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Jourdi-Ann Koffie, Daneah Lobato, Keziah Craane and J'Nephtery Koffie celebrate New Year 2026 with a dance
 Photo Julie Morgan

Celebrating New Year's in Bonaire

As we count down the hours to the end of 2025, we look forward to a new year. We celebrate this new year with customs and traditions from our pasts and from many countries.

We learned of Bonaire's traditions at the most recent Nos Zjilea cultural event at Mangazina di Rei. Before the year begins the house is cleaned with two types of incense: a dirty one and a clean one. Charcoal, oregano, onion skins and mint are burned in a pot to clean the home of all the bad things from the past year. The smoking pot is carried throughout the house with all its windows and doors open to chase out the bad and make space for a beautiful new year. The good incense is made from seven spices similar to spices the Three Wisemen brought to the Christ Child of the Nativity. After burning the good incense in the house, people jump over the smoking pot to be blessed with good luck and prosperity in the new year. Traditional music taught to the children of each generation is played on the Bari, Tambu, hand-made drums, and the Quarta, a type of guitar.

After first cleaning their homes with the incense on New Year's eve, Bonaireans traditionally celebrated at local kunukus, drinking, dancing the traditional dances and eating pickled fish and pickled pigs ears

into the wee hours of the morning. Grapes are eaten for good luck for each month of the upcoming year. Other countries follow this tradition too, but the fruit must be eaten before the clock strikes midnight, otherwise you will have bad luck for the coming year.

Like so much of the world, Bonaire celebrates with fireworks. Thirty

years ago on Bonaire, the resorts and hotels competed to host the biggest and most ostentatious display. Today fireworks are island wide. Neighborhoods, the government and individual homes join in to light up the sky with waves of colored explosions. If you are lucky enough to have a high vantage point, the show is tremendous.

On New Year's Day, Bonaire's Maskarada players, a group of masked dancers in colorful jester costumes, entertain with miniplays such as lassoing a bull and fishing for a shark that conjure up early life on Bonaire. The accompanying Maskarada band performs traditional songs with the traditional instruments. The Maskarada travels around Bonaire, visiting first the gov-

ernor for a rum toast, Kas di Kuido at Fundashon Mariadal, Divi Flamingo and then various homes. The Maskarada will perform in the barios on January 3.

In the Bonairean home eating bean soup, particularly with black-eyed peas, is considered lucky and guarantees a prosperous new year, a tradition known also to Ireland, the U.S. and many other countries. A Christmas bread made of ham, currants and brown sugar is also enjoyed.

Immigrants have brought other countries' traditions to the Island. We all know about a kiss at midnight. English and German folklore teaches that the first person you see dictates your year's destiny. In many cultures eating round foods shaped like a coin will lead to prosperity. In Colombia, people run around the block as fast as possible with an empty suitcase to guarantee a year filled with travel. A Brazilian tradition is easy to practice on Bonaire: if you enter the ocean and jump over seven waves, you get one wish for each wave.



Wesley Sint Jago sings a traditional new year's song to the drumming of Mauricio Troncan instructing kids on the Bari. Photo Julie Morgan

The Bonaire Reporter wishes everyone a happy and prosperous 2026.

Julie Morgan Story/Photos

Attempt to block island council expansion has failed, maybe

Bonaire may have dodged a political bullet, but just barely. A house committee, in a close and surprising vote, passed a bill that inadvertently would have assured Bonaireans would continue to be governed by an island council consisting of only nine members for four more years. The immediate outburst of objections caused the committee members to reconsider. They decided to wait for a letter from State Secretary Eddie van Marum that would explain the situation more fully, then vote again after the Christmas recess.

The parliamentarians, who are serving as interim caretakers on the House of Representatives' Committee on Kingdom Relations, voted by a slender majority to designate the long-planned process of gradually enlarging the Island Council as "controversial." The issue could then not be decided until a new government is formed. That delay would mean Bonaireans would not have an opportunity to vote for additional council members until the 2031 elections. If the measure is approved, two new members would be elected 2027 and at least two more in 2031.

The members who voted against the expansion of the BES island councils understandably considered themselves insufficiently informed to decide such an important issue. They apparently were not aware that the islands themselves had requested the extension due to their workload and had made agreements with van Marum's predecessor, van Huffelen, that the council would gradually be enlarged. Nor did they understand that larger councils will strengthen local democracy and improve administrative effectiveness.

Further, the members of the committee had met with a delegation representing the current executive councils of Bonaire and Saba, both of which downplayed the importance of the council expansion and even, reportedly, suggested that the is-

lands did not yet have enough competent people to fill the new seats. Afterwards the Island Council of St. Eustatius announced it strongly disagrees with its counterparts from Bonaire and Saba. It declared full support of the planned expansion of the island governments.

Willem (Wimpy) Cicilia, reputed to be the expert who is most informed about the way the island government should function and actually does function, released a thoughtful opinion piece on the issue. The opening paragraph encapsulates his informed point of view:

"The decision of the House of Representatives Committee to postpone the expansion of the executive boards and island councils for an indefinite period is not only a missed opportunity, but a serious attack on democratic progress and the call for self-reliance in the Caribbean Netherlands. Moreover, the fact that this postponement is taking place at the request of local politicians makes the situation all the more distressing.... Behind false arguments about an alleged lack of "suitable" candidates and the complexity of administrative work, a fundamental problem is disguised: the current governance structure is untenable and structurally hinders the islands in their development."

Cicilia also said: "Bonaire has talented, competent, and ethical people who could govern well. But not enough of them are serving in government because, for one thing, not enough seats are available. An island council with only nine members cannot bring enough knowledge, talent, or energy to the task of governing a booming economy that is rapidly growing population."

After van Marum has fully informed the members of the committee regarding the intended council expansion, we can hope they will vote for it to proceed. *DMR*

Exec Body announces Plan B for fuel storage crisis



Fuel storage tanks at both the airport and Hato are already well past their "safe to use" dates and have long been operating on temporary permits. In April of this year the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) warned the tanks will be shut down if they do not pass the safety inspections scheduled for April 1, 2026. The Executive Council responded by saying it considered the tanks repairable. It has announced no action since.

Turns out Bonaire's fuel storage crisis wasn't quite as critical as it seemed last spring. The ILT's April 1, 2026 shutdown deadline applies only to the Hato tank. Therefore the Executive Body (BC) still has three months to solve the Hato problem. They apparently delegated the task to Curoil. In the words of the announcement to the public, "Curoil wants to commission an additional tank at the Hato site." Presumably this is a third

tank. It may already be in use, or perhaps it has been sitting empty all along.

Curoil applied to the ILT for approval to commission the additional tank at Hato. The ILT requested additional information and told Curoil it would carefully assess the request. To date, the "third tank" solution is still only a proposal.

In the meantime, the Executive Council has plenty of time to decide how to deal with the fuel storage danger at the airport. The ILT shutdown deadline for that tank is not until December 1, 2026. However, even if a new storage facility becomes operational at CBET (formally BOPEC) by then, Bonaire will still not have safe storage at the airport or Playa. And a lot of tanker trucks will be driving through Kralendijk and Rincon.

DMR

Island Council goes to Holland again

The entire Island Council of Bonaire got to do their Christmas shopping in the Netherlands, where they spent December 7 to December 17. The declared purpose of the trip was "to exchange knowledge, advocacy and strengthen cooperation within the Kingdom and with European partners."

The delegation took part in the three-day InterExpo congress at The Hague. The congress was opened by, among others, Eddie van Marum, State Secretary for Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, former Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, Ernst Hirsch Ballin, Sarah Wescot-Williams and Luc Mercelina. A panel discussion followed with representatives of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Netherlands. *DMR*

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An Island Christmas Concert



Classical Music Board Bonaire Christmas concert in Kralendijk at the Plaza Resort was held on December 21. The large conference room was well attended with only a few remaining seats. Musical director was pianist Claudia Cassier.

The program opened with the Leer-orkest children's choir lead by Lara Chirino, with extra vocals by Abigail Vlijt and accompanied by Nathan Senchi on piano. The children sang four songs ending with "Feliz Navidad."

Alan Bowen, a master of the saxophone, performed an amazing and emotive rendition of J.S Bach's beautiful *Cello Suite 2*. Hans Faassen, a man of many instruments, performed "Air on G-string" on violin by J.S. Bach accompanied by Cassier.

The operatic voice of Bradley Howard brought a reverence to the crowd with the Giulio Caccini version of "Ave Maria" and then lightened things up a bit with "Favorite Things." Howard was joined on stage by his voice student Kiara Lucas to sing "Christmas Time is Here," the famous music from the Peanuts cartoon.

From there the Christmas themed songs began with "Carol of the Bells" and "Little Drummer Boy" performed by Emilo, Claudia and Julian Cassier. They were joined on stage by Luis Moka

and Nos ku Nan for "Pasku ta yegando", "Feliz Navidad" and "Nada mas dushi ku Pasku."

After a brief intermission the music continued with "Jesus Bambino" by Howard and Cassier. The local music group Francis & Friends took the stage

to sing "Campanitas," "Nochi di Pasku", and "Ketu, Ketu, Ketu" which had many in the crowd tapping their feet and singing along.

Rolando Casimiri sang "Christmas" "Esta Navidad" and everyone's favorite "White Christmas." Guest singer from

Curaçao Carlos Mancilla brought a Latin beat to the evening with "Abriendo Puertas" and "Feliciadades" bringing several people to their feet to dance.

Christmas Concert to page 6



- **Location: Santa Barbara**
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POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

Dec. 20. Around 6:30 a.m. a person was reported lying on the ground at Kaminda Lagun. The injured victim stated that he had been assaulted, threatened, and robbed. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Police urge anyone who saw anything or has information about this case to contact them immediately.

Dec. 18/19. During the night hours unknown persons stole a license plate MF-2694 from a scooter parked on Kaya Grandi.

Dec. 17. Around 10:40 p.m. a pickup truck was reported stolen from a restaurant on Kaya Sonmontuno. The vehicle was parked with the engine running while the owner went inside to pay. A search was conducted in several neighborhoods and around 12:30 a.m. police received a report that the pickup truck had been found in Antriol.

Dec. 16. A black fat bike, model V8 was stolen while parked on Kaya Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez.

Dec. 16. A bag and its contents were stolen while the owners were snorkeling at Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach). The bag contained a cell phone, sunglasses, a car key, and a wallet containing cash and cards. The stolen bag and its contents were found a short time later in the bushes on Kaya Nieuw Amsterdam.

Dec. 13. Unknown persons removed four original black alloy wheels with silver rims from a Kia Picanto car parked on the grounds of a tourist accommodation on Kaya Internashonal. The unknown persons then installed four other wheels on the car.

Dec. 12. A black fat bike, model V8 was stolen while parked next to a container at a soccer field on Kaminda di Lac.

Arrests

Dec. 23. A man, 26, was arrested at the police station in connection with the violent robbery that occurred on Saturday, December 20.

Dec. 22. A man, 63, was arrested on Kaya Anasa for threatening two people with death.

Dec. 16. A man, 31, was arrested for armed robbery that occurred on May 6th at the post office in Playa. In addition, two searches were conducted: at a residence in the Mamparia Kutu neighborhood and at an apartment complex on Kaya Maximiliana Rosario. Several items relevant to the investigation were seized, including the suspect's car.

Dec. 15. A man, 53, was arrested for threats and attempted assault with a weapon.

Traffic accidents

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

Dec. 23. Around 2:25 a.m. a scooter drove into a planter on Kaya J.N.E. Craane. The driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Dec. 22. Around 12:15 a.m. a car that had crashed into

a lamppost near the Rotonde Soeurman di Rozendaal, and stopped parked diagonally across the road. The front of the vehicle and the lamppost were damaged. The driver stated that he had lost control of the vehicle. Both the driver and the passenger were taken to the hospital by ambulance. Due to the priority of medical care, the driver was unable to take a breathalyzer test.

Dec. 20. Around 5:15 p.m. a pickup truck collided with a scooter on E.E.G. Boulevard. The scooter driver received medical treatment at the scene from paramedics.

Dec. 20. Around 8:30 a.m. a car overturned on Kaminda Gurubu. The driver was fined for driving without a license and without insurance.

Dec. 19. Around 6:45 p.m. a car and a bus collided on Kaminda Onima. Because the car door was blocked, the fire department was dispatched to the scene. The driver's side of both vehicles was damaged. The car driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The people in the bus were uninjured. The bus driver received a warning for not having the correct category D driving license for bus driving. Due to the priority of medical care, the car driver could not take a breathalyzer test.

Dec. 17. Around 11:20 p.m. a car and a scooter collided at the intersection of Kaya Gilberto F. Croes and Kaya Internashonal. The scooter driver received medical treatment at the scene from paramedics. The scooter driver was fined for driving without a license and without insurance.

Driving under the influence

From Dec. 14 to Jan. 1 police reported that 15 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. Drivers are legally required to submit to a breath test when requested to do so by a police officer.

Four DUI drivers drove into fences. Police found two of these drivers still in their cars; one driver was chased down by the home owner; one drove away, but was found at a house in the area. Five DUI drivers were stopped because they were speeding. One driver drove into a lamppost; one car rolled over into the bushes at an intersection. One driver collided with another car. A scooter was stopped because it was weaving on the road.

Another scooter was stopped because neither driver nor passenger were wearing helmets. While transporting the driver of the scooter, officers saw the former passenger of the scooter riding another scooter, again without a helmet. The former passenger was also found to be under the influence of alcohol.

Three drivers refused to cooperate with police. The driver who rolled his car was arrested when he refused to take the breath test at his car. A search of his vehicle revealed a quantity of suspected narcotics. The driver of

a speeding pickup repeatedly ignored orders to stop, but after a short chase, he stopped his pickup in front of a house on Kaya Bernadette. The motorcycle driver who was measured going 130km in a 40km zone speeded away from the police. The patrol managed to stop the motorcycle in the Amboina neighborhood.

Four driver's licenses were confiscated. Police banned other drivers from driving for 2-, 4- and 5- hours.

Five drivers could not produce valid driver's licenses. Four had no insurance.

In two other collisions, one with a lamppost and one with a bus, the drivers could not take breathalyzer tests due to the priority of medical care.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

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

Dec. 24. A laser gun was used to measure the speed of approaching cars on Kaya Korona. Two tickets were issued for exceeding the 40 km/h speed limit. The highest recorded speed was 66 km/h. In addition, two drivers were ticketed for driving without valid insurance and one driver for driving without a valid driver's license.

Dec. 14. A speed check was conducted on E.E.G. Boulevard and one ticket was issued for exceeding the 40 km/h speed limit. The measured speed ranged between 40 and 76 km/h. A driver was also fined for not wearing a seatbelt and for driving while holding a mobile phone. Another driver was warned for driving without valid insurance.

Dec. 20. During a traffic check on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund 24 vehicles were stopped and checked, and six tickets were issued for driving without: working brake lights 1x; valid insurance 1x; a front license plate 1x; a valid driver's license 3x.

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

Public order

Dec. 23. Around 4:30 p.m. a man, 63, was arrested on Bulevar Miguel Pourier for public intoxication. He was taken to the Caribbean Netherlands Correctional Institution (JICN) to sober up.

Dec. 18. The windows of a crane parked in a parking lot on Kaya Gilberto F. Croes were completely shattered.

Dec. 16. Around 10:15 a.m. a patrol encountered a person in a pickup truck dumping yard waste along the road on Kaya Shastan. The person was severely reprimanded for this behavior. He was ordered to remove the waste immediately, which he promptly complied with.

Dec. 12. The rear window of a car parked on Kaya J.N.E. Craane was smashed with a concrete block. Nothing was stolen from the car.

Two large scale land cleanups

Illegal dump at Onima: Spatial Planning and Development (R&O) of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) has cleared an illegal waste dump at Onima. Illegal dumping can be reported by calling +599 790-0707.

Bario Limpi Campaign: In December Selibon and the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) organized three garbage collections in the neighborhoods (barios). A total of 132 tons of waste was collected in the large bins provided. The Nikiboko district (North and South combined) collected a total of 27.4 tons of waste during the campaign; Tera Korá collected 23 tons, and Amboina collected 18.8 tons.



Photo OLB

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.

Sale of Santa Clara Land

To Gov. J. Soliano, Secretary E. van Marum, the Island Council and all it concerns:

You are all shirking your fiduciary duties to the people of Bonaire by passing the buck to wait on the outcome from whether it can be determined if Executive Council Member Clark Abraham properly recused himself from the deliberations regarding the sale of Abraham family land to the people of Bonaire.

The facts are indisputable that:

1. the offer of the sale of the land was put before the Executive Committee when no planning for its acquisition was ever recommended;

2. that the land was presented and 'sold' at higher than market price when no other offers were on the table;

3. that the full island council was not aware of the possibility of the sale where being apprised would have been proper procedure as there clearly was no urgency

to benefit Bonaire.

These facts, irrespective of Abraham's proper recusal, show a corrupt and illegal abuse of process and trust. Abraham was not the only bad actor in this scenario as the Island Secretary should have known not to schedule the sale for discussion and the Executive Council should known not to vote, let alone, have voted.

Stop waiting for a finding that has no meaning and immediately remove the Island Secretary and the Executive Council members and subject them to proper law enforcement procedures. This evasion of your responsibility to safeguard the best interest of the Bonairean people to ensure that the Executive Council does its proper duty, does not speak well for you and certainly not the state of Bonaire's Government, or proper Dutch supervision.

Charles M. Baltayan

Fundashon Vibra is committed to the sustainable strengthening and empowerment of women and girls on Bonaire. The foundation creates safe and inspiring spaces for growth, systematically represents the interests of women, and works towards an inclusive, just society in which they can reach their full potential.

Fundashon Vibra Board:

- Rudshain Djinga – Chair
- Roxanne-Liana Francisca – Treasurer
- Krista Oplaat – Secretary

Fundashon Vibra invites anyone who would like to learn more about the foundation, its objectives, and future activities to contact us. For information you can call or text +599 785 4399.



On Tuesday, December 9, the board of Fundashon Vibra, together with founder Mia Merveille-Tweed, officially signed the foundation's articles of association before Notary Rispens. The signing formally establishes Fundashon Vibra and marks the foundation's commitment to women and girls on Bonaire.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Dear Bob,
I want to buy a property on Bonaire. Can I pay part in US Dollars and part in Euros? Thanks, Peter

Hi Peter,

Great question! The short answer is: yes, you can, but you must do it carefully.

Bonaire uses US dollars as official currency, so most property prices are listed in US Dollars. Some sellers may accept part of the purchase price in Euros, but this must be agreed upon by both parties.

First, you negotiate the total price with the seller, including how much you will pay in US dollars and how much in Euros. Both parties must agree on the amounts before moving forward.

For example, \$200,000 USD and €150,000 EUR. After reaching the agreement, all details should be put in the purchase contract, your real estate agent can help with this. Once the amounts in US Dollars and Euros are agreed upon and the contract is signed, the amounts do not change, even if the exchange rate changes.

Both notaries on Bonaire have USD and EUR accounts, so payments in either currency are safely handled.

Keep in mind that buyers' costs like notary fees, registration fees, and transfer tax must always be paid in US dollars, even all or if part of the purchase price is in Euros.

If you need a local mortgage, the amount will also always be in US dollars.

Following these steps ensures that your purchase goes smoothly and both buyer and seller know exactly what has been agreed.

All the best, Bob

Bob Bartikoski,
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire,
or
if you have a real estate question for Bob,
email him at info@bonairehomes.com.
Bonaire: +599-717-7362.
Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

The online version of our story
"Landfill to be closed by 2028"
in Issue 23 of
Bonaire's favorite English language
newspaper has received

5,891 views



Self-service kiosks and smart e-gates have been installed at Flamingo Airport. The equipment is used to collect tourist tax and verify QR codes. It provides a faster and more pleasant experience for visitors and reduces the risk of fraud and human error.

Photos OLB



(L-R) Claudia Cassier, Hans Faassen and Marian Passchier

Photo Julie Morgan



Bradley Howard and Kiara Lucas singing "Christmas Time is Here"

Photo Julie Morgan

The program ended beautifully with Claudia Cassier, Hans Faassen and Marian Passchier remarkably playing on the same piano the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. They seemed to enjoy

the performance as much as the crowd.

Applause to all the performers for one of the best Classical Music Board Bonaire Christmas Concerts ever.

Julie Morgan

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

When I think of the year 2025, it takes me back to all the years that have passed in my life. They all have the same New Year feeling but at the same time different and unique. I usually celebrate at home, but home has been in the many different countries I lived and celebrated in the traditional and cultural ways of those countries. Sometimes I was with my family in Holland in a cozy atmosphere but wherever I am, my home country of Surinam is always on my mind and the old days with my grandma. Of course my parents, brothers and other family were there too, but, it's my Grandma who is coloring my mind and feelings with the new year celebration.

Grandma prepared all kinds of traditional recipes that were only meant for new years. And because Surinam is a multi-cultural country, there was always exciting, exotic food on the table that one never wants to stop eating until you have to. New Years and Grandma is a combination I will always have to give me warm thoughts.

One of the things Granny made was a simple but delicious Klaroen nasi. It's cooked rice fried with the vegetable known on Bonaire as Kalaloe. It's a tasty, easy, exotic looking recipe and always a success.

Kalaloe is a well known vegetable in many recipes for stobas and soups from the old days of Bonaire. It grows everywhere in the countryside, along streets and in many yards. Kalaloe is easy to recognize because of the "tail" in the top of the stem. When it's mature, the flower is full of tiny black seeds.

Kalaloe is a popular tropical leaf vegetable from the Amaranth family and it's also known as bayam, Chinese spinach and Katten staart in Dutch. This one year leaf plant has green to reddish leaves. The leaves and young stems can be used in salads, soups and a wok.

The plant originates from Mexico and has a long tradition of being holy food by the Aztec. Today it is cultivated in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. But in Surinam it is a beloved veggie and there are many recipes.

How to grow: Spread the tiny seeds of the mature dry flower tails into a container or plant straight into the garden. The best time to grow is the rainy season, which is now. It grows easily and quickly in any kind of soil.



Kalaloe / Amaranthus plants

Above: spiky flowers Photo Julie Morgan

Below: green leaves Photo Angliet Baidjoe



Don't replant the young plants, just let them grow to about 25 cm and after six to eight weeks they can be harvested. Cut half of the young stem off the top to consume, and after a few days new stems pop up on the plant. The plant will grow bigger and you will have more to harvest. I have grown the green type in a container and the reddish type grows by itself everywhere in the yard. I use the red leaves in salads for an accent.

There are six types on Bonaire and all can be consumed. *Amaranthus spinosus* - bigger green leaf with little thorns on the stem when it gets old; *A. Lividus* - the smallest type of leaves; *A. Dubius* and *A. Caudatus* - in between leaf size; *A. Tricolor* - with a lot of reddish - green leaves; *A. Gracilis viridis* - small with a bit reddish stems. It's a one year plant and returns every rainy season, once you have it in the garden.

Health value:- a lot of antioxidants, very little fat and cholesterol; - a source of protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin B6; - riboflavine, folate, calcium, iron, phosphorus, Kalium, magnesium, sink, copper, manganese.

A Surinam recipe for your New Year's menu

You only need a bit of Kalaloe. Rinse the leaves, young stems and chop. Add oil to the wok and then precooked rice and stir. Add Kalaloe and stir all for a few minutes. For flavor, stir in curcuma, or for a more exotic taste, garlic and ginger powder. If you like stir in dried shrimp or tiny pieces of meat, fish or ham. This is just like a nasi.

Look around, it's everywhere on Bonaire in the wild and in yards. Throw the seeds in the yard. You will soon enjoy this healthy vegetable from your garden.

Dear Friends, have a great New Year's evening and start the year happy and healthy.

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.



Governor Soliano delivers upbeat Christmas speech

In his Christmas speech Governor John Soliano acknowledged 2025 was a year of challenges for Bonaire, but he emphasized it was also a year of achievements. He cited the pending 2028 closure of the Lagoon landfill as a major success, as was the transfer of the former Bopec facility to Curoil Bonaire Terminals NV. The governor praised young people's cultural and sporting achievements, though he paused to mourn the tragic shooting of a young person last spring.

Soliano said the countless fundraising campaigns, donations, and volunteer work programs demonstrated the vitality of Bonaire's culture of mutual aid and solidarity. The Island Council's rules of procedure are being revised, he promised, so a good governance program will lay the foundation for a strong administrative culture and infrastructure.

Looking to the future, "Step by step, we must build a Bonaire that is well-prepared, that is resilient in difficult times, and where cooperation is a core value in addressing challenges," Soliano declared. *DMR*

New ideas pondered for shortage of healthcare workers

Healthcare in Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and in the Caribbean Netherlands is under pressure due to an aging population and an increasing demand for care. At the same time, many Caribbean students who follow a healthcare education in the European Netherlands do not return to their island after their studies. To break that vicious circle, the cabinet is trying to come up with an integrated approach that covers the entire education and career chain.

A reintroduction of what are called ministerial places, that is, reserving training places for Caribbean students in European courses, is not under consideration. After the program was abolished in 2017 the influx of Caribbean students into healthcare programs plummeted. But the government does not intend to restore ministerial places. Too many questions regarding fairness to other students, as well the program's legality, remain. Moreover, Caribbean medical graduates trained in the Netherlands still tended to stay there.

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to developing a broad, long-term approach to counter the growing shortage of healthcare professionals in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

One possibility is to provide students with more training opportunities close to home. The government may create internships and scholarships in the Caribbean that allow students to link up with the local healthcare practice during their studies.

The government is also considering opportunities to train more specialists (partly) in the Caribbean. For example, a collaboration project already exists between the hospital in Aruba and university medical centers in the Netherlands.

In addition to higher education, the government is also investing in secondary vocational education. MBO health care courses have now started on Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao, such as Doctor's Assistant and Pharmacist's Assistant.

DMR (Source: Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)

Subsidies end, electricity and water charges soar

Water-en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. (WEB) has announced the rates effective from January 1, 2026. Due to reduced subsidies from the Ministries, the costs for electricity and drinking water will increase dramatically.

Electricity rates

Fixed usage rates for connections up to 3*35 Ampere: USD 47.80 per month (was USD 0.00).

Variable usage rates increase from USD 0.3220 per kWh to USD 0.3868 per kWh. An average household consumer will pay around \$14 more per month.

Prepaid connection (Pagabon): USD 0.6062 per kWh (was USD 0.4492 as of August 1, 2025).

Periodic drinking water rates

Fixed usage rates for (small) connection: USD 11.60 per month (was USD 0.00).

Variable usage rates increase from USD 4.055 per m3 to USD 4.475 per m3.

Water truck delivery increases from USD 4.928 per m3 to USD 5.377 per m3.

Billing

The new periodic electricity and drinking water rates will apply to invoices starting in January 2026. For Pagabon and water truck customers, the new rates will be visible immediately from January 1, 2026.

Find WEB's rate sheets pages 21 / 22 in our online issue <https://bonairereporter.com>

STINAPA being reorganized

A temporary board will take STINAPA in hand on January 1. The new board members are experienced directors whose mission is to prepare the organization to be taken over by a new Supervisory Board during 2026. From then on, the functions of STINAPA's overall supervision and its day-to-day management will be clearly separated.



Anjelica Cicilia, chairman of STINAPA's temporary board

STINAPA Director Melissa van Hoorn is very pleased with the new board. "The new members have extensive board-like experience," she says. The temporary board members are chairman Anjelica Cicilia (consultant and former island commissioner), Peter Hengeveld (director of the Correctional Institution Netherlands Caribbean), Francis Pieter (director of VMBO Bonaire), and secretary Sherwin Pourier (director/owner of Bonaire Agri & Aqua Business BV), plus two previous members, Herbert Piar and Kumar Piar who will remain on the board to assist the transition. Subsequently they will not serve on the new Supervisory Board.

Bonaire's economy is nature-dependent, and STINAPA plays the critical role of managing and protecting the island's nature resources. STINAPA will celebrate its 40th anniversary during 2026. *DMR*



The Supervision and Enforcement Directorate (DTH) has officially opened its new office building located at Kaya Grandi 56-58. The new building is a major upgrade for the department that has been shuffled around from building to building for the last few years.

Toezicht & Handhaving supervises and in some cases enforces public areas. They also check conditions on permits prior to R&O issuing them. The department is responsible for animal well-being, and the harbour master reports to the director Marlon Richardson. The building

will be the new home for driver's license testing.

Some 39 inspectors, lawyers and administrators will work here in an open space office. But the public can do business undisturbed in client conference and private rooms. There are silent cubicles for private phone conversations and computer work.

Director Marlon Richardson said, "This new building will definitely be more effective for our staff and more productive for the public."

Julie Morgan Story / Photo

Chamber reveals talented Bonaire creatives

The return of the popular Chamber of Commerce Art Exhibit was held December 21 with a diverse range of 25 artists and crafts people at Corallium Hotel and Villas. The show was scheduled just in time for last minute Christmas gifts for the discerning art and craft lover although we suspect many of the purchases were for the buyer.

Just before entering the exhibit sisters Esther and Linda de Veer provided a unique experience of inviting guests

into a little tent to be relished with real compliments to make you smile and feel good.

Many of the artists exhibiting were familiar names in the creative community on Bonaire.

Ghislaine Monte is a creative artist working in a number of mediums who always seems to be exploring and testing the waters. She says her exhibit of *The Startled Mangrove* reveals the vul-



Marthina Hernandez

nerability of Bonaire caught between the past and the unconscious naivety of the present. She explored old newspapers from 1953 about flood disasters and displayed her investigation and the steps she took in creating the piece. The story is of a boy who saved himself by climbing a tree in Sorobon during Hurricane Four in 1911 on Bonaire. The work illustrates how mangroves are essential for coastal protection during these times of climate change.

Marthina Hernandez is a young artist inspired by nature who hopes to capture small moments that make the world beautiful. We think she did just that in this untitled piece of girl with fish.

Photographer Felicia Schutte produces amazing portraits of women using dramatic lighting in the studio or in Bonaire's beautiful nature. Her work seems to reveal the personality or hidden personality of the individuals she photographs making anyone look and feel beautiful.



Ghislaine Monte



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Artie de Vries creates a type of recycled art pieces from found objects he collects while helping keep Bonaire's beaches litter free. His compositions of cast off dolls and toys brings forth memories we all have of the past.

Marz the artist, (Judson Emerenciana), is known for his environmental, political and graffiti art. He has created several murals on Bonaire and has produced two pieces for Greenpeace Climate Justice awareness. You may know him for his Bonalisa graffiti mural.

Aja Radl's motto is "Capturing Life Creating Art". Her photography captures some rarely seen moments of marine life and nature on Bonaire.

Alicia Peterson, The Flying Mermaid, creates her work from sea glass and even has special sites she visits for collection. Her work includes jewelry and nature based pieces from sea glass.

Gabrielle Wilson is a mixed media artist working mostly on canvas. She brings different objects and papers into her acrylic paintings creating almost 3-D representations of art.

Leslie van Valkenberg creates home décor incorporating driftwood, seaglass, metal, tile, wood and natural fibers.

Lize van de Ven is best known on Bonaire for her paintings of flamingos and a recognizable color palette. But she is not



Pamela Teitel

a one trick pony and has extended her work to include other Bonaire animals and well-known sites on the island.

Pamela Teitel works in Epoxy and Resin art creating tables, counter tops and most anything with a flat surface. Some of the pieces take up to two years for completion. Pam and lifelong friend Elisabeth Vos even teach classes at their studio Fluid Art.

Other participating artists were Vanessa Peralta, Femke Franckaert, Debora Davidons Descelles, Maideline Hooi-Martijn, Laurie Smith, Mia Merveille-Tweed, Joeldrich Muzo, Qhyzhanne Martines, Dalitza Rijna and Gilberto Lira & Hugo Bernal.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Lize van de Ven

2025's steps toward a multilingual Island

In 2025, the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) worked to strengthen Papiamentu and Dutch education on Bonaire. Last February, Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu celebrated its 15th anniversary of working to preserve and strengthen Papiamentu on Bonaire.

In July, Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao signed a three year joint initiative for Papiamentu/education. And as Dutch is often not the native language of Bonairean students, the OLB signed a letter of intent with four school boards on Bonaire to develop a Dutch as a Foreign Language (NVT) method

In October the OLB appointed its first Language Program Manager to safeguard Bonaire's multilingual language policy. This policy aligns with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In November, the OLB commissioned Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu to update the existing language learning method, Bon uso di Papiamentu, and adapt it to the Bonairean context. The foundation will then offer courses using this method in various domains, such as education, justice, public administration, media, culture, socio-economic, healthcare and welfare, and public spaces.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sharité Severina at

sharite.severina@bonairegov.com

Search begins for new BES postal service provider

Postal services are provided in Dutch municipalities under a concession system. The current ten-year concession for Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba has been held by FXDC (Flamingo Express Dutch Caribbean) and will expire a year from now. The Ministry of Economic Affairs has launched the selection procedure for a concession holder for January 1, 2027 through 2036.

Parties interested in competing for the concession should register by January 16, 2026. They will subsequently participate with the selection team in developing the actual request for proposals, which will be publicized. One of the parties that respond by submitting proposals will be invited to submit a formal bid for the concession.

The organization awarded the concession must deliver services that comply with quality standards defined in the BES Act. According to the government announcement, resident dissatisfaction with the postal services provided by FXDC has persisted, particularly regarding delivery times and reliability.

The government recognizes that no alternative parties may be willing to take on the postal service in the Caribbean Netherlands. Earlier concession rounds attracted little to no interest from providers, largely because of the limited commercial opportunity and the obligation to serve all three islands. If no suitable candidates for concession holder express an interest, other solutions will need to be considered to ensure continuity of postal services to the BES. DMR

Make Bonaire Accessible

The end of a year by Ria Dokter

Almost everybody does it.....looks back at the end of a year and makes resolutions for the coming year. The funny thing is that those plans hardly ever come true.

Looking back is almost never a problem. When it comes to accessibility: there are a few things that made us very happy: the swimming pool in the sea, the boulevard made more accessible, the project, Sorobon Swimmers. But there are still so many things that need to change.

When Bonaire is accessible, it is good for everybody. That is a fact that every decision maker needs to understand. And when the citizens with disabilities get their rights, Bonaire will be THE BEST!

"Inclusion" needs to be on everybody's list because we all benefit. Every organization needs to make "inclusion" one of their goals. Work should not only be a place to make money. Organizations should also contribute in finding solutions for social problems and look at possibilities not at impossibilities.

Employ staff with a disability. It may sound scary but it should not frighten

you. Persons with a disability are just like everybody else. You only have to adapt the work for the employee with a disability. And you can always ask for help and advice.

At the laundry where I take my clothes, there is this young lady responsible for folding the washed clothes and she does an excellent job. She is very proud of her work and when she knows you, her work is extra neat. A few months ago I missed her and asked for her. It turned out that her contract had to be renewed. I was scared that she might lose her job, because she has Down Syndrome. But thank Goodness, she kept the job because her contract was renewed.

When I was in Curaçao, a while back, I noticed a gardener with a very familiar face. It turned he was one of my former pupils with Down's syndrome. He got the job as a gardener and worked together with his dad. Now he has the job on his own and he is doing it very well. I am so proud of him.

Another example: in the library on Curaçao a young man has worked for many years. He is responsible for all

the copying and the distribution. He has mental retardation but has worked there for more than 20 years and they are very happy with him. He is an example for many.

So, brainstorm, ask feedback and just set it up. At the airport, at the laundries, at landscaping, at market gardens, at a bank or office or in the HoReCa. Give them the chance they need, and offer them a job. Seek guidance for yourself and be there for them. You will be pleasantly surprised. It might be the best decision you have ever made.

I want to wish all readers a very happy and healthy new year. Start making plans. See what you can do to improve acceptance. Ria



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.

Living in Harmony with Nature: The Real Limits to Growth

Introduction

On a finite planet, endless economic growth is not just unrealistic — it's destructive. More than fifty years after the Club of Rome warned the world in *Limits to Growth*, humanity continues to treat people and nature as tools for profit rather than as living systems with intrinsic value.

From the forests that store carbon and sustain life, to the fragile ecosystems of islands like Bonaire, growth is often prioritized over survival. Even some organizations tasked with protecting nature risk repeating the same mistakes when management and targets outweigh ecological understanding.

This article argues for a different path: **living in harmony with nature**, redefining progress, and recognizing that the real limits are not in the trees, the soil, or the oceans — they are in how we choose to value life itself.

Limits to Growth: When Growth Undermines Its Own Foundation

In 1972, the Club of Rome published the report *Limits to Growth*. It was dismissed as alarmist and overly pessimistic. Yet today the report seems more relevant than ever. Not because every prediction turned out to be

exact, but because it raised a question we have consistently avoided ever since: **how long can an economy continue to grow on a finite planet?**

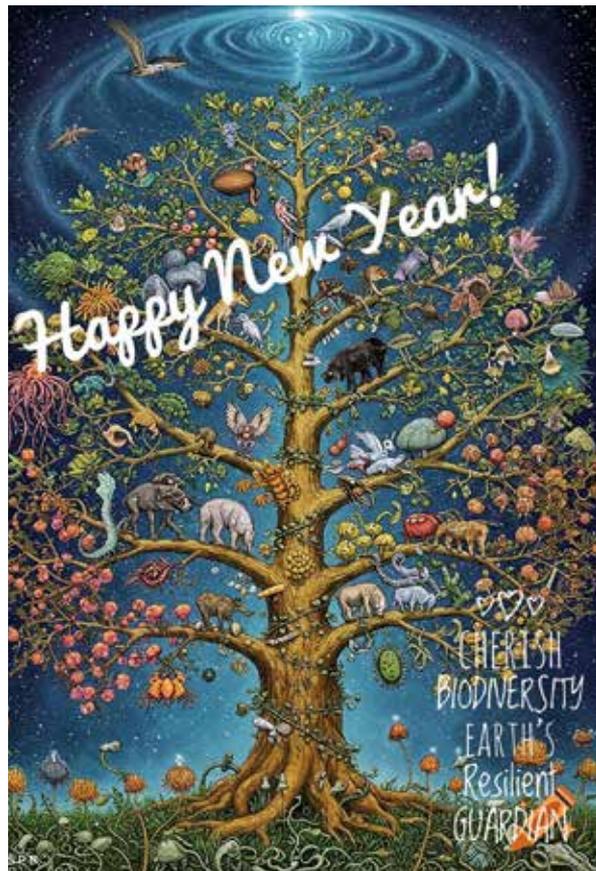
More than fifty years later, economic growth is still treated as the highest goal. People and nature appear mainly as preconditions — or worse, as resources. Clean air, biodiversity, and liveable space only matter once their disappearance causes economic damage. As if health and nature only gain value once they carry a price tag. This is not a detail. It is a systemic flaw.

A Tree Only Counts After It Is Cut Down

In dominant economic thinking, a tree only has value once it is cut down. As long as it stands — retaining water, producing oxygen, supporting biodiversity, and storing CO₂ — it barely appears in the accounts. As if nature has no intrinsic value, only becoming meaningful once it is destroyed and commodified.

Carbon storage matters. But a forest is more than a climate tool. It is habitat, water buffer, cultural heritage, and a source of life. When we defend nature only be-

Living in Harmony with Nature
to page 12



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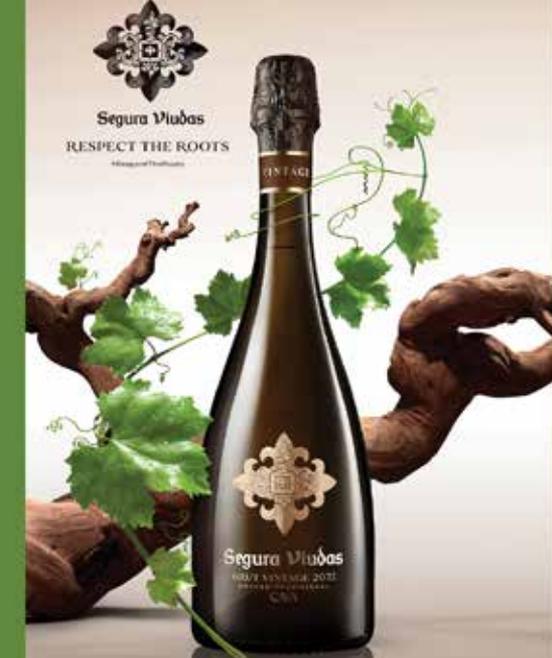
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cause it is “useful,” we implicitly accept a worldview in which destruction always remains an option.

Not everything that matters can be measured. And not everything that can be measured truly matters.

Nature as an Obstacle, Not a Foundation

In policy and boardrooms, nature is mostly portrayed as a problem: a constraint on development, a risk to investment, a cost that must be “managed.” Rarely is it treated as what it actually is: **the foundation upon which every economy depends.**

The economy is not a separate system that merely takes nature into account. It exists because of nature. Without fertile soils, clean water, biodiversity, and a stable climate, there is simply no economy.

An economy that grows by undermining its own conditions is sawing off the branch it is sitting on. This is not ideology — it is basic logic.

Bonaire: Growth on a Finite Island

I live on Bonaire, an island almost entirely focused on growth, growth, growth. More tourism, more construction, more pressure — while space, water, nature, and ecological carrying capacity are unmistakably finite. On an island, limits should be visible and tangible. Yet here they are structurally ignored.

Growth is no longer a means, but an end in itself, detached from ecological reality and social cohesion. What is presented as development often turns out to be a form of depletion.

Even Nature Organizations Are Not Immune

Painfully, this instrumental way of thinking can also be found within nature organizations. On Bonaire, STI-NAPA provides an example, with the appointment of interim directors lacking a clear affinity with nature. Nature management is reduced to management, governance, and process optimization.

As if love for nature, ecological knowledge, and moral commitment are interchangeable with spreadsheets and KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). Nature is reduced to hectares, targets, and reports. But those who defend nature only with economic or managerial arguments implicitly accept the frame that the economy ultimately matters more than life.

This mindset is echoed even in public messaging. The government recently launched a campaign with the slogan “*We live off nature.*” It is telling. A nature-conscious government would have chosen “*We live in harmony with nature.*” The difference is not semantic: living off nature frames it as a resource to be consumed; **living in harmony** with nature recognizes it as a living system we are part of.

Nature does not need a business case to justify its right to exist.

Morally Wrong — and Economically Short-Sighted

The structural neglect of clean air, biodiversity, and liveable space is morally wrong. It sacrifices quality of life for abstract growth figures, often at the expense of the most vulnerable.

It is also economically short-sighted. Depleted ecosystems lead to health problems, food insecurity, and ever-increasing costs for restoration and damage control. What is called profit today becomes loss tomorrow.

Living in Harmony with Nature

The core message of “*Limits to Growth*” is not that we must stop all development, but that we must stop pretending growth has no consequences. Humanity must learn to live **in harmony with nature** — not treating it as something we live off, but as a living system we are part of, embedded in the web of life. Growth can be a tool, but once growth becomes an end in itself, it destroys the very foundation on which it depends.

A tree has value because it lives — not only because it stores CO₂, but because it sustains life. An economy has a future only if it respects the living systems that support it. The real limit to growth lies not in nature itself, but in our willingness to redefine what we consider truly valuable.

FSPB

Mini-Mrs. Cadushy is welcomed to Rincon



(L-R) Bernadette de Jonge-Lubbers, Eric Gietman and Mrs. Cadushy (Jolande Gietman)



Artist Bernadette de Jonge-Lubbers lifts a glass with Mini- Mrs. Cadushy

The commissioned sculpture of Mrs. Cadushy, the logo for Cadushy Distillery in Rincon by Bernadette de Jonge-Lubbers was unveiled on December 24. The artist and Cadushy owner Eric Gietman and mascot, the real Mrs. Cadushy, Jolande Gietman revealed the piece to a small crowd at the distillery.

The Serpentine Leopard stone 35 to 40 cm (14 – 16 inch) sculpture took Bernadette approximately six months or 150 hours to complete. The Serpentine Leopard stone was chosen for its green color.

Bernadette said, “The rough stone originally weighed 50 kilos. I had to use diamant tools as the stone is very hard to work on.”

Mrs. Cadushy will be on display near the entrance of the distillery.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Reef Glimpses - Sea Spiders by Dee Scarr

Writing about something I've never seen is weird. But I've always been interested in sea spiders, and when Bernadette and Ed de Jonge told me they'd seen a couple on a night dive off Habitat, I asked them if they could show me. They said, "Of course," and off we went – but on that night the coral head was empty of sea spiders. In fact, I don't think even Bernadette and Ed found any for more than a year.

So, lacking a firsthand sighting, I consulted my books. Sea spiders aren't closely related to land spiders, but they seem to be just as secretive. There are more than 1300 species who live in depths of down to 23,000 feet (7000 m), some of whom inhabit very cold waters, and most of whom inhabit water much colder than the Caribbean. A few species of sea spiders live in the nice warm waters of Bonaire, but only a very few divers have been able to see them.

The major reason so few divers see sea spiders is the size of the critters: most of them, including the Caribbean ones, are well under an inch: from 1/16th of an inch (.16 cm) all the way up to half an inch (almost 1.3 cm). Aaand, those measurements don't take into account how skinny the sea spider's body and legs are! An arrow crab has skinny legs too, but its body has some (comparative) heft. Heft on a sea spider is sometimes provided by algae growth, and sometimes provided by, of all things, its eggs!

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Seashore Creatures explains that "there is so little room for organs in the body cavity [of sea spiders] ... that the sex organs are located in the long joints of the legs[!]" Most sea spider species have separate sexes, and their external fertilization, with the two spiders stacked upon each other, is facilitated by the spiders' physiology. Then the eggs are cemented to the legs of a parent until they hatch. They're usually attached to the legs of the male, but in some species the females carry them. The babies do not become plankton, but hang around where they hatch throughout their larval and juvenile stages.

Sea spiders are in the Class Pycnogonidia, which I tried to translate. *Pycno* means "dense, or thick." *Gonid* could either be "reproductive gland" or "bent knee" – and both meanings work!



Sea spiders look like tiny stick people -- to those who can see them at all! Photo Bernadette de Jonge-Lubbers

Sea spiders have tiny, four-segmented bodies. Each segment has two legs, but some spiders have 10 or more legs, including extra legs for their eggs to be attached. A proboscis on the first segment carries what is variously described as a four-part eye or four eyes. The proboscis has a rasping ability; it liquefies food and sucks it down. Sea spiders feed on anemones, bryozoans, hydroids, soft corals, and even sponges.

Bernadette and Ed have mostly spotted these creatures at night. One night, at Windsock, Bernadette saw two or three on a coral head. As she aimed her light at them, more and more spiders came out from under the coral to bask in the light – or maybe to prey on other critters who were attracted by the light. Eventually there were about twenty sea spiders on that coral head!

Worms are pretty yucky on land compared to how they look underwater. Sea spiders are not necessarily more beautiful than terrestrial spiders, but it's nice to know they don't have venom and won't jump on us. All we need to find them is time to spend underwater at night, very good close-up vision -- and a little luck.

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.



Family Announcement


 With great sadness, we have learned of the passing of the father of our esteemed member Rosalie Bierings of Rotary Club Bonaire
Mr. Theo van der Rijt
 Husband of Nel van der Rijt
 Born in Vokel, 28 May 1942
 Passed away in Veghel, 15 December 2025


 We wish Rosalie and Frank, their family and friends much strength in coping with this loss.

Bonaire, 19 December 2025
 Rotary Club Bonaire

Buddha Bowl with Buddha Hands Sauce by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

What is the Buddha's hand?

The Buddha's Hand fruit is seen in China and Japan as a powerful symbol of happiness, prosperity, wealth, a long life, protection and happiness. It is often used as a decorative gift and in New Year's traditions to symbolize these wishes. The finger-like segments symbolize growth and expansion, and its shape resembles a hand offering something. The fingers are seen as blessing hands and the more fingers open, the more favorable the omen. It is especially popular around the new year. An aromatic citrus fruit with long "fingers" with almost no pulp or juice. The peel smells strongly of lemon, yuzu and lavender.

Buddha Bowl with Buddha Hands Sauce

Sauce: Zest of 1/2 Buddha's Hand • Juice of 1 lemon • 1 dl (6 3/4 T) Olive oil • 1 cm (1/2 in) Fresh ginger root, chopped • 1/4 Red pepper, finely chopped • 10 Chive stalks, finely chopped • 1 clove Garlic, finely chopped 1/2 Shallot, chopped • 1 teaspoon Bonaire honey



• Freshly ground pepper • Bonaire sea salt

Stir everything together and serve alongside the bowl, seasoning to taste.

Bowl: 30 g (4-5 T) Grain, e.g. whole wheat pearl couscous • 20 g (1/4 C) Walnuts •

Crispy chickpeas • Crispy quinoa • 5 slices grilled zucchini • 1/3 Grilled bell pepper • 3 Lettuce leaves • 5 Cherry tomatoes • 3 cm (1 1/2 inch) Cucumber, sliced • 1/3 Ripe Avocado, chopped • 1/3 Onion, halved • 1/4 Mango, diced • Cress, e.g. garden Cress, zest of 1/2 Buddha's hand

Arrange all the vegetables in a nice bowl and serve slightly chilled. Serve with a refreshing gin and tonic with plenty of ice and a few pieces of Buddha's hands lightly crushed to release the fresh flavor. A Buddha bowl is a vegetarian meal in a bowl, named after the balance of ingredients reminiscent of Buddhism, and refers to the story of Buddha walking around with a bowl to collect food, or to the round belly of the 'smiling Buddha' (Budai). It is a variant of the Hawaiian poké bowl, but without fish, and consists of a mix of vegetables, grains and legumes, symbolizing harmony and health.

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.



Bonaire Shines at the 54th Sunfish World Championship



BSSA team at Sunfish World Championship, L-R: Paxiënroque Martis, supporter, Dedri Pedersen, Ton Nuyten, Gilbert Martis, Ramon (Yellowman) Martis, George (Kabes) Soliano and Hans de Waard

At the 54th Sunfish World Championship, December 4 - 13 in Salinas, Ecuador, the Bonaire BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) delegation of seven sailors delivered impressive performances across the Youth, Women's, and Masters categories. These divisions competed during Week One of the two-week championship. The competition consisted of three days of racing with three races per day, where competitors aimed to score the fewest points possible.

ing conditions, including strong currents, winds reaching up to 22 knots, open Pacific Ocean swell, and waves taller than the sailors themselves. The Bonairian team adapted quickly and delivered excellent results.

Paxiënroque Martis finished 11th overall in the Junior fleet, an outstanding achievement for the young sailor. Dedrie Pedersen placed 17th overall in the Women's category and 11th in her age group.

George "Kabes" Soliano earned a 6th place finish in his age group, reaffirming his status as one of Bonaire's top sailors.

The team emphasized that their participation would not have been possible without the tremendous support of local businesses. Special thanks go to Indebon, Budget Marine, MCB, Dive Friends, Between2Buns, E-Zone, Sunbelt Realty, Alfa & Omega, Chogogo, the Wassink family, Woodwind, Sebastian's, Sebas-

tian's Beach, Bonaire Affair, Blue Garden, Buena Vista, Kant'i Awa, and Bio Aesthetics by Rosita Paiman.

Looking ahead, Bonaire's preparation for the 2026 Sunfish World Championship has already begun. The event will be held in the U.S. Virgin Islands in November 2026, with qualifying races in the bay of Kralendijk by BSSA starting in January 2026.

Elizabeth Vos

In the Youth category, Paxiënroque Martis stood out as one of the youngest competitors at his first World Championship, finishing a strong 16th overall. Sailing in the Apprentice Masters category (ages 40-49), Gilbert Martis achieved an excellent 4th place.

Dedrie Pedersen had a standout event in only her third World Championship, finishing 9th in the Masters category (50-59) and securing 18th overall in the Women's fleet. In the Grand Masters category (60-69), George "Kabes" Soliano sailed consistently to finish 9th, closely followed by Ramon "Yellowman" Martis in 10th place. Bonaire also dominated the Great Grand Masters category (70-79), with Hans de Waard and Ton Nuyten finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively.

During Week Two, Bonaire was represented by three BSSA sailors in the highly competitive Open category. Over four days, sailors faced increasingly challeng-



Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps meeting: Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort'i Saliña, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction at all.

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).

Apertivo evening from 5 – 8 p.m. Fridays Rosa Cafe. Stop in for a drink & free Italian appetizers.

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 in December. Begin again 2026. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

Diver Safety. Jason Buttenshaw 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. 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 Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, 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/> 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 Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)

 **Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. 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/bonaire-turtles/> **2025 sea turtle nesting** May to Dec. Join a nest patrol on Klein. M, W F. \$40 donation adults and \$20 under 12 (& residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule			
DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Tues. December 30	0800-1800	SEABOURN OVATION 638 guests	North
	1430-2200	CARIBBEAN VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. December 31	7000-1400	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	North
	0800-1700	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Thurs. January 1	0700-1800	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	South
	0730-1800	RENAISSANCE 1623 guests	North
Fri. January 2	0700-2300	SILVER SPIRIT 626 guests	North
Sat. January 3	0700-2300	EUROPA 2 244 guests	North
Tues. January 6	0600-1400	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2074 guests	North
	Wed. January 7	0700-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests
0800-1800		SEABOURN OVATION 638 guests	North
Thurs. January 8	0630-2230	BRILLIANT LADY 2800 guests	South
	0730-2100	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR 746 guests	North
Fri. January 9	0700-1700	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	South
Sat. January 10	0600-1900	NAUTICA 777 guests	North
Mon. January 12	0500-1800	BRITANNIA 3647 guests	South
Tues. January 13	0730-1800	ROTTERDAM 2668 guests	South
Wed. January 14	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. January 15	0800-2000	COSTA PACIFICA 3780 guests	North

ONLINE TICKETS LINK Ride, swim, walk & run for the Roses

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Walk

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What's Happening

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SACA Art Center Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public.

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

Washington Slagbaai Park: Open Tues. - Sun. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

Wednesday, Dec. **31** **New Year's Eve Fireworks.** The Island celebrates with fireworks. See fireworks schedule Dec. 30 -Jan. 9 on page 23 of the [online Reporter](#).

2026

Thursday, Jan. **1** **New Year's Day.** A legal holiday. Much closes including Washington Slagbaai National Park and supermarkets. Maskarada players tour the Island.

Sunday, Feb. **1** **Ride for the Roses, Fight against cancer.** Isidel Beach Park. Ride/Swim/Walk. <https://www.ridefortheroses.org>

Open to Jan **17, 2026** **Art exhibit: True Colours. 13 artists.** SACA Art Center, Kaya Korona 74 Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2-5 p.m.

Open to 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.

Open to 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.trouwportretten@gmail.com, with names, date, location, and a brief description.

Sobremesa

Closed Jan. 1, 2026. Wed. night Art club will start up again Jan 7.

Kas di Arte View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**

- Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
- Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays **One Hour Cleanup Power.** Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/>

Sun. January 11 **Clean Coast Bonaire.** 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire>

Saturday, January 24 **Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.** Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. <https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/>

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

Delivering the Giving Tree Gifts

BYOF (Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation) loaded up one truck and two vans with presents and other goodies for 150 kids on December 19.

Thanks to your donations to the Giving Tree at Sun Rental and directly to BYOF these Bonairean kids had a happy Christmas.

Bonaire Youth Foundation is an organization that helps forge young people into future leaders of tomorrow. The young people attend activities, events or projects that are planned to promote spiritual growth and social development as well as growth in knowledge and health.



Snap me if you can



This year, STCB is organizing four quarterly photo contests, each with its own theme and prize. After the submission period, you will get to vote for your favorite photo.

We are kicking things off with our first theme: **A day in the life of a sea turtle.** What does a typical day look like through the eyes of Bonaire's sea turtles? Do they glide over beautiful coral reefs? Browse through seagrass beds? Rest in shallow areas or cruise along the shoreline? Show us the moments that capture their daily routines, their beauty, and their world, and let your photos tell their story.

How can you join?

- Take or select a photo that fits the theme
- Submit your entry through our Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHi67geCghZ6inW9jnyzEb78Mmi71dklrYlrcjJfQQQfDdfQ/viewform?usp=header>
- Deadline: February 15, 2026

The winning photo will be displayed in the STCB Visitor Center and featured on our social channels. At the end of the year, all winning photos will be auctioned to support sea turtle conservation on Bonaire.

The winner of the first quarter will win a sea turtle specialty with Beyond the Corals.

Floor van Schalkwijk, STCB
Turtle photo Julie Morgan

Creating Optimal Health Being mindfully productive

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Daniel H. Pink is a bestselling author and leading thinker on motivation, work and human behavior. He worked in several positions in politics and government, including serving from 1995 to 1997 as chief speechwriter to Vice President Al Gore. Dan translates behavioral science into practical insights for modern work and life.

Productivity isn't about doing more — it's about doing the right things well. In his popular video, "Give Me 12 Minutes and I'll Give You 30 Years of Productivity Advice," Pink distills decades of research into six simple, actionable principles that help us get better results without burning out or working longer hours.

Here are the six principles:

1. Do less, but better: quality and focus matter far more than sheer quantity. Too often, people define productivity by how much they check off their to-do list. But this approach can leave us exhausted and overwhelmed, accomplishing many low-value tasks while avoiding the ones that truly move the needle. Instead, Pink encourages a mindset of intentional subtraction — cutting out the noise so you can concentrate on what truly counts. He suggests limiting your daily commitments to a very small number — for example, no more than five. Within those, identify your Most Important Task (MIT) and tackle it first, before other distractions. This simple prioritization ensures that your best energy goes toward your most meaningful work.

2. Protect your "Golden Hours." Most people have peak times, what Pink calls "golden hours", when focus and creativity are at their highest. He urges us to identify when these periods occur and protect them from interruptions like social media, unnecessary meetings, or routine tasks. These golden hours should be reserved for deep work — the kind that demands your full attention and yields your greatest accomplishments. By aligning work with natural energy rhythms, productivity becomes less about forcing effort and more about working in harmony with your brain.

3. Systematize the Small Stuff. Pink advises automating or batching routine tasks whenever possible: paying bills automatically, setting regular schedules, or completing any task that takes less than two minutes immediately. When the small stuff is handled efficiently, mental ener-

gy is preserved for tasks that require creativity, judgment, and problem-solving.

4. Track progress, not perfection. Keeping a simple record of what you've accomplished each day can boost motivation and provide a sense of forward movement. Seeing progress, even small wins, reinforces positive habits and makes it easier to stay consistent over time.

5. Take strategic breaks. Brief pauses, especially those that involve physical movement, change of environment or social interaction, help recharge your brain and sustain performance across the day. These breaks aren't indulgences; they are productivity tools.

6. Consistency beats intensity: small, consistent efforts outperform occasional bursts of intense work. While dramatic all-nighters or marathon work sessions may feel productive, they are difficult to sustain and often lead to burnout. Real progress, Pink argues, comes from showing up regularly and making steady advances over time.

This principle applies to nearly everything: writing, learning new skills, exercising, or building a business. Twenty focused minutes every day will almost always beat a single exhausting session once a week. Consistency builds habits, momentum, and long-term success — while intensity alone often fades quickly.

Daniel Pink's advice reframes productivity from frantic output to thoughtful impact. His principles encourage us to do fewer things, but with greater focus and intention, to automate what doesn't require deep thinking, track progress, take strategic breaks and to build habits that sustain performance in the long run. Pink's wisdom offers a grounded, research-backed roadmap to working smarter, not harder.



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 volunteer fish survey snorkel held



Citizen scientists made waves this past Saturday during a snorkel event at Park Isidel organized by Biodiverse Bonaire. The activity was aimed at supporting reef conservation and contributing valuable data to the world's largest marine life database.

Over the course of a one hour snorkel, participants documented an impressive 60 species, highlighting the rich biodiversity of Park Isidel's reef system. Among the standout finds were a Beaugregory, Cocoa Damsel fish, Semiscaled Goby, Two bar Triplefins, and even a Pearly

Razorfish.

The event is part of a broader initiative to engage everyday ocean enthusiasts in scientific research. By recording species sightings, snorkelers provide valuable information that supports reef health monitoring and global marine studies.

"It was such a successful snorkel event," said Carmen Toanchina, Managing Director of Biodiverse Bonaire. "We had some fantastic finds, and it's inspiring to see the community contribute to reef conservation while enjoy-

ing the beauty of Bonaire."

With citizen science playing an increasingly important role in conservation, events like this demonstrate how collective action can make a meaningful impact on understanding and protecting marine ecosystems. For more information on how to become a citizen scientist with REEF, visit www.reef.org and www.biodiversebonaire.com.

biodiversebonaire



Graduating in Sustainably Propelled Aircraft

Ten students received their certification for the Sustainably Propelled Aircraft class at the AMTA (Aviation Maintenance Technician School) of Jacinto Frans in Bonaire. The course was given by Fons Laarhuis and Vera Molenaar from MBO College Airport in the Netherlands. The students in the program were not only from the AMTA school but included representatives from Bonaire Inter-

national Airport, Divi Divi, the fire department and Fundashon Mariadal.

Congratulations to: Jonathan Dean, Berry Sinke, Bryan Schipper, Guilvert Thielman, Junela Nicolaas, Raymond Martis, K'jar Martines, Ricardo Nuñez Centeno, Dayron Elisabeth and Orlando Vera Ureta. Also pictured are in-

structors Jacinto Frans, Fons Laarhuis, Vera Molenaar and BIA representative Gregorio Matthew, Contour Global's Riley Molina and others who supported this venture towards a sustainable avionics future for Bonaire.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

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Dear Friends,
I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
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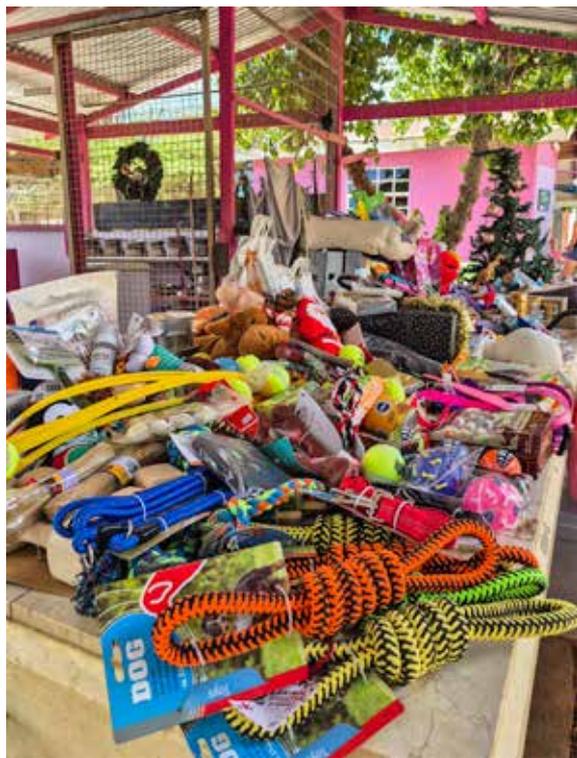
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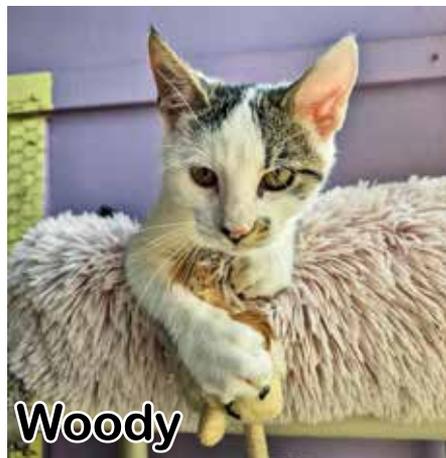


Loads of toys, beds, treats, collars and other goodies for all the dogs and cats at Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Photo: Marissa Lamers

Pets of the Week

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.
 Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Call/What's App 701-4989 animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Woody

This is Woody. Woody is 16 weeks old, and was brought to us with his brother and sister. Woody's skiblblings have already found a home, and now Woody needs one too! He is white and tabby spotted. Woody is a real cuddle kitten and is very playful. He is fully vaccinated and tested negative for Fiv and Felv. Will you give Woody his forever home?

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt



Axel

This is Axel, one of the friendliest puppies you have ever met. He loves everyone he meets and wants to be friends with all other dogs.

A few weeks ago, Axel was sadly thrown over our fence. When we arrived early in the morning, he was wandering the grounds all by himself. He quickly found a safe spot with us, but now it's truly time for him to move on to his forever home. We were always meant to be just a stop along the way (a very happy and loving stop) where Axel has been having the best time with all his friends, young and old, big and small.

Axel is 13 weeks old and more than ready for a brand-new adventure in the new year. Let's make sure he gets to start it in a loving home of his own.

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Special holiday moments



During this festive season, Animal Shelter Bonaire experienced two special moments that reminded us how strong our community truly is.

On Friday, December 19th, our volunteers and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas gathering at Sorobon Beach Resort. Everything was beautifully arranged, and

the entire evening was kindly sponsored by Sorobon. The setting was perfect and everyone felt very welcome. Masha danki Sorobon Beach Resort!

Christmas Day brought even more happiness to the shelter. Thanks to everyone who donated to our Christmas Wish Tree, we were amazed by all the gifts for our

dogs and cats. With donations of over \$800, we were also able to purchase many extra supplies.

All presents were handed out during a joyful celebration with festive meals, toys, beds, cuddles, wagging tails, and happy purrs. It was a heartwarming day for both animals and volunteers.

A video showing all the gifts being given to the animals can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

From everyone at Animal Shelter Bonaire, thank you for your support throughout the year, we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Story Marissa Lamers / Photo Julie Morgan



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ELECTRICITY RATES AS OF JANUARY 1ST 2026



Connections up till 3*200 Ampere or up till 76.10 kVA

CATEGORY	CONNECTION CAPACITY	AMOUNT kVA (1) COMPUTING CAPACITY	FIXED USAGE RATE USD/MONTH (2)			VARIABLE USAGE RATE USD/kWh (3)		
			Gross (7)	Discount (4)	Net	Gross (7)	Discount (4)	Net
Post-paid	1*25 Ampere	3.10	51.33	3.53	47.80	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*25 Ampere	4.40	72.85	25.05	47.80	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*35 Ampere	4.40	72.85	25.05	47.80	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*50 Ampere	11.40	188.75	64.92	123.83	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*63 Ampere	19.20	317.90	55.23	262.67	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*80 Ampere	30.40	503.34	87.44	415.90	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*100 Ampere	38.10	630.82	78.03	552.79	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*125 Ampere	47.60	788.12	58.10	730.02	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*160 Ampere	60.90	1,008.33	23.91	984.42	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*200 Ampere	76.10	1,259.99	29.87	1,230.12	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*80 Ampere (380 Volt)	52.50	869.25	20.61	848.64	0.3868	-	0.3868
	3*100 Ampere (380 Volt)	65.70	1,087.80	25.79	1,062.01	0.3868	-	0.3868
Pre-paid (Pagabon) (5)	n/a	n/a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.7365	0.1303	0.6062

Explanation:

- 1) For the categories 1*25 Ampere to 3*63 Ampere, fixed values have been determined for the calculation of the fixed usage fee. The standard values for 3*25 and 3*35 Ampere are aligned. For the categories 3*80 Ampere and higher, the values are calculated on the basis of the formula: (Ampere * 220 Volt * 1.73) / 1,000 (and thus equal to the technical capacity);
- 2) The level of the fixed usage rate per month depends on the size of the connection capacity and is charged per connection. This tariff is intended to cover the costs for the network;
- 3) The variable rate is charged for the actual consumption (kWh);
- 4) The discount is equal to the tariff subsidy by the Ministry of Climate and Green Growth;
- 5) The Pagabon rate is the rate for electricity per kWh supplied on a pre-paid basis and which includes the costs for transport (the fixed usage rate) and the production of electricity (the variable usage rate). are discounted into one variable rate. For new applications from April 1st, 2018, Pagabon is possible for connections up to 3*35 Ampere;
- 6) For example connection 3 * 500 Ampere at 220 Volt: (500 * 220 * 1.73) / 1000 = 190.30 kVA;
- 7) The gross rates are equal to the maximum rates as determined by the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM);
- 8) The basic rate applies to connections with a maximum length of 25 meters. A contribution based on pre-calculated project costs applies for additional lengths > 25 meters.

Connections Larger than 3*200 Ampere or kVA > 76.10

CATEGORY	CONNECTION CAPACITY	AMOUNT kVA (1)	FIXED USAGE RATE USD/MONTH PER kVA (2)			VARIABLE USAGE RATE USD/kWh (3)		
			Gross (7)	Discount (4)	Net	Gross (7)	Discount (4)	Net
Post-paid	> 3*200 Ampere	According to formula (^)	16.56	-	16.56	0.3868	-	0.3868

(^) (Ampere * Voltage * 1.73) / 1.000 = amount kVA (6)

Connection Rates

CATEGORY	CONNECTION CAPACITY	AMOUNT	RATE PER STANDARD CONNECTION (8)	RATE PER RECONNECTION
	t/m 3*35 Ampere	t/m 14 kVA	1,853.15	40.00

The above mentioned rates are visible on the invoices from the consumption period with a start date for consumption in January 2026. For customers based on Pagabon, the new rates are immediately visible from January 1, 2026.



DRINKING WATER RATES AS OF JANUARY 1ST 2026



CATEGORY	CONNECTION CAPACITY	VAST FIXED USAGE RATE (1) USD PER MONTH			VARIABLE USAGE RATE (2) USD PER M ³		
		Gross rate (5)	Discount (3)	Net rate	Gross rate (5)	Discount (3)	Net rate
Per connection	1/2"	55.61	44.01	11.60	4.475	-	4.475
	3/4"	125.12	-	125.12	4.475	-	4.475
	1"	222.43	-	222.43	4.475	-	4.475
	1 1/4"	347.55	-	347.55	4.475	-	4.475
	2"	889.74	-	889.74	4.475	-	4.475
	4"	3,558.95	-	3,558.95	4.475	-	4.475
Per water truck (4)	na	na	na	na	12.863	7.486	5.377

CONNECTION RATES

CATEGORY	CONNECTION CAPACITY	RATE PER STANDARD CONNECTION (USD) (6)	RATE PER RECONNECTION (USD)
Per connection	1/2"	1,261.69	40.00

Explanation:

- 1) The height of the fixed usage rate per month depends on the volume of the connection capacity (diameter of the connection line) and will be charged per connection. This rate is intended to cover the costs for the network;
- 2) The variable usage rate will be charged for the actual use (m³);
- 3) The discount is equal to the tariff subsidy by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W). Subsidies can only be granted on the basis of the law to reduce the fixed rate of use and to reduce the rate for delivery with the water truck;
- 4) The rate per water truck concerns the rate for drinking water per m³ that will be delivered by truck and in which the costs for transportation and drinking water are discounted. This delivery has to be paid up front;
- 5) The gross rates are equal to the maximum rates set by the Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM);
- 6) The basic rate applies to connections with a maximum length of 25 meters. For excess length > 25 meters, a contribution based on pre-calculated project costs applies.

The above mentioned rates are visible on the invoices with a start date for consumption in January 2026. For the water truck customers, the new rates are immediately visible from January 1st 2026.



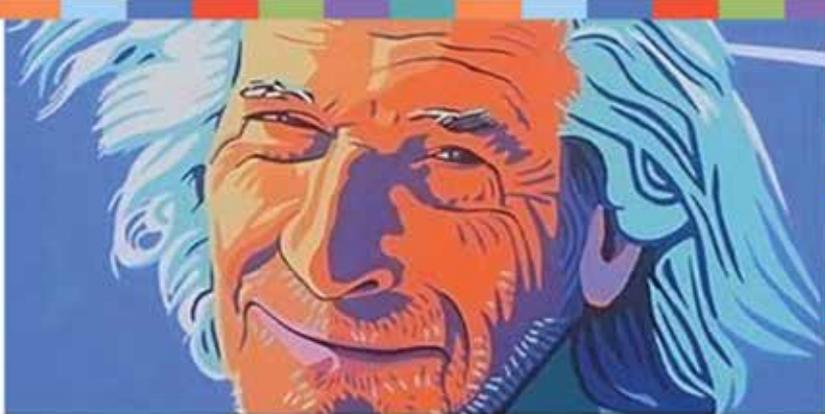
Bonaire Fireworks Show Line-Up



- | | |
|--|---|
|  Capriccio
30 December 2025 |  00:00 – 01:00 |
|  Kooyman
31 December 2025 |  13:00 – 13:30 |
|  Tung Fong Store
31 December 2025 |  17:30 – 17:40 |
|  Van Den Tweel
31 December 2025 |  19:00 – 19:20 |
|  KPCN
31 December 2025 |  20:30 – 21:30 |
|  Parking Sport Complex
Jorge Nicolaas
01 January 2026 |  00:00 – 00:10 |
|  Flamingo TV
09 January 2026 |  23:00 – 23:30 |

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-
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 - Eric Cremers
 - Wilco Harbers
 - Dillon Rannou
 - Jozee Tjoa
 - Sylvia Ayoka
 - Delno Tromp
 - Lize van de Ven
 - Ghislaine Monte
 - Leslie Tucker
 - Ilan Originals
 - Zajamara
 - Debora Davidson Descelles
-