



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Tera Barra and Ishira join Walkathon
Photo Julie Morgan

The 23rd Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon

Tera Barra, Bonaire's non-profit reforestation, biodiversity organization and garden, joined the Walk-A-Thon with 10 participants pushing a wheelbarrow with a native Ishira tree. On reaching the final destination in Rincon the 2-3-meter (6-9 ft) tree was planted just behind the big Rincon sign. The

priest from Louis Bertrand provided a blessing for the tree to grow big and strong.

Johan van Blerk of Tera Barra said, "The Ishiri is a rare native fruit tree and today only a few large Ishiri trees remain in Rincon and a few in the wild. The older generation still knows and

recognizes this tree, but it became a rare species... Planting this Ishiri in Rincon should be a meaningful moment for Bonaire".

Bonaire's Special Olympic team is currently preparing for their next competition at the Netherlands National Games 2026 in Haarlem, Haarlem-

mermeer and Zandvoort on June 13-14. This event features 25 tournament games and some 2850 athletes and coaches are set to attend. The Bonaire team will be competing in bocce, swimming, soccer, and track.

The breakfast for all participants was prepared by Special Olympics volunteers.

Buses providing transport of participants and bikes to White Slave and from Rincon to Kralendijk, t-shirts, water, fruit and food were all donated. In addition there were several monetary donations to support the Special Olympics athletes.

Thank you to all the sponsors and to everyone who participated: Indebon, FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire), Maduro & Curiel Bank, KFC, WEB Bonaire, Guardian Group, Flamingo TV, Cicilia Motors, Best Brand, NAPA Autoparts, Warehouse Bonaire, Tung Fong, Firgos, Pietersz Import, Bonaire Lions Club, Fresh Supplier Bonaire, DiraWira Agencies BV, Mac Enterprises, Fabi, Budget Rent A Car, Selibon, Silfam, Don Andres, Rocargo, ZW Groep, FKPD, Arlene, Wolfpack, Boemaventura Far, Live99 and Famoso Supermarket. To keep up to date on Special Olympics Bonaire visit their Facebook page.

More photos of the Walk-A-Thon are available on the Reporter Facebook page.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Participants take a break and enjoy the view at 1000 Steps Photo Julie Morgan

Although Bonaire may never have an athlete compete in the Olympic Games, we do have our own Special Olympics team and they bring home the gold in the Special Olympics World Games every two years. We all feel a sense of pride in these athletes and for the 23rd year, Bonaire has showed their support by participating in the main fundraiser, the Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-A-Thon.

Walk-A-Thon ticket sales this year outdid records of previous years with an amazing 1106 tickets sold.

The 30km (18.64 mi) trek from White Slave to the Louis Bertrand Church in Rincon began at 5 a.m. and the majority of walkers finished the journey and checked in for their certificate and breakfast by 11 a.m. The 89 cyclists made the trip in two - three hours.

The weather was perfect for the walkers and cyclists and the 40 volunteers kept everyone hydrated with water and fruit at seven different posts along the way.

The Red Cross traveled the roads to provide assistance to anyone in need. They even passed out lollipops for anyone requiring a sugar boost. They did put their medical training to use for a few walkers with blistered feet. At the welcome to Rincon sign, the last leg the journey, an overly excited child tripped and fell into a cactus. The spines were removed by a passing member of the fire department. The little boy was then taken by the Red Cross for the short trip to the church.

Jetten's Cabinet to push island council expansion

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Eric van der Burg intends to try to speed legislation through parliament that provides BES islanders an opportunity to expand their shorthanded island councils. It has to pass by mid-summer to be ready for the March 2027 elections. The island public bodies need more councilors. That has been apparent since they became municipalities of the Netherlands in 10-10-10. Progress towards enlarging the island councils has been slow however, and the proposed steps have seemed cautious. Perhaps because two incorrect perceptions have been in play: that people in the islands supposedly "aren't ready" for self-government; and that in order to fulfill their obligation "to consult" with islanders regarding political changes, the Dutch should talk with the members of the embedded executive councils.

But as island councils become larger, the individual executive council members will have less power. So executive board members tend to advise against council expansion. And al-

though the islands do have many knowledgeable and competent people of good character who could provide worthy leadership, political service, as traditionally practiced in the islands, is not attractive to many people.

Van der Burg promises to discuss council expansion with the members of the island councils and the members of the executive councils both.

Van der Burg says a majority in Parliament appears to favor the expansion. He also points out that the essential legislation is already in hand, having been written by his predecessor as state secretary, Eddie Van Marum. Only details have to be worked out regarding the support the islands receive from the central government in areas such as adapting meeting facilities, strengthening support services, and increasing councilor remuneration. *DMR*

Judge's ruling prevents collapse of Telbo services

Since 2017 Netpro has provided the IT infrastructure Telbo needs to operate the island's telecommunications services. Negotiations began for a new five year contract, but when discussions broke down Telbo director Jacobo 'Gregory' Colina cancelled the remainder of the current contract. Since then Netpro has continued to provide the services without receiving payment in order to keep Bonaire's telephone and intranet system in operation. Telbo reportedly has made no effort to contract with a new service provider and claims it cannot look elsewhere because Netpro is "holding Telbo's data hostage."

On February 24 a judge ruled that Netpro cannot shut down Telbo. It must continue providing services until Telbo has a new infrastructure in place. On the other hand, the judge also ruled that within 10 days Telbo must purchase the equipment a new provider will need to build the replacement infrastructure.

Colina says that Telbo already has the equipment in hand and will have a new IT infrastructure within three months. Colina still insists though that Netpro cheated Telbo under the old contract and owes Telbo compensation.

A memory lapse may be the core of the dispute. Netpro says the contracted arrangement was straightforward from the beginning. Netpro would operate from Bonaire. Telbo would be its primary client while it contracted to serve other international customers from here. Colina says he has no memory of those discussions. Colina says he learned only during the recent negotiations that Netpro has been billing other customers too. He believes Telbo has been paying 100% of the cost while receiving only 66% of the service.

While the two parties were hashing out these issues in court, StarLink dishes started showing up on roofs all over the island. *DMR*

Sign announces official start of fishing pier renovation



The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) has installed a sign at the fishing pier on Playa Pabou to inform the public that the maintenance work there has officially begun. In a press release the Executive

Council promised to continue keeping Bonaireans informed about each step as the pier repairs continue.

Photo OLB

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Island news

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A Day in the life of a Sea Turtle



Photo by first place winner Danny Cohn

Some 80 people submitted photos to the first-ever Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's (STCB) quarterly photo competition *Snap Me If You Can*. The first contest theme, *A Day in the life of a Sea Turtle*, ran from January 5 – February 15 with the public selecting the winners from an online site by March 5.

First place was awarded to Danny Cohn of a hawksbill taking a breath in Playa with a cruise ship in the background. He received a PADI Sea Turtle Specialty from Beyond the Corals.

Other winners: second – Meredith Schnoll, third – Steve Schnoll and fourth – Alie Karman. The next contest theme, *Coexisting*, will launch April 6. For more information about STCB visit them on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles>

Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Kaya Proud 5 Family Home close to Downtown



- Location: Playa Pabou
- Lot size : 780 m2 / 8396 sq. ft.
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, storage/laundry room

- Walking distance to the ocean and Kralendijk
- Large lap pool, tropical garden

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$639,000 US Dollar

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POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

FOUND Feb. 23. Police found two bicycles in the bushes near Hanchi Amboina. They are a green Raleigh bicycle and a black-and-gray Batanus bicycle. The bicycles have been confiscated for further investigation.

Do you recognize either of these bicycles based on the description? Please contact the police at +599 715 8000.

Mar. 8. A diving company on Kaya Industria was burgled. Stolen items including phones, iPads, and cash.

Mar. 7. In the evening a cyclist was suddenly surprised on Kaya Mendelssohn by a person wearing a hood. The perpetrator acted aggressively and during a struggle ripped off both lights of the bicycle before fleeing with them.

Mar. 7. A diving company on Boulevard Gobernador N. Debrot was burgled but it is currently unknown what exactly was taken.

Mar. 7. At a business on Kaya Amsterdam unknown persons gained access to the building, but a security company managed to foil the theft. It is not yet known whether any items were taken.

Feb. 23. Unknown persons gained access to the slaughterhouse on Kaminda Lagun and stole a sum of money and, among other things, a safe containing a box of ammunition and two weapons.

Police are asking anyone who saw anything suspicious in the vicinity of Kaminda Lagun, or who knows anything about this burglary, to contact 911 immediately or anonymously via the tip line 9310.

Arrests

Mar. 7. 6 a.m. A man, 46, was arrested on Kaya Emerita for assault.

Mar. 4. 10 p.m. A fight between several people was reported near a restaurant on Kaya Bonaire. When police arrived, the fight had subsided, but the individuals involved were still present. Two of them had facial injuries. After further investigation a man, 36, was arrested for assault. Police found a knife when they searched the suspect, and confiscated it.

Mar. 4. A hit-and-run incident on Kaya J.N.E. Craane was reported that described the driver who had driven off. Police found that person near the fishing harbor (Waf di Piskadó) in Playa Pabou. He had suspected narcotics on him. At that point, he and others became verbally and physically aggressive and resisted the officers. Three people were arrested: a woman, 20, a man, 23, and a man, 43. As part of the ongoing investigation, a fourth suspect, a man, 21, was arrested at the police station on Thursday, March 5th. The individuals are suspected of one or more of the following offenses: assault on a public servant while on duty, public violence, violation of the Opium Act, insults, threats, and resisting arrest. The investigation into this case is on-going.

Mar. 3. 12:30 p.m. Police conducted searches at three different addresses in connection with an ongoing investigation into a shooting incident that occurred on February 6, 2026. The searches took place on Kaya De La Plata, Kaya Trupial, and Kaya Amazona. Two suspects were arrested: a man, 24, and a man, 16. During the searches, several items relevant to the investigation were seized. Suspected narcotics were also found and seized.

Traffic accidents

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

Mar. 2. 2:35 a.m. A car crashed into a concrete electrical box on Kaya Oktaaf. The driver apparently walked to his home after the accident, where officers found him. He suffered minor injuries and was medically examined by paramedics. The driver was fined when he could not show a driver's license.

Feb. 26. 9:55 p.m. On E.E.G. Boulevard, near Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach), a driver lost control of the car and collided with rocks on the side of the road, causing the vehicle to roll over. By the time police arrived, the driver had already exited the vehicle, which was lying on its side. The driver sustained minor injuries and stated that he would go to the hospital for medical care.

Driving under the influence

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.

From Feb. 24 to Mar. 6. Police reported that nine drivers (including one scooter driver) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The drivers were tested after: colliding with another car; being stopped for a routine check 3x; driving into the bushes 1x; driving into a fence 2x; driving in a closed area 1x; driving erratically 1x. Six driver's licenses were confiscated and one 6-hour ban and two four-hour bans given.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

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

Mar. 6. KPCN trainees checked 10 vehicles under the supervision of practical supervisors at Kaminda La Unión. Two tickets were issued: one for driving without a valid insurance; and one for driving without a valid driver's license, without valid insurance, without a seat belt, and without a front license plate. This vehicle was impounded and taken to the police station. At the scene, one driver received a warning for driving with an expired insurance certificate.

Mar. 4. Police checked the license plates of cars driving on Kaya Nikiboko Noord, Kaya Korona, and Kaya Amsterdam. During the control 10 drivers were fined for driving without both license plates attached to the vehicle, or for using false license plates. Fines were also given to drivers for driving without a valid driver's license (or failure to produce one) 3x; for driving without valid insurance (or failure to produce one) 2x; and for driving without a seatbelt 1x. During a speed check on Kaya Amsterdam, the speed of several approaching cars was measured with a laser gun. One ticket was issued to a driver traveling at 85 km/h, 45 km/h faster than the 40 km/h speed limit. Furthermore, the driver was underage and therefore did not possess a driver's license. The young person received tickets for speeding and driving without a license; the case will also be reported to HALT.

Feb. 28. During an afternoon traffic check on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund, 11 vehicles were checked, and one ticket was issued for driving without a seatbelt.

In the morning, during a check on Kaya Internashonal 24 vehicles were checked. Eight tickets were issued: four for driving without valid insurance, and four for driving without a valid driver's license. During this check, one vehicle was seized because the driver had been repeatedly caught driving without a license. In addition, one person was taken to the police station because neither valid identification nor a valid residence permit could be produced. This person has been transferred to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee for further investigation.

Feb. 28. 10:00 p.m. Police found a car with false license plates on Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana. The driver had previously received a ticket for the same offense, but had ignored the ticket and failed to remove the false plates. At the scene, the driver was again given the opportunity to exchange the false license plates for the original ones. This request was again ignored, after which the police seized both the vehicle and the false plates.

The police remind all vehicle owners that they are only permitted to drive with original license plates issued by the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). Driving a car or truck without license plates, or with only one license plate, is a violation and can result in a fine. These regulations also apply to golf cart users.

Forging a license plate or a government emblem is a criminal offense and can lead to vehicle confiscation.

Feb. 26. A traffic check in collaboration with Customs was conducted on Kaya L.S. (Goi) Coffi near the customs office. The dual purpose of this check was to increase road safety and detect illegally transported goods and substances.

During the check, 40 vehicles were inspected. Several of these were searched with the assistance of Customs sniffer dogs. Two weapons (a machete and a cutting knife), a small quantity of suspected narcotics, and a small digital scale were seized.

Police issued 16 fines: for driving without a valid driver's license (or failing to produce one) 5x; driving without a front license plate 5x; driving without a valid insurance (or failing to produce one) 4x; and driving without a seatbelt 2x.

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

Fire

Mar. 2. 5:30 p.m. A car was reported on fire in the parking lot of a supermarket on Kaya Industria. The owner extinguished

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,

I want to sell my property to a family member and give them a good deal. Can I sell my property for a lower price than the market value?

Regards, Donna

Hi Donna,

That is a good question. The answer is yes; you can sell your property for a lower price. However, the transfer tax is based on the current market value of the property. Even if you sell for a very low price to a family member or any other person, the tax office will still use the market value to calculate the transfer tax.

The notary will need an appraisal from an independent realtor to determine the market value. You cannot reduce the transfer tax just by agreeing on a lower price.

For example:

- Appraised market value: \$ 400,000
- Sale price to a family member: \$ 300,000
- Transfer tax will be calculated on \$ 400,000, not \$ 300,000

With kind regards, 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 fire before emergency services arrived. According to the owner, the fire started when a lighter that was likely not completely extinguished was thrown onto the driver's seat of the parked car.

Emergency response

Mar. 8. 5 p.m. The Coast Guard helicopter and ambulance personnel were called to the rescue of two snorkelers in the sea near Lac Cai. A strong current had pulled two snorkelers further out to sea, preventing them from returning to shore on their own. Eventually, the victims were pulled from the water, and resuscitation was immediately started on one of them. Despite the efforts of the emergency services, this was unfortunately unsuccessful. The victim, a 66-year-old male tourist died at the scene. Paramedics medically examined the other victim, but no further treatment was required.

Mar. 6. 7 p.m. A cyclist was reported lost in the mondi near Bolivia. Police patrols were immediately dispatched to the area to search. Fortunately, the cyclist had his mobile phone with him and it had sufficient charge, allowing him to stay in contact with dispatchers and report his location.

Due to the darkness and the size of the impassable area, the Coast Guard helicopter from Curaçao was called in for assistance. While the helicopter was en route, the police continued the search, closing in on the individual. As a result, the cyclist was immediately located upon the helicopter's arrival and taken to the airport. The man stated that he had taken a wrong turn during his bike ride, causing him to end up in a place he couldn't get out of.



KPCN releases Bonaire's 2025 police statistics

On February 6, 2026, the Korp Politie Caribisch Nederland (KPCN) released Bonaire's official police statistics for 2025.

PROPERTY CRIMES - Total 712, arrests: 66.
criminal offenses against someone's property or assets.

Property crimes were most common in the Playa, Antriol, and Nikiboko neighborhoods.

- In Playa, the main crimes involved scooter theft, business burglaries, and residential burglaries.
- In Antriol, thefts from vehicles and residential burglaries were the most common.
- In Nikiboko, the main crimes were business burglaries and motor vehicle theft.

Scooter/motorcycle theft decreased by 85%, while (electric) bicycle theft increased by 33%.

VIOLENT CRIMES - Total 327, arrests 80.

criminal offenses in which violence is used or threatened against a person. The acts affect the physical integrity, freedom, or safety of people.

Violent crimes on Bonaire mainly consist of threats, assault, and domestic violence. Reports of violent crimes increase between Friday and Sunday. Threats and assault are most common in Antriol and Playa. While in Nikiboko, domestic violence and threats are most common.

TRAFFIC - Total collisions, 1401.

Police present at collision, 494. Fines 1179.

In traffic, a distinction is made between traffic violations and traffic offenses.

Traffic violations are less serious violations of traffic rules, such as parking where it is prohibited or not wearing a seatbelt or helmet. These types of behavior are usually dealt with administratively and involve a fine.

Traffic offenses, on the other hand, are more serious in nature and directly involve endangering the safety or even the lives of others. Examples include driving under the influence of alcohol, leaving the scene of an accident, or dangerous driving leading to injury or death.

Arrests for driving under the influence, 206.

- Of the 546 drivers tested after a collision, 110 were found to be under the influence of alcohol and were arrested. The remaining 436 drivers were not under the influence.

- Of the 133 drivers checked during a traffic stop, 96 were found to be under the influence of alcohol. The remaining 37 drivers were not under the influence. Compared with 2024, the numbers are up in both categories: (110 vs 85 in 2024) and (96 vs 61 in 2024).

DRUG OFFENSES - Drug smuggling arrests 10, Opium arrests 8, House searches for opium 6.

criminal offenses involving the possession, production, trade, transportation, and use of narcotics.

FIREARM OFFENSES - Arrests 32, Firearms seized 10.

criminal offenses related to the possession, production, trade, transport, and use of firearms, including ammunition

In the second quarter of 2025, we see a significant increase in firearm incidents compared to the first quarter.

64% of the suspects arrested in firearms incidents are between 15 and 25 years old.

JUVENILE CRIME - Arrested minors 19.

criminal behavior committed by minors (aged 12 to 18) and young adults (aged 18 to 25).

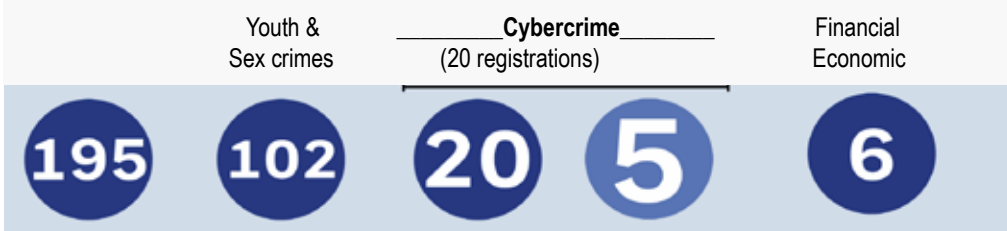
Arrested young people represent 30.4% of the total number of suspects arrested in 2025. Within the youth group, the most arrests will be made for:

- Driving under the influence (21.7%) → age 18 to 25
- Possession of firearms (10.5%)
- Assault (9.9%)
- Theft (8.6%)
- Drug offenses (5.9%)

How 2025 compares with 2023 & 2024

PROPERTY CRIME	2023	2024	2025
Theft	187	178	175
Attempted	19	36	24
At a dive site	6	64	57
From property	21	23	25
Of vehicles	72	138	102
Shoplifting	7	3	5
With violence	6	12	11
Burglary	53	68	104
Vandalism	111	111	139
Embezzlement	8	16	18
Fraud/Deception	13	23	30
Receiving stolen goods	11	25	14
VIOLENT CRIMES	2023	2024	2025
Assault	80	73	55
Assault with a (fire)arm	27	22	14
Aggravated assault	9	6	5
Child abuse	11	5	4
Relationship violence	69	140	112
Public assault	10	19	12
Murder/Manslaughter	1	1	2
Attempted murder/manslaughter	8	18	13
Threats	48	67	46
Threats with a (fire)arm	30	25	21
Threats of death	36	34	43
TRAFFIC	2023	2024	2025
General Traffic Control	50	37	44
Fines		909	1179
Fevering	96	80	46
Street races	8	5	4
DUI arrest after collision	--	86	110
DUI arrest during check	--	61	96
FIREARM OFFENSES	2023	2024	2025
Suspects arrested	--	12	32
Firearms seized	--	6	10

Criminal investigations 2025



Helmond declares landfill agreement a failure



Jan Helmond, Acting Kingdom Representative (wRv)

Jan Helmond, Acting Kingdom Representative (wRv), had the onerous task of trying to execute an administrative agreement to tackle the Lagun Landfill crisis in cooperation with the Abraham-led Public Entity (OLB). When the Living Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) reviewed the OLB's progress report dated January 31st, the inspectors concluded that the Executive Council had taken only the steps necessary to meet the minimum legal stipulations of the agreement.

Helmond says the report only confirmed that the Executive Council has been neglectful of its duties. He says "There is not even the beginning of a solution in sight. The situation remains urgent, worrying, and complex. In fact, there is little prospect of improvement for the residents."

Helmond recommends a large-scale, integrated approach. The new cabinet seems to agree. During a two-minute debate in the House of Representatives, State Secretary Annet Bertram (Infrastructure and Water Management) said, "The cabinet fully realizes that this is a problem that needs to be solved. She proposed that by July Parliament should have taken "really tangible steps to address the waste crisis on Bonaire." DMR

Bonaire still adrift politically

Bonaire is in its eighth week without a fully empowered governing body. On January 21 Clark Abraham's five-member PD-led coalition lost its majority in the nine-member island council when a party member withdrew from the coalition. According to the WolBES laws under which the municipality was constituted, new council elections do not follow. Instead, the nine previously elected councilors (including any that have been appointed by their party to fill a vacancy) negotiate a new majority coalition from among themselves. When a new island council has been formed, it then elects a new Executive Council.

The nine members of the previous council—as parties and individuals—have been trying for eight weeks to negotiate a council majority that best serves the political interests of each. The question most on the mind of the general public seems to be: when a new island council has been formed, will it re-elect Abraham to the executive council; or will Hennyson Thielman (MPB), an experienced council member who was recently re-appointed, succeed in his determination to block Abraham's return to the government? DMR

Islanders can legally surrender illegal guns

The police forces prosecution services of the Dutch Caribbean, along with those of Curaçao, Sint Maarten, and Aruba, have offered a period of amnesty for people who own guns illegally to surrender them without penalty. Afterwards the authorities will intensify their judicial searches for illegal firearms and resume prosecuting offenders. DMR

Bonaire.nu reports OLB not responding to requests for information

When the Bonaire Public Body receives a formal request for information from the public, the Public Administration Act (Wob) requires it to respond within six weeks.

According to the editors of the online news site *Bonaire.nu*, they filed five requests in December. None have yet been answered. The editors also learned that 20 additional requests filed by other parties are waiting for a response from the OLB.

The editors said they filed the requests because of "the ongoing lack of transparency from the public administration" and because "directors and deputies are difficult to reach." Hans Hofstra of *Bonaire.nu* reported the requests asked about the construction of project(s) on Sorobon, enforcement on public beaches, supervision of short-term rentals, the investigation by Ebben Partners of the Santa Clara land transaction, and the integrity investigation into former deputy Anjelica Cicilia.

Responding to a Wob request is time consuming and requires a sufficiently large staff, *Bonaire.nu* acknowledges. Private information regarding individuals has to be redacted, and the required information may have to be collected from many individuals in and out of the government. DMR

Results of Santa Clara investigation predicted this month

Another unexplained delay has occurred in the investigation into the suspicions that Deputy Clark Abraham may have engaged in a conflict of interest when the government sold land in Santa Clara to a relative of his at below the asking price. Governor John Soliano has informed the Island Council that "the fact-finding process has taken longer than initially planned." But according to Soliano the investigation is "at an advanced stage" and the results are "expected" to be ready by the end of March. DMR

Ship takes Bonaire's recyclables and returns with building materials

The new Bonaire-based shipping Company, United Caribbean Line (UCL), has been opening needed logistics routes between South America and the Caribbean. Launched earlier this year, it is already operating at near capacity and is purchasing a second multipurpose vessel.

Like UCL's first ship, *M/V Mayflower II*, the new ship will be capable of both bulk transport and container transport. From Bonaire the ships will transport "Cows"—that is, containers—filled with cardboard, tires, plastics and metals, to Colombia for recycling. They will return with building materials such as sand, stone chips, and cement in big bags, cargo that is badly needed on Bonaire because of the construction boom.

DMR (source: Dick Drayer, Curaçao.nu)

Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire addresses the Lions Club



The Bonaire Lions Club extends its deepest appreciation to Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire for the outstanding, enlightening, and inspiring presentation shared with our members.

Through this meaningful session, we gained a deeper understanding of Alzheimer's disease, the profound challenges it brings not only to those living with it but also to their loved ones, and the remarkable, dedicated work carried out every day by FAB to support and guide our community.

We leave with a powerful message: breaking taboos, spreading knowledge, embracing acceptance and understanding, and above all, offering love are essential

foundations in facing this difficult journey with dignity and compassion.

The Bonaire Lions Club proudly reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with FAB in amplifying their message and strengthening awareness across our island. Together, we can build a more informed, supportive, and caring community.

At the conclusion of the presentation, BLC had the honor of presenting a donation to FAB. With this contribution, we stand behind their mission and help ensure that vital education, guidance, and hope continue to reach those who need it most.

Bonaire Lions Club

Nature restoration to start at Bakuna

In 2026, restoration works will begin at Bakuna, a former plantation area with high ecological and cultural value. The two-year project will be carried out by Bon-Bèrdè and focuses on improving conditions for natural recovery while keeping the area accessible for low-impact recreation.

The first phase of the project involves the construction of a perimeter fence to prevent goats and donkeys from entering the area. These animals have a strong impact on vegetation and soil, and their exclusion is an important step in allowing native plants to recover. After the fence is completed, the remaining animals inside the area will be removed.

Additional activities include the protection of caves and wells, continued support for bat conservation, and the maintenance and improvement of existing trails. A clearly marked visitor trail will guide mountain bikers through the area.

Bakuna will remain open to the public during the project. Mountain bikers are asked to follow signage,



Above: Bakuna vegetation and well

On the map: Bakuna is the enclosed area east of Lac.



stay on marked routes, and not climb over fences. Temporary information signs will be placed where needed to explain ongoing activities and any safety measures. The entrance for mountain bikers is located on the right side of the gate (hop-over fence).

Bon-Berde release & photos

For more information:

www.bonberde.com/bakuna



Bakuna gate with hop-over fence to the right for bikers

Make Bonaire Accessible

Going the extra mile..... by Ria Dokter

Working with people is not easy and not everyone is good at it. Enduring criticism all the time asks a lot of your emphatic abilities. But when you do endure, you will learn that endurance has its benefits.

There is this group of volunteers who will always wait till the last guest has been picked up by a friend or family-member, before closing the gate of the gathering-spot. Only after that will they start their engine and drive home or take the last guest home themselves.

There is this lady who knows that one of her peers loves a special kind of bread. She will pass by the bakery every Friday-morning to pick up a loaf. When some days there is no bread of that type, she will always pick another possibility. I do hope she knows how much this is appreciated.

When “meals on wheels” fails to deliver a meal, there is always somebody who understands the situation and will try to find a solution. If not, she will deliver the meal herself.

If there is a “pick up” of one or more patients at the

hospital and no transportation has taken place, there is always another driver who will try to find a solution or take the “stranded” patients home herself.

And that is what one does, going the extra mile, when one knows how to be of help, when one knows how important it is that clients get the attention they need. Especially the elderly clients and/or those with a disability. And because these helpers always go the extra mile, you will always see a smile on the client’s face when the helper appears.

I would like to propose regular workshops and incentives for those interested in working with people. Workshops can show client-interactions that are filmed and made into teaching aids for the trainers. When input of clients is being used, training to go the extra mile is easy, it’s not expensive, is very motivating, especially when you use the clients input as much as possible. A happy employee is an excellent face of the organization. And a happy client is worth the same.

You would be surprised how far a smile can go. A helper’s smile reaches for miles and is enough for many

clients to go forward. But the feedback the clients give to the organization is also worth a lot. Imagine hearing a client talk to another client about how gracefully she was assisted and how good the appointments all turned out to be.

Organize an “employee of the month,” every month and make that public in the most popular paper /radio-station. Who does not want to be an employee of the week/month/year? Going the extra mile has so many advantages, you would be surprised. Set up your organization’s “extra-mile” programs and start next week on Monday. And keep all the scores. Be surprised... Watch how other organizations may follow your “going the extra miles” program!



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.



This visiting cyclist wore her 2014 Walkathon shirt. Photo Julie Morgan



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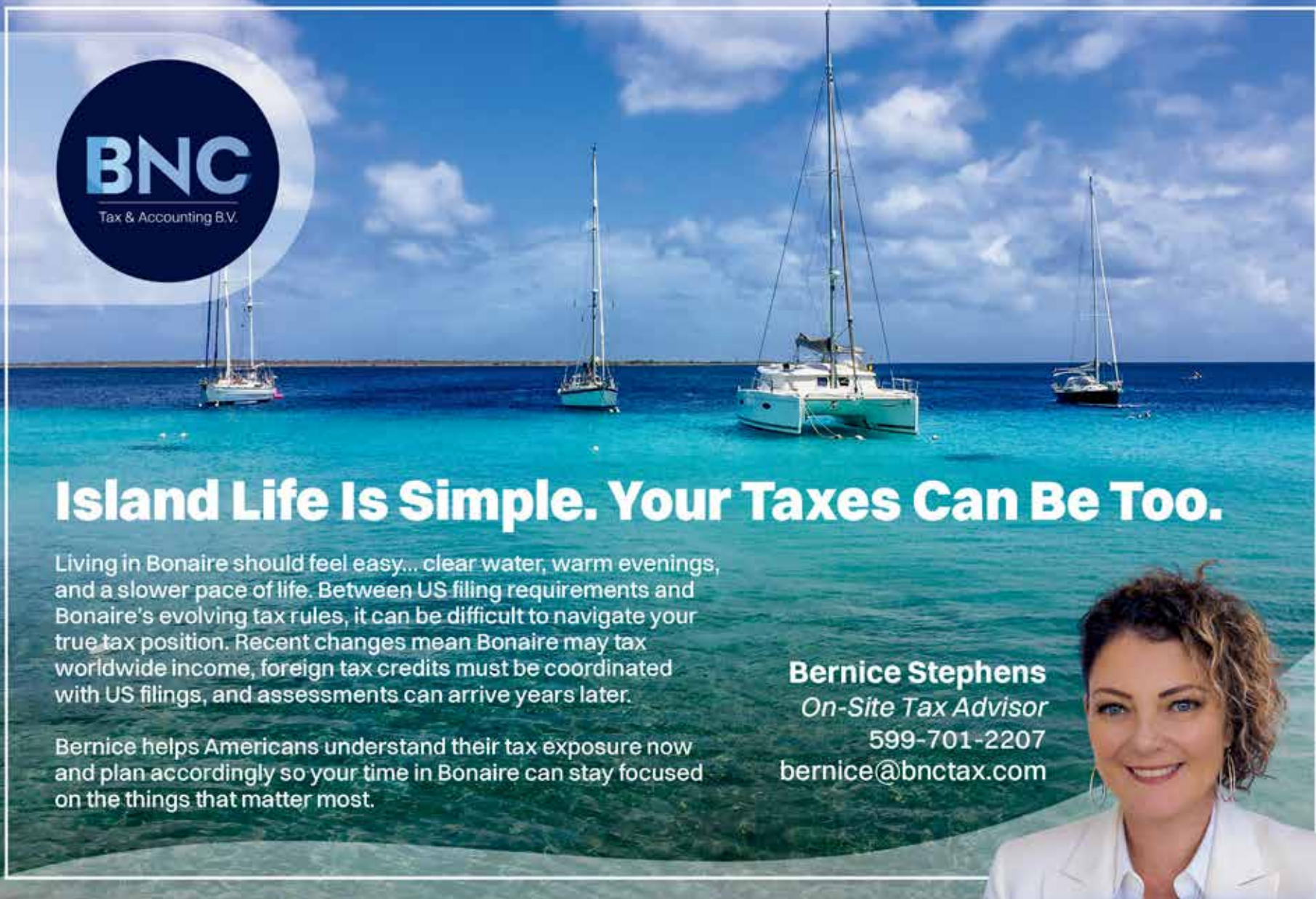


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Living in Bonaire should feel easy... clear water, warm evenings, and a slower pace of life. Between US filing requirements and Bonaire's evolving tax rules, it can be difficult to navigate your true tax position. Recent changes mean Bonaire may tax worldwide income, foreign tax credits must be coordinated with US filings, and assessments can arrive years later.

Bernice helps Americans understand their tax exposure now and plan accordingly so your time in Bonaire can stay focused on the things that matter most.

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Bonaire Tourism: Overview for 2025 & 2026 Strategic Outlook

Key players in Bonaire's tourism sector presented the Bonaire Tourism Overview for 2025 and 2026 Outlook on February 27th, 2026, at Delfins Beach Resort.

Looking back at the information session, Elesiër Angel, CEO, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) said, "We welcomed critical questions and meaningful dialogue, because taking Bonaire's tourism industry seriously means being honest about both opportunities and challenges."

As we look ahead, our commitment remains clear: to manage tourism responsibly by focusing on value, visitor experience, and long-term sustainability. This can only be achieved together with the government, our industry partners, and the island community. Tourism must continue to generate economic impact while protecting what makes Bonaire unique. That balance is our shared responsibility and our shared ambition."

Veroesjka de Windt, CEO of Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association gave BONHATA's analysis of 2025 and a caution for 2026: "Bonaire achieved a significant milestone in 2025, returning to pre-COVID hotel occupancy levels with strong revenue growth. While this demonstrates the sector's resilience, BONHATA emphasizes that sustainable tourism development requires deliberate planning and strategic collaboration

across the industry. Growth is not dependent on expanding accommodation capacity, but rather on targeted marketing, improved visitor distribution, enhanced product offerings, and close cooperation between the government, TCB, airline partners, and local accommodations."

Günther Flanegin, Harbor Master, said: "We observed a change in demand in the cruise industry on Bonaire in 2025, which was a positive and balanced year. The Ritz Carlton and MSC Explora were among the smaller and more luxurious vessels that arrived at the island. Also, we got the first Corendon ship, which made it possible for cruise tourists to leave from Curaçao."

According to BES reporter, attendees raised critical questions about the use of the Visitor Entry Tax. Several participants stated that the revenues mainly flow into the government's general funds and hardly return to the tourism sector. There were also remarks suggesting that the government does not sufficiently recognize the economic importance of tourism for the island.

Sources: TCB, BES Reporter



Paulo Martina, New Director Slavery Memorial Committee



Mr. Paulo Martina will take over as the new director of the Slavery Memorial Committee Foundation May 1st, 2026.

Martina was born in Curaçao in 1964 and moved to the Netherlands at the age of twelve. He has worked in the arts and culture sector for thirty years and has been the director of the Zutphen Museums since 2023. Martina's credo is that everyone has the right to know their own history. A history with which you can identify, which helps you better understand yourself, others, and your surroundings.

Paulo Martina: "Because of my own background, I feel an intrinsic connection to the history of slavery. This makes me extra motivated to use my knowledge and experience for the Slavery Memorial Committee."

Komitê di Konmemorashon Pasado di Sklabituit

KMar recruits complete Phase 1



Fifteen recruits, three women and 12 men, training for the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee received congratulations in the parking area of the Bonaire Police Department on completing the first phase of their training March 6.

The recruits: nine from Bonaire, two from Saba and four from Curaçao now living in Bonaire

range in age 20-41. This first phase, a five-day bivouac, focused on teamwork, discipline and perseverance. The recruits will head to the Netherlands in the next few days to begin three months of intense physical training and classes in Apeldoorn. They will then return to Bonaire for the remainder of their training before graduating in January 2027.

Photo Julie Morgan

JJ retires from dive medicine

Jan-Jaap (JJ) Brandt Corstius, the diving doctor who brought the first dive medicine courses to Bonaire was celebrated by friends, family and former colleagues on March 6. After over 30 years of organizing and teaching dive medicine classes on Bonaire to physicians from around the world he retired in January.

The small surprise retirement party was organized by Sara Matera who arranged the first bookings for the medical groups. Attending were Andre Nahr of Sand Dollar Dive and Photo, JJ's initial scuba instructor Pam Teitel, former Lt. Governor Edison Rijna who thanked him for his support of Bonaire and others who played a part in the success of the dive medicine courses.

Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) Helen Mercera presented JJ with a Certificate of Recognition and trophy for bringing doctors' dive groups and teaching dive medicine on the island. He even received a special TCB sunhat.

JJ first visited Bonaire in 1990 aboard the Insulinde and returned a year later to begin his 36-year love affair with Bonaire.

JJ is a graduate physiologist from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, was director of the Scott Haldane Foundation, a train-



(L-R) Edison Rijna, Sylvia Dermout, Jan-Jaap Brandt Corstius and Helen Mercera

ing institute for dive medicine physicians and he specialized in diving physiology. He not only organized dive medicine courses on Bonaire but in the Netherlands and worldwide. Over the last 30 years he organized and taught along with other international instructors 179 cours-

es; 80 in the Netherlands and 99 abroad, of which 20 were in Bonaire. Each course was attended by 15-25 physicians with specialties in diving medicine.

doctor and diving doctor who assisted with the courses for 15 years. The couple reside part time in the Netherlands and at their home in Bonaire.

And for the last 30 years he has had by his side Sylvia Dermout, a gynecological

Story /Photos Julie Morgan



Helen Mercera crowns JJ with his TCB hat.



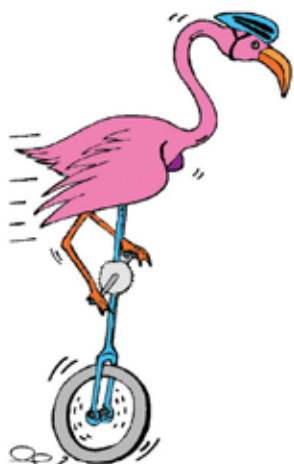
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2026's first Bonaire friends

During the Bonaire 2025 Tourism Review & 2026 Strategic Outlook event, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) announced the January and February winners of its Bonaire Friends initiative.

The first Bonaire Friends of 2026 are Cliff “Big Papa” Frans and Quincy Booi, two well-known and beloved members of the Bonaire community who reflect the kindness and hospitality Bonaire is known for.

Bonaire Friends initiative invites visitors to share their stories about locals who made their stay unforgettable. Each month, selected stories are reviewed and scored based on their uniqueness and the passion demonstrated by the nominee.

“Bonaire is known for its natural beauty, but it is the people of our island who truly shape the visitor experience,” said Elesiër Angel, CEO of Tourism Corporation Bonaire. “Cliff and Quincy are wonderful examples of the kindness and hospitality that visitors remember long after their trip. Through the Bonaire Friends initiative, we are proud to recognize the individuals who help create those meaningful connections.”

January Winner: Cliff “Big Papa” Frans Nominated by Steve Logue (also a Bonaire Ambassador)

Cliff “Big Papa” Frans is widely recognized on Bonaire for his vibrant presence in the community. Known for going live on Facebook during events and live streaming special occasions, from celebrations to private gatherings, Cliff consistently brings people together, both on and off the island.

His nominator, Steve Logue, shared a friendship that began more than twenty years ago following a chance encounter at the airport. Since then, Cliff has remained a constant presence, sharing meals, celebrating milestones, and capturing special moments on camera. From filming honorary award ceremonies to encourag-



(L-R) Quincy Booi and Cliff “Big Papa” Frans Photo via TCB

ing Steve’s daughter to play drums with a local band, Cliff continues to uplift those around him. Described as “one of Bonaire’s greatest assets,” Cliff’s dedication to community connection and island pride made him a standout choice for January’s Bonaire Friend.

February Winner: Quincy Booi Nominated by Anthony Hunt

Quincy Booi, known for his friendly and attentive service as a waiter at Rum Runners, left a lasting impression on visitors Anthony Hunt and his family during their stay at Captain Don’s. When Anthony’s daughter had a mild sunburn after a day at Klein Bonaire, Quincy

noticed her discomfort and took immediate action. He personally cut fresh aloe vera from a nearby plant and explained how to use it to soothe her skin. His genuine concern and follow-up throughout the family’s stay turned a small act of kindness into a lifelong memory.

“He made us feel like we belonged there,” wrote Anthony. “We will never forget him.”

Visitors are encouraged to continue sharing their positive stories via our website.

TCB release

Weganan Interinsular 2026 concluded successfully

Indebon proudly reflects on a successful edition of the Weganan Interinsular 2026 on Bonaire. The young athletes of the ABC Islands, (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao) the SSS Islands (Saba, Sint Eustatius [Statia], Sint Maarten), and Suriname come together to compete.

Bonaire had the honor of hosting Beach Tennis (Primary and Secondary Education), Basketball 3x3 (Primary and Secondary Education), and Cruyff Court Football (Primary Education Girls).

Results Bonaire

- Beach Tennis Primary Education • 2nd and 3rd place
- Beach Tennis Secondary Education • 1st place, MVP: Shantely Melaan
- Cruyff Court Football Primary Education Girls • 1st place • MVP: Xianeesha Oleana

After days of intense competition, the athletes deserved a moment to celebrate together. The Weganan Interinsular offers young people not only the opportunity to excel in sports but also to make friends, experience cultural exchange, and connect with peers from other islands.

Our thanks go to all the sponsors who contributed, such as FWNB, BWM, WEB NV, Don Andres, and the Cruyff Court Foundation.

Indebon looks forward to continuing this unique interinsular collaboration and wishes Curaçao much success in organizing the next edition.

Indebon release



Why the February WEB bills are higher

The electricity bills WEB sent out in February 2026 were higher than some customers expected. They wondered why. New electricity and drinking water rates came into effect on January 1, 2026. These rates were established at the end of 2025 by the Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM). According to the Electricity and Drinking Water Act BES, which has been in effect since 2016, the ACM is required to determine the maximum each year for the production and distribution of electricity and drinking water on Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius. Many customers are only now seeing the change reflected on their bills because the first invoices with the new rates were sent out at the end of February. As a result, some customers did not expect the increase.

The electricity subsidy is lower this year than in 2025. Therefore customers are paying a larger portion of the WEB’S actual costs of producing electricity and maintaining the network as WEB prepares for further growth on Bonaire. Both fixed charges and the price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) have increased for residential customers as well as for large consumers. Both customers with a standard connection and customers who use Pagabon are paying more as well. *DMR*



Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

When I think about green morays, I think about



A beautiful green velvety moray swims along the reef. Photo Julie Morgan

Velvet, a green moray who lived beneath the North Pier (at that time called the Old Pier and later the Town Pier until it finally became our North Pier). Female and male morays look the same, but I always thought of Velvet as female so that's how I refer to her. Velvet was big, though I never saw her stretched out; she was always curled inside her barrel. I visited her frequently over the months she lived beneath the Pier. She was very calm, and her eyesight seemed good, so eventually I reached out a hand and stroked her under the chin. She accepted the stroking as her due, and soon accepted it from my dive buddies as well.

And oh, feeling the smooth skin of a moray under relaxed circumstances is a real privilege. Velvet's skin felt like Velvet, thus her name.

(People often ask me if touching morays removes the protective mucus from their skin. They remember being told by their trout-fishing guide not to touch the fish as

they removed the hook, etc. In contrast, when we touch a moray, we're doing it underwater; our hands are wet, the moray is wet, and no slime is removed. Both Velvet and Crooked Jaw the spotted moray were stroked – respectfully and courteously -- numerous times by numerous people, over a period of months, and neither ever showed any skin effects.)

The high point of my relationship with Velvet came with a scuba diver named Amber, who was fifteen years old. Amber wanted to Touch the Sea, so her family made a gift to her of a dive with me. Aaand... her mother, her father, and her grandmother all wanted to snorkel above us! Amber was a skilled diver and wonderful with animals. Happily, her folks were good snorkelers and didn't thrash around or anything, and fantastic Amber's dive included a great interaction with Velvet.

The surprised reaction of the green moray who bit me

accidentally. This took place off Klein Bonaire in 1981, when I was working at Dive Bonaire. The divers had found a green moray in the reef, so I took out a baitfish about finger-length and offered it enticingly to the moray. While the moray was making up its mind, a coney darted in to grab the fish. Without thinking about the moray, I waved my other hand to wave the coney away at the exact moment the moray decided to go after the food. My forearm was where the food had been, and that's what the moray chomped onto. Of course I jerked my arm, luckily it hit a (dead) part of the reef, so it didn't move far, and the moray opened its mouth and backed up a bit; my arm, in a wetsuit, was not what it had expected to chomp. For a short while I had a perfect set of green moray toothprints on my arm, but all too soon they healed and didn't even leave a scar...

The moray and I got ourselves together after that miscommunication, though, and even the coney had a snack.

How their behavior has been changed. Since those innocent days, two new predators have appeared on Bonaire's reefs: lionfish and lionfish hunters. As a result, the behaviors of some fish have altered.

This especially includes those morays who have learned that divers can provide easy meals if the moray arrives when a lionfish is speared. A few morays have turned into bullies.

Leaving us with one more unfortunate effect of the lionfish invasion: that divers have become more cautious around morays.

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 De-Meyer). 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.



Two salads: Warm Smoked Salmon & Cold Smoked Duck Breast by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

Warm Smoked Salmon with White Cabbage and Ricotta: Piece of warm smoked salmon • 1/4 white cabbage, thinly sliced • 2 pickles, thinly sliced • 1/2 onion, thinly sliced into half rings • 1/2 apple, thinly sliced • 10 mint leaves, finely chopped • 2 tablespoons ricotta • 3 tablespoons mayonnaise • Pepper and Bonaire sea salt

Mix all the ingredients for the salad well and let them soak together. Portion the salmon and sear it evenly all around to create a nice crispy layer, but leave it juicy on the inside. Serve the salmon on the salad.

Cold Smoked Duck Breast: Slices of smoked duck breast • 2 slices of bacon, cut into small pieces and fried until crispy • 2 heads of chicory, without hard core, in strips • 3 dates, chopped • 1/2 onion, chopped • 1/2 apple, diced • 8 pecans, coarsely chopped • 1 tablespoon mayonnaise • 1 teaspoon coarse mustard • Dash of maple syrup • A few drops of Spika oil (Curaçao hot sauce)



Mix all the ingredients for the salad and serve with the slices of smoked duck breast and sprinkle with some crispy fried bacon. If desired, serve some extra salad sauce on the side with some more spika oil.

The difference between cold smoking and hot smoking is mainly in the temperature and the effect on the food:

Cold smoking: Temperature: ± 15–30 °C. The food is not cooked, it is only dried and smoked. Adds flavour and helps preserve. Examples: smoked salmon, ham.

Hot smoking: Temperature: ± 60–120 °C The food is smoked and cooked at the same time. Shorter shelf life but can be eaten immediately. Examples: smoked mackerel, chicken and salmon

Cold smoking = flavour + preservation (not cooked)

Hot smoking = smoking + cooking (well done)

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.



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/>

Becoming Movement Club Free monthly event for runners and walkers. Sorobon five-kilometer route Sunday 7.15 a.m. Check [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/becomingmovementclub/).

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels welcome. Info: 795-0128 (Whatsapp text), bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).

Diver Safety. 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 Thursday of the month. 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. Kunuku Allee, Kaminda Lac 38. We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

Krese Radio program focusing on the development of Bonaire over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 7 - 8 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. The program is in Papiamentu; A recap is provided in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=vwXlfr>

Live Music Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Every Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

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.



Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m. Monday =Thursday on March 19 at Divi in the Pure Ocean Garden. Free 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. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> Nesting season patrol starts in May. Reserve your spots reserving on: <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/monitoring-patrols/>

Sobremesa Kas di Arte View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**
 • Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
 • Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

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/>
Each month: Family Saturday, March 7 Pay a "family" fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. March 21. 10 - 12 noon. We will be making piggybanks. Register via terramarmuseum@gmail.com or phone. **Museum at Night** Free entrance. 5 to 6:30 p.m. to explore and shop; also **Sisterhood Circle** by Vibra Foundation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 25. Pay what you can. Info. +599 785 4399

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)

Last day April 4	Art Exhibition Dillon Rannou at SACA, Front Gallery, Kaya Korona 74. Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. See poster in online <i>Reporter</i> .
Last day April 4	Art Exhibition Carlos Porras at SACA, Piano Galley, Kaya Korona 74. Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. See poster in online <i>Reporter</i> .
Saturday, March 14	Pickleball Open Day Free. 9 a.m. at the Jorge Nicolaas Sporthall. Open to all ages and all fitness levels. Equipment and guidance will be provided. Register: www.pickleballbonaire.org See page 15.
March 14 to 22	National Reading Days 2026 Bonaire Public Library For young children aged 2 to 6 and their parents. see The Reporter's online edition for full program.
Sunday, March 15	Pickleball Tournament \$15. Doubles/Mix Doubles. Jorge Nicolaas Sporthall 8-3. Register on the Swish App. Tel. Paulo +599 700 0958 Cyclovía kids -Car-free Open Street event. 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Wilhelminaplein, Parking lot BC.Games, Bouncer, Music, Food trucks.
March 16 - 20	Four-day Swimming Bonaire. Swim 500 meters or 1,000 meters daily in the sea at Parke Tului 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. Swimmers can also participate in a swimming clinic, a water polo clinic and a Boat party. Special guest is world champion Jesse Puts. Aquatics Federation Bonaire. Register.
March 16 - 20	Global Money Week (GMW) at Terramar Museum. Interactive workshops, lectures and activities to give young people practical tools to use money wisely. More information: https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/
Mar. 21 - April	Bonaire International Sports Week
Sunday, March 22	Program of poetry and piano music Wilco Harbers and Claudia Cassier 5 - 5:30 p.m. at SACA, Kaya Korona 74. Tickets \$17.50 – Del Mar Bookstore, Lisa Convenience Store. At the door \$20
Saturday, March 28	Nos Zijlea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
Sunday, March 29	Animal Shelter Bonaire Easter Market 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Food, drinks, second-hand items, handmade gifts, Easter decorations, and other fun goodies. Concert featuring talented music students from Bonaire: piano, vocals, guitar, and saxophone 5 p.m. at SACA, Kaya Korona 74
April 6 to 10	Baseball on the Corals

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. March 11	0600-1900	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
	0730-1900	HEBRIDEAN SKY 120 guests	North
Thurs. March 12	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	South
Fri. March 13	0700-1800	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS 2496 guests	North
Mon. March 16	0730-2100	STAR PRIDE 321 guests	North
Tues. March 17	0800-1700	ROTTERDAM 2668 guests	South
Wed. March 18	0700-2300	SILVER SHADOW 388 guests	North
	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. March 19	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	South
Fri. March 20	0700-1800	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS 2496 guests	South
Sat. March 21	0700-2000	AZAMARA QUEST 702 guests	South
Sun. March 22	1200-2000	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 2076 guests	North
Tues. March 24	0700-1800	CELEBRITY ASCENT 3200 guests	South
Thurs. March 26	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	North

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/
Saturday, March 28 Saturday, April 25	The Beach Boost collects trash washing up on the shores of Bonaire National Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.
Sun. April 12	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 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
	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/

Funds Available



Christian König SHAPE/DCNA

DCNA's Conservation & Restoration Key Habitats Program

DCNA's Conservation & Restoration Key Habitats Program is open for funding applications. If your organization is based on one of the six Dutch Caribbean islands and works on nature conservation or restoration, this is your call. **Submit your project proposal before April 13 to apply.**

The Key Habitats Program funds practical, on-the-ground conservation projects that deliver measurable ecological results. Stand-alone research projects are not eligible.

To apply, your organization must meet at least these three

criteria:

- You are a non-profit or for-profit NGO legally registered in the Dutch Caribbean.
- Your project takes place on one or more of the six Dutch Caribbean islands.
- Your project addresses one or both of the 2026 priority strategies: 1. Reduce Free-Roaming Grazer Impacts, and/or 2. Address Climate Change Impacts

How to submit:

<http://dcnanature.org/projects/keyhabitatsprogram/>

New round of Museum Grants is open.

Museum employees can apply for grants for short-term in-depth scientific research related to the museum or its collection. The results must benefit museum research practice and be recorded in an open access publication. Employees of a museum may act as the main applicant. Each application must involve one researcher affiliated with a research organization as a supervisor of the research.

Budget and deadlines: The total funding ceiling for this Call for proposals is €700,000. A minimum of €10,000 and a maximum of €50,000 in funding can be requested per project. **The deadline for submission is Tuesday 12 May 2026, before 2 p.m. CEST.**

Reading Promotion Scheme.

The Dutch Foundation for Literature supports projects in the field of reading promotion that supplement projects currently existing. Organizations can apply for a subsidy for a diversity of activities for young and old, from reading clubs to digital projects, and from creative writing workshops to performances. Also for new projects that will stimulate reading.

Cultural institutions, organizations or legal entities that are active in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and that produce and/or implement literary-educational activities are eligible to apply. Schools, universities and local government bodies cannot apply for a subsidy under this scheme. The applicant can apply for a minimum of €25,000 and a maximum of €50,000.

Deadlines for the last funding round of this year:

- **May 15, 2026** for projects due to start from December 2026 onwards

<https://assets.letterenfonds.prod.verveagency.com/assets/reading-promotion-english-2026.pdf>

Public Service Events

Income tax time.

Your 2025 income tax can now be filed either on paper or online. The deadline is May 18, 2026. In the last week of February, the Belastingdienst CN started sending the invitations for filing the return both by post and to your digital mailbox (berichtenboxcn). Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland encourages everyone to file online via <https://www.mijnkn.nl>. See: [English.mijnkn.nl/create--activate](https://www.mijnkn.nl/create--activate)

2024 business survey

In the coming months, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) will contact businesses on the three BES islands to complete the annual business survey for the 2024 reporting year. The survey aims to map economic development on Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba. The results of the survey will be published in the

last quarter of 2026.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) is legally obligated to treat all collected data as strictly confidential. For questions, information, or assistance with completing the survey, please contact the Statistics Netherlands office on Bonaire.

CBS Caribbean Netherlands

Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot 67, Unit 9, Kralendijk

Telephone: +599 717 8676 Email: conomie.cn@cbs.nl

Sexual Health Clinic

Anonymous and by appointment. Phone or WhatsApp nurses at +599 790-7373. Also locations of condom vending machines can be found on the Public Entity Bonaire website via <https://bonairegov.com/inwoners/condoom-automaat>.

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

Pickleball Association Bonaire Hosts Free Open Day

The Pickleball Association Bonaire (PAB) warmly invites the entire community to a Pickleball Open Day on Saturday, March 14, starting at 9:00 AM at the Jorge Nicolaas Sporthal.

This free event is open to all ages and all fitness levels. Whether you are young, young at heart, athletic, or just looking for a fun way to get moving, pickleball is a sport anyone can enjoy.

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports worldwide for a simple reason: it's easy to learn, easy on the body, and incredibly social. Within minutes, beginners can rally and start having fun. The court is smaller than a tennis court, the rules are straightforward, and the game naturally encourages interaction and teamwork.

If you've been looking for a fun way to:

- Get active without intense strain
- Meet new people
- Spend quality time with family and friends
- Try something new without pressure

This is your opportunity.

All equipment and guidance will be provided by members of the Pickleball Association Bonaire. No prior experience is needed. "Pickleball is for everyone," says the association. "It brings generations together on the same court. It's active, social, and above all, fun."

Registration is completely free and can be completed at: www.pickleballbonaire.org Come move, laugh, connect, and discover why pickleball is quickly becoming one of the most loved community sports.



Deborah Byrd of EarthSky.com writes:

“We’re now in what some astronomers call the meteor drought time of year. The next major meteor shower won’t come until April, with the Lyrids. But – if you watch, and especially if you’re under dark skies – you might spot a fireball, or an especially bright meteor, from now through April. These are the legendary spring fireballs.

In some years from February to April the rate of fireballs – or bright meteors – in the Northern Hemisphere seems to increase by as much as 30% from February through April. Will 2026 be one of those years?

Viewing tips during spring fireball season

What to look for: Fireballs are meteors brighter than the planet Venus. When to look: Shortly after sunset is prime time to watch for fireballs.



Coming in April
Leiden University Questionnaire on sexual health and intimate relationships

Professor Ton Liefwaard and Professor Judi Mesman from Leiden University visited Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in February 2026.

During their visit they spoke to residents, young people (ages 16 and above) and professionals in order to collect input for new research into sexual health and intimate relationships in the Caribbean Netherlands. The research in question is being commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport, VWS). It became apparent from the initial discussions that people are very enthusiastic about sharing ideas on the research questions, needs and key themes.

This follow-up research builds on previous research carried out in 2024 by Leiden University in collaboration with the University of Curaçao and UNICEF, which was also commissioned by VWS. That research produced a variety of results. One of the things it highlighted is the strength of the close communities on the islands. However, it also revealed concerns, for example relating to the inadequate protection of children against



sexual violence.

A questionnaire for everyone to complete is going to be distributed in April 2026. More in-depth interviews are also going to be conducted. People can complete the questionnaire and take part in

the interviews on an entirely anonymous basis. This means that everyone will be able to express their views safely and freely. The outcomes will help create policy which aligns more effectively with residents’ needs.

Communication SSO-CN release

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

We are having an extreme drought. I thought we might have a late rainy season but It has hardly rained at all. I now think the rainy season has passed and we are already in a dry period with a lot of hard dry wind and a lot of dust. Nature is suffering. In the mondi I can see through the bush as there are hardly any leaves and even the trees are totally dry and rotten. The animals in the wild will have a tough time for the next seven months. With so little food in the mondi the animals are coming closer to town looking for food and water. Donkeys are everywhere as well as iguanas, prichichis and loras and that brings an immediate problem.

The birds damage a lot of the small unripened fruit and it falls to the ground. And there are so many loras and prichichis that in a few days they empty the trees. They have a nose for trees with fruits. I read that if you hang shiny things on ropes in the trees it might help. It can be the top of cans or just cans where the paper has been removed. The birds are afraid of these shiny things moving from the wind and they stay out of the trees. I did that with some cans in the mango tree and I will see if it works.

There is so little local fruit because of the drought and now the birds, iguanas , lizards, white fly and bugs are a problem. There are more iguanas around than I have ever seen and no vegetable is safe. People who have dogs have fewer problems than I do, poor me.

They start eating very early in the morning, about 5 a.m. and I rarely see them but in a few days I find that a lot of my vegetables have been eaten. I have tried so many tricks but nothing helps. Once they find a yard with some eatable greens they stay and finish all veggies.

But there is some good news as well; it's tamarind time.

The fruit is dry now and with the heavy winds they drop off the trees. Although it looks like they are smaller with less juice than last year, they are still great for

consumption in juices, chutneys, to wok in vegetable and meat stews, for jams and tamarind cookies. It takes some time to make food with them because you have to



I chopped off the top of the papaya tree and got more branches which grew lower on the tree and got more fruit. Photo: Julie Morgan

remove the skin, seeds and so on, but it’s a very healthy fruit with high vitamin C and other health values. Tamarind is a blood cleaner, good for a dry thirsty throat and a top remedy for diarrhea and constipation. The fruit can stay for long time in the fridge if the skeleton is

removed. When it is dried for two days with the seeds on a plate in the sun. the meat will be less sticky and less juicy but it remains good for a long time.

Fewer plants does not mean less garden work. Watering the plants is almost a daily job and not all plants get water every day. Some plants can stand the drought a few days without water, so I control who is in need of water . I put most potted plants in the shade under the trees or by using old table frames that I found at Selibon. I put some old beams on the frames with pieces of plywood and the pots underneath out of the wind and sun. I chop the dry top off of papaya, guyaba and cherry trees to make them smaller. They need less water to feed the tree and they will survive. They always grow new stems again. I do the same thing with flowering plants like tuturutu, bougainvillea and oleander. By making them smaller, they become more beautiful with a lot of flowers and they grow bigger again after a while.

And by the way, be careful with the use of WEB water. With the drought everyone is using more water than normal. WEB is asking us to deal with the use of water during the drought in a responsible way. Check for dripping pipes, don’t wash your car too much or water your plants with a hose. If possible consider watering with a can or clean empty paint bucket to have control on the use of water.

So get to work and start now if you want to save your plants.

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.





DierenLot, a Dutch animal welfare foundation, brought together several Bonaire local animal organizations and two from Curaçao on March 6. The various organizations enjoyed food, drinks and did some networking. From time to time, DierenLot checks in with each organization but this day was unique. Toward the end of the evening DierenLot surprised each animal rescue organization with a 5000-euro check.

Congratulations to Animal Shelter Bonaire, FKK Animal Rescue, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Blue Defenders, Dierenbescherming Bonaire, Travelling Animal Doctors, Tera Barra, Wild Bird Rehab, CARIBSS and Reef Renewal Foundation.

For more information about DierenLot visit:

<https://www.dier.nu>

DierenLot release

Creating Optimal Health-Artificial Intelligence and Wellbeing by Irene da Cunda Costa

Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly transitioned from a niche technological concept to a central force shaping modern life. While its presence is widely felt in industries like finance, transportation, and entertainment, one of its most profound effects is emerging in the realm of wellbeing, encompassing physical health, mental wellness, productivity, and overall quality of life. Understanding AI's current contributions, future potential and how to leverage it wisely can empower individuals and communities to thrive.

At present, AI's influence on wellbeing is clear and growing. In healthcare, machine learning algorithms assist clinicians by analyzing medical images faster and with remarkable accuracy improving early detection of conditions such as cancer, eye diseases, and neurological disorders. AI-powered tools also help manage chronic illnesses by predicting health events and offering personalized monitoring. For example, wearable devices use AI to interpret heart rate, sleep patterns and activity levels, offering insights that support healthier lifestyles.

Beyond physical health, AI is making a significant mark on mental wellbeing. Apps like personalized meditation guides use natural language processing and adaptive learning to tailor programs to users' emotional states. Chatbots built on AI provide accessible support for people coping with stress and anxiety, offering coping strategies and empathetic conversation when human support isn't immediately available. These tools are not replacements for professional care, but they lower barriers to early intervention and self-support.

In workplaces and education, AI systems are optimizing routines and reducing cognitive load. Smart scheduling tools can suggest work-life balance improvements,

while personalized learning platforms adapt content to the learner's pace and style, reducing frustration and enhancing mastery. Such applications make AI a tool that not only enhances efficiency but supports wellbeing by reducing burnout and promoting personal growth.

In the next few years, AI is poised to deepen its role in wellbeing becoming more integrated and intuitive. Healthcare is expected to see broader adoption of AI-driven diagnostics, with predictive analytics helping clinicians prevent illness before symptoms manifest. Remote monitoring tools, enhanced by AI, will allow individuals to receive continuous, real-time feedback on health conditions, fostering proactive healthcare rather than reactive responses.

Mental health support is also set to evolve. Future AI companions may become more emotionally attuned, capable of recognizing subtle cues in speech and behavior that indicate psychological distress. These systems could recommend tailored interventions, connect users with professionals when needed and help de-stigmatize conversations around mental health.

In everyday life, smart environments, including homes and cities, are likely to become more responsive. AI-enabled systems could adjust lighting, temperature, and noise to optimize comfort and reduce stress. Public wellbeing initiatives could leverage real-time data to improve urban design, making communities healthier and more inclusive.

Critically, these advancements will not be evenly distributed. Ethical, economic, and accessibility challenges will shape how AI benefits different populations. Ensuring equitable access and protecting privacy will be essential in translating technological promises into

real wellbeing gains.

To benefit from AI today and prepare for the future, individuals can take several practical steps:

1. Educate Yourself: Understanding basic AI concepts reduces anxiety and empowers more confident engagement with the technology. Free online courses, articles, and videos can demystify how AI works and its strengths and limitations.

2. Choose Tools That Support You: Identify AI applications aligned with your personal goals, whether improving sleep, managing stress, tracking fitness, or learning new skills. Start with trusted, privacy-conscious platforms and gradually explore features that work for you.

3. Maintain Human Balance: AI should augment, not replace, human relationships and professional care. Use AI insights as support while retaining human connection, reflection, and judgment.

4. Advocate for Responsible AI: Support policies and organizations that promote ethical AI, particularly those that safeguard privacy, prevent bias, and ensure accessibility.

AI's influence on wellbeing is already significant, and its potential is vast. By thoughtfully incorporating AI into our lives, staying informed, and advocating for equitable use, we can harness its capabilities to enhance health, happiness and human flourishing, today and in the years to come.



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

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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



Chilly

This is Chilly, and she is a spicy calico girl who will tell you what she wants or does not want. She is now 5 months old. She was brought to us with her mother Pika and brother Pepper, when she was only 3 weeks old. Chilly is very vocal and loves back scratches. But she is also very active, and it would be best to adopt her with another cat, or give her lots of playtime. Come meet Chilly in the Kittykresh!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet Opoe. Opoe is a sweet old lady of 11 years. She has been in the shelter for two years.

Opoe looks like an elegant lady with her long legs. She gets along well with other dogs and is very gentle with children of all ages. Opoe really loves cuddling and just relaxing in her bed. And even though Opoe is an older lady, that doesn't stop her from enjoying a nice walk on the beach, or a nice hike.

Are you the one to give Opoe her golden years at her forever home? Come and meet her.

Story / Photo: Janneke Scheper



Opoe

Animal Shelter Bonaire *Just in time for Easter*



Animal Shelter Bonaire's Easter Market is only weeks away, Sunday, March 29th, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This is great news for anyone hoping to fill some Easter baskets with goodies. There will be a variety of vendors: stained glass, lionfish handmade jewelry, freshly baked dog treats, secondhand dive equipment, homemade sweets by Ivory & Elena, Mama Annekes Keuken, Blaf Bonaire for all your dog training questions accompanied by Bondog, and much more. There will even be a kids corner fun face painting, games and a bouncy house.

We would love to see you there, and thank you in advance for supporting Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Story Sanne Attevelt

How ethical is a museum?



In the aftermath of the Second World War, where many museums were damaged and destroyed and cultural objects were looted or illegally traded, museum professionals recognized the need to rebuild, protect and reconnect museums. This led these professionals, in 1946, to come together with UNESCO's support to establish an independent, officially recognized NGO. This was the start of ICOM, the International Council of Museums, a worldwide network connecting museum professionals and museums together.

Since then, ICOM has set the standards for how museums should function, promoting ethical practices, encouraging knowledge exchange and training, supporting cultural heritage protection, fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property and strengthening museums as educational and social institutions.

To support these goals during the 15th General Assembly of ICOM in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on November 4, 1986 was the Code of Professional Ethics, the ICOM Code, adopted unanimously. The ICOM Code presents a minimum standard for museums. It is presented as a series of principles supported by guidelines for desirable professional practice. What do these codes of ethics mean for a museum in Bonaire, for us at Terramar Museum? When becoming a member of ICOM you are affirming that you follow the statutes of ICOM which includes the Code of Professional Ethics. As a museum, our core is to preserve heritage, act legally and fairly, educate responsibly and respect communities while keeping public trust intact. When dealing with the stories of real people and their cultural heritage, there is no room for misinterpretation or shortcuts. We must act ethically, profession-

ally and with full respect for the communities involved, because only doing so can we preserve trust and do our work responsibly. This means for us as a museum adhering to the Code is not a choice, it is a moral obligation.

In 2020, ICOM Standing Committee on Ethics proposed that the ICOM Code of Ethics should be revisited. In March, the latest update on this process was shared. Most members agreed that leaders should recruit skilled staff who reflect community diversity and ensure their safety. Everyone should act with respect and integrity, follow policies, protect confidential information and avoid conflicts of interest. Museums should also collaborate with experts and communities and prevent illegal trafficking of cultural property.

These numbers show there is broad agreement on the principles but being ethical in a museum is more than following rules, it is an ongoing responsibility. How do we ensure that every story we tell honors the people and communities behind it? How do we balance education, preservation and innovation without compromising integrity?

At Terramar Museum, being part of ICOM reminds us that ethics is alive, evolving and essential. It challenges us not only to preserve history but to constantly ask: *how ethically are we functioning, really? As visitors, as museum professionals, as Bonairians, how ethically do we actually handle the stories, objects and heritage we encounter every day?*

Terramar Release, Photo Julie Morgan



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FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Winter 2025/2026
starting October 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	DETAILS
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue						✓		Last flight on January 3, 2026
MIAMI	American Airlines	✓		✓		✓	✓*		DAILY Dec. 17, 2025 - Jan. 5, 2026 *Saturdays 2 daily flights (seasonal)
ATLANTA	DELTA			✓*			✓	✓*	*Starting Dec. 20th, seasonal flights
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED						✓		Starting Nov. 1st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tue.
AMSTERDAM	KLM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	*Fri. & Sun. 2 daily flights - Dec.19, 2025 - Mar. 15 2026
AMSTERDAM	TUI	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Wed Thu Fri direct from AMS
AMSTERDAM	corendon.		✓*					✓	*Starting Oct. 14th - till Oct. 8 on Wednesdays
SANTO DOMINGO SDQ	SKYhigh Dominicana					✓			
CURACAO SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun Tue Thu
CURACAO ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO ARUBA	ZAir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Please note this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

New requirements for applying for the Private Rental Contribution (BPV)

Effective January 1, 2026, there are new requirements for applying for the Private Rental Contribution (BPV). The BPV is the contribution that low- to middle-income households can apply for to rent a home in the private sector. The rent may not exceed \$979.00 per month, excluding service charges. The new requirements apply to new applicants from January 1, 2026. The new BPV requirements apply from July 1, 2026, to people who received a BPV extension last year.

New conditions

Personal contribution for all applicants

All tenants applying for the BPV (Work Placement Scheme) must pay a personal contribution. This contribution depends on the applicant's income. The applicant transfers this contribution monthly to the landlord's bank account.

Contribution for minimum wage or lower

An applicant earning a minimum wage or an income lower than the minimum wage pays a personal contribution of \$185.00. The applicant transfers the \$185.00 contribution monthly to the landlord's bank account.

Contribution for income higher than the minimum wage

For applicants earning an income higher than the minimum wage, the contribution is determined using a table.

Registered with the Civil Registry for five consecutive years

Only applicants who have been registered with the Civil Registry for at least five consecutive years and reside on Bonaire are eligible for the BPV.

This requirement of five consecutive years without interruption applies only to new applicants. Individuals who already received BPV before January 1, 2026, and do not meet this five-year requirement will retain their right to BPV until July 1, 2026.

Furthermore, this requirement does not apply to island children: individuals who were born on Bonaire or whose parent was born on the island.

Income of all household members aged 18 and over combined

To determine the income of the BPV applicant, the incomes of all household members aged 18 and over living with the applicant are combined. The total gross income of all these household members may not exceed \$4,633.00. An applicant is not entitled to BPV if their personal contribution based on their income exceeds the applicant's rent.

The following elements remain unchanged in the new BPV regulations:

- The applicant's rent may not exceed \$979.00, excluding service charges.

- The landlord receives a bonus of \$50.00 per month.
- The tenant and landlord submit the application together.

The following documents must be included with the BPV application:

- Tenant's ID
- Landlord's ID
- Proof of rent payment (at least 3 bank statements or receipts)
- Proof of all declared sources of income (e.g., employment contracts, pension statements, or letters) and receipt thereof (receipt or bank statement) from the tenant and all other residents aged 18+ at that address who have an income.
- Declaration of residence filed with the tenant's civil registry.

For more information about the BPV:
aportehurpartikular@bonairegov.com

Whatsapp (+599) 777 2299, and telephone 717 2211, BPV department.)

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PICKLEBALL OPEN DAY

FREE REGISTRATION

SATURDAY
MARCH 14TH

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TOURNAMENT

15 MAR 2026 | 8:00AM - 3:00PM

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National Reading Days 2026 March 14-22, 2026 | Bonaire Public Library

From March 14-22, 2026, the Bonaire Public Library is organizing the National Reading Days 2026. This annual campaign focuses on reading aloud to young children. With a varied program at the library and visits to 21 childcare locations, the joy of reading is encouraged in a fun and inspiring way.

The Picture Book of the Year is "Kleine Aap" (Little Monkey), written by Mies van Hout. This colorful picture book tells the story of a little monkey who wants to share big news, but is constantly interrupted by animals who don't listen. The story emphasizes themes of perseverance and friendship.

Reading aloud is valuable for the language development, imagination, and social development of young children. With this campaign, the library wants to raise awareness among parents, caregivers, and professionals about the importance of daily reading. Library Program

During National Reading Days, the library is organizing a festive and inspiring program for young children aged 2 to 6 and their parents. The week begins with a festive reading breakfast. The Miss Teen Bonaire finalists will be present as volunteers to celebrate the opening with the children.

There will also be an interactive reading party based on the children's book "Kleine Aap" (Little Monkey), hosted by actress and author Sharnise Alexander, co-author of "Wij zijn Bonaire" (We Are Bonaire). The library is also organizing an informative and accessible session for parents with simple and practical tips on reading aloud and language stimulation. The week will conclude with a festive children's performance of "Kleine Aap," which brings the story to life in a lively way. For more information, please see the full program on our website and social media.

Childcare Visits (March 16-20)

No fewer than 21 daycare centers were visited during the week. Books from the Top 10 Children's Books will be read aloud.

The guest readers are:

- Johnrick Anthony, teacher at Skol Amplio Papa Cornes and coach at Arte di Palabra
- Rendelon Martina, teacher at Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador and entrepreneur
- Kathleen Thielman (Miss Kathy), teacher at Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador, MC and radio program producer for children
- Julianka Clarenda, owner of Posada Para Mira and volunteer reader at schools
- Sharnise Alexander, actress and author. Winner of the 2008 Arte di Palabra and co-author of "We Are Bonaire."

Reading Together, Growing Together

With the National Reading Days 2026, the Bonaire Public Library is giving a broad impetus to promoting reading on the island. Thanks to the efforts of reading consultants, guest readers, volunteers, and partners, it will be a week full of stories, imagination, and connection. For more information and registration, please contact the library. Registration for the activities is possible through the library.

BONAIRE

DJADUMINGU

26 APREL 26

21:00 - 03:00



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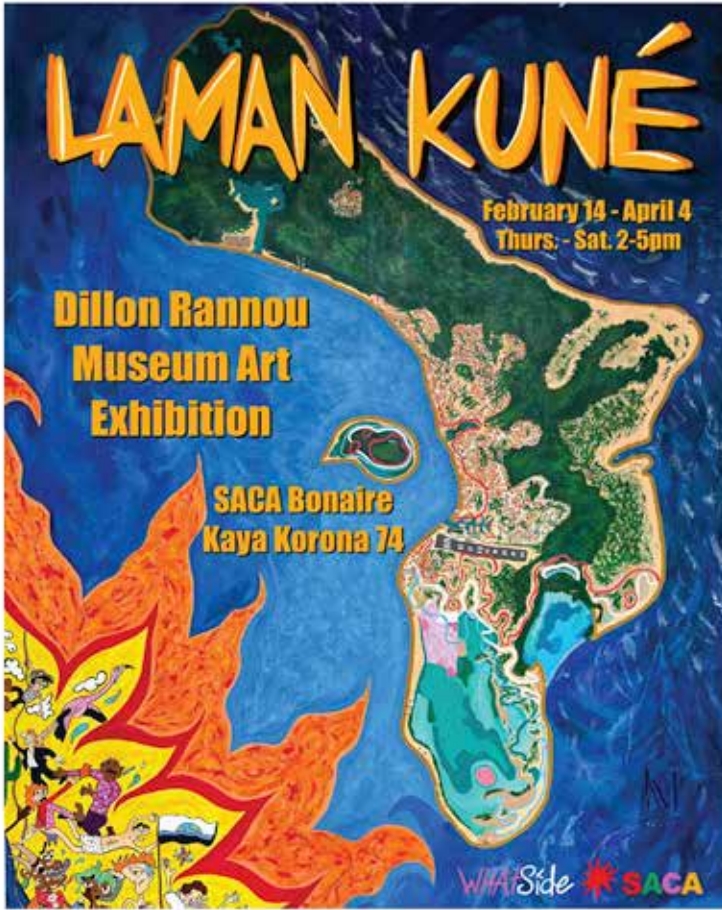
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Stichting Art Center Antriool

ART NEWS

on view...

IN THE FRONT GALLERY
14 February - 4 April



SACA

Stichting Art Center Antriool

ART NEWS

opening soon...

IN THE PIANO GALLERY
21 February - 4 April
OPENING: Saturday 21 February 5-7 PM

STUDIO MUZO MAGIC IN LAYERS

ART ALCHEMY FOR KIDS

Wednesday March 4 2026
at Sobremesa

J.A Abraham Boulevard 10

15:00-17:00

- From abstract play to finished artwork
- A 4 week journey from blank wood to gallery ready art
- Learn, layer and create
- Teach safe epoxy rules
- 1 finished mixed-media artwork + Certificate

\$120,-
4 WEEK
COURSE

10 SPOTS
AGE 10 - 15



STUDIO MUZO Creative Color Lab - Afterschool Art

at Sobremesa

J.A Abraham Boulevard 10

14:30-16:30

6 March 2026

\$100,-
FOR 4 SESSIONS
2 HOURS
AGE 10 -15

- Paint on real canvas
 - Learn color mixing & expressions
 - Create unique and abstract art
- No "right or wrong" way
- lets have fun in a supportive group

*Materials included



TIDYING UP AND HELPING OTHERS?

OPRUIIMEN EN HELPEN?

Nieuwe of gebruikte spullen, huisraad, gereedschap, speelgoed, kunst, decoratie, keuken apparaten, elektronica etc etc. **Doneer uw spullen aan de Rotary Club Bonaire en steun daarmee goede doelen op Bonaire.**

Neem contact met ons op en we halen het op!

New and used items, household goods, tools, toys, art, decorations, kitchen appliances, electronics, etc etc.

Donate your items to the Rotary Club and sustain good causes on Bonaire.

Contact us and we will pick it up.

KAS LIMPIO, YUDA SERKA!

Artíkulonon nobo òf usa, artíkulonon di kas, hèrmèntnan, ko'i hunga, arte, dekorashonnan, aparatonan di kushina, elektróniko, etc **Duna na Rotary Club pa sostene bon causa na Boneiru.**

Tuma kontakto ku nos i nos ta buské.



DIA DI REI - APRIL 27

CONTACT US

For donations & info



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DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND DURING
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