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Kaminda di Arte is a Bonaire art adventure

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.” Edgar Degas

The art landscape of Bonaire has evolved and grown in recent years. The change was never more evident than this weekend at Sobremesa’s Kaminda di Arte (Road to Art). With 44 different artists of many different disciplines the road became more of a journey. One group came together and created an art golf cart tour of the road to art. Artists opened their studio doors, so we the public, could get a first-hand look at how these creatives worked and even see their work in progress.

“Art is never finished, only abandoned” Leonardo Da Vinci

Some artists displayed their work at Sobremesa, SACA and Terramar galleries. They set up mini-studios to so they could continue creating as visiting guests viewed their work and asked questions. Others like Hendrik Wuyts, a lino and wood cut artist, gave mini-demonstrations of the process for his printmaking. He allowed the guests to try their hand with the tools cutting a lino and wood. Photographer Felicia Schutte took studio photos of anyone who was willing. She explained her photographic process for her dramatic individual photo shoots for women saying, this is an experience and an opportunity to pamper yourself, not just a photo shoot.

We visited painter Loes Praagman of Aloha Bonaire at the opening of her new studio, Kas di Lus (house of light). The little house is more of a gathering place to hang out, have a drink,

and work on art. There is seating inside and out with art everywhere. Merel Bal, an artist who learned the art of batik growing up in Malaysia gave visitors the opportunity to paint the dye on a new creation. Merel hopes to teach the art of batik next year.

Stained glass artist Brenda Bultema of KazooRose Glass Studio displayed beautiful glass window hangars with all types of fish and marine life, 3-D hummingbirds, hearts, Christmas trees and marine scenics. Brenda showed

the technique to guests and welcomed questions. JoSea Art in Santa Barbara featured work from mosaic and craft artist Jose Smit, painter Hedy Voet, painter Marloes Poots and Yves Abbink. Genevieve Gougou, painter and art teacher at Bonaire’s high school explained her watercolor and acrylic work as intuitive and spiritual. She lets the imagination happen. Her aim is to be her true self. Genevieve plans to hold adult painting classes next year.

“The aim of art is to represent not the

outward appearance of things, but their inward significance” - Aristotle

Painter Jozee Tjou was working at SACA gallery on several multimedia acrylic pieces. Jozee explained her work is inspired by nature. The pieces she was working employed a blue color palette with coral reef texture prints painted into the image. Jozee said, “I don’t know what I’m doing before I start.” Working alongside Jozee was multimedia painter Meade Lowance incorporating paper imagery into her work. Sobremesa had a number of artists working including Marz, Judson Emerenciana with his ever-popular Bonalisa art. Louise van der Zwaag known for her mural art, Lieb Ceramics, painter Joeldrich Muzo, Vibra with word art, Sharon Bol with her Meh Goatware and more.

Experiencing the Road to Art is an adventure into the Bonaire art world. Karine de Wit of Sobremesa created a new map this year which made the journey easier to navigate. But we still ran into problems visiting several studios on our list due to Bonaire’s unusual address system. We apologize for not visiting many of you and hope others were more successful.

Photos / Story Julie Morgan



Painter Loes Praagman (Aloha Bonaire) opened her new studio Kas di Lus on day one of Kaminda di Arte, November 29. Everyone is welcome to drop by for a drink, chat and enjoy the art. Photo Julie Morgan

Art work shown on page one by :
Top L-R: Jozee Tjou, Merol Bal, Hedy Voets, Jose Smit, Felicia Schutte,
Bottom L-R : Genevieve Gougou, Lieb Ceramics, Hendrik Wuyts, Louise vd Zwaag, Brenda Bulfema
(My apologies to the artists. Some art work had to be cropped to fit.)

Dutch and OLB agree: Landfill to be closed by 2028



The Dutch and Bonaire's Executive Council have jointly signed an agreement providing for the closure of the Lagun landfill in 2028 and other related actions. At press time we have three sources of information regarding the event: two stories from Dossier on the one hand, and the Executive Council's press release on the other. Here's what we know as of now:

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Eddie van Marum summoned Deputy Clark Abraham and Bonaire's Executive Council to the Netherlands on November 14. The purpose of the meeting was to sign a final agreement for solving the Lagun landfill crisis. The meeting was also attended by Governor John Soliano, who had arrived in The Hague earlier. The Executive Council reportedly left Bonaire without notifying the Island Council of the meeting.

The Dutch were feeling some pressure. The House of Representatives, with broad support from NSC and GroenLinks-PvdA, had passed a motion asking Van Marum to ensure the Lagun landfill was closed "as soon as possible." On the other hand, Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond had informed Van Marum that the Executive Council still lacked "a targeted and decisive implementation of the measures from the improvement plan with an adequate budget."

With the meeting now behind them, both parties agree an agreement was signed and several specific issues were decided. But the public is hearing two different perceptions of what the agreement actually means.

The Dutch say Abraham signed a legally binding administrative agreement. The Executive Council claims the agreement is not binding because it was signed under duress. By signing this order, they say, Abraham avoided signing a mandatory order. The

Executive Council also said the two parties have agreed to "collaborate," a term the Dutch did not use.

The Dutch say Abraham has finally acknowledged the landfill problems in writing and has accepted responsibility for solving them proactively. Abraham claims the Dutch have finally accepted his "vision" of a solution to the toxic landfill and have agreed to help him enact it.

As to funding, the island government will allocate over \$6 million (rather than its announced \$2.1 million) to address the waste crisis surrounding the Lagun landfill. The OLB will further provide Selibon €3.8 million this year and another €2.3 million in 2026 to enable the company, owned by public, to eliminate the landfill's greatest health risks. The Executive Council has also agreed to start paying Selibon a fair fee for the services it provides to the island and to implement the recommendations resulting from an independent investigation. That report said Selibon should be operated as a financially sound business that is systematically financed by the government.

Van Marum emphasized the agreement does not obligate the Dutch financially in any way. He said his government is willing to help though and will support spending on specific projects, subject to the Executive Council's compliance with the terms of the administrative agreement. As a demonstration of good will, the Dutch have already announced the island will receive a financial contribution of €1.5 million this year.

The Executive Council promised to decide on an alternative waste processing location and the necessary measures by July 1, 2026. Myvianca Verbeek-Lucia of Pro Lagun Foundation dismissed the Executive Council's announcement, indicating they'd already heard that one many times. *DMR*

BES islanders can now get Starlink internet

The Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure announced it has granted Starlink a concession to provide satellite communication services on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Starlink is an internet

service provider (ISP) that is owned and operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX. Starlink provides dependable and fast connection to the internet from almost any location on earth via more than 5,000 low orbit satellites.

Users can buy the Starlink receiving equipment on-line. Almost anyone who uses the internet already can install the equipment themselves and be online in minutes. Several plans are available, from those for basic residential users to high-end business users.

<https://starlink.com/support>

The Starlink satellites pass overhead in streams while communicating with each other constantly, and with ground stations intermittently, via laser beams. The user's antenna on the ground is in constant contact with a stream as the separate satellites pass overhead. New and replacement satellites are launched almost every week and their size and performance keep increasing. *DMR*



(L-R) Starlink antenna and router

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Island news...to page 7

Sinterklaas sails into town

Sinterklaas arrived at the North Pier in Kralendijk with his band of 50 Zwarte Piets hanging from the masts and riggings on the beautiful Lady Bellais on November 22. The boat came into Kralendijk accompanied by more boats, sunfish, dinghies and jet skis than ever before.



The Zwarte Piets are no longer zwarte but red, green, blue and multi-colored. The colorful Piets sang and danced to a brass band as they accompanied Sinterklaas who rode in a golf cart through the crowd to a stage set up near Wilhelminaplein. The Piets performed songs and tossed candy to the children. Sinterklaas sat above them on a stage with his big red book that holds the records of which children have been good or bad.

Sinterklaas was welcomed by over 1000 kids and their parents and the party ran until 9 p.m. From now through December 5, Sinterklaas and the Piets will be busy visiting schools and other organizations. And if you are

lucky you may see them driving through the streets on Bonaire handing out candy.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



FOR SALE J.A. Abraham Blvd 28A or 28B Condos Within Walking Distance to the Ocean



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POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

Nov. 27. Police received three reports of stolen fat bikes. Two bikes were stolen from Julio A. Abraham Boulevard, one near restaurant on the boulevard, and one fat bike was stolen from Kaya Niagara.

Nov. 21/26. Between Saturday, Nov. 21 and Wednesday, Nov. 26, unknown persons took a boat from the marina on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard, where it was moored.

Nov. 23/24. Between 8 a.m. Sunday and 8a.m. Monday, a faucet and a coupling were taken from the restroom at a park on Kaya Grandi.

Nov. 22. Theft from a car at a beach on EEG Boulevard. The complainant stated that he had left his dark blue Samsung phone in a brown leather case on the dashboard of his car. The case contained several personal documents and cards. Around 12:30 p.m. when he returned from the water, he noticed that the car key he had hidden under a rock was missing. Using a spare key, he unlocked the car and discovered that his phone and the contents of the case had been stolen.

Nov. 20. A man, 33, was arrested at the police station in connection with a burglary and theft at a diving shop Nov. 11.

Nov. 20. An electric bicycle, black fat bike, model V8, was stolen while parked on the grounds of a school on Kaya Frater Odulfinus.

Nov. 20. While the occupants of a pickup were walking to the viewpoint at the Altamira Unjo viewpoint in Rincon, unknown persons stole two dive computers.

Nov. 19. Unknown persons gained access to a business on Kaya Industria by forcing open the roller door and then ransacking the ground and first floors. They stole two cash boxes and their contents.

Nov. 18. An electric bicycle, a black fat bike, brand Ouxi, was stolen while parked locked at the entrance of a school on Kaya Korona.

Arrests

Nov. 30. A guard, 29, was arrested for involvement in bringing suspect-

ed narcotics into the prison. As part of the investigation, three locations were searched: a home on Kaya Maximiliana Rosario, an apartment on the same property, and a home on Kaya Amsterdam. No items of significance were found at any of the addresses.

Nov. 27. Three men (ages 24, 24, and 20) were arrested for violating the BES Firearms Act and the BES Opium Act. During a traffic check, police stopped a vehicle on suspicion of a violation of the BES Opium Act. During this check, police found a quantity of suspected narcotics, a firearm and ammunition. The three men occupying the vehicle were immediately arrested, and the vehicle was seized for further investigation.

Traffic accidents / DUIs

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

Nov. 30. Around 11:10 p.m. a car collided into another causing it to slide into the yard of a house on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwind, damaging a parked car and the fence. Police issued a ticket to one of the drivers, a man, 16, for driving without a license and valid insurance.

Nov. 18. Around 6:15 p.m. a car hit a person in a wheelchair as they were crossing Kaya Korona. Emergency personnel treated the victim at the scene. Following the breathalyzer test, the driver, a man, 64, was given a four-hour driving ban.

Nov. 17. Around 8:40 p.m. Kaya Esther the patrol spotted a scooter driver driving without a helmet and with a defective taillight. The driver ignored the police stop sign and increased his speed. At a residence on Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez, the driver drove his scooter onto the property. The driver was cited for driving without a driver's license, insurance, a taillight, and a helmet, and for failing to obey a stop sign. The scooter was also impounded.

Nov. 15. Around 10:20 a.m. Car 1, traveling northbound on Kaya Nikiboko South collided with car 2, which was

parked alongside the road. The driver and passenger of car 2 were still in the vehicle at the time. The driver of car 1 indicated that he frequently felt unwell while driving and did not know exactly what had happened. His driver's license was confiscated at the request of the public prosecutor. A passenger in one of the cars required medical treatment at the scene by paramedics.

Nov. 14. At approximately 7:50 p.m. a patrol signaled a stop for an electric bicycle (fatbike) traveling an unusually high speed on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. Police discovered that the driver was underage. The bicycle was taken to the police station, where a roller test was used to determine the vehicle's speed. The test showed that the e-bike could exceed 30 km/h with the throttle engaged. Therefore the vehicle is legally considered a moped. A license plate and insurance are required for a moped, and the driver must have a driver's license or moped permit and wear a helmet. Since this was not the case, the driver was fined and the e-bike was confiscated. Because the driver is a minor, his parents will be invited to the police station for an interview.

From Nov. 17 to Nov. 26 police reported that seven drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Drivers who register a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis.

Police stopped two cars and one scooter because they were swerving on the road. One driver was coming from a prohibited direction and one was stopped for a routine check. One driver was driving without headlights, and another a vehicle with no tail lights.

Four driver's licenses were confiscated. One driver was fined for failing to produce a valid driver's license and insurance documents.

Speed checks

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

Nov. 14. A laser gun was used to measure the speed of approaching cars on Kaya Amsterdam where the speed limit is 40 km/h. Several vehicles were checked during the check, and two tickets were issued for exceeding the speed limit. The measured speed was between 40 and 70 km/h. One of the drivers was also fined for not wearing a seatbelt and for driving without valid insurance.

Public Order

Nov. 28. During the night a fight was reported on Kaya Korona near a restaurant. Upon arrival, it turned out that there was no fight. Two men stated that they had merely exchanged words and that there had been no fighting. During the investigation, police found a knife on the ground behind a wall. The knife was confiscated.

Nov. 18. Around 12 p.m. police received a report of vandalism on school grounds on Kaya Frater Odulfinus. Several students had set off fireworks in the restroom, completely destroying the toilet bowl. Police confiscated a 16-shot firework (cake) at the scene. The school has filed a report of vandalism.

Nov. 18. Around 9:50 a.m. the emergency dispatch center received a report of a boat carrying a person who had become unwell while snorkeling. She managed to swim back to the boat on her own, but shortly afterward, she became unresponsive, prompting resuscitation. The victim regained consciousness shortly thereafter. Upon arrival on shore, the victim was treated by paramedics and taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

Nov. 18. Around 8:30 a.m. an explosion at a diving school on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham was reported. When the police arrived, the paramedics were already treating two victims who had suffered burns from the explosion that occurred while diving tanks were being filled. Three victims were taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The fire department also arrived on scene for a further inspection of the diving school.

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2025 Cruise Ship Schedule			
DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. December 3	7000-2000	AIDAMAR 2686 guests	North
	0830-1700	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Fri. December 4	1330-1900	STAR CLIPPER 180 guests	North
Sat. December 5	0700-2300	SILVER SHADOW 388 guests	North
	0800-1700	KONINGS DAM 3152 guests	South
Sun. December 6	0730-1800	SEABOURN OVATION 638 guests	North
	0800-2200	SEABOURN ENCORE 638 guests	South
Tues. December 9	0630-1800	RENAISSANCE 1623 guests	North
	0730-1800	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS 2496 guests	South
Wed. December 10	0630-2300	CRYSTAL SERENITY 740 guests	North
	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. December 11	0800-1700	MAJESTIC PRINCESS 4450 guests	South
Fri. December 12	8000-2000	COSTA DELIZIOSA 2826 guests	North
Sat. December 13	0600-1800	LE DUMONT D'URVILLE 184 guests	North
Sun. December 14	0700-2000	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 2076 guests	South
	0700-2300	SILVER SHADOW 388 guests	North
Mon. December 15	800-1800	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS 3622 guests	South
Tues. December 16	7000-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	North
	0830-1800	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Wed. December 17	8000-2000	AIDASOL 2686 guests	North

Letters & Opinions

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

Respect?

The Island Council has announced it will again debate the Dutch cabinet's announced revision of WolBES and FinBES, the laws that regulate the administrative and financial relationship between the BES islands and The Hague.

The basic issue, the Island and Executive bodies tell us, is the Dutch lack of respect. I agree. But perhaps each of us should ask ourselves what that means. Are the Dutch unwilling to loosen the WolBES and FinBES controls because they disrespect the people of Bonaire generally? Or do they only disrespect the current OLB's demonstrated incapacity for governance?

Don M Ricks

Recycling is for NOUGHT!

To Gov. Soliano, Secretary Marum, the Executive Council, Selibon and the citizens of Bonaire:

It is no secret that Selibon is broken and desperately needs fixing as evident from past Dutch interventions, FB postings, too frequent fires and obvious health issues. There is even worse news: All the recycling that people conscientiously do at their own time and expense is for NOUGHT!

I was in Hato on Saturday to recycle some plastic and metal and watch as all the separated bins were being loaded into a single 'packer' or garbage collection truck. I saw that I was unable to separately deposit my plastic and metal and was directed to throw it directly into the back of the truck with cardboard and other previously separated recyclables. I knew that this truck was destined just to dump the now combined recyclables directly into the landfill but I asked the OLB liaison to Selibon (Bart Rutten), if there was a sorting mechanism for single stream recycling. Typical to OLB when asked about something that they were doing wrong, I got no reply.

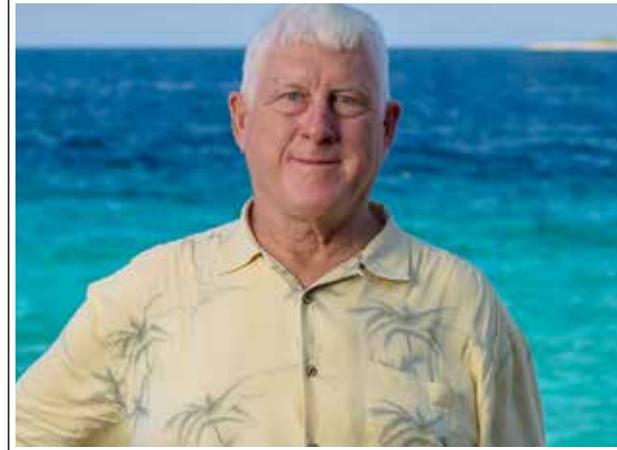
This is unacceptable under any circumstances. Single stream collection should be the most efficient and effective way to process waste, yet no talk from Selibon or the OLB has been heard proceeding in that direction. Further, to carry on encouraging civic minded people concerned for the welfare of Bonaire and the natural world to spend, time, energy and fuel to recycle for nothing, is desperately wrong on too many counts.

Please correct this heinous situation by making proper corrections to the waste processing on Bonaire so that the citizens can be safe in knowing that their best interest are taken first into account and the world is kept as natural as possible.

Charles M. Baltayan

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
I signed a purchase agreement to buy a property and just a few days before the scheduled closing date the seller told me and the notary that he doesn't want to sell anymore. What can I do? Thanks, Jane

Hi Jane,

I am sorry to hear that this can be a stressful situation but your purchase agreement should tell you what to do.

Generally, the procedure on Bonaire is as follows.

First you need to put the seller in default. This means sending a registered letter or email one day after the scheduled closing date, explaining to the seller that he is not fulfilling his obligation and give him eight days to go through with the sale.

If the seller still refuses after that time, you basically have two options:

1. Cancel the contract and claim the penalty as specified in the contract.

You can then enforce the purchase agreement. The seller becomes the negligent party and must pay you the penalty amount as specified in the purchase agreement. This is usually equal to the amount of the security deposit mentioned in your purchase agreement. You also have the right to claim any extra damages or costs you suffered because of the seller's default. If the seller refuses to forfeit the deposit or negotiate an alternative settlement then you may have to go to court.

2. You can go to court and ask the judge to enforce the penalty amount and your damages or, if you still want to buy the property, ask the court to enforce the sale. You ask the judge to order the seller to complete the sale. This can take time, but law generally respects that a signed purchase agreement is binding and enforceable. The judge can also award you damages or costs due to this delay.

The first step is always to send the default notice and then you can decide whether to cancel the contract or try to force the sale in court.

I hope this helps, Jane. If you have to go to court your lawyer can guide you through the next steps to protect your rights.

All the best, Bob

Bob Bartikoski,
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

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or
if you have a real estate question for Bob,
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Bonaire: +599-717-7362.
Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

BBC interviews Rijna on small island territories climate change

Mr. Edison Rijna, former governor of Bonaire and Special Envoy of the BES Islands for economic development to the U.N., was recently interviewed by BBC News while attending the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) at the COP30 Climate Change Conference. He talked about the extreme vulnerability of small island territories to climate change. He pointed out that the unique political status of these territories, being autonomous but not fully sovereign, often excludes them from accessing crucial international climate funds.

Rijna represents the Sub-National Island Jurisdiction (SNIJ) Coalition, an organization dedicated helping island governments remove finance barriers, accelerate climate action, and keep local priorities at the center of global decision-making at international forums like COP30.

The Special Envoy advocated for change in how global funds are allocated to ensure they reach these vulnerable communities. The European Union-funded Green Overseas (GO) Programme is a critical example of the kind of targeted support required, Rijna said. The organization provides technical assistance and funding to help Overseas Countries and Territories secure climate funds, build local capacity, and accelerate their transition toward clean energy and resilience. *DMR*



Time for dengue, Zika, and chikungunya precautions again



October rains have brought the annual warning from the Municipal Health Service (GGD) of Bonaire. It is again time for the public to take dengue, Zika, and chikungunya precautions. During the two dengue outbreaks in 2024 and 2025 more 900 people became ill.

People should remove the breeding places of the mosquitos that transmit these diseases. The Aedes aegypti mosquito lays its eggs in stagnant rainwater. Therefore uncovered objects containing rainwater, such as car tires, plastic containers, buckets, bottles, water troughs, rain

barrels, even saucers under planters are known breeding places. In 2025, the Municipal Health Service (GGD) vector control team visited hundreds of homes with dengue fever. Aedes larvae were found in objects around the house at 13% of them.

The mosquito is most active early in the morning or late in the afternoon. GGD recommends people use a spray or ointment containing DEET to keep mosquitoes away. They should wear clothing that covers their body well. They should screen windows and doors or sleep under mosquito nets.

Bonaire has not had an outbreak of chikungunya since the one in 2015. This year however, for the first time in a long time, cases of chikungunya have been reported in Cuba and Barbados. Outbreaks of chikungunya have also been reported in Asia and Europe. The GGD advises travelers to islands or countries with chikungunya, dengue, or Zika to take extra precautions against mosquito bites. *DMR*

Tackling the inequality between Caribbean and European Netherlands

The National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR) reflects with great satisfaction and gratitude on the successful conference “Bridging Distances, Redefining Equality,” Held November 27 at the Van der Valk Plaza Hotel on Bonaire, the conference brought together policymakers, administrators, civil society organizations and residents from both the Caribbean Netherlands and the European Netherlands for an in-depth exploration of the structural inequalities within the Kingdom.

Sessions addressed topics such as livelihood security, education, healthcare, connectivity and infrastructure. It was widely recognized that the inequalities experienced by the inhabitants of the islands are the result of historical relationships and long-term administrative choices. As the National Ombudsman, Reinier van Zutphen, said: ‘Equal, not equivalent. I’ve had enough of comply or explain. It’s simply comply!’

Many of the challenges on the islands reinforce each other. Conference attendees called for integrated policy agendas linking education, healthcare, infrastructure and socio-economic development. Those present emphasized that these problems cannot be addressed separately but require an integrated approach in which policy areas are better coordinated. Improving the physical and social connection between the islands and the European Netherlands was considered a crucial prerequisite.

In addition, the importance of the voice of residents and local organizations was underlined. Policymaking must take place in close cooperation with the commu-



nity and not be imposed. Areas of improvement were seen to be:

- **Investments in infrastructure**, including transport, digital connectivity and logistics facilities, are necessary to increase opportunities and combat exclusion.
- **For education**, progression opportunities must be improved and multilingualism better supported.
- **Regarding healthcare**, improved access to specialist care and support for complex care.

The conference made it clear that the role of the

NCDR is essential as a connecting factor between government, organizations and residents. The NCDR will continue to gather signals, put them on the agenda and translate them into policy, thereby remaining an important driver of structural change. The urgency was widely shared during the conference: the existing inequalities are deep-rooted and have a direct impact on the daily lives of many residents. Those present expressed their desire for the measures discussed to be effectively developed and translated into tangible steps in the coming period. *NCDR release*

Piskabon tackles tough issues on World Fisheries Day



(L-R) GCFI 2025 delegates: Jan Emerenciana, Sander Van Lopic, Irvin Anthonij, Blanca Mora Restrepo, Nancy Persad, Johan Soleana, Elizabeth Fullerton, Edwin Domacassé, Alex Martis and Ernest de Lanoy

Piskabon celebrated World Fisheries Day, November 26, with a member meeting to discuss concerns in the fishing community.

Heading up the meeting was Piskabon Chair Ernest Martin De Lanoy. He explained there was little news regarding the slipways and renovations of the wharf at Playa Pabou. Representatives from R&O hold the answers to the present state on these issues. They were invited by email, phone and WhatsApp to join the meeting but there was no response. Piskabon will now send an official letter requesting updates as the slipways and wharf are direly needed by the fishers.

In recent years Piskabon has employed the use of FADS, (Fish Aggregating Devices) to assist the catch of fishers that is offshore away from the reef. Currently there are no official FADS in the water. They were lost

due to strong currents or the plastic fishing lines cut the ropes from boats fishing too close. Typical lifespan of a FAD is around seven months. Two fishers became upset during the meeting regarding the lack of FADS because they have to travel to Curaçao to fish their FADS.

De Lanoy explained that Piskabon is working to replace the FADS with leftover funding. But, the process takes time with certain levels of compliance, a permit and is difficult with limited resources. OLB, is responsible for this project funding, but they have failed to respond to Piskabon’s request for the FAD revenue. Although invited, OLB was not present at the meeting.

Piskabon attended the GCFI conference, October 27-31 in Cartagena, Colombia with a delegation of 10: Jan Emerenciana/ Board member Piskabon/ Professional Fisherfolk, Sander Van Lopic/ Roffareefs, Irvin An-

thonij/ Board member Piskabon, Blanca Mora Restrepo/ Professional Fisherfolk, Nancy Persad/ Management Assistant Piskabon, Johan Soleana/ Board member Piskabon/ Professional Fisherfolk, Elizabeth Fullerton/ Climate Resilience Project Coordinator STINAPA, Edwin Domacassé/ Chief Ranger STINAPA, Alex Martis/ Professional Fisherfolk and Ernest de Lanoy/ Chair Piskabon.

Sander Van Lopic explained the work being done at Roffareefs fish hatchery system to safeguard and restore coral reef ecosystems and their collaboration with Piskabon. Elizabeth Fullerton reported adaptive management approaches are necessary to contend with the impact of climate change on ocean ecosystems.

The 2026 GCFI will be held in Curaçao November 2–6 and all are welcome to join the experience.

Executive Council must submit valid budget or stop spending

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Eddie van Marum has sent a letter to the Executive Council and the Island Council. He warned the Executive Council that it must provide documentation that proves its 2026 budget is realistic by December 23. If the Executive Body fails to meet the deadline it will be restricted to making expenditures which have been approved by the Ministry only.

Van Marum’s letter revealed that promised improvements to financial management have not been achieved by former Commissioner of Finance Clark Abraham and his successor, Anthony Weber, despite repeated warnings from the Financial Supervision Council (CBF) that the budget was flawed. The minister said that structural changes in financial management are needed and his ministry wants to help. He stipulated that “progress must be visible and verifiable, including in the quality and timeliness of the budget documents.”

In a public response to the Cft warning, Weber was dismissive. He said the submitted budget lacked only one table (the breakdown of income and expenses at function level) and its a textual explanation, and the lapse could be easily corrected before the deadline. DMR

DMR (Kingdom Relations Dossier)

Bonaire owes the Dutch \$100 million in unspent subsidies

One primary function of government is to wisely spend the public’s money on the public’s behalf. But according to the Financial Supervision Council (Cft), Bonaire’s public body (OLB) has banked almost one hundred million dollars (and counting) in government subsidies that it has failed to spend, despite repeated warning from the Cft. The European Netherlands can reclaim those funds to its own treasury.

“Bonaire must make stable governance and strengthening implementation capacity across the entire organization a top priority,” the Cft declared during a presentation to the Executive Council and Island Council. Bonaire’s implementation capacity is inadequate in almost all areas.” It cited stable governance, clear decision-making processes, and sound financial management as essential requirements.

The Cft praised Sint Eustatius and Saba for the progress they have made in getting their financial management under control.

State Secretary Eddie van Marum has informed Parliament that his annual financial reports on the BES will no longer cover just subsidy payments. He will now provide an Overview of Finances for each island. DMR

DMR

Every bank account in BES is insured

De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) has launched a public campaign to reassure residents and entrepreneurs on Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba that their accounts and savings are safe from bank failure at all banks established on the islands. Every single account is insured up to \$25,000 if the bank goes bankrupt. And reimbursements would be paid automatically. No one would have to apply. DMR

Planes no longer flying in or out of Venezuela

International air service to Venezuela has shut down as a result of the US military actions in the southern Caribbean. US forces are attacking random vessels suspected of drug trafficking.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) warned the airlines of the dangerous situation. They responded by canceling flights to Venezuela. The Maduro government reacted by warning the airlines they would lose their flight permits if they failed to resume service within 48 hours. Either way, the airplane won’t be flying.

TAP from Portugal, Avianca from Colombia, Iberia from Spain, Gol from Brazil, Air Europa, and Plus Ultra are no longer serving Venezuela as of Monday, November 24.

Trump trumpeted that the shutdown was his idea. DMR

Rural growth outpacing WEB water delivery capacity

WEB delivers water intended for household use to rural sites by tanker truck. In the past WEB could deliver enough for farming use too. But the rapid growth in housing, tourism, and industry in outlying area is overwhelming WEB’s delivery capacity.

WEB delivers water to 268 rural locations using three trucks. Its delivery capacity is 79 cubic meters per day. WEB tries to ensure that every rural location receives at least 3 – 6 cubic meters per week for household use.

People living in larger rural homes tend to be heavy users who may not be accustomed to conserving. Swimming pools, with their evaporation and need for clean refills, put additional demands on WEB.

At the same time, the government is encouraging growth in agricultural productivity on the island. WEB is expected to supply that increase in usage too. DMR

DMR

No bus service, but Bonaire will get a spatial principle

In an initial memorandum the Executive Council has announced the pending establishment of a new government-owned company that will implement its “10-Minute Bario Concept.” The concept involves “a spatial principle whereby residents have access to their daily amenities (shops, work, education, healthcare, sports, culture, and green spaces) within a ten-minute walk or bike ride.”

The company’s purpose will be “to realize and safeguard the strategic objectives of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) on Bonaire for livable, sustainable, and inclusive development and a connected and vibrant community, through the principle of Integrated Development. The main objective is to achieve: Free to go, connected to stay Bonaire.”

The memorandum appears to be a response to complaints that Bonaireans need public transit. DMR

November brings rain and flooded streets

The seasonal rainy weather has returned, with predictable results, Bonaire.nu reports. Downtown Kralendijk does not drain well. The pot holes that were patched on main routes such as Kaya Industria, Kaminda Nikiboko South and Kaminda Sorobon are reappearing. Many of the new residential areas are not paved yet. Some of those roads have turned to mud.

This week Bonaire.nu pointed out the government previously announced that sixteen million euros were reserved for infrastructure improvements between 2025 and 2028, but the island government doesn’t seem to be spending the money. Bonaire.nu also reports that Deputy Clark Abraham, who assumed responsibility for infrastructure in August following the departure of Anjelica Cicilia, can no longer be reached for questions from the press. He appears only in interviews with local media in Papiamentu. DMR



OLB and Dutch sign development agreement

The Public Entity of Bonaire and the Dutch government have signed a Bonaire Regional Deal “to assure strong and future-proof development for the island.” The partnership will invest €13 million in three projects intended to improve the island’s livability, accessibility, and self-reliance:

- **A Multi-functional Center** will be built to provide a central location for economic development, culture, talent development, education, events, and meetings.
- **A container depot** will be constructed at the port.
- **Solar panels** will be installed at the primary schools. DMR

BOPEC becomes CBET

To celebrate the final phase of acquisition for Bopec by Curoil Bonaire Energy Terminal NV (CBET) on September 30, 2025, a ceremony was held November 24 at Eden Beach to pass over a symbolic key.

A blues/jazz band from Curaçao set the mood for an energetic atmosphere and drinks and appetizers were passed around prior to the handover.

Since 2016, Bopec has had years of uncertainty with maintenance, safety and operational problems, financial difficulties, bankruptcy and receivership. In the future CBET will offer petroleum product storage, blending and bunkering services for ships and more. But first CBET says their responsibility is to restore the property and cleanup the tanks along with a commitment to safety and service to benefit Bonaire for generations.

Many of the tanks still hold oil which will be cleaned and double checked to see if the quality of the fuel is usable. If viable, it can be resold or used for blending purposes as a custom fuel oil for certain clients. If not, it can be sold as sludge.

Dr. Yanil Lasten, CEO of CBET, laid out the future plans in a timeline from 2026 to 2036.
 Phase 0—currently; 1.4 million barrels
 Phase 1—2026-2030; 2.8 million barrels
 Phase 2—2031-2035; 6 million barrels
 End result 10.1 million barrels

In addition to fuel storage, blending and bunkering, CBET is analyzing renewable energy initiatives with a 160 hectare solar field on the south side of the property. They are currently discussing the solar field as a joint collaboration with Contour Global and WEB. More details are expected in 2026. On the north end of the property a recycling venture is being discussed with Selibon. The venture is not an offloading of refuse but a recycling venture for metal and plastics, and not only with Selibon but for other companies.

Regarding the moving of fuel, CBET hopes to eliminate trucks on the roads but instead run a pipeline from the property to

Contour Global. A development plan is in the works and talks are underway regarding environmental impact. CBET says a pipeline would be more efficient and engineers are working on what is feasible.

Looking to the future, CBET plans to be a full service energy terminal supplying fuel oil, crude, gas oil/diesel and non-oxy mogas /naptha to the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Asia and the US Gulf Coast.

At the end of Lasten's presentation he thanked OLB and other Bonaire agencies, Government of Curaçao, Board of Commissioners of Curoil and invited com-

missioner Clark Abraham to the stage to wish CBET success. On behalf of Bopec, curator Arnout Schennink gave a large symbolic key for the Bopec terminal to Lasten to make the handover official. The ceremony was followed by a toast and fireworks.

During Bopec's prime, some 500 people were employed. When it finally closed, 26 workers remained who then lost their jobs. Today 24 of the 26 have been rehired, the other two retired. Due to modernization, technology and efficiency, the days of hundreds of employees is past, but CBET expects to employ approximately 90 individuals in Phase one and 150 during the future expansions.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



Acting Bopec curator Arnout Schennink hands over the symbolic key to Dr. Yanil Lasten, CEO of CBET with commissioner Clark Abraham looking on.



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Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru recognized as major achievement

Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru has been nominated for the BID Award for “Most Positive Government Organization of the Year.” The previous library has been described as “tucked away in a dilapidated former supermarket with a paltry inventory of worn, dog-eared books.” When Nina den Heyer became the deputy for “Society and Care” in 2019, she decided to rescue the library. Funding proved hard to come by, but she persisted as did a few key volunteers.

In March a brand new library, directed by Jennifer Pocornie, opened in Kralendijk. Reportedly “it has ample space and resources to grow into a community library for reading, learning, discovering, inspiring, and connecting.”

Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru is competing against eight European Dutch organizations for the BID award. The winner is chosen 50% by a professional jury and 50% by the public. The results will be announced on January 20th during Big Improvement Day. That is when top government and business leaders gather annually to celebrate positive initiatives. “Positivity, creativity, and innovation are paramount at the Big Improvement Days because they impact society in a positive and lasting way” the organizers say. The BID Awards were created to celebrate pride and successes for positive achievements in a world dominated by crises. *DMR Photo Julie Morgan*



Vote here for our library: <https://www.bidawards.nl>

Bonaire Super Mega Store opens



After two years of planning and implementation by Manu Sawilani and local director Manesh Khusalani, the Bonaire Super Mega Store opened on November 24. The expansion is 7000m2, which is triple the size of the old building. Over half of the two-story Mega building will be for sales while the remainder will be for a warehouse of goods.

The new Mega Store is an investment of \$8.5 million dollars in building, equipment and furnishings with an

additional \$4.5 million in inventory.

An impressive feature of the building is the 1000 solar panels making the building energy independent and more environmental.

Manesh told us the old building will remain open selling goods alongside the Mega Store for now, but in the future, it will be refurbished and joined to the new building by a walkway.

The Super Mega Store has doubled its employees from 30 to 65 providing work for more Bonaireans.

Manesh said, “The Mega store is totally different with more brands, hardware, exclusive home furnishings with more space to walk, better cooling and better organized. We will maintain our philosophy of selling good quality at low prices.”

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



Shelter Christmas Market

The Animal Shelter Christmas Market was a great success. It was a wonderful and cozy day. Thanks to everyone who visited the market, we raised an amazing total of \$1,249.

We would also like to thank all the stall holders for being there. With a fun variety of products and activities, it was truly a fantastic market. Occupying the stalls were: • Bonaire Dushi, • Siermarmoza, and • Lionfish Jewelry. Regina (Animal Shelter) sold second hand clothing and Christmas items, • Pakus di Pruga, (Animal Shelter) offered pet supplies, • Sylvia sold baby and kids items, • Eve Bohlin sold jewelry & clothing and •Yannie and Joy displayed local art and animal photos.

The food stands were kept busy curbing everyone's appetites while they shopped and visited the Shelter's cats and dogs. There was food while you wait at Mama Anneke's Kitchen. Sweet treats including hot chocolate, cakes, cookies and waffles with sweet topping were prepared right before your eyes, and great products were available to take home from the Island Preserve Company.

We also held a coloring contest, with prizes generously sponsored by Something Sweet, Gio's Bonaire, Biblioteka Boneiru, and Bonaire Affair. Congratulations to our grand winner of the contest, Vione. And many of the kid volunteers received a Christmas themed face painting. Many thanks to all of our sponsors.

Our Christmas Market is participating in the Christmas Challenge by Stichting DierenLot, which means that the amount we raised will be doubled to \$2498 and that will help our resident cats and dogs quite a bit. Masha Danki Stichting Dierenlot!

*Story Marissa Lammera
Photos Julie Morgan*

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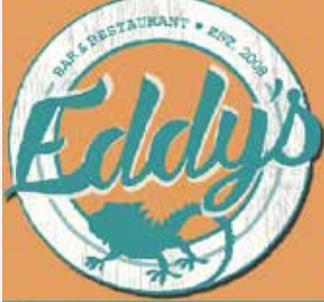
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Feria di Koriente held for second year

The second edition of the Feria di Koriente (Energy Fair) was held on Saturday, November 22. Several local businesses were represented, including Kooyman, Blue Sky Solar, Dynaf, Akkermans Auto Supplies, and Qredits. The Directorate for Community and Care was present to inform visitors about the energy surcharge.

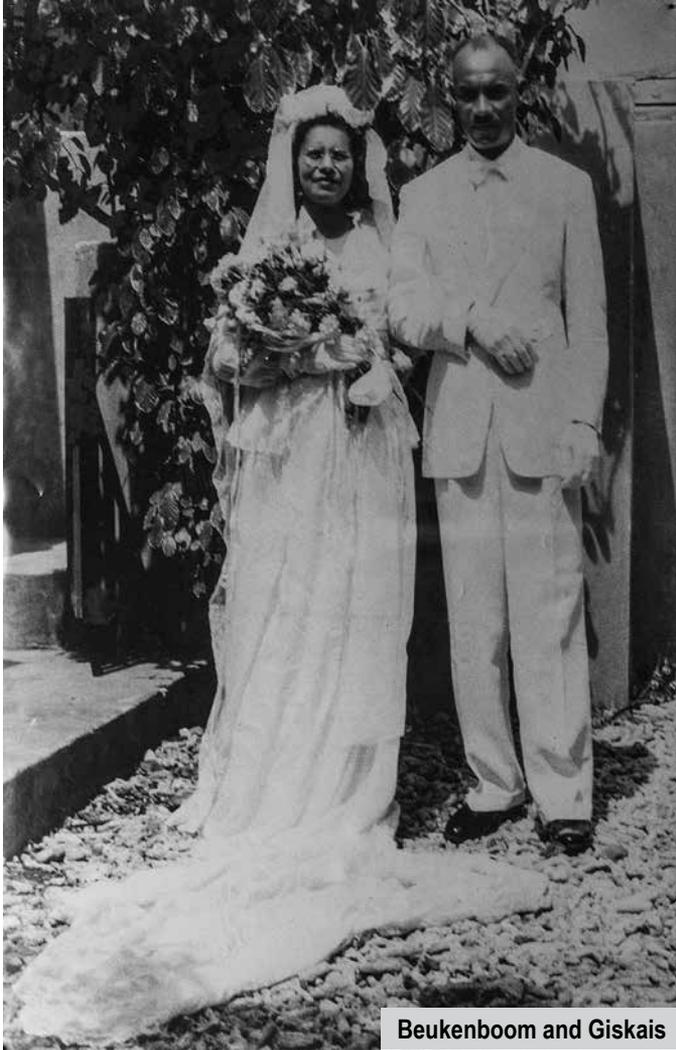
The Feria di Koriente is part of the “You’ve Got the Power” project, an initiative of the Department of Community and Care to help people consume less electricity and thus reduce their costs.

Interested parties visited the stands to learn more about efficient use of energy.

During the evening, prizes were raffled off: air conditioners, washing machines, refrigerators, and a solar panel installation.

Project coordinator David Lee Winklaar said, “As a community, we have no influence on the electricity price, but we can choose practical ways to reduce our consumption. That’s why we want to raise awareness in our community with activities like these.”

The Department of Community and Care would like to thank all the companies that participated in the Feria di Koriente. *OLB release.*



Beukenboom and Giskais

Surinamese Wedding Portraits

The Terramar Museum in Bonaire will open the exhibition “Surinamese Wedding Portraits” on November 25, 2025, from 12:00 to 18:00, co-curated by Lucia Nankoe. The exhibition showcases how Surinamese wedding photography has, over the years, told stories of love, culture, and community.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Terramar Museum, the Wi Na Wan Foun-

ation, and the Public Library Bonaire.

Do you have a beautiful wedding photo with a Surinamese story? Send a scan (.jpg/.jpeg) to surinaamse.trouwportretten@gmail.com, including the names, date, location, and a brief description. The photo may be used for the exhibition and possibly later for a publication.



Esther Groenewoud of Blue Sky Solar speaks to a visitor at the Energy Fair. Read more about Blue Sky Solar in the Reporter’s online archives, Issue 2025-16. <https://bonairereporter.com/backissues.html> Photo via OLB

Creating Optimal Health Top energy levels at 60 plus by Irene da Cunda Costa

Staying energized after 60 is absolutely achievable. While aging brings natural changes—slower metabolism, shifts in hormones and reduced muscle mass. But your vitality can remain strong with the right habits, and a holistic approach that includes movement, nutrition, sleep, stress management, targeted supplements and when appropriate, hormone support.

Regular physical activity is one of the most effective ways to increase energy. Aerobic exercise enhances circulation and oxygen delivery, while strength training maintains muscle mass and stability—both essential for avoiding fatigue and to keep mental clarity.

Women benefit from weight-bearing exercises to support bone health after menopause, while men may notice improvements in energy and metabolism as they counteract age-related declines in testosterone and muscle mass.

Nutrition plays a central role in keeping energy levels stable. Focus on meals that include lean proteins to maintain muscle, whole grains for sustained fuel, healthy fats (olive oil, nuts, avocado) for

brain function and colorful vegetables for antioxidants and minerals

Women may want to emphasize calcium and vitamin D-rich foods for bone strength, while men often benefit from moderating sodium and red meat to support cardiovascular health.

Sleep patterns often shift with age due to hormonal changes, medical conditions, or medications. Better sleep improves mood, cognitive clarity and daytime vitality.

Helpful habits include keeping a predictable bedtime, reducing screen time before bed and maintaining a cool, dark room. Women may face sleep disruption from menopausal symptoms, while men may experience nighttime issues linked to prostate changes or sleep apnea. Persistent challenges are worth discussing with a healthcare provider.

Chronic stress drains energy at any age, but its effects can intensify after 60. Practices like meditation, deep breathing, tai chi and gentle yoga help calm the nervous system. Social interaction is equally important, staying connected

reduces emotional strain and maintains mental sharpness.

Supplements can support energy but should fill specific gaps rather than replace healthy habits. Common options for 60+ adults include: Vitamin B12 for cognitive and energy support, Vitamin D for bone strength, mood, and muscle function, Magnesium for sleep, relaxation, and cellular energy, Omega-3s for brain, joint, and heart health, CoQ10 to support cellular energy, especially for those on statins and protein powders to help preserve muscle mass.

Some herbs, such as ashwagandha or rhodiola, are used for stress resilience, though they should be taken only with professional guidance. A personalized approach based on symptoms, diet and lab results is always best.

For many women, declining estrogen and progesterone levels can contribute to fatigue, sleep disruption, mood changes and reduced vitality. Hormone replacement therapy benefits often include improved sleep, reduced hot flashes, better mood and enhanced physical comfort—all of which indirectly support energy.

Women also produce testosterone, and levels decline significantly with age starting around 35. Testosterone plays a role in energy, strength, libido, mental clarity and motivation. It can be beneficial for women with persistent fatigue, reduced strength, brain fog or low sexual desire. Any kind of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) should be used under medical supervision.

With a foundation of movement, smart nutrition, restful sleep, emotional balance and personalized medical support when needed, adults over 60 can enjoy vibrant energy and strong daily function. Age may bring changes, but vitality can absolutely remain within your control.



Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life

Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

Reef Glimpses - Arrow Crabs by Dee Scarr

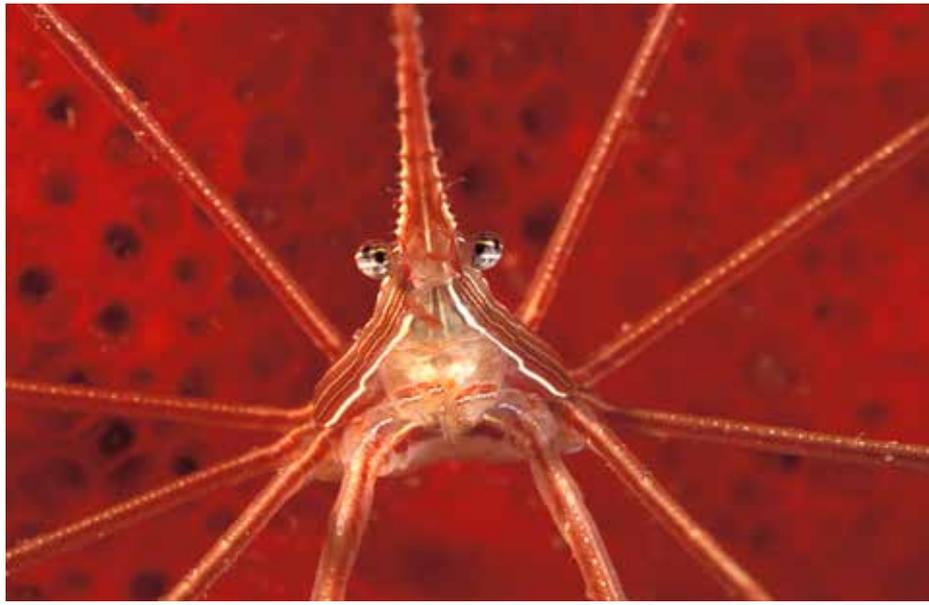
Scientific names always seem so mysterious, don't they?

What we call an arrow crab, or a yellowlined arrow crab, or even occasionally an arrowhead crab, has only one scientific name: *Stenorhynchus seticornis*. In order to solve the scientific name mystery, I looked up the translation of *Stenorhynchus seticornis*. Here's what I found: Although *seticornis* was universally translated as "bristly horn", *Stenorhynchus* was variously translated as narrow or straight snout or beak.

There are three other *Stenorhynchus* crab species, all apparently called arrow crabs, and all of whom live in relatively warm waters. Interestingly, however, none live in tropical Pacific dive destinations such as the Great Barrier Reef, Fiji, or Vanuatu.

So nyah nyah nyah Papua New Guinea, you'll have to come to the Caribbean, or here in the warm Western Atlantic, for your best look at arrow crabs. They're just like their scientific name, with a teardrop-shaped body beginning (or ending) with a long, straight, bristly central rostrum/beak/pointy thing protruding upward. Even their eyes are striped! Their colors include yellow, black, and white, and a close look usually reveals bristles on the rostrum and even the legs.

Most crabs are pretty shy. When they see a diver they often scurry into a den



"Only a close look reveals this crab's droll expression -- and that it seems to be cross-eyed."
Photo Julie Morgan

or beneath the sand or an anemone's tentacles. Not so the arrow crabs. Look at them, and they look right back at you! With their eyes on stalks on either side of the rostrum, and their mouths located near the bottom of the "teardrop," arrow crabs often seem to have very human-like faces (but without noses). In the olden days of extension-tube-and-framer close-up photography it was difficult to photograph an arrow crab's expression, but today's digital cameras, and of course our own eyes, erase that difficulty. Take a close look at an arrow crab on your next dive, and you may see some very entertaining expressions.

cleaners; I've had them clean my fingers more than once. They can grab planktonic critters out of the water, or they may munch on algae. At night they're much more active. That's when they climb on top of live or dead corals and sea fans, excellent vantage points for grabbing planktonic critters but not safe in daylight. At night is also when you may see a bright, shiny new arrow crab very close to what looks like a ghost arrow crab, one with a cloudy, dull shell. It's fun to realize that the bright crab has just molted, and the ghost crab is its discarded shell.

Even more fun is witnessing the actual molt, which I've been able to do only once. The molting crab's body is soft, and its legs curve noticeably as they're hauled, one at a time, out of their old shell. Imagine a ten-legged soft-boned person taking off a tight wetsuit, in the water, and you've sort of got the picture.

How many arrow crabs will you see on your next dive?

Before you can take a close look at an arrow crab you've got to find an arrow crab, so what are the best places to look? They like crevices, they like crevices near anemones, especially anemones hosting cleaner stations. Sometimes arrow crabs even hang around cleaner stations that don't have anemones. They can be among the rocks on our calm shorelines, or on pier pilings, or on the reef slope in any kind of cover.

It's always some kind of cover, though, because the arrow crab's personal defenses are weak: their shells aren't particularly thick, and their little, tiny claws are useless for defense against, for example, a Spanish hogfish or a coney. On the other hand, their skinny legs and small body don't offer much in the way of a meal, so things balance out.

In the daytime, arrow crabs let food come to them. They occasionally join their local

Scarr's accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don's Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award ("the Emmy of the diving world") in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.



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Grab a large glass and fill it with all your favorite Sinterklaas sweets. Break them into bite-sized pieces so you can easily eat them while reading the poems and unwrapping the presents.

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.



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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.

Animal Shelter's 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).

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).

Divers Drink & Dance Date Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Last Wednesday of the month. 5 - 9 p.m. Not held in December. Beginning again 2026. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

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. In Dec. held early: Dec 16. 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

Museum Night, Terramar museum. Free access to galleries. Last Wednesday of the month. From 6 to 8 p.m., visitors are welcomed into a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy the galleries after hours and join a themed workshop (pay what you can).

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.

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.



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: Dec 8th - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; Dec 15th - TBC Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](#)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire. 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 Waya Bo Man on the [Youtube channel of Public Body Bonaire.](#)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

Nov. 25– Feb 17, 2026	Surinamese Wedding Portraits.Terramar Museum Exhibit: Do you have a Surinamese wedding photo to add? Send a scan (.jpg/.jpeg) to surinaamse.trouwporetten@gmail.com , with names, date, location, and a brief description. See page 15.
Saturday, Dec 6	Volunteer Festival at the Bonaire Public Library: Everyone is welcome, even if you're not a volunteer (yet!). 4- 7 p.m. Register via the QR code. See page 17.
Weekend Dec 6 & 7	Tennis Federation Championship, singles and doubles: Information and registration until Nov. 22 via info@bonairetennisassociation.com or WhatsApp 599 782 4569, Eva, Astrid, Peter, and Paul
Dec. 13– Jan 31, 2026	Art exhibit: The Joy of Creation. Henk Roozendaal & Jose Smit: SACA Art Center, Kaya Korona 74 Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2-5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 14	Christmas Kids Market. Bonaire's young, talented entrepreneurs sell their products from 6 to 9 p.m. at Parke Isidel. Come, and enjoy the music and performances by young artists. (organized by TCB & Wedoe) Christmas Concert. Classical Music Board Bonaire. San Luis Beltran Church in Rincon. 7-9 p.m. \$10. Tickets at: Del Mar Bookstore, Lisa Convenience Store, Rincon Gas Station
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Fish ID course. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Held one week early in December. Check: https://www.reef.org/events/month
Friday, Dec. 19	Christmas Shopping Night & Taste of Bonaire: 6 - 11 p.m. Kaya Grandi and Center Area. Shops, music, food, dance performance, fashion show. Christmas parade 7 p.m. from Stadion di Playa, through Kaya Grandi. See page 15.
Sunday, Dec. 21	Christmas art market kvk - At Corallium Hotel with 25 artists Christmas Concert. Classical Music Board Bonaire. Plaza Beach Resort. 7 -9 p.m. \$35. Tickets at: Del Mar Bookstore, Lisa Convenience Store, Rincon Gas Station
Thursday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day. A legal holiday. Much closes including Washington Slagbaai National Park and supermarkets.
Friday, Dec. 26	Boxing Day. A legal holiday. Much closes. Because cruise ships are in port, the shops in the city center and at Wilhelminapark focused on the sale of tourist articles will be open (between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.)
Saturday, Dec. 27	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/
Wednesday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Fireworks. The Island celebrates with fireworks. Some hotels throw special parties.
2026	
Thursday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day. A legal holiday. Much closes including Washington Slagbaai National Park and supermarkets.
Sunday, Feb. 1	Ride for the Roses, Fight against cancer. Isidel Beach Park. Ride/Swim/Walk. See page 17. https://www.ridefortheroses.org

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

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, Dec. 7	STCB Fishing line clean-up at North Pier Meet at Dive Inn before 9 a.m. dive time for the briefing and a free tank. Bring your C-Card, Marine Park tag, shears/line cutter and mesh bag. Email cepa@bonaireturtles.org to join.
Sunday, Dec. 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Featuring many local artists
Come join us!

Misa San Luis Beltran Rincon
Sunday December 14, 7-9PM \$10

Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire
Sunday December 21, 7-9PM \$35

Tickets available at:
• Del Mar Bookstore
• Lisa Convenience Store
• Rincon Gas Station

A Special Thank You to our sponsors!



Christmas Concerts in Rincon and Kralendijk

On Sunday evening, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. we'll feel the Christmas spirit with a concert in the charming San Luis Beltran Church in Rincon. There, we'll enjoy beautiful music in a festive atmosphere, featuring well-known artists from our island: Luis Moka, Francis Domacassé & friends, Bradley Howard, Tiger Frans, Alan Bowen, Claudia Cassier, Marian Passchier and Hans Faassen, Franklin Scherptong, and Rolando Casimiri. With singing, piano, kuarta, violin, percussion, organ, saxophone and other instruments. A group of children from the Leerorkest and other young artists will also perform and sing for us. All under the skillful direction of Claudia Cassier.

The second opportunity to enjoy this beautiful music is on Sunday, December 21st, during the gala concert at the Plaza Hotel, also at 7 p.m. Dressed in festive attire, we'll enjoy the music and a free drink during the intermission.

Tickets for the concert in Rincon cost \$10, and for the gala concert at the Plaza Hotel, they cost \$35. They are available at Libreria Delmar, Lisa Convenience Store, and, for the concert in Rincon, also at the gas station in Rincon.

See you in Playa

Christmas Shopping Night Taste of Bonaire

Tourism Corporation Bonaire's Christmas Shopping Night and Taste of Bonaire will take place on Friday, December 19th, from 6 – 11 p.m. in Kaya Grandi and the Centrumgebied. Kaya Grandi will be closed to traffic, so you can stroll and shop while enjoying the festive Christmas atmosphere. Children can have their photo taken with Santa Claus.

Musical groups will play at different locations in Kaya Grandi and the park: Gaita Krioyo Legends, Jom Gaiteros, Grupo Sababa and DJ Kiart. Additionally, there will be a fashion show by Bonaire Model Agency and a dance performance by SPAB.

Tents will sell delicious Christmas traditions such as 'ayaka', 'oliebollen,' Christmas crafts, and much more from Marshe di Playa and Bonaire Cruise Market. At 7 p.m. the Christmas parade starts at the Stadion di Playa, then passes through Kaya Grandi, and ending at the Stadion di Playa.



Public Service Events

KvK Board elections for board members. Fri. Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce. The names of the nine candidates are listed on the [Chamber's facebook page](#).

Be careful at LAC On Dec. 1, 2, 4 and 5 Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is studying the sea turtles that live in Lac Bay. Please stay clear of the 200-meter net in the water near the STCB boat and the volunteers who are swimming along side the net.

BSN pick-up weeks finish Dec. 4 The BSN is your unique, personal number. Getting it now to take care of government business online in the future. Pick up your BSN letter Wed. or Thurs. at: • Office Directorate of Community and Care, Kaya Neerlandia 41, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. **OR** • Sociedad San Antonio de Padua, Kaya Rincon 66 Mon. to Thurs. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Proof of identity required (ID. card, passport or driving licence.) After the pick-up weeks, the BSN can be requested from the Census Office.

Sexual Health Clinic By appointment. Phone or WhatsApp nurses at +599 790-7373. Locations of condom vending machines can be found on the Public Entity Bonaire website via (<https://bonairegov.com/inwoners/condoom-auteursmaat>).

Funds Available

WWF-NL's INNO-Fund provides small organizations with start up money for nature conservation projects on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten and St. Eustatius. The maximum subsidy is 10,000 euros per project. Applications can be submitted **no later than December 31, 2025** via the web page <https://www.wwf.nl/wat-we-doen/actueel/inno-fonds/aanvraag>

Funds to commemorate Slavery Past.

Organizations in Bonaire and Sint Maarten are invited to submit project ideas that commemorate the trans-Atlantic slavery past. The DNB grant program will provide € 500,000 for each island for projects that either:

- preserve historical heritage related to the slavery past,
- develop cultural educational programs to expand knowledge of this history,
- OR establish museum and cultural facilities that contribute to awareness and knowledge transfer to a broad audience.

Submitting proposals; Local organizations and cultural institutions on Bonaire and Sint Maarten may submit their project proposals **from November 19 to December 31, 2025** via info@cultuurfondscg.com. For more information about the conditions and the submission process, visit: www.cultuurfondscaribischgebied.com

Press release: Caribbean Culture Fund

NEW: Small-scale social initiatives for Slavery Past

A new subsidy for small-scale social initiatives for Slavery Past (from \$10,000 to \$25,000) is available to foundations and associations. Application periods are **from Dec. 1, 2025 to Jan. 12, 2026**, then again early in 2028.

The websites [Legacy to Future Funds](#) and [Uitvoering Van Beleid \(UVB\)](#) have information about the subsidy. A subsidy request can be submitted via the [subsidy portal](#) of UVB.

The projects have to benefit the descendants of enslaved people (community), such as gatherings or events that contribute to the healing of the slavery past, and education or art exhibitions and shows.



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire will host its final fishing line clean-up for 2025 at the North Pier on Sunday, December 7. Divers who wish to participate should meet at Dive Inn a little before the 9 a.m. dive time for the briefing and pick up a free tank compliments of Dive Friends. Don't forget to bring your C-Card, Marine Park tag, shears/line cutter and mesh bag. Email cepa@bonaireturtles.org if you would like to join. Photo Julie Morgan

The artists on the Kaminda di Arte

Participating this year were artists:

Lidune Ebberts: LIEB Ceramics & more, • Louise vd Zwaag, • Leslie van Valkenberg, • Suzanne Domenech (Studio Nice), • Loes Praagman: Aloha Bonaire, • Mimi Lichtenberg, • Nochi Coffee, • Babs Negelen, • Lize van de Ven, • José Smit, • Yves Abbink, • Hedy Voets, • Marthina Hernandez, • Mia (Vibra), • Malou: Omula design, • Saskia Vermeer, • Merel Bal, • Laurie Smith - InsPOURation Art by Laurie, • Sharon Bol (Meh goatware), • Genevieve Gougon, • Jozee Tjoa, • Emma Groeneveldt, • Maria Arboleda, • Felicia Schütte, • Hendrik Wuyts, • Brenda Bultema, • Babette Loos, • Carlos Ragael Porras Orozco, • Eric Cremers, • LiekStyles fashion, • Judmar MARZ Emerenciana, • Joeldrich Muzo, • Mr. Jackson, • Ilanos, • Shai Cicilia, • Adrie van de Ven, • Marloes Poots, • Artie de Vries, • Josephine Ebing, • Vanessa Peralta and • Andrea Villegas

*"To be an artist is to believe in life."
Henry Moore*

VOTE NOW

Bonaire has been nominated for 'Best Caribbean Island to visit' by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice travel awards.

Voting is open to the public for four weeks.

Voting begins on Monday, December 1st at noon EST and ends on Monday, December 29th at 11:59 am EST.

The top 10 winners, as ranked by USA TODAY 10 BEST readers, will be announced on Wed. January 7th at noon EST.

Voting can be done via this link:

<https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/bonaire/>

Also, Sebastian's Beach has been nominated for Best Caribbean Beach Bar.

Vote here:

<https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/best-caribbean-beach-bar/>

You are invited to a party for volunteers

On Saturday, Dec. 6, NGO Platform Bonaire will host a Volunteer Festival at the Bonaire Public Library. The festival is dedicated to celebrating the strength and commitment of the many volunteers who contribute daily to the Bonairean community.

The festival opens with music, food, and drinks in a lively festival atmosphere. A varied program will follow.

Volunteering helps young people discover their interests and talents and can guide them in choosing a career path.

Young caregivers are also very welcome. These young people, who take on important caregiving roles at home, demonstrate the strength and dedication of Bonaire's younger generation.

Everyone is welcome, even if you're not a volunteer (yet!)

Saturday, December 6 - 4 to 7 p.m.

Bonaire Public Library

Register via the QR code



Welcoming them home

Bonaire wins Team Of The Year and more

Most everyone has seen the news about the Bonaire Culinary Team's amazing win in Barbados at the CHTA Caribbean Taste of the Caribbean. For the first time ever, they were awarded Team of the Year.

If that wasn't enough, they won: Chef of the Year – Jake Kelkboom Sr Chef at Rum Runners; Pastry Chef of the Year – Elise Weerstand (pastry chef, owner of Sweeti Bakery and Blue Lagun Café); Bartender Second Place – Cristiaan Silva Aparicio (F&B manager at Delfins) and Third Place for the Junior Chef-Akeesha Cicilia. In addition Cristiaan Silva Aparicio won Best Non-Alcoholic Cocktail and Jake Kelkboom won the Andre Niederhauser Award for the Best Contemporary Caribbean Cuisine Dish.

Thank you to the Bonaire Team sponsors: BONHATA, Canarbo, Delfins, Harbour Town Real Estate, Joe's Restaurant, Pieterzs, Real Dutch Bakery, Rotary, Rum Runners and TCB. Other sponsors were: Best Cellars, Daily Catch, Flavio Meastroni Photography, Ingridiënts, Leanez, The Jungle, The View and The Wine Factory.



Team of the year (L-R) Chistian Silva Aparicio (F&B manager at Delfins), Akeesha Cicilia (Junior Chef), Jake Kelkboom (Sr Chef at Rum Runners), Bart Tholen, Elise Weerstand (pastry chef, owner of Sweeti Bakery and Blue Lagun Café) Story / Photo Julie Morgan



Miss Universe Bonaire

Miss Universe Bonaire Nicole Peiliker returned home from the Miss Universe competition in Thailand to a reception of an adoring crowd of family, friends and fans at Bonaire International Airport on November 29.

From October 31 to November 21, Nicole participated in the rigorous competition of photo shoots, cultural events, fashion shows, evening gown, swimsuit, national costume and question sessions to be named Miss Universe. Nicole, the oldest at 44, was one of 120 other women representing their countries.

Thank you, Nicole for representing Bonaire with poise, grace and beauty.

The pageant was wrought with controversy with several judges and contestants walking out of the competition claiming voting was rigged and the finalists were pre-selected due to business ties. And one contestant was injured and hospitalized.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Photo: Nicole is welcomed home with roses from Tourism Corporation Bonaire CEO Elesier Angel.

Leading for the Common Good: The Heart of Public Integrity

Part 2 by George Bernabela

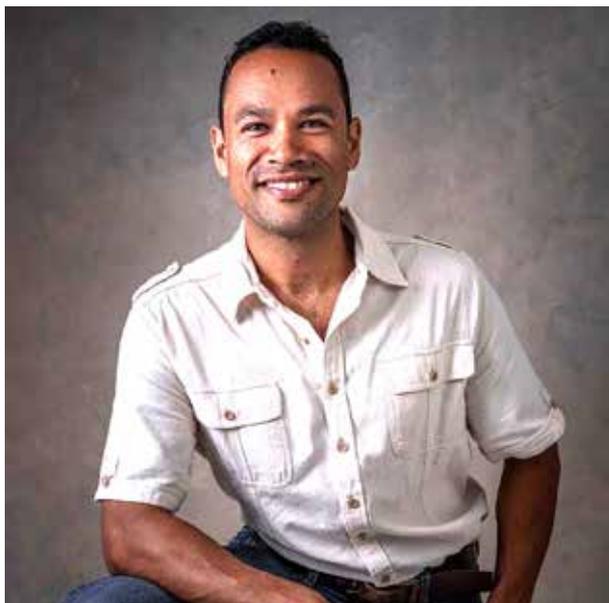
In private companies, success is held together by something simple and effective: self-interest. If the company does well, the owners do well. If it doesn't, they feel it and adjust.

Government works differently. A government exists to serve everyone and protect what is good for all: safety, public spaces, equal treatment, health, fairness in how decisions are made. Money comes from mandatory taxes, not from earning. Those who spend public money do not have to generate it first. So that natural feedback loop that pushes a system to stay on target is largely absent.

The real puzzle is that the public interest has no owner. Benefits are shared, consequences are diffused, and much of the hard work remains invisible. And since it belongs to all of us, few feel it as their personal responsibility.

When no one feels personally responsible for guarding the common good, drift is close. Someone will always try to pull the system toward their own interest. This makes the public organization vulnerable.

Rules can offer reinforcement and slow that drift, but only to a point, especially on our small island where personal relationships shape everyday work. Research has shown that too much external control tends to weaken people on the inside. Rules and incentives help, but when they dominate, people start working for appearances instead of truth.



Bernabela was an integrity coordinator at the Public Entity Bonaire, where he discovered his roots as an island child. He then founded Governments & People in Integrity to strengthen integrity with a people-oriented, practice-based approach.

The solution is not more rules. But enough people who consciously hold the common good at their own center.

This is where leadership enters. Leadership - not rules - is the link between what the organization must achieve and how it must act to achieve it. In a small communi-

ty, leaders must grow their capacity to absorb pressure, navigate relationships, guard boundaries, and translate purpose into daily practice. They must hold the line when social proximity blurs formal roles.

Private companies can operate with moderate integrity and still fulfill their purpose (make profit). Governments cannot. If leaders lose their connection to the public purpose, the system tilts immediately. Decisions follow the loudest voice. The work follows personal preferences, instead of what the community needs. Soon, integrity becomes a slogan instead of a structure.

Public integrity holds only when enough leaders steady the organization under pressure and remind their teams, by how they act, what public service truly means. This is not heroism. It is coherence. It is public professionalism matured. Without it, the public interest becomes easy prey for private interests.

Three Essentials for Public Leadership

1. Hold the purpose steady. Keep goals and criteria visible so pressure or proximity can't silently rewrite the mission.

2. Protect the "playing field." Clarify roles, guard mandates, and give real backing when staff act correctly under pressure.

3. Keep people talking to each other. Make sure information moves through the organization, not around it. Don't let decisions shift into private channels where others cannot see or respond.

If you already carry this compass: thank you. If you feel called toward it: we need you.



Ride for Roses, fight against cancer

Do you like to walk, ride a bike or swim? And would you love to join the fight against cancer? Then mark your calendar for Ride for the Roses fight against cancer on February 1, 2026. It's a great way to have fun exercising with your friends and family and at the same time do something good for the people of Bonaire stricken by cancer. The "Roses" raises funds for patient care, alleviates day to day problems and contributes to the development of treatment.

Since 2016, thousands have joined the fight against this horrible disease by simply lacing up their running shoes, airing up their bike tires or jumping into the beautiful blue waters of Bonaire for a swim. For the second year the start

and finish is at the people's park, otherwise known as Isidel Beach Park, where the first Ride for the Roses began when it was nothing more than a vacant lot.

The main sponsor Orco Bank was there from the beginning supporting the Roses for the last 10 years and they have just committed to another three.

The walk begins at 7 a.m. and you can choose the 5.5 km (3.41 mi) or 8.75 km (5.43) route. Cyclists begin at 7:05 and can ride the 13 km (8.07 mi) or 26 km (16.1 mi) route. The swim begins at Kas di Regatta at 9:30 is 1.5 km (.93 mi) and ends at Karel's Beach Bar. If you are super adventurous, try a combination walk and swim or bike and swim.

Water and fruit are available from volunteers along the routes for the walk and bike ride to keep you hydrated. If you aren't the athletic type, but would like to join the fight, then

volunteer. Over the years, some 300 individuals have volunteered, and many do it every year (contact@ridefortheroses.org.)

A ticket for Ride for the Roses is only \$20 for the individual walk, ride or swim and if you opt for two activities, a combi, it's \$25. Tickets may be purchased online at ridefortheroses.org or in person at Orco Bank, Freewieler Bonaire, Gas Station Rincon, Yogarriba, Bon Bida or from a Ride for the Roses board member. Every participant receives a cool t-shirt and bag to wear with pride on the day of the event. T-shirt pickup is available up January 29-30 from 5 - 7 p.m. and January 31, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Roses main sponsor Orco Bank.

For more information visit [RidefortheRoses.org](https://ridefortheroses.org)

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

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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



Eclair

Meet Eclair

Sweet Eclair has already had her share of bad luck in her young life. She came to Animal Shelter Bonaire together with her brother and sister. She was adopted, but after some time, she was returned.

She isn't a brave daredevil; she's more of a careful girl who likes to take a moment to make sure everything is safe. But give her a little time and patience, and you'll see how fun, loving, and even a little bit brave she really is.

Eclair is a lovely small medium-sized dog with rough hair, a truly unique little character. She is 1 year old, spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped. In other words: she's completely ready to move to a place where she can finally stay forever.

Will you be the one to give her that forever home she deserves?

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Kees still needs a home!

Kees is a six month old boy who was brought to the Shelter because his former owner was not allowed to have pets. Unfortunately Kees lost an eye, due to an infection. And it does scare people away because of the way he looks. He is a little shy, but likes to be near you and when he wants to be petted, he makes the cutest little meows. Kees does not like to be picked up, but if you give him a little time he will come to you and sit next to you. He loves to sleep in his catbed.

Please give our lovely Kees a chance! And don't let his looks scare you, because he really is the most gentle kitty.

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt



Kees

Make Bonaire Accessible

What exactly is accessibility? by Ria Dokter

Accessibility is very important for an inclusive community, but for some reason all over the world accessibility seems to be a very hard nut to crack.

For so many years now, MiVaBo has worked very hard to change the world for people with a disability. And yet it's still not working very well. So I came up with a silly idea: what if we would pay much more attention to all things that have changed to benefit persons with disabilities?

When bringing up a child, we tell and teach them how to behave. And when the child acts like the parents want, the child is rewarded. These rewards make the child learn. I do not mean rewards like getting cookies, sweets, toys..... but I mean rewarding with words of praise like: good job, well done, perfect. And when the parents look really happy doing this, it also makes the child happy. He or she wants them to feel good all the time, so the child behaves like the parents want.

But let me tell you, this also works for grown-ups. When we notice something bad has happened in our community, this gets attention with pictures in the paper, shown on t.v., etc. But I have this feeling that when we reward good things, the behavior will change.

So, no pictures in the paper of a wrongly parked car, but a picture of a car neatly parked combined with a positive text, like, "Now this is the way to show the world how to park in a responsible way." And if everybody would join and make pictures and write short texts about good citizenship and publish those, it could really work. The press can be asked to help here and maybe even join the action.

Social Media is very important now-a-days. Almost everybody has a telephone that makes pictures and everybody knows how to reach the press as almost everybody is on Facebook, Tic-Toc, etc. A good shot with a witty text is placed within seconds and participation should be easy. If the press cooperates this plan could be a reality very soon.

MiVaBo has a Facebook-page and everyone can "befriend" MiVaBo and place text and pictures. If this is hard or not possible, there is always the possibility of Messenger. Or create a new FB-account for this project.

Many people love to see their picture published. And if this happens in a decent way, there should be no harm in it. One could even make it competitive..... call a specific picture/story, "the hit of the day."

Do you think this is a good plan? I really hope so, because things really have to change. People with disabilities have a very hard time to get anywhere, find a job, get decent transportation and do all the things an able bodied person can do so easily.

Are you with me? Can we pull this off? Please, let us know. Check MiVaBo's web-site and Facebook-page.



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.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover



Paint splattered leaves Photo Angliet Baidjoe

I'm struck by how often all kinds of soil-polluting substances are thoughtlessly thrown in yards. It's no secret; in fact, people talk about it as if it's normal. Awareness of toxic, environmentally harmful substances is lacking. For example, I've heard people say, "When painting a building, I dump paint residue, contaminated water with paint, and cleaning products like thinner, gasoline, etc., somewhere on the property or in the countryside."

Paint contains heavy metals that are dangerous to humans and the environment. If you want a vegetable garden and fruit trees, make sure you keep all substances related to paint and paint products out of your garden.

Even if you dump the residue in a corner of the garden or elsewhere, remember that all substances in the soil spread and pollute the Bonairean soil. Everything that grows there also absorbs these toxic substances, and when we consume these plants and fruits, we and the animals also ingest these dangerous substances.

There are more toxic products that pollute the soil through human activity.

- The high toxic acid from car batteries, is used by some folks on Bonaire to kill tree stumps and large roots.
- Household cleaning products, dish soaps and laun-

- dry detergents are dumped on plants.
- Unused medicines are thoughtlessly released into nature.
- Plant-killing agents such as Round Up, Glyphosphate, and Gramoxsome, all affect our health.
- Pesticides are sprayed liberally on plants to combat plant diseases.
- Cesspool water used in the garden may contain pollutants to soil.
- Certain objects made of chemicals, such as rubber tires, are dumped on the ground and release toxins into the soil.

All of these, in many variations and quantities, are often added to nature and the soil without any restraint. No plants can grow well in this tainted soil. And if we eat the plants, consider what all that poison does to your body.

That's why I'm emphasizing this. Better to have less production and less beautiful vegetables and fruit that are healthy and still tasty than all those toxic substances in the soil and on the plants that are slowly poisoning you.

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.



Princess Beatrix's visit highlights conservation and community

Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix, Patroness of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), has completed her visit to Bonaire and St. Eustatius November 18th to 21st, 2025. The visit focused on environmental restoration and social projects that connect people with nature across the Dutch Caribbean.

Princess Beatrix's visit with STINAPA Bonaire in **Washington Slagbaai National Park**, coincided with Festival di Planta Palu, an annual tree-planting event for primary school children. She then toured the park with STINAPA staff to learn more about its history, ecological signifi-

cance, and ongoing conservation and restoration work.

Later that afternoon, Princess Beatrix visited **Tera Barra**, Bonaire's native plant nursery, where volunteers cultivate trees and shrubs for reforestation projects island-wide. Walking through the greenhouse and garden, she heard how restoring native vegetation supports freshwater storage, soil stabilization, and biodiversity recovery across Bonaire

On Wednesday, November 19th, the Princess joined the **Mangrove Maniacs** on Bonaire's south coast to see how they are



With a pair of yellow filter glasses, the Princess saw young brain corals fluorescing under blue light, in RRFB's assisted-breeding program - a reminder of what's possible when restoration science meets large-scale application. Photo Skyview Bonaire

restoring mangrove forests that protect coastlines and provide critical nursery habitat for many species. Together with STINAPA's Junior Rangers, she planted red mangrove trees and spoke with the youth about their experiences protecting the island's natural environment.

their breeding program and discussed with the team how community-led restoration is building hope for the future of coral reefs.

The visit continued with a stop at **Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB)**, where staff demonstrated how active coral restoration contributes to reef resilience amid growing climate pressures. Princess Beatrix toured the RRFB office and lab facilities to see young corals from

"RRFB was so proud to welcome Princess Beatrix to see our coral restoration work up close. This visit was an important opportunity for us to highlight the value of Bonaire's coral reefs and the vital role that active restoration plays in securing their future!" said Ernst Noyons, Chief Operating Officer RRFB

DCNA press release.



Princess Beatrix at Reef Renewal tried her hand at hanging a coral fragment on one of the nursery trees — just like RRFB's team of staff, instructors, and volunteers do underwater every day.

Photo Julie Morgan



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19 FRIDAY
DEC 6:00PM - 11:00 PM

Kaya Grandi, Center Area & Wilhelmina Park

Come stroll through the shops and market to grab last-minute Christmas gifts while savoring local Christmas dishes and festive treats from our food stands!

ENTERTAINMENT

- Traditional Gaitas, DJs, and dance performances
- Fashion show by the Bonaire Model Agency
- Take picture with Santa Clause
- The spectacular Christmas Parade at 7:00 PM



We Do Entertainment Presents

CHRISTMAS KIDS MARKET

ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Craft from the Kids
Bonaire Kids Artists Jhua & Almi

Live Music Gaitas Krioyo Kids
Ritmiko Rinconero & Grupo Kariño
Dans group Dream Girls
DJ Toad

Local Christmas Dishes
Local Food from the Kids
Take a Picture with Santa

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