation industry and as a reliable airline partner.

Despite clear signals, facts, and warnings, the government has failed to take the necessary steps to safeguard this crucial connection. As a result, Bonaire not only loses an important air connection with the United States but also a vital opportunity for sustainable growth, job creation, and greater international visibility.

The loss of the JetBlue route underscores the urgent need to professionalize tourism-related decision-making and anchor it in a long-term vision. Every tourism dollar invested has the potential to generate multiple returns for Bonaire's broader economy—provided it is used strategically and effectively.

BONHATA remains committed to transparency, forward-thinking solutions, and structural collaboration aimed at rebuilding international trust and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Bonaire's air connectivity, marketing, and economic development.



Cft again warns the island government should not collect taxes

The Financial Supervision Board (Cft) has reported that the OLB budgets for 2024, 2025, and 2026 still do not make sense or meet legal requirements. The Cft's report has been submitted to Governor John Soliano and, via Kingdom Relations Eddie van Marum, to the House of Representatives. The Cft said the island government does not have the capacity to produce good budgets and does not seem to recognize the urgency to do so.

A major concern, the Cft says, is that the island is not spending large reserves of cash that continue to grow. Further, the government cannot legally spend the money because the expenditures have not been budgeted. They need to be properly budgeted so they can be used "promptly, efficiently, and lawfully."

The Cft repeated its warning that the Tax and Customs Administration (CNL) should continue to collect the island's taxes. The BC says it wants to take back control of tax collection, but the Cft says that should not happen until Bonaire's financial management and policy implementation are in order. *DMR*

Schoof doesn't want the EU to give islands money

The European Commission (EU) helps support overseas countries and territories such as the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. The EU proposes to double its Caribbean contribution during 2028-2034. If it does, the Dutch and French islands will receive €425 million.

The Schoof cabinet doesn't seem to like the idea, judging from information Minister of Foreign Affairs David van Weel sent to the House of Representatives. Apparently the cabinet is concerned that The Hague will be stuck with part of the bill. The cabinet also has reservations about a European proposal to offer to loan money to the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).

DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)

Business owner convicted of tax crimes

A construction company director has been convicted of tax crimes, according to the BES-Reporter. The Court determined he had for several years failed to maintain proper accounting records and did not provide required information to the Tax Administration Caribbean Netherlands. He was fined USD 1,120, half of which is conditional. *DMR*



Will you be exercising your right to vote on October 29? Every vote counts!

For more information about the election and voting, please visit

<https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/secondchamberelection>

Food Bank Bonaire receives structural funding

The European Netherlands has approved \$350,000 in annual structural funding for Food Bank Bonaire, according to a story in Bonaire.nu. Every week in 2024 Food Bank Bonaire helped approximately 325 single people and families, and the number continues to grow. Chairman Maarten Caljouw says the food bank will need additional annual contributions and donations of at least \$150,000 to make sure no one goes hungry on the island.

DMR

BES getting Dutch human rights and anti-discrimination protection

The central government has passed the Protection Against Discrimination Act. Effective January 1, the legislation extends to people in the BES the same protection that is in force in the European Netherlands. People who experience discriminated because of, for example, their origin, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, will have access to an anti-discrimination service (ADV) and a free legal aid desk. Those facilities are currently being developed.

The Dutch Human Rights Institute will start handling discrimination cases on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba starting January, 2026. Discrimination cases filed by BES residents will be heard in person on their home island. Free legal aid is coming too. The institute will use the courthouse locations on the three islands. *DMR*

Online shortcut educates voters

To inform themselves before the election on Wednesday, October 29, voters can download the Election Compass Caribbean Netherlands. They will be invited to express their opinion regarding a series of political statements. In return, they will receive information on where the various political parties stand on each of those issues. All party positions will be verified by official party documents.

Thirty questions are asked. Twenty-five of them regard national issues. Five are specifically related to the BES.

DMR

Visit the Election Compass Caribbean Netherlands:

<https://caribischneiderland.kieskompas.nl/en>

Annual power charges to be determined differently

In a press release the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) announced it has established a new annual way of setting the maximum tariffs for electricity. The new method will give producers of electricity an additional incentive to produce sustainably, the news release says. It doesn't reveal what the incentive will be. The new method will take effect on January 1 and will continue for six years.

ACM says that currently the share of sustainable production of electricity on Bonaire is approximately 25% (wind and solar), on St. Eustatius 50% (solar) and on Saba 30% (solar).

DMR

Coming in the new year Legal aid support

In the first half of 2026, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba will have a physical location where residents can go for free information, advice, and support concerning legal issues and discrimination.

This service will be provided by the Foundation for Legal Aid and Equal Treatment. It will serve as a structural continuation of the successful Legal Desk pilot project, which has been operational on Saba for a long time and recently began operating on St. Eustatius as well.

At this new foundation, you will soon be able to:

- Receive information and advice on legal matters, such as conflicts with an employer, issues concerning rent, or family affairs.
- Report discrimination that you experience, for instance, when you are treated unequally because of your background (origin) or a disability.



Executive Director Suhendra Leon
Legal Aid and Equal Treatment

With the establishment, the first faces of the foundation are also known. Suhendra Leon, who has extensive experience in the field of legal protection, has been appointed as the Executive Director.

Additionally, a Supervisory Board has been formed with Shirma Rouse, Reza Asgarali, and Marga Buys-Trimp serving as its Chair.

RCN press release

Take a survey on pollution

As a resident of Bonaire, are you worried about the consequences of environmental pollution and its possible impact on human health? Think, for example, of (fires at) landfill sites, illegal waste dumping, noise pollution, or Sargassum. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) is currently investigating the extent to which residents of Bonaire have concerns about pollution on their island and its impact on the environment and their personal health. The study was commissioned by the Public Entity of Bonaire.

RIVM will make its recommendations available to the Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB) in or around December 2025. It is up to the OLB to decide on a possible study.

https://rivm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8Ub8bIXZrTMdBc

RIVM

STINAPA Wild4life teaches kids about nature



In early October Group 7 school kids received some fun, hands-on experience learning, watching and identifying birds in STINAPA's Wild4life educational school program. Thanks to a donation from Dutch Foundation Vogelbescherming the children were able to see the birds in the wild with their own binoculars.

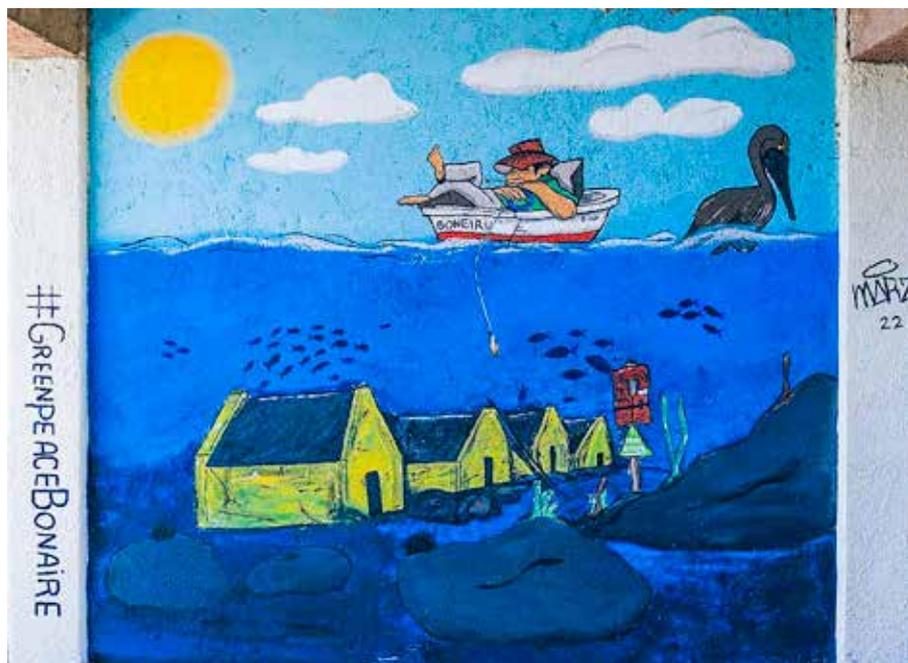
Prior to heading into the field, STINAPA's nature education specialist Diana Sint Jago taught the children about North American birds that make Bonaire their home during the cold winter months. On the field trip to Salina di Vlijt, the kids

were armed with an identification bird card, a work sheet and a pair of the donated binoculars to view the birds. Some of the birds they identified were flamingos, sandpipers, seagulls and caracara.

Children from Pelikaan, Skol amlio Papa Cornes and other elementary schools were involved in the program. This generous donation from Vogelbescherming foundation will enable the children to learn more about the nature of Bonaire firsthand.

STINAPA press release

The Hague answers with delayed answer in climate case



The Hague District Court will rule on the Bonaire Climate Case on January 28, 2026. It will then become clear whether the court will oblige the Dutch State to ensure that a plan is put in place to protect the inhabitants of Bonaire from the climate crisis and whether CO2 emissions must be reduced to zero more quickly.

Greenpeace and eight residents of Bonaire have argued that the island is already suffering from the effects of the climate crisis. Three of the plaintiffs read a statement at the start of the hearings. One of them was Onnie Emerenciana, who responded on behalf of the eight plaintiffs from Bonaire: "We are pleased that we were able to tell our story in court; our problems have now been heard. However, we are disappointed with the State's position. It stated that there is no plan for Bonaire yet, such as the Delta Plan in the European Netherlands, because we have not yet experienced a disaster. It should not be the case

that a disaster has to happen first in order to draw up a plan; that is not protection. The State continues to avoid its responsibility and hides behind the EU or the OLB. These were long, difficult days, but we remain determined to fight on."

Marieke Vellekoop, director of Greenpeace Netherlands: "We are in court because the State refuses to do its duty: to protect people. During the hearings, it became painfully clear that the government does not take the climate threat to Bonaire seriously and will not take action without coercion. This is not only deeply disappointing, but downright worrying. That is precisely why the ball is now in the court's court. For the eight residents of Bonaire, this ruling concerns their daily lives now and in the future. But this ruling concerns everyone, because as long as the climate crisis continues, no one is truly safe."

Greenpeace press release / artwork by Marz

Nature-based Solutions, from page 1

building the structure on degraded reefs.

Nichole Danser of Scubblebubbles in Aruba reported they primarily focus on coral restoration with kids 10 and up. The youths get to go in the water and dive, if certified, and raise coral babies. If they aren't divers, they help out with the coral fragmentation. Scubblebubbles works with six of the 10 dive shops on the island and have 24 nurseries.

Tonalli Ramirez of Global Mangrove Alliance in Mexico told the crowd the alliance has restored or conserved 110,000 ha of mangroves and one million ha globally. Their first direct funding initiative launched in 2025. They were awarded \$3 million dollars for a project in Ecuador and Myanmar. GMA has 100 members and 14 chapters. GMA's work is a success story in Belize, Mexico and Colombia.

Soraya Wijntaun is the oceans coordinator for WWF Guianas with a focus on the protected areas. One of the main nesting beaches of the leatherback turtle is at Braampunt Beach, Suriname which has received increased flooding and erosion due to the impact of climate change and human activities. High temperatures suffocated the turtle eggs and the entire beach flooded monthly. Suriname's Sea Turtle Recovery developed an action plan with Delft University of Technology and received support from local stakeholders, government, Deltares, private sectors, local communities and WWF. In September they received government approval to monitor physical developments on the beach, collect data and move the nests to higher areas nearby. The nesting leatherback population has declined more than 97% in 20 years.

STINAPA Bonaire and University of Florida's Climate Resilience project discussed their research on how climate change affects Bonaire's marine environment. Their goal is to identify which areas are more exposed or protected from stressors by mapping climate vulnerable high risk areas.

Midweek, the participants enjoyed a field trip to Lac Bay, to observe the algal and seagrass beds. They navigated the channels of Bonaire's mangrove forest viewing both the healthy and degraded areas that need restoration. Degraded areas need better water circulation, and reduced erosion, and benefit from The nursery grown mangroves are planted to strengthen along the southwest coast for protection.

A DCNA presentation was given on the Introduction of Conservation Standards.

Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience was organized by Mangrove Maniacs/Internos in partnership with WWF-NL, STINAPA/University of Florida (Climate Resilience Project), DCNA, and was supported by the Tropical Restoration Network. Dr. Lucy Gillis from Delft Institute of Water Education (UN-IHE) led the training on nature-based solutions.

Julie Morgan

Page One photos (L-R):
Underwater shot and urchin Julie Morgan;
Mangroves, Hans Smulders



Ambulans Deseo delivers comfort baskets

Fundashon Ambulans Deseo Boneiru (FADB) with the help of a donation from Ride for the Roses has created comfort baskets to provide support to families in difficult times. The first basket was delivered to Hospice Kas Flamboyan, the second to Fundashon Mariadal oncology area and the third to the new Villa Henna, a small-scale resident care home for people with dementia.

The adult baskets contain comfort items: blankets, soft care products, LED candles, tea, notebooks, poetry book by Wilco Harbers and bibles. Children's baskets contain plush toys, coloring pencils, drawing paper and games. *FADB release*

Regatta 2025



The 58th Regatta Bonaire, Oct 5 – 11, has come and gone. The 102 sailors have memories of their hard fought contest and a few took home medals. Spectators cheered and urged on their favorites in the microboats, Optimist, Sunfish and yacht contests.

Regatta kicked off October 5 with 800+ swimmers joining the Swim to Klein to benefit Jong Bonaire with the sailing competition beginning on October 8 – 11.

Aside from the main focus of Regatta, the sailing, the place to be at night was Regatta Village with food, drinks and a long list of entertainers including Tuti Frutti, Foyan Boys, FMK, Hashta@, Luis Moka and Jonna Fraser.

Regatta was sponsored by Guardian Group, In-debon, Aqua Speed, OLB (Openbaar Lichaam), MCB (Maduro & Curiel Bank), FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire)

Story / photos Julie Morgan



Melody crew working hard



Yellowman relaxes in the final run with no wind

Regatta Results 2025

OPTIMIST A • 1 – Gianni Francisca, 13, CUR, Total 12, Net 8 • **2** – Fenna van der Holst, 4, CUR, Total 19, Net 12 • **3** – Justin van Dortmundt, 2, CUR, Total 14, Net 19 • **4** – Keesha van Dongen, 3, CUR, Total 29, Net 19

OPTIMIST B • 1 - Beau Hilgers, NB 23, NB, 16.0 • **2** – Daan Langebroek, 23, CUR, 21. • **3** – Kyra van de Keuken, C12, NB, 35

OPTIMIST C • 1 – Saar van der Holst, ?, CUR, Total 14, Net 12 • **2** – Noor van der Holst, ?, CUR, Total 26, Net 12 • **3** – Brendan van Dortmundt, ? CUR, Total 22, Net 18 • **4** – Maxime van Krieken, NB-C, NB, Total 29, Net 24 • **5** – Roemer van den Brink, XXX, NB, Total 33, Net 28 • **6** – Joshua Petronia, ?, CUR, Total 25, Net 29 • **7** – Capucine Penninckx, /, NB, Total 40, Net 34 • **8** – Clementine Penninckx, /, NB, Total 47, Net 40 • **9** – Aurelien Penninckx, /, NB, Total 52, Net 45 • **10** – Mila de Wit, 7, NB, Total 54, Net 47

SUNFISH A • 1 – Robbert Verboon, 10, NB, Total 20. Net

12. • **2** – Yellow Man, Xerox #1, NB, Total 21, Net 13. • **3** – Kabes Soliano, 5270, NB, Total 29, Net 15 • **4** – Gilbert martis, 4939, NB, Total 39, net 20 • **5** - Paxienrocque Martis, A, NB, Total 51, Net 35 • **6** – Froukje Kelderhuis, KM13, CUR, Total 57, Net 41 • **7** – Hans de Waard, 88, NB, Total 62, net 43 • **8** – Jeamarc Snel, 4510, CUR, Total 65. Net 47 • **9** – Rohan van Dongen, M, CUR, Total 71, Net 52

NEW SUNFISH B • 1 – Elisabeth Vos, 4949, NB, Total 32, Net 12 • **2** – Sjef van Beurden, 5, NED, Total 32. Net 17 • **3** – Serge Walraven, 2, NB, Total 31, Net 19 • **4** – Konstanze Staud, 3, NB, Total 43, Net 26 • **5** – Keanan Snel, 4144, CUR, Total 45, Net 29 • **6** – Rosalie de Krij-Tordoir, NB10, NB, total 47, Net 31 • **7** – Rene' van Riswick, MyGuardian 1, NED, total 55, Net 38 • **8** – Herman Ayden Piso, 11, CUR, Total 65, Net 45 • **9** – Petri Spijkers, 9, NED, Total 69, Net 49

SUNFISH C • 1 – Rebecca Porter, 7, NB, Total 20, Net 12

Regatta Results to page 12

Bonaire wins Best Caribbean Dive Destination



Bonaire has been officially voted the Caribbean's Leading Dive Destination 2025 at the World Travel Awards. Bonaire came out on top above other nominees: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Martinique, St. Kitts, The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

This award recognizes Bonaire's marine conservation efforts, pristine coral reefs and unparalleled underwater experiences reinforcing the island as a premier dive destination worldwide.

St Kitts has held the title for the last three years and the Cayman Islands dominated the win in 2007 and then 2012 - 2021.

Bonaire is also nominated in the competition for World's Leading dive destination and you can vote.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Vote now for Bonaire as Best WORLD Dive Destination

<https://www.worldtravelawards.com/award-worlds-leading-dive-destination-2025>

World's Leading Dive Destination 2025



And the nominees are ...



Azores Islands, Portugal
Belize
Bonaire
Cayman Islands
Fiji
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
Great Barrier Reef, Australia
Mexico
Philippines
Seychelles
St. Kitts
The Islands of Tahiti

Book review

Chronicle of a broken promise, by Nina den Heyer and René Zwart Colophon, 9 September 2025

Life on Bonaire, St Eustatius, and Saba changed in fundamental ways on October 10, 2010. That is the day the Netherlands Antilles faded into history and Curaçao's three step children— Bonaire, Statia, and Saba — were adopted into the Netherlands as separate municipalities. Since then they have been known collectively as the BES islands. Individuals, from everyday islanders to research experts, experienced and interpreted those changes each in their own ways. The resulting broad range of viewpoints is explored in this book in almost 50 essays and interviews collected fifteen years later.

The title, *Chronicle of a broken promise*, might seem to imply a polemical point of view. The book in fact expresses dozens of opinions, many of them stated with thoughtful ambivalence

Here follow some recurrent themes that appear in the individual contributions.

Life is better now. As Nina den Heyer, co-editor, observes, "Of course, things have improved since 2010, and that's what people are primarily focusing on, especially because things were much worse before that." On page after page the voices in the book praise improvements the Dutch have brought to the islands, especially in health care, education, and infrastructure. Not all the praise is unqualified, but many people say the islands are a much better place to live.

The European/Caribbean merger has failed in many ways. Prices have skyrocketed. Only the rich can afford a roof over their heads. Crime has increased. There are too many people now and not enough places to park. People are less civil, more individualistic. Many contributors correctly identify a litany of things that are worse now. We're still waiting for public transport. The landfill still stinks. There's nothing for young people to do, and not enough opportunities to keep them on the island.

The merger is grounded in false premises. Reinier van Zutphen, the National Ombudsman, expresses the heartfelt and realistic objection that when the Dutch and the islanders agreed the people in the islands would be governed exactly as those in the European Netherlands are governed —except the rules would be adapted to their cultural differences, inevitable discrimination was built into the relationship.



We sure miss the old ways. Many mourn the loss of the small island sociability and friendliness, the sense of community, the mutual respect, the way people worked together.

We're treated like second class citizens on our own island and our ideas are ignored.

Dutch officialdom does not realize their standards are unrealistic. The Dutch expect a small population of people with limited experience and training to achieve standards, say of financial planning and control, that the Dutch have mastered through long experience and with greater resources.

On the other hand, Dutch ministries, officials and administrators and bureaucrats have shown dedication, enthusiasm and open-mindedness in carrying out their new responsibilities. And they are committed to cooperation with their BES colleagues.

The articles and interviews of the more academic contributors are rich with information and insights about our islands and the history and implications of their merger with the Netherlands.

Only one person in the whole book said they were nostalgic for Curaçao. DMR

Download a copy of
"Kroniek van een Gebroken Belofte"
<https://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl/uitgaven/>



Interim Director-General of Kingdom Relations Gea van Craaikamp receives the first copy from Nina den Heyer and René Zwart. Photo. Nico van der Ven

DAN - Divers Alert Network



Divers Alert Network, DAN, was back on Bonaire for the 13th time October 12 – 17 to present a UHMS (Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society) Hyperbaric Medicine CME. The weeklong class, held at Divi Flamingo, brought together mostly hyperbaric and diving doctors from all over the world. to learn the latest on diving medicine. DAN has offered this class to doctors since 1982, but in October 1986 Bonaire became one of the first to host the course outside of mainland America. The diving doctors and other professionals earn 24 continuing medical education credits for six days of morning classes with four lectures. In the afternoon and some evenings, they enjoy diving Bonaire.

inars like this one and a more specialized course each year.

JoAnn Perry, DAN director of safety services and training said, “The faculty are world renowned experts mostly working in hyperbaric and diving medicine, but there are many knowledgeable experts attending the course. Some doctors and individuals join that aren’t in dive medicine.”

The highly qualified faculty for each course resembles a who’s who in diving medicine. Here is the lineup of faculty for this seminar:

DAN holds core medical training sem-

Divers Alert Net
to page 12

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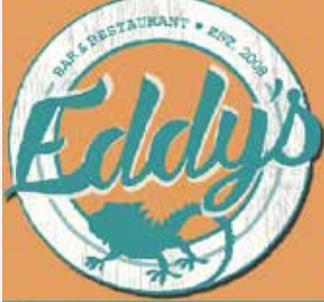
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Bruce Derrick, MD - Assistant professor, Center for Hyperbaric Medicine & Environmental Physiology, Duke University, Durham NC

James R. Holm, MD - Emeritus Physician, Center for Hyperbaric Medicine, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA

Jack Mientjes – MMed - Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Tyferberg Hospital and Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Medical Director: Divers Alert Network Southern Africa

Matias Nochetto, MD - Vice President, Medical Services. Divers Alert Network, Durham, NC

One of the first speakers on day one, Jack Mientjes of South Africa, presented the topic, An Overview of Recreational and Commercial Diving Procedures. In his talk, Mientjes listed all the types of diving where hyperbaric medicine may be needed. The short list is: SNUBA, SCUBA with air, nitrox, trimix or any combo of gas open circuit and closed (rebreather). Then there is diving to get paid: commercial diving, scientific, research, public safety, military, US Navy, media divers, mariculture/agriculture, offshore diving and surface supplied diving. This list underlines how necessary diving and hyperbaric medicine is today.

Through the week the experts presented 24 course topics including: Non-Pulmonary Barotrauma, Gas Toxicities in Divers; An Overview of Recreational and Commercial Diving Procedures, Hyperbaric Chambers and Chamber Safety; Pulmonary Barotrauma; Decompression Theory, Dive Tables and Computers; Pathophysiology and Manifestations of Decompression Illness, Remote Operations Injury Management, Pre-hospital Management of Decompression Illness, Definitive Hyperbaric Treatment Options for Decompression Illness, Medical Evaluation of Divers, PFO and Divers, Immersion Pulmonary Edema in Divers, Technical Diving, Return to Diving after DCI, Injury or Illness, Toxicological Aspects of Hazardous Marine Life Part 1



Bonaire's team (some not in photo): Ricard Nicholson, Md Board President of FRCB; Lucia Rodrigues, MD, Hyperbaric Doctor and Medical Director of FRCB; Mignon Smit, MD Diving Doctor; Marianne Voesten, MD Diving Doctor; Jose Luis Espinosa; Bautista, MD, Diving Doctor; Kelly Lens, MD, Diving Doctor; Joaquin Theodora, operator; Irene da Cunda operator; Frank Eikling operator; Francis Alle operator; Lucia Rodrigues at Recompression Tank Bonaire; Astrid de Jager Nurse Inside Tender; Bonnie Watson Nurse Inside Tender; Ingrid Havermans Inside Tender

and 2, Acute Indications for HBO2 for Non-diving Conditions, Children and Diving and several case studies.

On the closing day of the course attendees were given a break from the lecture and played a kind of knowledge test on the week's lectures in an educational Jeopardy style game. The doctors were divided into four teams of six to give the questions for the answers in diving medicine categories: Dive Trivia; Don't Touch Me; I came to Bonaire and all I got was bent; Pop the weasel (deco sickness); Gassy Laws and Technically I like Recreational Diving. And each member of the winning team

received a 22 oz DAN water bottle to keep hydrated.

Twelve members of the Bonaire Recompression Chamber including hyperbaric doctor and medical director Lucia Rodrigues attended the course.

Divers Alert Network, DAN, is the world's most recognized and respected dive safety organization committed to improving diving safety for the last 40 years. To learn more about DAN visit <https://DAN.org>.

Story / photos Julie Morgan

Regatta Results *fom page 8*

• 2 – Nathan Mercera, 1C, NB, Total 23, Net 15 • 3 – Quaryx-iesperanza Martis, 6, NB, Total 34, Net 25 • 4 – Travis ruse, 5, NB, Total 46, Net 36

YACHT RACING OPEN • 1 – Winfried Merkies, NC182, CUR, Jeanneau Melody, Total 16, Net • 2 – Gerrit J Fokke, B817, NB, Knysna Catamaran, Total 34, Net 22 • 3 – Bart Meijs, 6508, ?, Dart 18, Total 37, net 25 • 4 – Lute Grundmannmale, Mahana, GER, Catamaran, Total 43, Net 31 • 5 – Ludwig, B501, ?, ? Total 54, Net 42

YACHTS • 1 – Edwin Versteeg/Team Bluefynn, NC-1Z, CUR, Racing Class 2, total 10, net 8 • 2 – Henry Hernandez, NC828Z, CUR, Racing Class 2 – Total 25, Net 19 • 3 – Remco van Dortmond, 433, NB, Racing Class 1, Total 27, Net 19 • 4 – Enrique Gasco, B71, NB, Racing Class 1, Total 50, Net 40

MICROBOATS

45" • 1 – Rainbow, Melissa Domacasse • 2 – Hadassa, Guiliano Domacasse • 3 – Jibo, Genaro Anthony
40" • 1 – Jaja, Patrick Domacasse • 2 – Ta mi so, Melissa Domacasse • 3 – Samantha, Guiliano Domacasse
35" • 1 – Mio, Genaro Anthony • 2 – Jesica, Michelle Espacia • 3 – Taitai, Patick Domacasse
30" • 1 – Ella, Michelle Espancia • 2 – Angel, Jermeline Domacasse • 3 – Isa, Guiliano Domacasse



Bubbles for the cyclists - Duo Xtreme 2025



Bonaire's most exciting and difficult mountain bike race, the Bonaire Duo Xtreme, attracted 74 cyclists to challenge themselves on October 19. Riders from Bonaire and Curaçao teamed up in the Duo bike ride where the two-person team is eliminated if one rider finishes but the other doesn't. Cyclists riding the 72.66 km (pro) and 53.8 km (elite) courses began and ended at Eden Beach. The trail took them on extreme climbs and downhills over the rough and thorny back trails of Bonaire.

All but four riders completed the course with most everyone returning intact. The only mishaps were two flats, and a couple of falls. One person fell into a cactus taking home a few spines as a memory of the ride.

Duo Xtreme organizer since 2011, Frank Bohm of de Freewieler assisted and advised in the race organization with Tom Homburg doing the heavy lifting as race director. Some 40 volunteers assisted with registration, hydration and safety assistance along the course. To see the complete list of winners go to <https://timing.events/Event/Index?id=108>

Sponsors for this year's race were De Freewieler, Bonare Bicycle Club, Sunbelt Realty, Critical Communication Caribbean, Mirage, Eden Beach Bonaire, GenKoo Generatoren, Bonaire Logistics and Wholesaler, Buena Vista Optics, JSG Equipment, Wire interiors and Scooters Bonaire.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Green sambal by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



brown caster sugar • 5 tablespoons Bonaire honey (Tera Barra)

Heat oil lightly in a saucepan and cook peppers, onions, garlic, lemongrass and lime leaves until all the flavour is released. Now add all other ingredients and heat further. Remove lime leaf. Briefly blend mixture using a hand blender until it becomes a slightly finer texture, but not too fine.



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

50 green peppers, finely chopped (Bon Tera) possibly without seeds, less sharp • 2 onions, chopped • 15 cloves of garlic, coarsely chopped • 1 lime leaf • 1/2 stalk lemongrass, finely chopped • 10 tablespoons oil • 1 lime, juice and zest • 10 tablespoons of vinegar or pickle juice from jarred pickles, tasty and a shame to throw away • 5 tablespoons light

You can visit Bonaire's Halloween Village on YouTube



Everyone has heard of the miniature Christmas Villages that people put together during the holidays. But Sharon and Kevin Pursely have taken the idea a bit further and created a Halloween Village.

Sharon said, "I started building both Christmas and Halloween Villages for my love of Disney... The villages moved [to Bonaire] with us seven years ago and every year the village has gotten bigger."

The village incorporates Bonaire into the theme with flamingos, sea turtles near the ship and a shark by a pier. There are names of lost pets on tombstones, childhood memo-

ries of a pumpkin patch, a Halloween parade, apple orchard and even an Oktoberfest with a skeleton and mummy serving beer.

Scattered throughout the village are Disney characters, a trolley and a Monsters of the Deep type theatre. Many parts of the village were collected but many are handmade.

Halloween Village has taken five years to build and takes six weeks to assemble. The Purselys invite everyone to enjoy it in a video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/H9wS43njxw>

You just might find inspiration for your next Halloween costume.

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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: Oct 27 - Dive Friends Yellow Submarine; Nov 3 & Nov. 10 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; Nov 17th - Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort 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@reefrenwalbonaire.org

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> **2025 sea turtle nesting season** May to December. Join a nest monitoring patrol on Klein Bonaire. M, W or F. \$40 donation for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (and residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>



You can watch episodes of Way Bo Man on the [Youtube channel of Public Body Bonaire](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPublicBodyBonaire).

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

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.onlinebibliothek.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)

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month	
Wed. October 22	Walk-in day for a mammogram (X-ray of the breasts). For women between the ages of 50 & 75 are welcome without an appointment. At Fundashon Mariadal 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
Fri. October 31	An evening event. Information about breast cancer screening combined with the popular game 'Bon Ku Ne.' Register until Sunday, Oct. 26. Details of the event are shared with you after registration. Register by telephone (+599) 715 9200, via WhatsApp (+599) 781 0476, or by email screeningCN@rivm.nl .
Oct. 13 to Nov. 14	Join the "We're part of nature" Challenge Film a short video anywhere in Bonaire's nature and post it to https://www.facebook.com/NTBDN See page 20.
Specific dates Oct. 18 to Nov. 13	Flu shots and COVID vaccine For age 60 and over and those with a serious illness. see page 15.
Starting Thurs. October 23	Tera Barra gives away 800 Kibrahacha trees Pick up your seedling (1 per person) Thursdays and Fridays 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 15 for the glory of the Kibrahacha after a rain.
Oct. 24 & 29 Oct. 30 & Nov. 5	Fact-finding workshops on climate change & gender inequality 6 - 8 p.m. see page 15. In Papiamentu: Societat, Rincon, Oct. 24 & Terramar Museum Oct 29 In Dutch: Terramar Museum Oct 30 & Societat, Rincon, Nov. 5 Infor or registration: terramarmuseum@gmail.com / 701 4700
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/
Tues. October 28	FREE REEF Fish ID course 7 p.m. TransWorld Radio. Learn to identify local fish species. First year anniversary session: The Silvery Fish. See page 15.
Wed. October 29	Second Chamber Election. CN residents 18 years or older who have Dutch nationality can vote. For information about the election and voting, please visit https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/secondchamberelection
Sunday, Nov. 2	Un Anochi di Rekuerdo (An Evening of Remembrance) Hosted by Hospice Kas Flamboyen. Parke Isidel. 7-9 p.m. Remember loved ones. Attendance free. Lanterns \$5 (cash only). see page 15.
Thursday, Nov. 6	Lecture in Dutch at Terramar Museum: Consequences of outcome of Dutch Parliament Elections. Given by Wouter Veenendaal, Leiden University. 6-8 p.m. Registration is recommended. Questions? Email terramarmuseum@gmail.com or WhatsApp message +599 701 4700
Friday, Nov. 7	Big Live Nature Quiz - Kids Edition 8:30-9:15 a.m. Teams or individuals. For primary school kids, grades 5 & 6 (Dutch system groups 7 & 8) Registration required. see page 15. https://dcanature.org/quiz/
Fri., Sat., Sun. Nov. 21, 22, 23	3-Day Tennis Tournament: Carl's 50 Doubles Open Cup Bonaire On courts at Sabedeco & Eddy's. Register carlstennisservices@gmail.com / +599790 3777 +31641772707
Sat. November 29 Sun. November 30	Kaminda di Arte. Art studios, galleries and museums will open their doors and over 30 artists will present their work and illustrate their individual creative process. Updated info: www.sobremesa-bonaire.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, Nov. 2	STCB Fishing line Clean up at north pier 9 a.m. at the Dive Inn. Hosts Dive Friends Bonaire will sponsor our air tanks (INT). Bring dive card, Marine Park tag, shears/line cutters and mesh bag. To join e-mail to cepa@bonaireturtles.org
Sunday, Nov. 9	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Thurs. October 23	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	South
Tues. October 28	0630-1900	DISNEY MAGIC 2834 guests	South
Wed. October 29	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. November 5	0800-1600	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Thurs. November 6	0800-1800	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
	1330-1900	ROYAL CLIPPER 246 guests	North

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

Biodiverse Bonaire celebrates one year of REEF Fish ID presentations

This October marks one year since the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) Fish ID presentations were restarted in Bonaire. These monthly sessions have brought together snorkelers, divers, and ocean lovers to learn about Bonaire's marine life and contribute to its conservation.

A special anniversary session will take place on Tuesday, October 28 at 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio Headquarters. This month's theme, "The Silvery Fish – Hidden Gems of Bonaire," will spotlight the sleek, shimmering species that often glide just out of focus yet play a vital role in the island's vibrant reef ecosystems.

The presentation will be led by Carmen Toanchina, REEF expert surveyor and founder of Biodiverse Bonaire, whose passion and dedication have driven this initiative forward.

Special thanks to Janna Nichols and Noa Parks from REEF for their ongoing support and guidance; REEF expert surveyors Ed Benjamin, Kim White, Alev Ozten and Dana Kowalsick for their contributions; Jason Helmboldt of Trans World Radio for generously hosting these events; and Julie Morgan of The Bonaire Reporter for covering the program in the local press.

To celebrate the anniversary, survey materials will be given away as prizes during the presentation, a gesture of appreciation and an invitation for attendees to continue exploring and contributing to marine conservation.

For more information please visit www.reef.org and www.biodiversebonaire.com

Carmen Toanchina



SAVE THE DATE

For all Bonaire art lovers, the next Kaminda di Arte will be on Saturday, November 29 and 30. The Kaminda di Arte is a weekend celebrating creativity. Many of Bonaire's art studios, galleries and museums will open their doors and over 30 artists will present their work and illustrate their individual creative process.

This is a great opportunity to discover and connect with Bonaire's artistic community and perhaps take home a unique piece of art.

Keep an eye on Sobremesa's website where updated info will be posted soon:

www.sobremesa-bonaire.com



Corona and flu shots scheduled

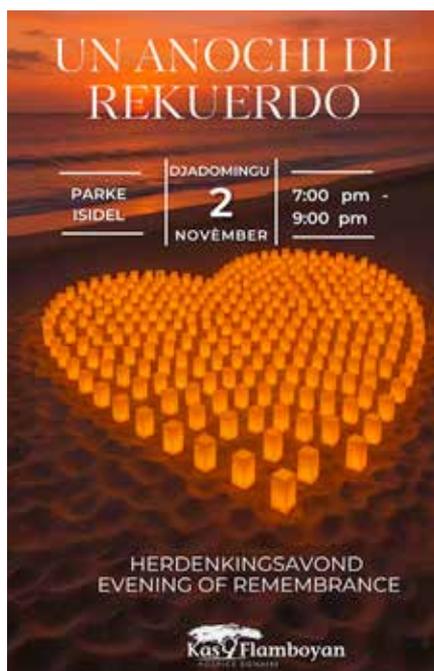
People aged 60 and over and those under 60 with a serious illness or working in health care can get the flu shot, the COVID vaccine, or both starting October 18, 2025.

- **At Jong Bonaire or at the community centers you can get both shots.** Residents are asked to bring their ID. If you are taking medication, bring a list of your medications. Before receiving the COVID vaccination, you will be asked a few questions.
- **Patients of Rincon Medical Center** can get their flu and COVID vaccinations at that practice without an appointment from October 20 to November 21.
- **At other GPs,** only the flu vaccination is available. Patients do not need an appointment.

For questions about the flu or COVID vaccination, call +599 777 6102 during office hours, or an email to izb@bonairegov.com. For information visit www.bonairegov.com/prikken

Jong Bonaire Kaya Simon Bolivar 16 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Antriol Plaza Chicu Goeloe 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Nort'i Saliña Sentro di barío 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Tera Kòrá Sentro di barío 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 18	Tuesday, Oct. 21.	Wednesday, Oct. 22.	Thursday, Oct. 23.
Saturday, Oct. 25	Tuesday, Oct. 28.	Thursday, Oct. 30.	Wednesday, Oct. 29.
Saturday, Nov. 1	Tuesday, Nov. 4.	Thursday, Nov. 6.	Wednesday, Nov. 5.
Saturday, Nov. 8	Tuesday, Nov. 11.	Thursday, Nov. 13.	Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Light a lantern in remembrance Nov. 2nd



a lantern with an LED light and place it in a large heart, the simple gesture encouraging peace, reflection, and connection. Lanterns (candle bags) will be available for \$5 at a small booth and can be personalized on-site with a name or message.

We will honor not only the loved ones of those present but also the former residents of Hospice Kas Flamboyan. In addition, we will pay tribute to the seven people who were aboard the ship Isidel, which disappeared in 1978 and gave its name to the park. They too will be given a special place within the lantern display.

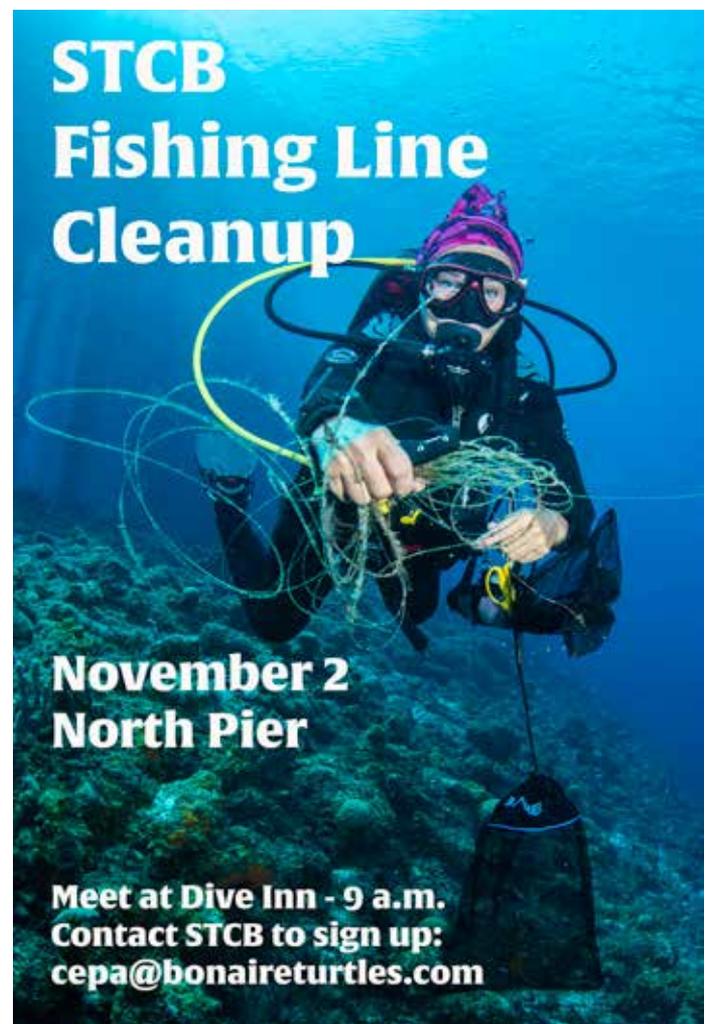
The evening will be guided by music and poetry by Wilco Harbers.

The initiative for "Un Anochi di Rekuerdo" comes from Hospice Kas Flamboyan, which celebrates its 7.5-year anniversary this year and has provided many with a compassionate final home. The idea was inspired by the annual Week4Light event on Curaçao, organized by Hospice Arco Cavent. All proceeds from the evening will go directly to Hospice Kas Flamboyan.

Hospice Kas Flamboya

On Sunday, Nov. 2, "Un Anochi di Rekuerdo" (An Evening of Remembrance) will take place at Parke Isidel, 7 to 9 p.m.

This evening is open to all who miss someone—whether the loss is recent or long ago. Participants will have the opportunity to light





**Richmend Anthony of
Island Adventure Services Bonaire**

For divers who are without transportation for shore diving, Richmend can pick you up for the dive.

Richmend grew up around diving with his father working at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn for more than 35 years. And he is a diver so he definitely knows how things work. The idea for the dive service came from long time Carib Inn employee Kitty Handschuh.

Richmend said, "This was Kitty's idea. She always wanted to have a shore dive business to help people in and out of the water but never did it due to her age."

Island Adventure Services Bonaire began officially January 1 and his first customer was diver and well known photographer Ellen Mueller.

For now, Island Adventure Services Bonaire is a one-man operation – Richmend. His hopes are when he does expand, God sends the right people his way as the work requires character, being humble, joy, respect for others and definitely some strength.

Cost for Richmend's dive service is \$30 per hour. He can also provide transportation services to hotel, airport and grocery assistance.

Contact Richmend by phone or WhatsApp +599 785-3168 or email

islandadventureservicesbonaire@gmail.com.

See Richmend's ad on *The Reporter* business page.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan.

Make Bonaire Accessible

Too hot to do anything..... by Ria Dokter

It is 2:34 in the afternoon and after a nice nap in the cool of the air-conditioned bedroom I had to get up and join the world again.

Too hot to do anything. There is no wind at all, and those promising black clouds and lightning bolts turned out to be too good to be true.

It is October! Officially it is our month of flowers and showers in abundance, but not this year.

I am glad the electricity is on. But on the other hand, since yesterday evening we have had no internet and that is a huge problem. Because for most people no internet means no communication!

Most elderly depend on their phone for communication. They have to be able to make and receive calls but right now that is not possible. I am not even sure that this column will get to the paper in time.

To call a doctor, the hospital, the laboratory or to ask for transportation is not possible. Not everyone can afford a subscription for the phone or internet. One buys "top-up" cards and when that is empty, one buys another, depending on the budget. And because that budget is often pretty low, many people are not accessible.

These days it is very hot and those who have air-conditioning use it to stay as cool as possible. Those who depend on ventilators have them running for 24 hours. And the sweltering heat makes you want to take a lot of showers, but water is also pretty expensive.

As you can understand the choices are sometimes difficult. Some have to choose to stay cool and fresh, have communication, have both or have nothing at all.

This morning it looked so promising when the sky went darker by the minute and the lightning cut through those clouds and we were literally feeling the raindrops about to fall. It still smells as if we will get that rain, but.....

No communication is very hard especially for those who are living by themselves. Just this morning I talked to someone who had not seen or talked to anyone for five days. Imagine that! The need for better communication with the elderly such as a calling-circle, and the need of a "red-button" is getting more urgent than ever. Personal visits by social workers are becoming a "must." And having large groups of elderly meeting for company and occupation is not something for everyone. If INDEBON offered more specific activities it would be very welcome. Perhaps create more small meeting points, where people can gather in small groups at different restaurants or cafes. A large table could be set where small groups could enjoy a snack, drink or maybe a meal or even celebrate a birthday. The possibilities are endless. And if you talk to those interested, who knows what will pop up. Money should not be a problem. The elderly are perfectly able to explain what they need and what their wishes are. Happy gatherings!



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.

Workshops in Papiamentu and Dutch will explore climate vulnerability and gender inequality

Commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), a research team is conducting a qualitative study on how residents in vulnerable neighborhoods and smaller communities experience the impacts of climate change and extreme weather, and what they need to live safely.

As part of this research, the team is organizing a series of workshops on Bonaire, where participants will discuss the impact of climate change on daily life, the role of gender inequality and other forms of inequality, and possible solutions for fair and climate-resilient housing.

The goal of these meetings is to formulate practical recommendations that can contribute to future-oriented and equitable policies for Bonaire. The workshops will take place on the following dates and locations:

Dates: Oct. 24 and Nov. 5.
Location: Sosiedat Atonio de Padua, Rincon. Time: 6 to 8 p.m. Language: Papiamentu

Dates: Oct. 29 and 30. Location: Terramar Museum, Playa. Time: 6 to 8 p.m. Language: Dutch

Organizations, experts, and involved residents are cordially invited to participate or share their insights via an online survey.

For information or registration: 701 4700 /terramar-museum@gmail.com

(Ministerio di OCW, Climate Adaptation Services, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, and Terramar Museum)



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Creating Optimal Health Death is not a single event by Irene da Cunda Costa

Death, the only certainty in life, and yet in many Western societies it seems almost taboo. Only around Halloween and the Mexican Day of the Dead does it seem to be okay to talk about it. Why is it so hard to have a mature, realistic, even healthy relationship with death? Will we ever be able to understand what Henry David Thoreau once said, "Death is beautiful when seen to be a law, and not an accident. It is as common as life." But for most people the thought of death exposes fear of the unknown, feelings of loss and meaning slipping away.

In much of the West, death is medicalized, hidden behind hospital walls, sanitized, postponed or avoided. We erect a cultural barrier around death, treating it as an enemy to be defeated or ignored. This distance distorts our vision; death becomes monstrous and abstract, rather than the inevitable horizon of every life.

Among the ancients Greeks, both Stoics and Epicureans grappled seriously with mortality—though from different angles.

For the Stoics, death is a natural process, neither good nor evil, and the wise person meets it with tranquility. They taught that living well (in accordance with virtue) matters most, and death is the final test of character. Seneca emphasized that we are dying every day,

death is not a single event in the future, but a process, most death is already gone, whatever time has passed is owned by death.

The Epicureans stated that fear of death is irrational. They said that death is nothing to us because when we exist, death is not; and when death exists, we are not. Sensation ends, so there is no pain, no suffering, no awareness. Of course, they allow for the discomfort of dying to be troubling, but the state of being dead is not.

Bronnie Ware, a palliative caregiver, who worked for about 15 years in a hospice and held countless conversations with dying patients, recorded the clearest articulation of what people nearing death regret. In her book she pointed out the following as the top five regrets she heard from them.

1. "I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me."
2. "I wish I hadn't worked so hard."
3. "I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."
4. "I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends."
5. "I wish I had let myself be happier."

These are not regrets about grand adventures or dramatic acts, so this reveals the futility of the bucket list. This list of

regrets points out what is important in life: authenticity, relationships, connection, true emotions, friendship and happiness.

To forestall such regrets, we might ask ourselves, periodically:

- What are my true values? Am I living in alignment with them?
- What am I sacrificing to pursue work or security? How long am I supposed to do this? is it worth it?
- Am I suppressing feelings, what am I afraid of, what might happen if I spoke of them?
- Who have I lost touch with, and what would it take to reconnect?
- In what ways have I held myself back from being joyful, from being freer or happier?
- What would I change now if I knew I was going to die soon?
- How would I treat this person if I knew he or she was going to die tomorrow?

Reflecting on these questions gives us a chance to course-correct and help us to be kinder and gentler to ourselves and to others.

Death can also carry a quiet beauty. Recently, the world mourned Jane Goodall, the eminent primatologist and global conservationist, who died at age 91. She passed peacefully in her sleep while on

a speaking tour, still spreading her message about the Earth and our place within it. Her passing invites reflection: a life of curiosity, purpose, advocacy, and care for life; and at the end, a still calm exit, in the midst of mission. She led a life that touched so many people and will keep her legacy going on forever.

If we recover the language of death, reclaim proximity to it, understanding its inevitability we might die with fewer regrets. When we take time to meditate on impermanence we can learn to confront our own mortality not as horror, but as the boundary that gives life shape. Marcus Aurelius said: "It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live". "Do every act of your life as if it were your last" and "Do not act as if you were going to live ten thousand years. Death hangs over you. While you live, while it is in your power, be good."



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.

A Garden? Just Do It! Disappointments & Papayas by Angliet, Nature Lover

After many attempts and much effort to keep my dying plants alive, I have come to the conclusion that I have to change my mindset. I become so stressed and disappointed when my plants die even with all my care and love. It's very expensive as well with the high water bills, the special plant food and special quality pot dirt which is also a lot of effort. No matter what I do, slowly and surely the plants die.

So I decided to protect myself from disappointment after disappointment and accept that I will lose a lot of plants. Especially the ones which require intensive care as they cannot survive this extreme drought and heat. These are the big leaf plants like pumpkin plants, watermelon, papaya, leafy vegetables, one year flower plants and herbs.

Plants that have a chance to survive are the ones with thorns like tuturutu, trinitaria, cacti and some trees with many roots that grow wide and or deep. Other survivors could be plants with thick leaves such as faja lobi, oleander and the ones that grow on a rocky surface. All these plants are able to find water deep down or store water in their own system like thorns. Normally these plants don't need a lot of attention as they are self providing in what they need, but with this weather they might need a little care.

I have yet another mindset to let the plants go that are not going to make it and pay attention to those that can survive. It gives hope and a positive feeling to gardening. Maybe this change in attitude will help you also to continue gardening and enjoy the pleasure of it .

Two weeks ago I received some green papayas from a friend. She asked me if I could do anything with them and I told her of course. I make green papaya stoba by slicing the papaya thinly and combining with curcuma (tumeric), curry, garlic, onion, cumin, black pepper and salt to stew in coconut oil. Serving this with sweet potatoes becomes a high cuisine recipe. Other possibilities to make are papaya chutney, papaya pickles and papaya-coconut milk soup.

If it looks like your papya tree is going to die, pick the green papayas and use them along with the leaves. The seeds are good for our health too. They help with digestion and contain a lot of vitamins. Keep them in the fridge and swallow a teaspoon or add to muesli, yogurt or a smoothie.

My friend chopped down the dying papaya tree and asked her for the leaves. I add them to a wok with some ham, bacon or salted fish along with onion, garlic, salt and pepper or maybe some tauge (bean sprouts)and mushrooms. Take a



Green papaya stew with turmeric-curly spice.
Photo Angliet Baidjoe

bite and you'll melt, plus it is healthy too.

The first time I ate this I was in Rotterdam. Can you imagine? It was not in the tropics but in a country where papaya trees don't grow and I found great dishes with papaya leaves.

Occasionally when you cut a papaya tree it will come back even stronger.

But In this weather it is a struggle to keep the whole tree alive and that is true for all trees. When you cut back a tree or chop the top off, it may do better because it needs less energy as a smaller tree. Make them small, add dry leaves, com-

post, very old, dry manure, pure charcoal and ashes and egg shells. You might just get lucky and save the tree.

Last but not least, despite all this drought I am still finding island fruit: Golden apple, yellow mombin (jocote), mispel, appeldam, pomegranate, sour-sop, coco, djamun, star fruit, papaya, bacoba, cashew fruit, dragon fruit and some late tamarind. The fruits are less juicy and smaller but they have the same vitamins and mineral values. It's not the size that makes them healthier but the micronutrients they contain that's important to the body.

You are a lucky one if you are an easy going fruit consumer because these less-than-perfect fruits are great fruits, unsprayed and naturally ripened by the sun. Urban fruits are good for your health and for your pocket.



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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A woman holding a small dog.



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Pets of the Week

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

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

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



Hemsworth brothers

Meet Chris (left), Liam (middle) and Luke (right).

These are our handsome Hemsworth brothers! Liam and Chris are tabby and white, and Luke is a tuxedo cat. The boys are around 5 months old and have been at the Shelter for three weeks. A kind lady found them on the street and brought them to us so we could find them a good home. All three brothers are very social and playful with a very good appetite! They really are the sweetest boys and our little movie stars, because they are sure to charm you. The boys can be adopted separately and are very good with other cats. And who does not want to have their own handsome Hemsworth brother as a companion?

Come meet our stars and let them steal your heart!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

This is Opoe and time is ticking for her.

She's already 11 years old and has been waiting 1.5 years in the shelter. Opoe is a sweetheart who loves attention, cuddles, and simply relaxing in the sun or on a cozy bed in the shade. She may be older, but she still enjoys a good walk and exploring the island. This lady gets along well with other dogs and is ready to spend her golden years in a loving, peaceful home.

Could you be the one to give Opoe the happy, relaxed retirement she truly deserves?

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers



Opoe

Information sessions for new leave regulations

As of January 1, 2026, employees can request emergency leave and short-term care leave in the Caribbean Netherlands. Employees will gain new rights, while employers will face new obligations and practical changes.

Emergency Leave

Emergency leave can be requested when you need to take time off to resolve an urgent, unexpected personal matter. The duration of the leave depends on the situation. Salary continues to be paid during this leave.

Short-Term Care Leave

Short-term care leave can be used if someone in your immediate environment is sick and requires care, and you are the only person who can provide this care under the circumstances. During short-term care leave, the employer is not obligated to continue paying your salary.

Free Information Sessions

To properly prepare employees, employers, and administrative offices for the upcoming changes, the RCN Unit SZW will soon organize free information sessions on Bonaire from October 27 to 30 at Divi Flamingo.

Employers

Oct. 27 Papiamentu 2-3 p.m. / Spanish 3:15-4:15 p.m.
Oct. 29 Dutch 2-3 p.m. English / 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Employees

Oct. 28 Papiamentu 5-6 p.m. / Spanish 6:15-7:15 p.m.
Oct. 30 Dutch 5-6 p.m. / English 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Registration

To register for one of the information sessions, you can send an email to LD.szw@RijksdienstCN.com or a WhatsApp message to +599 795 4537. When registering, please include your organization, the preferred date, and the language of the session.

RCN press release

Animal Shelter Bonaire Wish list

We often are asked what the animals at Animal Shelter Bonaire really need, so we thought it was time to share our wish list!

If you're visiting the island, dropping by the shelter, or have some of these items at home that you no longer use, our dogs and cats would be so grateful!

Here's what we can always use:

- Puppy food
- Kitten food
- Kitten milk and puppy milk
- Dog treats
- Toys for dogs and cats
- Collars and leashes
- Dog brushes
- Shampoo for dogs and puppies
- Flea and tick treatments
- Beds or baskets
- Old towels

Donations like these help us care for all of our cats and dogs but please know that you're always welcome to stop by, even if you're not bringing anything. Come say hi, meet the animals, and see what we do!

Marissa Lamers



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.

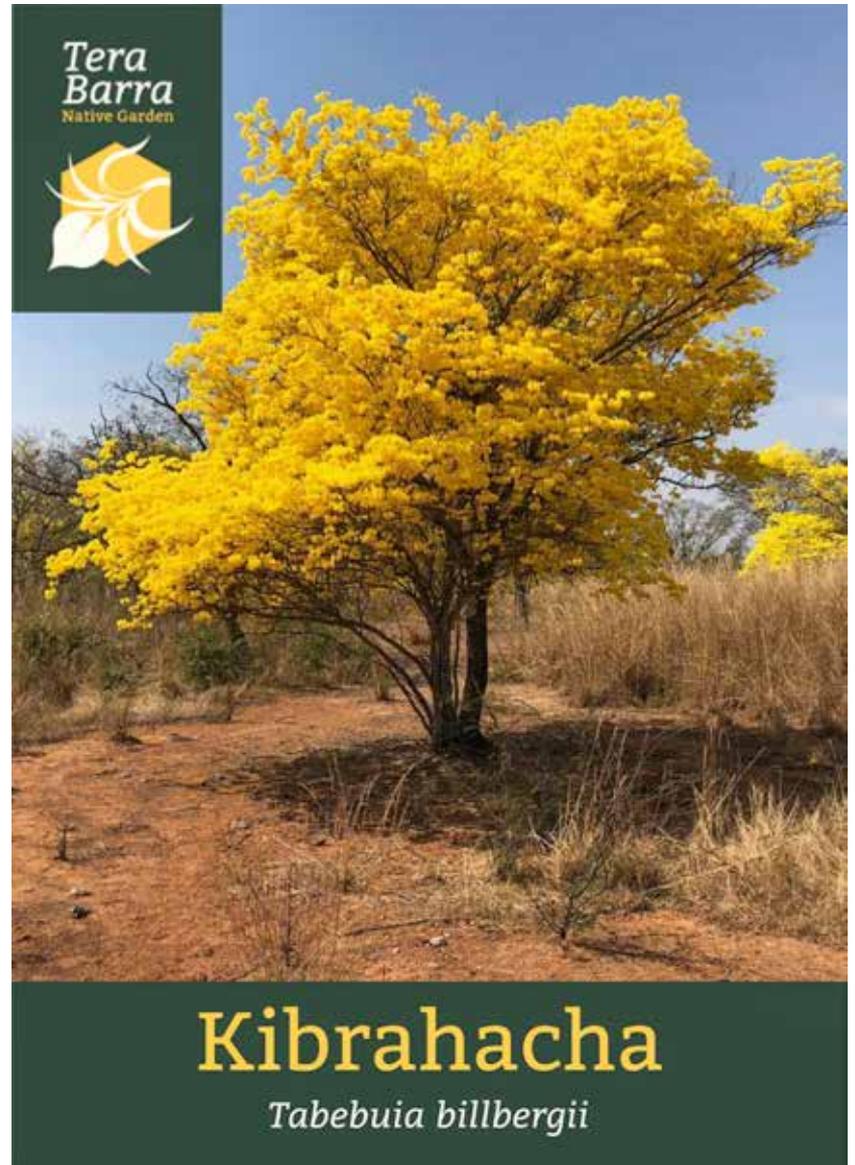
Available online at STINAPAbonaire.org



Make it yours!



Say it. Film it. Share it.
We're part of nature.



Kibrahacha
Tabebuia billbergii

Tera Barra is giving away 800 Kibrahacha trees
Pick up your seedling (1 per person)
Thursdays & Fridays 8 a.m. to 12 noon and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feel the Island. Share Your Story.
Join the
We are part of Nature
Challenge.

On Bonaire, nature isn't just what you see. It's what you *feel*.

The sea that feeds us. The sun that warms us. The land that gives us life. The wind that carries our stories. Here, everything begins and ends with nature.

Now it's your turn to show how you live from it.

From **October 13 to November 14**,
join the
#nostabidinaturalesa Challenge.

A celebration of the bond
between people and this island.

How to compete:

Film a short video anywhere in Bonaire's nature: under the sea, on the shore, or surrounded by cacti and sunlight. Tell us what nature means to you and finish by saying, clear and proud: "Nos ta biba di naturalesa!" ("We're part of nature.")

Then:

1. Like our Facebook page:
facebook.com/NTBDN
2. Post your video on Facebook, tag @NTBDN, and use #nostabidinaturalesa.

The four videos with the most likes will win a prize, but the real prize is being part of something bigger. A movement that reminds everyone why Bonaire's beauty lasts only if we care for it together.

Show your wonder. Share your care.

Nos ta biba di naturalesa —
We're part of nature.

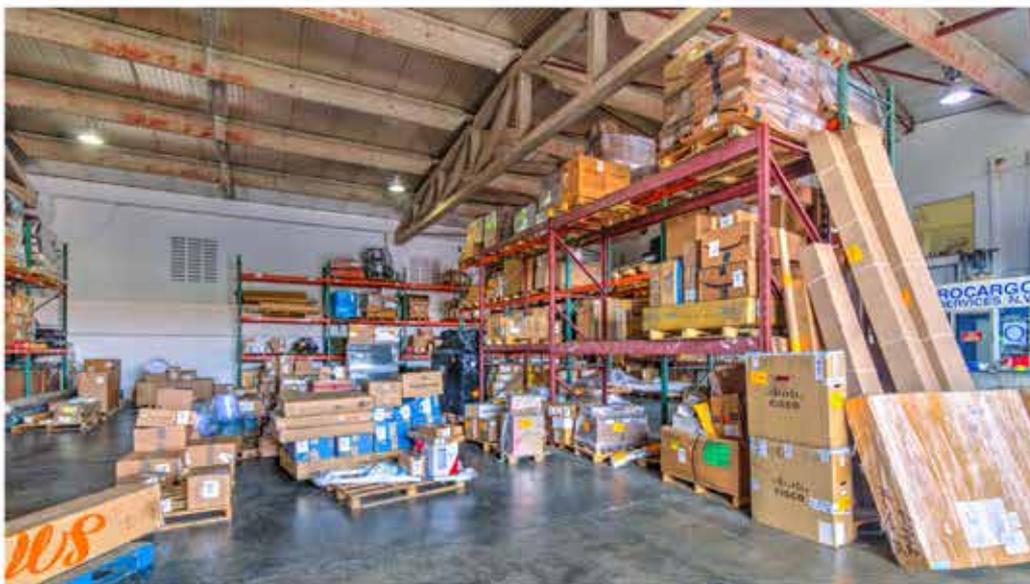


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Seeking a joint solution after JetBlue's termination of the JFK New York – Bonaire route

Kralendijk - Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and airline JetBlue signed an agreement in November 2024 for two direct flights per week from New York (JFK) to Bonaire. These flights were to operate year-round, on Saturdays and Tuesdays, for a three-year period. This agreement has now been terminated prematurely by JetBlue and TCB, effective January 2026.

The partnership between TCB and JetBlue had already begun in 2023 for the winter season, but JetBlue postponed it until 2024. Expectations were high. The new route was intended to increase the number of tourists from the United States, in line with the Tourism Master Plan. The agreement with JetBlue was ultimately concluded between TCB and JetBlue in 2024 based on a minimum revenue guarantee (MRG). This means that Bonaire must pay additional fees if the revenue from the flight falls below

a certain amount. Under this agreement, Bonaire had no influence on ticket prices or the number of seats sold.

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) was not a party to this contract and never entered into a financial obligation to pay for this MRG. By law (Article 11.1 of the FinBES), the OLB is not permitted to grant loans or provide guarantees on behalf of third parties. However, at the request of TCB, the OLB made an additional \$400,000 in marketing funds available to promote the flights. JetBlue matched \$300,000 of this, bringing the total available for promotion to \$700,000. The private sector also invested significantly. This makes it the highest amount ever spent on marketing for a new route to Bonaire.

Despite the good cooperation between JetBlue and Bonaire, the route ultimately proved uneconomical. JetBlue there-

fore sent an invoice for the maximum MRG amount. To prevent legal action from JetBlue against TCB, the OLB has advanced an initial payment to TCB so they can fulfill their contractual obligations. The OLB now wants to work with shareholder BHM, TCB, and other tourism partners to find a fair and collaborative solution in which everyone takes responsibility.

Deputy Member Weber stated: "The direct Fortunately, the Newark-Bonaire route will remain in place, so this market will continue to be served—either directly or via a connecting flight via Atlanta or Miami. Discussions with JetBlue are also ongoing regarding a possible future partnership, albeit one that carries less risk for Bonaire.

Caribbean Accounting & Tax Consultants (CATC Bonaire) welcomes Administratiekantoor Brandaris BV to Its Growing Team

Kralendijk, October 2025 — Effective January 1, 2026, CATC Bonaire will acquire all shares of Administratiekantoor Brandaris BV. This partnership brings together two highly experienced accounting firms, combining their strengths to ensure continuity for clients and further expand the range of services available. With this acquisition, CATC Bonaire becomes the largest accounting and advisory firm in the region.

Continuity and familiar faces

Clients of Brandaris BV can expect business as usual, the existing team will remain in place and continue serving them with the same dedication they are accustomed to. In addition, owner Eric van de Keuken will stay on for six months to support a smooth transition.

“It was important to me that my employees and clients would move to a firm that shares our values, accessibility, personal attention, and genuine respect for people. At CATC Bonaire, I found exactly that,” said Eric.

Broader expertise and enhanced services

The merger adds depth and specialization to the combined firm’s capabilities. CATC Bonaire has its own in-house tax specialist, Kees Schilperoord, with expertise in both the Dutch and BES tax systems. The firm also provides business valuations, due diligence reviews, audits, and interim management solutions for situations such as extended leave or illness.

CATC Bonaire is also an official QuickBooks specialist and distributor, and recently became the only certified Odoo partner on Bonaire. Odoo is an integrated open-source ERP platform that allows business owners to manage accounting, invoicing, inventory, POS, CRM, and e-commerce all in one system. Clients who currently use Twinfield, Exact, or AFAS can, of course, continue to do so.

Leadership and vision

The acquisition reflects the shared vision and commitment of CATC Bonaire’s partners and founders Jans Stam van Malsen and Reint Roossien, together with partner Sherry Partosemito. “Collaboration and long term relationships have always been at the heart of our firm,” they said. “We believe that a strong regional presence, paired with personal involvement, is key to sustainable success, for both our clients and our team.”

CATC Bonaire’s day to day operations have been led by Sherry Partosemito for the past two years, who will officially step into the role of Managing Partner in 2026.

“Over the past few years, our team has worked hard to further professionalize and expand our services. Integrating Brandaris BV is a natural next step in that growth. By combining our expertise and retaining their experienced team, we’re building a firm that is not only the largest, but also the most forward thinking in the region,” said Sherry Partosemito.



(L-R) Sherry Partosemito, CATC partner, Jans Stam van Malsen, CATC partner and founder, and Eric van de Keuken, Brandaris owner

New office location

Starting January 1, 2026, the Brandaris BV team will relocate to CATC Bonaire’s office at Kaya Irlandia 15. System integrations will be managed carefully to minimize any disruption to clients. To celebrate the partnership, the firm will host a welcome reception in early 2026, in keeping with Brandaris BV’s annual Carnival tradition.

A word of thanks

Eric van de Keuken added, “I’m deeply grateful for the trust that clients have placed in me and my team over the past 20 years. Together with CATC Bonaire, I look forward to the future with full confidence that our core values, service, quality, and personal connection will remain unchanged.”

About CATC Bonaire

With more than 20 years of experience on Aruba and Bonaire, CATC Bonaire offers a comprehensive suite of services, including accounting, tax advisory, business valuations, due diligence, and interim management. Its team of seasoned professionals supports entrepreneurs at every stage of their business journey. Following the acquisition of Brandaris BV, CATC Bonaire proudly stands as the largest and most trusted accounting firm in the region.



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

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	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
		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>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral								6:17–7:17 PM (Expected every night through the end of Nov)							
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:22–10:37 PM							
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral		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	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber															
<i>Hemodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm															
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	Long-Spined Sea Urchin															
<i>Neofibularia nolitangere</i>	Touch-Me-Not Sponge															
<i>Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunicia</i>	Sea Rods															
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>	Black Sea Rod															
Ophiuroidea	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star															
<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> spp.	Sea Plume															
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm															

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
<i>Times are show using a 12h clock (AM/PM)</i>

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."

