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L-R: Lennart Felida, Andrew Sands, Tim Martinez
 Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire's blokart racers head for the Welsh wind

Eight years ago, Lennart Felida had never sailed anything in his life. Next month he lines up on a Welsh airfield against the best blokart sailors in the world.

He will not be going alone. Tim Martinez is on the entry list too, along with Andrew Sands, owner of Bonaire Landsailing Adventures, and Amedeo Vaccani, a founding member of the Bonaire Blokart Racing Association (BBRA), who is Swiss but will race under the Bonaire flag. Lennart and Tim are both Bonairean, and both are senior instructors at the local landsailing track.

Around 100 competitors from 20 countries will race at the Blokart World Championships at Llanbedr, on the north west coast of Wales, from September 29 to October 2. Bonaire is the only Caribbean entry.

A blokart is a one design land yacht from New Zealand. Visitors sail the same ones at Bonaire Landsailing Adventures. Sailed well by a skilled pilot, they can touch 100 kilometres an hour.

What they will not get is Bonaire weather.

"The last time we were in Wales we had everything from beautiful sunshine and light breeze to nine degrees, wind at 30 knots and horizontal rain," said Andrew Sands. "Anything is possible."

The championships are held every two

years in a different country, and the BBRA is working towards a bid to bring one to Bonaire in the coming years. Lennart and Andrew raced the last Worlds at Ivanpah in Nevada, the first time a Caribbean team had ever been to the event. Lennart also knows the Welsh site: he raced the European Open Championships at Llanbedr three years ago, his first taste of international racing and of real speed.

Andrew has been landsailing for 19 years and was at the very first World Championships, in New Zealand in 2008. He finished fifth in the world in 2016. He still races, but

has also taken on a coaching and mentoring role.

For Tim it will be his first event sanctioned by the International Blokart Racing Association, and he warms up at the British Open Championships on September 26 and 27.

Lennart, Tim and Andrew took the top three places at the inaugural Bonsail Regatta in June, and Amedeo won every race at the recent Kieler Woche regatta in Germany. In Wales all four race in different weight classes, so they will carry the same flag without ever lining up against each other.



Photo: Julie Morgan

"Racing at the last World Champs in Nevada showed me how big this sport is," said Lennart Felida. "I know Llanbedr, so I know what is coming. I want to sail better than I did last time. It means a lot to see Bonaire on the results sheet."

"Three years ago I had never sailed anything," said Tim Martinez. "Now I am going to a World Championships. I am more worried about the cold than the racing, but I want to show what Bonaire sailors can do."

Want to get involved? The club meets at Tras di Montaña for training and racing, and takes new members from the age of 12. Club sailing is about learning to race: reading the wind, setting the sail, knowing the rules and making strategic decisions at speed.

The next BBRA meeting is on August 23 at 1p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to attend, or can call +599 700-8475.

To follow the Bonaire team and keep up to date on their status in the international races visit <https://Blokartworlds.com> and <https://bonaireblokart.racing> and on facebook.com/bonaireblokart.racing/

Donna Hudgeon

Soliano asks, "Is Bonaire governable?"



Governor John Soliano is deeply concerned about the political instability on Bonaire. He cites both the failure of the Island Council to form a coalition and install a functioning Executive Council, plus evidence that "old-style" shady political interference in government is returning to the island.

In a letter to the Island Council dated August 10, Soliano pointed out that several urgent societal issues are ongoing that require continuous administrative action, administrative agreements have been made with the Dutch central government regarding important projects, and work on the 2027 budget is simultaneously underway. He says delays or the absence of decisions on these matters could have major societal consequences for Bonaire. *DMR*

Van der Burg not considering administrative take over

In mid-July State Secretary Eric van der Burg stated during a press conference that there is no legal basis for intervention by the government or the government representative. He emphasized though that "Continuity of administration is of great importance: agreements made must be complied with and the services to the residents must continue as usual." He said that, "As with other Dutch municipalities, I trust that the local government can solve the situation itself." *DMR (Source: Bonaire-nu)*

Whistleblower reveals OLB malfunctions

A source with experience within the Public Entity (OLB) has reported to BES-Reporter.com, in writing and at length, sharp criticism of the way the administrative organization functions. The source said responsibilities and authorities are insufficiently divided, documents have to pass through too many hands, and the structure of the organization causes decision-making to be unnecessarily delayed. According to the source, not only administrators but above all residents and entrepreneurs suffer the consequences.

The BES-Reporter editorial team has the documents in its possession. The team confirms it knows the identity of the source and will protect their privacy.

The documents draw a distinction between the Executive Council, which sets the administrative objectives, and the civil service apparatus that must subsequently implement those objectives. It is precisely at the implementation stage that things frequently go wrong, according to the source.

"It lies in a failing government system," the source said. "Who really holds the power?" "The real administrative power lies with the highest leadership of the government. Permit applications, land matters, business applications, and sedula requests are examples of procedures that move slowly.

Directorates have insufficient mandate to make decisions independently. As a result, documents have to pass through multiple levels before a decision can ultimately be made or a document can be signed.

The source explicitly points to the position of the office of the Island Secretary. According to the source, "Every single piece of paper that comes from the government" must, according to the source, go through multiple hands for approval and

Bonaire to get more military police



The Royal Military Police (KMar) will add approximately fifty new police officers to BES, most of them on Bonaire, over the next one and a half to two years. The new officers will include both locally recruited staff and military personnel deployed from the European Netherlands. "This is needed to better meet our statutory obligations," a spokesperson told Bonaire.nu.

KMar's expansion plans may explain why Defense and the Government Body (OLB) have been interested in terminating Onima Aloe N.V.'s lease on the agricultural plot next to the Caribbean Netherlands Custodial Institution (JICN). Defense emphasized it is still investigating whether the aloe plantation would meet its future needs. The police and military presence on the island will grow considerably in the coming years.

DMR (Source BES-Reporter)

KMar getting new commander in Caribbean

Patrick Taribuka will replace Lieutenant Colonel Gerhard Smit as the commander of the Caribbean Region Brigade of the Royal Marechaussee (KMar) on September 11. Taribuka previously served as brigade commander in the Netherlands and headed the Noord Border East Brigade. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was the public face of border controls between the Netherlands and Germany. Taribuka was previously involved in training and later served as a staff officer at the Inspector General of the Armed Forces and held various other positions within the Marechaussee. *DMR*

signature. Certain processes are also said to still not be handled digitally.

According to the source, more responsibility should be placed with departments and directorates. If employees and managers lower in the organization can make independent decisions within clear frameworks, part of the current delays could be prevented.

The absence of clear and uniform work processes is also a problem. According to the source, it is not always clear who is responsible for a file and where a decision needs to be made. There are civil servants who genuinely want to help residents and achieve results, but they work within a system that makes that difficult. *DMR (Source BES-Reporter.com)*

Police invite entrepreneurs to burglary and theft meeting

All entrepreneurs on Bonaire have been invited to two information evenings on safety, prevention, and reporting business burglaries or theft this week. The Thursday, August 20th meeting will be conducted in Papiamentu, the Friday, August 21st meeting will be conducted in Dutch. After the official program, there will be an opportunity for entrepreneurs to talk to the district agents and other attendees.

Burglaries against businesses have been increasing. Recently Bondigro, Daily Fresh, and several dive shops have joined those businesses that have reported break-ins.

On behalf of the Business Federation Bonaire, Paul Coolen has sent to David van Weel, the Minister of Justice and Security of the Netherlands, an urgent request for temporary reinforcement of police capacity on Bonaire. Coolen reminded the minister that it is a third request. He says the business community is getting desperate. They are waiting for a substantive response. *DMR*

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Festival Kanta Bo Boneiru 2026

L-R: Rolando Casimiri, Sherendly Domacasse, Reginald Yonchi Dortalina, Loeshaska Nicolaas-Janga, Rayshantaly Coffie, Jessican Pieternele, Raiza Wilsoe, Christina Muller
Photos Julie Morgan

The annual Kanta Bo Bonaire Festival was standing room only at the Corallium Hotel, former Marriott, on August 15. The festival is a singing and song writing contest which gives local singers and songwriters the opportunity to show their talent and possibly perform at the Dia di Boneriu (Bonaire Day) ceremony on September 6.

During the ceremony, Bonaire deputy head of SKAL, (Culture, Art and Literature) Ruthmila Sint Jago said, "Generation after generation, we continue to sing our Bonaire... Open your hearts. Listen to the words. Feel the rhythm. Feel the melody. And let the music penetrate to the depths of our hearts".

Two contests, for youth and adults, were held where 15 participants vied for top honors.

Contestants in the youth competition were: Xiona Abdul, Isabella Soleana, Yarlenny Reyes Sanches, Keithley Torgregosa and Jurswin Martina. Winner Juliendra Janga won first place with the song "E mensahe pa un miho Boneiru"; first runner up, Jarnely Reyes Sanches – "Nos Isla Boneiru"; second, Kaythly Torgregosa – "Boneiru Bo Ta Parti di Mi" and third, Jurswin Martina – "Boneiru Ban Selebra".

Adult contestants were: Rolando Casimiri, Sherendly Domacasse, Reginald Yonchi Dortalina, Loeshaska Nicolaas-Janga, Rayshantaly Coffie, Jessica Pieternele, Raiza Wilsoe and Christina Muller.



L- R: Deputy Timotheo Silberie; Raiza Wilsoe first place; Jurgen Lacruz song writer; Ruthmila Sint Jago, chief of SKAL. Photo Julie Morgan

Festival Kanta Bo ...to page 7



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POLICE REPORT

From August 3 to August 17 the KPCN reported ...

Property crimes

A scooter was stolen while parked in front of an apartment complex on Kaya P.N. Antonio Neuman.

An electric bicycle was stolen while parked near a catering establishment close to Wilhelminapark.

A pick-up was stolen during a home burglary (see below). It was later found in the Santa Clara area completely burnt out.

Two houses were burgled. Sunglasses were stolen from a house on E.E.G. Bulevar. Cash, jewelry, watches and a dark gray pick-up (single cabin) FIAT with license plate V-4920 were stolen from a house on Kaya Beethoven.

A catering establishment was burgled. A safe with cash was stolen.

A tourist accommodation on E.E.G. Boulevard was burgled. A bag, and wallet with cards was stolen.

A company on Kaya Industria was broken into and cash stolen.

Containers at two different sites were robbed. Water coolers, several person tents and a larger tent were stolen from a container on Kaya Maria. Alcoholic beverages and meat were stolen from various containers on the premises of a company on Hanchi Amboina. A pickup truck was seized in the Amboina district for further investigation.

Belongings were stolen from three golf carts. At dive site "Oil Slick" on Kaminda Turistiko two bags with cards, cash, an Apple iPhone 14 and a Samsung Galaxy Z Fold6 were stolen while the owners went swimming. At 'Pink Beach' clothing, jewelry, wallets containing cards and cash, and an iPhone phone were stolen when the occupants had no view of the vehicle.

Arrests

One man, 57, was arrested for public drunkenness at a catering establishment on Kaya Korona around 2:45 a.m.

Two women were involved in a street brawl on Kaya Krabe Tuesday, August 11, around 2:35 p.m. One of the women was injured and was treated by the ambulance staff. A woman, 41, was arrested for assault.

One man, 50, was arrested for assault.

Aug. 6. The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar) arrested a man, 32, at the Bonaire airport in connection with the stabbing that took place the night of Sunday, August 2, near a bar on Kaya Korona.

Three drivers were arrested after car chases.

Aug. 13. 2:50 a.m. On Kaya L.D. Gerharts the driver of a car drove towards an officer who was signaling him to stop. The officer swerved to avoid a collision. The police turned on their flashing lights and siren and chased the speeding car. The driver lost control in a bend on Kaminda Tras di Montaña and drove his vehicle into the mondi. The driver, 22, was arrested for attempted manslaughter, for not complying with a stop sign given by police and driving under the influence of alcohol. His car was impounded.

Aug. 12. 10 p.m. Police saw a car with a rear license plate not visible and no front license plate. The driver ignored the police stop sign, and was chased by police to Kaya Anna. There, the man, 33, was arrested for not complying with a stop sign given by the police. The vehicle was impounded.

Aug. 8. 1:40 a.m. When a 16-year-old driver noticed the police vehicle on Kaya Caroni, he sped away. Police gave chase with flashing lights and siren. Eventually another police patrol managed to block the car on Kaya Princess Marie, but as a result, the police vehicle and a car parked along the road were damaged. When the driver refused to open the car door, the officers smashed the car window and arrested him. Because of the collision, a breathalyzer test was taken from both the suspect and the police officer. Neither of them registered positive for alcohol. The suspect's car was impounded.

Aug. 16. 4 p.m. Neighbors on Kaya Zambezi complained to the police about loud music. After the police spoke to the man who caused the noise nuisance, the man, 49, threatened his neighbors with a machete. Police arrested him for threatening and for violating the BES Weapons Act. The machete was confiscated.

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.

Police reported that eight drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Two drivers were given driving bans of five and six hours. One driving license was

confiscated.

Two drivers were stopped by police when they drove against traffic. One driver collided with another car. Three drivers were driving recklessly. One driver was stopped because her rear and brake lights were not working. One driver was tested because he continued to drive after been told not to. Two drivers refused to take the breathalyzer correctly. Six drivers were driving without a valid driver's license.

Traffic accidents (breathalyzer test negative)

A car and a motorcycle collided at the intersection of Kaya Kanari, Kaya Pos di Amor and Kaya Flamingo.

A scooter and a car collided near Kaya Kanari and Kaya Thomas M. Marchena.

Two cars collided on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot when one of the drivers tried to overtake as the other vehicle turned. The driver who wanted to overtake didn't have a valid driver's license and was fined.

A car and a quad bike collided head-on near Kaya Lodewijk D. Gerharts and Kaya General Carlos M. Piar. An ambulance rushed both occupants of the quad bike to the hospital. The quad was traveling in the direction of the Surnan di Roosendaal roundabout and overtook a vehicle in front of them at high speed, just as a car turned from the other direction to enter the Kaya General Carlos M. Piar. After the collision with the quad, the car hit a lamppost.

A fat bike was hit by a car at the intersection of Kaya Kanari, Kaya Pos di Amor and the Kaya Flamingo. After the collision, the car left the scene of the accident, but the driver later reported to the police station. She did not have a driver's license and was fined.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

Speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside. Traffic fines range from \$30 to \$225.

In traffic checks held at various locations over 40 vehicles were checked. 20 fines were issued, including for driving without: a valid driver's license, valid insurance, a seat belt, a front license plate and for driving in a prohibited direction. During one check, two people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Speed check. On Kaminda Tras di Montaña 10 vehicles were checked and two drivers were fined for exceeding the maximum permitted speed.

Car search leads to house search. During the traffic check at Kaya Neerlandia police searched a vehicle after they smelled narcotics. Bags of suspected narcotics were found. The driver, a man, 22, was arrested for violation of the Opium Act BES. The bags and the vehicle were seized. In connection with the investigation, a house in the Amboina district was searched. Among other things, narcotics and ammunition were seized.

Fire / Arson

Aug. 13. 12:10 p.m. In a house on Kaya Delta a fire started in the kitchen and then spread to the living room. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. The cause of the fire is not yet known. There were no injuries.

Aug. 10. 10:55 p.m. A report came in of an explosion and a vehicle on fire on the Kaminda Lac. When the fire brigade arrived, they found a pick-up truck on fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire.

Aug. 5. 12:40 p.m. On Kaya Demerara unknown persons allegedly tried to set fire to a parked car in a yard. Upon the arrival of the police, the suspects were not found at the scene.

Public order

Aug. 17. 3:20 a.m. Police closed a catering establishment on Kaya Aguila. After the permitted closing time about seven people were in the building and drinks were being sold to customers through a window.

Aug. 10. 10:45 p.m. In a shooting drive-by on Kaya Kuarta two people and a dog were injured by bullets. Both people were taken to the hospital by ambulance. The dog died of his injuries.

Aug. 9. A report came in about a car causing a loud noise nuisance in Kaya Grandi and surroundings. The loud noise came from the vehicle's exhaust. After a search in the area, a patrol found the vehicle that matched the given description and was in full action at the time. The driver was stopped and fined and the vehicle was impounded.

Aug. 11. 3:50 a.m. During a traffic check on Kaya Korona

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,

The seller of the property I recently purchased has just passed away. We both signed a purchase agreement and were waiting for the deed transfer to be completed at the notary, but now I am wondering what my options are. If the process takes too long or if the heirs do not cooperate with the sale, can I put the estate in default and/or cancel the purchase agreement?

Regards, Linda

Hi Linda,

This is an understandable question. In general, the buyers cannot simply cancel the purchase agreement because the seller has passed away. The signed purchase agreement remains binding, and both parties are expected to fulfill their obligations under the agreement.

However, if the obligations under the purchase agreement are not fulfilled, the buyer may have legal options. If the estate does not cooperate with completing the sale, it may be possible to put the estate in default. If the default continues, the buyer may, depending on the circumstances, have the possibility to request dissolution of the purchase agreement.

A delay caused by the heirs needing time to arrange documents or complete the necessary steps does not automatically mean that the estate is in default. Every situation must be reviewed separately, taking into account the purchase agreement and the circumstances of the case. In most of these cases an acceptable solution can be agreed to by both parties.

If you find yourself in this situation, the first step is to contact the notary handling the transfer. The notary can explain your options and possible next steps and help determine how the process can continue.

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.

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police searched a vehicle after they smelled narcotics. A small amount of suspected narcotics was found and confiscated. The driver was banned from driving because of the suspicion that he was driving under the influence of narcotics.

Aug. 11. 2 a.m. A report came in of a man causing unrest at a catering establishment on Kaya Korona. The police found the man on the spot. A quantity of suspected narcotics was found and confiscated.

**Contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or
the anonymous tip line 9310.**

The OLB has two new ways to predict financial outcomes

The Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB) now has two newly developed economic policy models at its disposal according to a story in the BES-Reporter. The macroeconomic model BONóstiko maps the economic and social consequences of government policy choices. The OLB can use it to make decisions based on facts, figures and objective analyses. The purchasing power model KOMBO shows the impact of changes in taxation and social security on the purchasing power of different households.

The Economic Bureau Amsterdam (EBA) provided two-days of training in early July for employees of the Public Entity of Bonaire and the Deputy for Economic Affairs. In addition, the models were presented to the Executive Council and various stakeholders, ensuring they are aware of the possibilities these new tools offer.

Commissioner for Economic Affairs Jennifer Mohamedjoenoes said: "With BONóstiko and KOMBO, we are investing not only in new tools, but above all in the knowledge and analytical capacity of Bonaire. This way, we can better substantiate our policy choices and work towards a strong and resilient economy for the future." *DMR (Source: Bes-Reporter)*

Dutch islands to be shielded from higher long-haul flight tariffs

Cabinet intends to increase the tariff on flights between Caribbean and Europe, but Dutch islanders will pay a lower tariff than others. Responding to the suggestion that the exemption will be unfair to other islands, Minister Heinen (Finance) cited the special relationship between the Netherlands and the Dutch Overseas Countries and Territories. He pointed out that islands that will pay the higher tariff, such as Saint Barthélemy and Martinique, belong to the EU Community territory. *DMR*

Health tips for the heat wave

GGD Bonaire / Salubridat Público encourages residents and visitors to pay extra attention to their health during hot periods. "Protect yourself and each other from the heat," GGD says. Its recommendations are:

- Protect your body from the sun. Seek shade as much as possible and protect yourself from direct exposure to the sun. Avoid the hottest moments between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Pay special attention to babies and small children. They can suffer from heat more quickly.
- Pay extra attention to the elderly and people with chronic conditions. Check in regularly to see how they are doing, especially if they live alone.
- Keep your body cool. Cool off and stay in a cool environment as much as possible.
- Drink plenty of water often. Don't wait until you get thirsty.
- Avoid moving in full sun. Plan physical exertion as much as possible at cooler times of the day.

DMR

Island wary of proposed "public order" bill

In the Netherlands a private member's bill, the Online Driven Public Order Disturbance Act, is currently being debated in the House of Representatives. This bill was conceived and introduced by a member of the House of Representatives. The bill, which is not yet law, is getting close scrutiny from the Governor of Bonaire and the Public Entity Bonaire. Neither were involved in its drafting.

The bill may give mayors additional power to act in exceptional situations against serious disturbances of public order that are driven via the internet or social media, such as public calls for riots, violence or vandalism. That authority would also apply to the Island Governors of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.

Island Governor John Soliano and others have raised concerns about government encroachment on people's right to free speech. Soliano said: "Freedom of expression is a fundamental right. Should this bill be adopted, we will carefully assess how the proposed power is applied on Bonaire. In doing so, we always take into account our local context and monitor the balance between safety and freedom of expression." *DMR*

TUI to begin daily Bonaire-Amsterdam service in April

Beginning April 2027, TUI will start connecting Bonaire and the Netherlands every day. Present service is five flights per week. *DMR*

Brief window coming for applying for a firearm permit

For a six weeks period this fall Bonaire residents will be able to apply for a permit to import, export, or possess a firearm for permitted purposes. (The government press release does not say what purposes are permitted.) The police will accept applications between September 1 and October 15, 2026.

Applicants can apply to the Cabinet of the Island Governor for a Certificate of Good Conduct (VOG) and for the firearms permit simultaneously. If the VOG is positive, the application for the gun authorization will automatically be processed.

Applicants will have to:

- provide a medical certificate from both the general practitioner and the optometrist;
- demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of firearms and can handle them safely, via a statement from the shooting club or the police;
- comply with the rules on the type of firearm and the ammunition permitted for the requested purpose.

A gun authorization is valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

In addition, the remainder of August will be another free period for people to hand in non-authorized firearms without penalty. They can make an appointment to hand in a firearm by contacting the Dutch Caribbean Police Force at +599 715 8000. *DMR*



Fire Department conducting Officer in Charge training this month

For the remainder of August the Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department (BKCN) will be conducting several practical exercises in different places around the islands as part of the Officer in Charge training program.

The training will help ensure that Officers in Charge are well prepared to provide operational leadership during crisis management and disaster response. BKCN asks

road users and residents to take the exercises into account and to follow any instructions given. Realistic scenarios will be practiced at various locations across Bonaire. During these exercises, fire department vehicles and simulated emergency situations may be visible in the area. The training sessions will take place from Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. *DMR*



Bonaire stands alongside Colombia

On behalf of the Public Entity of Bonaire, Island Governor John Soliano extends his sympathy to the people of Colombia following the earthquake.

"My thoughts are with the people of Colombia and the Colombian community on Bonaire. I wish everyone affected by the earthquake, in any way, strength during this difficult time. Bonaire stands with you."

Bonaire residents who are currently in Colombia and need assistance can contact:

- Embassy of the Netherlands in Bogotá
Carrera 13 No. 93-40, Piso 5, Bogotá | +57 60 16 38 42 00 | WhatsApp (24 hours): +31 857 737 400
- Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Cali
Calle 50 Norte #5 BN 34, Barrio La Flora, Cali, Valle | (+57) 26 66 16 63 | consulaatcali@vdi.com.co

For urgent assistance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is available 24/7 at +31 247 247 247.

The Public Entity Bonaire will continue to monitor developments.

For more information and assistance: <https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/reisadvies/colombia>

Janet Estella Thibault Beloved "Lady" of Captain Don Stewart

Janet was the eldest of five siblings. Growing up in a military family meant frequent relocations and this shaped Janet's lifelong insatiable curiosity. After graduating, she moved to NYC to work for a large Manhattan corporation, the only woman in their accounting department (an unusual feat in those days). This helped shape her strong independent character as an adult.

Janet visited Bonaire in the 1970s and learned to dive through the support of Al Catalfulmo who introduced her to Captain Don. Don was smitten and invited Janet to return. She did in 1976 and never left, joining Don's ventures as he worked to establish his beloved Habitat as the iconic "Home of Diving Freedom." Together they designed, engineered and staffed Habitat to facilitate affordable adventures for visitors. Like Don, Janet did any job needed. When Don's business passion expanded, she was at his side supporting their move to "the country" to open Island Growers, selling native plants that would thrive in Bonaire's dry climate. They also designed drip irrigation and shading systems that would sustain plant growth without wasting precious water.

After Don's death in 2014, many acquaintances encouraged Janet to move into town so she wouldn't be isolated. She refused, preferring the quiet of their kunuku. She remained there until her death, thanks to the support of a few very dear friends, and the assistance of Fundasions Zorgwinkel and Mariadal.

Janet was predeceased by her beloved Don and her parents. She is survived by her siblings Michael, Mary Ann, Thomas and Patricia, her cousin Carol Hibbs, numerous nephews and



Janet Estella Thibault
October 22, 1946 – August 5, 2026

nieces, dear friends Leanne Pinkerton, Arlene Nagtegaal, Ralph Stewart, George Buckley and a host of friends far too numerous to list. Condolence service was held at Consuelo Memorial Bonaire (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1coe8bUv8Y>). A private ceremony and interment will take place at a later date.

Cruising the mall

Descended from the African Nubian wild ass, Bonaire's wild donkeys travel the island and are mostly seen along the roads nibbling on a bit of grass or shrubbery.

With the heavy drought, the donkeys are visiting closer to town searching for food and water, but it was still a surprise to see them walking down Kaya Grandi.

The Reporter's Facebook post of this photo received an amazing 105,816 views, 1,223 reactions, 2559 clicks and 66 comments from non-followers (95.5%) and followers (4.5%).

Photo Julie Morgan



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Millions in economic damage and still no plan



The July 2026 tourism figures reveal what happens when an island where 50% of GDP depends on tourism has no coherent economic strategy. Bonaire has a tourism vision on paper. What is missing is a plan that connects that vision to air connections, capacity, marketing and economic value creation.

KEY FIGURES JULY 2026 (PRELIMINARY)

Stayover visitors: 15,984 (vs 16,653 in 2025, -4%) |
US: 4,044 (vs 4,565, -11.4%) | Canada: -35.6% |
Curaçao: -10.3% | Netherlands: -1.8% |
Three largest markets combined: -6.1%

The economic bill

Tourism represents approximately 50 percent of Bonaire's GDP, 53 percent of employment and 44 percent of local tax revenues. Approximately 7,200 jobs are directly or indirectly dependent on it. Tourism is not a sector alongside Bonaire's economy. It is Bonaire's economy.

The impact study by Economisch Bureau Amsterdam shows that a North American visitor spends an average of \$2,673 per stay on Bonaire. A Dutch visitor \$2,450. A visitor from the Dutch Caribbean \$1,180.

The 521 fewer American visitors in July represent approximately \$1.39 million in potentially lost direct spending. The 136 fewer Dutch visitors approximately \$333,000. The 220 fewer visitors from Curaçao approximately \$260,000. From three markets combined, that is nearly \$2 million less in potential direct spending in a single month.

June and July together therefore represent a cumulative loss of potential direct spending approaching \$4 million. For every month that structural action is not taken, that amount continues to grow.

These amounts translate directly into lower turnover for restaurants, dive schools, shops, car rental companies and suppliers. And through tax revenues, also into fewer resources for public services. Tourism is what puts money in the till that keeps everything else on Bonaire running.

What is missing

Bonaire has no coherent economic plan for tourism. There is no authority with oversight over the connection between air connections, accommodation capacity, marketing and economic value creation. There is no transparency about how the visitor entry tax is being spent. And there is no answer to the question of how the declining North American market is to be structurally restored.

Meanwhile, the supply of accommodation keeps growing while demand is falling. The Curaçao-Bonaire route suffers from a structural shortage of seats and return fares of \$250 or more for a flight of less than half an hour. Bonaire is entering its third consecutive year with limited resources for destination marketing, while competing destinations continue to invest.

Social policy is important. But social ambitions are not

sustainable without a healthy economic foundation to finance them. The economy is not a side issue. It is the foundation.

Bonaire is treating its own economy as something that will sort itself out. That is a mistake that is already measurably translating into tens of millions in lost economic value annually, as the June and July figures show.

What BONHATA is calling for

BONHATA is calling on the government and all relevant parties to take four concrete steps.

First: develop a coherent economic plan for Bonaire's tourism. Not a vision, but a plan with concrete objectives, responsibilities and resources.

Second: restore North American air connections. This requires active governance, investment and cooperation between the government, BIA and TCB.

Third: make the Curaçao-Bonaire connection affordable and accessible. The Dutch parliament recently created the possibility to intervene when Dutch Caribbean connections are insufficient or unaffordable. That possibility must be used.

Fourth: be transparent about the use of the visitor entry tax. The approximately \$16 million collected annually must be demonstrably used to strengthen the tourism economy for which the levy was intended.

Bonaire does not simply need to receive more tourists. It needs to ensure that the existing tourism economy functions well and that every visit adds as much value as possible to the island. That requires policy that takes the economy seriously, not as a side issue, but as the foundation of everything Bonaire wants to be

About BONHATA

BONHATA, the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association, represents the private tourism sector on Bonaire, including hotels, resorts, dive schools, restaurants, car rental companies, tour operators and related businesses. BONHATA advocates for the interests of the sector and actively engages with government and partners.

BONHATA release

In July 2026, Bonaire received 669 fewer stayover visitors than in July 2025. On paper that is a decline of 4 percent. But behind that number lies a much larger story. For the third consecutive month, the North American market declined by approximately 12 percent. That is precisely the market with the highest spending per visitor. And it is precisely the market for which Bonaire's tourism vision reserves a prominent role.

The problem is not that the vision does not exist. The problem is that there is no economic plan to realize it.

A vision without a plan

The Strategic Tourism Master Plan 2017-2027 chooses high-value tourism. Not more visitors, but visitors who add greater economic value. That sounds clear. But a vision is not a plan. A plan answers the questions a vision leaves open.

What concrete measures are being taken to restore North American air connections? Who is responsible for managing accommodation capacity in relation to demand? How much of the visitor entry tax, approximately \$16 million annually, is demonstrably being used to strengthen the tourism economy? Who monitors the coherence between air connections, marketing, occupancy rates and economic value?

None of these questions has a clear, public answer. That is the missing plan.

What the figures show

The North American market declined in July for the third consecutive month by approximately 12 percent. The US: from 4,565 to 4,044 visitors (-11.4%). Canada: -35.6%. Curaçao, the largest regional market: -10.3%. The Netherlands: -1.8%.

The three largest markets together delivered 877 fewer visitors than a year earlier, a decline of 6.1 percent. Growth from Germany, Brazil and Switzerland is positive, but does not compensate for the losses from the core markets.

Festival Kanta Bo

...from page 3

The six judges narrowed the competition to four contestants naming the winners after a second performance of their songs. The overall winner was Raiza Wilsoe singing "Nos historia no ta perdi" composer and arranger Jurgen Lacruz; first runner up, Rolando Casimiri with "Boneiru nos ta"; second, Rayshantaly Coffie with "Nos ta one" and third, Loeshaska Nicolaas-Janga sang "Mama tera Boneiru".

In addition to the honor of performing on Bonaire Day, the youth and adult winners received monetary prizes along with a gift bag and medal. Youth winner received a Bonaire Travel Gift Card valued at \$400; Youth Runner-Up: City Shop Gift Card valued at \$250; Second Runner-Up: 2-Day Pass at Plaza and Third Runner-Up: Tablet

Adult winner received \$1,500 + 2-Day Pass at Plaza; Adult Runner-Up: \$1,000; Second Runner-Up: \$750; Third Runner-Up: \$500; winning composer: \$500 and winning arranger: \$500

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Find TCB's full report in our online issue, page 22.

<https://bonairereporter.com>

Gold Star teens dive Bonaire



Top: GSTA group with Captain Don dive staff.
Bottom: Gold Star teens at the Helma Hooker Photos Julie Morgan

This August marked the 10th year for Gold Star Teen Adventures to hold their Scuba Academy in Bonaire at Captain Don’s Habitat. This inspiring and impressive program was created by Kent Solheim for teens struggling with the loss of a parent who was killed in the line of duty or illness.

Solheim, a former U.S. Army Special Operations Forces service member served for 31 years and was injured and lost his right leg in 2007. While in recovery, he was inspired to create the GSTA in 2009.

Solheim said, “I had my own experiences, and I thought it was the right thing to do. God has a plan, and it was a calling”.

The GSTA program is an intense adventure program that provides mentorship, leadership and character development along with resilience training and team building. The result is gracious, polite and hardworking teens. They learn new skills, leadership, build char-



Gold Star Teens...to page 9

CRISY CHICKEN by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

150 g (5.30 oz) chicken thigh meat • 1 dl (1/2 C) chicken stock • 1/2 dl (¼ C) coconut milk • 2 cm (¾ in) fresh ginger root, crushed • 1/2 red chili pepper • 2 cloves of garlic, crushed • 2 lime leaves • 1/3 onion, roughly chopped • Pepper and Bonaire sea salt

Cut the meat into 2 by 2 cm (¾ in x ¾ in) pieces and season with salt and pepper. Fry the chicken until golden brown all around. Sauté the garlic and onions in some oil in a saucepan, add the stock and the rest of the seasonings, and bring to a boil. Now add the fried chicken pieces to the broth over low heat for about 1 1/2 hours. Let the cooked chicken cool in the liquid, preferably overnight. Remove the cold chicken pieces from the liquid and pat them dry.

80 g (2/3 C) tempura batter • 30 g (¼ C) puffed quinoa • 15 g (2 T) unsweetened coconut flakes, lightly chopped.

Now stir the dry chicken pieces into the tempura batter, then coat them in the mixture of puffed quinoa and coconut, and deep-fry them at 180 degrees until they are nicely brown and crispy.

Serve with (spicy) chili mayonnaise.

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.





acter, have fun, make friends for life and become a part of a family. Some 90% of the kids return year after year.

Several young men have been a part of program for 7 years and one young woman, now a marine biologist, who basically grew up in the program, is one of the instructors.

This year's weeklong program at Captain Don's Habitat included 49 people: five instructors plus Solheim and 41 teens. Their days began at 5:30 a.m. with morn-

ing exercise and calisthenics followed by three to four dives a day. Three night dives were included. Many of the teens received their advanced and rescue certifications diving the Helma Hooker and the Captain Don wreck of 131ft.

Being prepared is a major part of the training, if anyone forgets their gear they pay the price of extra push-ups or other exercise.

The program week ended with Underwater Olympics, shopping, a trip to the donkey sanctuary, a dance with Roger Haug, Captain Don's dive shop manager as DJ

and an award/certification program.

The teens, aged 14-19, are from across the U.S. In addition to the Scuba Academy, GSTA programs include an outdoor academy with hunting, backpacking, paddling and survival training. Home base for Gold Star Teen Adventures is North Carolina. GSTA holds fundraisers throughout the year to provide this program for free to the Gold Star Teens. Visit: gstadventures.org for more information.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan

Practicing for the day they hope never comes

Two blokarts touch on the track. One capsizes into the safety fence and the sailor is hurt. A few minutes later, a grandmother watching her grandson from the sidelines collapses in cardiac arrest.

Neither of these things happened at Bonaire Landsailing Adventures this week. Both were training scenarios, run for the landsailing team by Jason Buttonshaw and Dana Kowalsick of Let's Go Dive Bonaire.

The two businesses have been working together for nearly a year, with quarterly sessions covering first aid, preparedness, decision making, teamwork and performing under pressure. Jason, who co-founded the dive operation, has been a professional firefighter and paramedic for more than 25 years.

"The goal wasn't simply to practice first aid skills," said Jason. "It was to have the team assess, communicate, make decisions, assign roles and manage an evolving emergency together. Training like this builds confidence and exposes gaps. It gives people a framework to fall back on when a real emergency doesn't follow the textbook."

The choice of the second scenario was deliberate. A spectator having a heart attack is not a landsailing accident at all. It is the kind of thing that can happen at a



Top - Training scenario: recovering an injured sailor from a flipped blokart.

Bottom - Practicing CPR on a dummy in a training scenario Photos Julie Morgan

supermarket, a beach or a football match, and the track team wanted to know they could handle it as calmly as an injury out on the course.

Since it opened, Bonaire Landsailing Adventures has introduced more than 40,000 guests to blokart sailing without a serious accident.

"That is not luck," said Donna Hudgeon, co-owner of Bonaire Landsailing Adventures. "It comes from good equipment, thorough briefings and a team that knows exactly what to do. The best time to work out who does what in an emergency is long before you ever need to."

Every session tends to identify something small to improve, something practical: who is phoning the ambulance while everyone else is busy with the patient, when do you call the ambulance and who is standing out on Kaminda Sabana Piedra Krus to wave it in.

For anyone thinking about a session on the track, the message is not that landsailing is risky. It is that the people running it have thought hard about the unlikely, and have practiced it more than once.

Let's Go Dive Bonaire also runs emergency training for individuals and local businesses, including CPR with AED, First Aid at Work and Stop the Bleed.

Donna Hudgeon



Taste of Bonaire, Summer edition 2026



Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) Taste of Bonaire on August 8 at Isidel Beach Park proved to be a winner with countless booths offering food, craft and specialty drinks. The Silver Bullet steel band, DJ Marv and Ocean Band set the mood for

attendees as they strolled the grounds of Park Isidel. Kids enjoyed the playground and special cartoon characters like Spiderman and Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Photos Julie Morgan



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Make Bonaire Accessible

Privileged by Ria Dokter

Just yesterday I celebrated my birthday, but I really did not want to celebrate and did not really feel like it.

But somehow, I decided to do so and bought cookies to present with coffee. It was just something small. On Fridays I get together at Plataforma Hofi Kultural with a great group of people, where we chat, have fun, craft, paint and have a good time. I felt like doing something fun, so I asked Tio Pepe to come and give everyone present a nice ice cream. And everyone appreciated it, which made me feel a lot better instantly.

I did not expect friends to come by, but when I got home there were friends who came by to congratulate me. They brought a card and a nice plant or two. We spent a while chatting and it was very pleasant. This morning many of them sent me messages to thank me and told how much they had appreciated the company.

This made me think how easy it is to have good friends and that just being together is a little party in itself. People should do this more often.

It does not have to be big, expensive or exclusive. It should be all about the company. Being together with the people you love and/or like, is very precious.

I would like to suggest to more people to do the same. Just call, app or mail a friend and tell them that you will come over and spend some precious time together. Have a coffee, a nice cool glass of water or nothing at all, just the company is enough. Show the other people that your time is like a present and you can enjoy each other's company.

The elderly will especially like these visits a lot. Like in the old days.... just get together, talk, laugh, enjoy each time together, then you go home and feel good as a happy person. This is what one did before there were television, internet and telephones. You heard the latest news about the family, exchanged jokes and maybe sang a song or two. A bit like the great Bonaire traditional program of Luna Yen.

There is no sitting together with the music blaring. It's just you and your company and nothing else. Perhaps you enjoyed a cup of tea or even a glass of cool water. And if there was a cookie or a little piece of chocolate, it was shared with the company.

On moments like this, the best plans were made, the sweetest stories were shared and sometimes even the best ideas for an event like carnival. And when those plans were good, the simple costumes were made, cut from paper, the fun was priceless.

I hope I am not the only one enjoying times like these. There must be more people who know what I mean. And maybe we could get together and make plans for something simple but special. Everybody could participate and accessibility would not be a problem.



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.

David Batalsky

David Batalsky (officially Carol David Batalsky), 87, passed away peacefully on August 8,, 2026 with family alongside.

David was born in Boston, MA, of Morris and Carolyn Batalsky, and raised in Philadelphia by Belle and Herman Rosen. He served in the 11th Airborne of the U.S. Army and graduated from Temple University. When David retired, he was vice president of Special Events for Showtime TV, and a member of the honorary organization Cable Pioneers.

David often took production pictures for Showtime; his subjects included Cher, Cyndi Lauper, Stevie Wonder, and Jane Fonda.

David enjoyed underwater photography and diving, which is why he initially came to Bonaire. He enjoyed Bonaire even more after he met, and married, Dee Scarr; together they dived the Red Sea, Tonga, Fiji, and even California, but Bonaire was always their favorite place. David's diving adventures included being hooked by a fisherman under Bonaire's Old Pier (Dr. Welvaart removed the hook in one quick pull), being attacked by a nest-guarding triggerfish in the Coral Sea (his strobe was bitten but David and the triggerfish were both unharmed), being courted by a lonely dugong in Vanuatu (luckily, David was wlier than the dugong), and photographing a weird little cuttlefish capturing a shrimp in Papua New Guinea.

Even more than he liked diving, David enjoyed making people laugh. He brightened the day for friends and strangers no matter what language they spoke:

Clerk in Bonaire grocery store: Hi David, con ta bai? David: Of course I've come to buy, I'm in the grocery store!



October 19, 1938 - August 8, 2026

Hurricanes aren't funny. David battled Katrina's effects by auctioning ten of his homemade cheesecakes to friends – who knew how amazing they were -- and donated the more than two thousand dollars they earned to Hurricane Katrina relief.

For the almost forty years of her life, David was loved unconditionally by his scarlet macaw, Bandit. He ordered a tree planted in Israel at the death of this beloved bird, possibly the first tree planted in Israel for a bird.

David is survived by his wife Dee Scarr and his children, Howard Batalsky and Diane Batalsky.

Private owners can apply for subsidy to repair historic houses

Private owners of a residential monuments on Bonaire can apply for a subsidy for maintenance and restoration of their historic houses from September 1 to 30, 2026.

The subsidy is a pilot scheme for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. A total of \$1.1 million is available. Within the scheme, a total of \$550,000 has been reserved for Bonaire. A subsidy amount of at least \$25,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 can be applied for per monument.

The eligible residences. Historic houses that have not been officially designated as a monument may also be eligible for the scheme. The historic houses can be either inside or outside the protected, historic parts of Kralendijk and Rincon, but they must be older than 50 years. They must also be important to Bonaire because of their history, culture or beautiful architectural style. In addition, a written statement from the Executive Council is required. The architectural advisors (contact persons for the subsidy for residential monuments) will contact the Public Entity Bonaire for the further procedure.

Reimbursement for costs involved when applying for subsidy

Preparing the subsidy application for residential monuments takes both time and money. Owners should therefore start preparing their application now.



As long as there is budget available, owners can obtain compensation for part of their preparation costs through the National Restoration Fund. A subsidy application requires, among other things, an up-to-date structural inspection, a work description and an overview of the maintenance and repair costs. The fee is up to \$5,000 per monument. The Restoration Fund will pay this fee directly to the building consultant and deduct it from the owner's preparation costs. A total of \$52,000 is available to reimburse owners their preparation fees.

Before the documents are drawn up, the architectural consultant first makes a global estimate of the chance of a successful subsidy application. This includes looking at the status of the monument, the necessary work and the

feasibility of the application. In this way, unnecessary costs for the owner are avoided as much as possible. If an owner is unable to pay the preparation costs in advance, the Restoration Fund can pay a maximum of \$2,500 directly to the architectural consultant. The remaining amount can be reimbursed afterwards on the basis of invoices and proof of payment.

Don't start work yet

Do not start maintenance or repair work before a decision has been made on the subsidy application. Activities that have already started or been completed before a decision on the subsidy application has been taken are not eligible for a subsidy.

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, the RCE, handles the subsidy appli-

cations. The RCE will make a decision on the applications by the end of February 2027 at the latest. After the subsidy has been awarded, the owner has two years to carry out the work.

Owners can contact one of the following architectural consultants for an initial assessment and guidance:

- Gino Obersi +599 9 777 1513
info@ginoarchitecture.com
- Norman Panneflekk +599 9 511 8207
npanneflekk@gmail.com
- Isabella van den Bussche +599 786 9339,
isabella@stichtingcocari.org
- Michael Newton +599 9 510 6978 michael@newton.cw –

The grant can only be applied for from September 1 to 30, 2026. More information about the conditions, required documents and application procedure can be found at:
<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/s/subsidieregeling-monumenten-caribisch-nederland>

For any questions about the scheme, you can contact the following within the Public Entity of Bonaire:

- Margyëne Booi – margyene.booi@bonairegov.com (Building & Heritage Policy Advisor)
- Daudi Cijntje – daudi.cijntje@bonairegov.com (Programme Manager Culture & Heritage)

OLB release

Help send the Pickleball team to Vietnam



Pickleball Association Bonaire team is headed to the Pickleball World Cup 2026, in Da Nang, Vietnam August 30 to September 6. This will be Bonaire's second World Cup with their first being in Fort Lauderdale in 2025 where they competed with 60 countries and brought home a silver and bronze medal.

The Pickleball World Cup was first established and held in Lima, Peru in 2023 and again in 2024, attracting 33 countries to the competition. This year's contest is expected to be the largest yet with 80 delegations and more than 4000 athletes from around the world.

Bonaire's 15 selected players, both under and over the age of 50, will compete across multiple divisions. The tournament features five categories: Kids, Juniors, Open, Seniors, and Masters.

The World Cup is organized in partnership with America & Asia Connect (AAC) and will be played at the Tien Son Sport Center and the Tuyen Son Sport Complex, with additional satellite venues across Da Nang.

There will even be an attempt for a Guinness World

Record during the event, with the theme "One World. One Game. One Champion."

Pickleball is a relatively new sport that has grown a strong participant base in a very short time on Bonaire and worldwide. The sport is popular because it is easy to learn, fun, challenging and only requires the cost of a paddle.

Pickleball Association Bonaire is calling on local businesses and organizations to help by sponsoring the trip cost to Vietnam. Companies interested in supporting the team can also request a teambonding pickleball day for their staff by contacting the association.

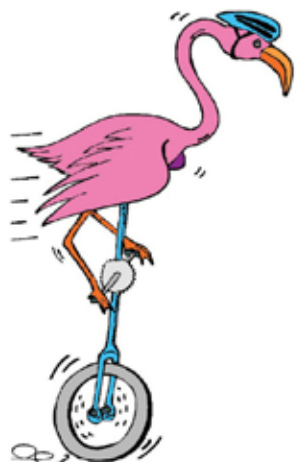
Please help put Team Bonaire on the map as a leader in pickleball by joining their other sponsors: Artisan Bakery Bonaire, Maravia Bonaire (B&B), MCB Bonaire, Wire Furniture and two anonymous donations.

Contact Pickleball Association Bonaire president Paulo Allee for information or to support the team: info@pickleballbonaire.org, www.pickleballbonaire.org

Photo Julie Morgan



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Events, Meetings, Sports

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

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

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).

Cultural activities for the elderly at Hôfi Kultural Tues., Wed. and Fri. at Cultural Garden, Antriol Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: manon@culturalplatform.com or call +599 7708437

Field Hockey. Kids 6-12. Thurs. free training in May & June. Adults train twice weekly. <https://www.facebook.com/people/Bonaire-Hockey-Foundation/61576259612469/>

Fish ID course. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Usually 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

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. Social play and beginners from 8 – 10 a.m. Advanced Competitive play from 10 a.m. - Noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 pp

Radio program "Krese" Bonaire's development over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 6 - 7 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. In Papiamentu; A recap is planned in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Radio program "Ban Lesa 2.0" Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. Multilingual; Guests in a warm and personal conversation, talk about a book that has moved them.

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 Free presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24 - Beyond the Corals at Bloozz Resort; Aug. 31 - Dive Friends Bonaire at Port Bonaire; Sept. 7, 14, & 21 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanislandsmantacconservation/)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org

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/nest-monitoring-patrols/>



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, August 29	The Beach Boost collects trash washing up on Bonaire's shores in Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.
Sunday, September 9	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 8-10 2.m. Te Amo Beach. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

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. 1-5; Tues. & Thurs. 8-7; Wed & Fri. 8-5.; Sat. 10-2. 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-Thur 8-4. Fri 8-12 noon. Sat & Sun Closed +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

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

Tuesdays, 24 weeks starting June 2	Ban Lesa 2.0 at 5:30 p.m. BonFM 102.7 The series celebrates the diversity, and power of Caribbean books. Multilingual.
Aug. 8 - Dec. 1	Tene Pia Seku, Terramar Museum. From shore life and youth perspectives to deep cultural reflection, this exhibition looks at environmental change through the lens of community resilience and care. The exhibit brings together international documentary photography and research with our local contemporary art, historical perspectives and community knowledge.
Sunday, Aug 23	Washington Trail Run & Walk 10 km & 24 km Free. Maximum 790 participants. Register by Aug. 22. https://patrishisports.com/events/2nd-Washington-Trail-Run-2026
Saturday, Aug. 29	Nos Zijlea Cultural Event - 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink
Sunday, Sept. 6	Bonaire Day - Legal holiday. Much is closed.
Saturday, Sept. 19	TCB's Kids Scavenger Hunt - Free. Ages 8 - 12 in groups of five accompanied by an adult. Registration deadline Friday, Sept. 11. see page 15 For more information, please contact Angelo Domacasse at 717-8322.
Sunday, Sept. 20	Next Step KLM Nature Walk & Hike Bonaire, 3rd edition.
Sept. 24 - Oct. 8	Bonaire Culinary Week – Fall Edition

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

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. August 19	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. August 26	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. September 2	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. September 8	0600-1700	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS 2440 guests	South
Wed. September 9	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Wed. September 16	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. September 17	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	North
Wed. September 23	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. September 24	0800-1600	CARNIVAL GLORY 3540 guests	South
Wed. September 30	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 1	0600-1800	CARNIVAL REFLECTION 3046 guests	South

School transport bus tickets can be picked up



Parents and guardians who have registered and paid for school transport for 2026-2027 can pick up the bus card at the Department of Society and Care: Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Kaya Neerlandia 41. For questions, contact the Department of Society and Care on +599 715 5330.

FUNDING

A new interdisciplinary grant for artists and cultural organizations has been published on rijkscultuurfondsen.org.

The rijkscultuurfondsen are jointly launching the Interdisciplinary grant: a new funding programme for professional artists and cultural organisations that integrate multiple artistic disciplines in their work. Are you an artist whose practice is not confined to a single discipline, and would you like to further develop your interdisciplinary practice? Or are you an organisation seeking funding for a project that integrates different disciplines? You may be eligible for the Interdisciplinary grant. The submission deadline is October 1, 2026.

Renovation of private historic residences. See page 9.

Children's Ombudsman in Bonaire Sept. 14 - 18



The Children's Ombudsman will visit Bonaire in the week of September 14.

An important topic during the visit is education on Bonaire. In early July, the Children's Ombudsman sent a letter to the State Secretary for Education and Emancipation, in which she expressed her concerns regarding the shortage of primary school places on Bonaire. Last school year, we received various complaints and reports regarding this. At that time, a group of children could not attend school because there was no place for them.

Stalls available for Dia di Boneiru 2026

From August 13 to August 28, 2026, you can register to be eligible for a stand to sell products during Dia di Boneiru.

What can be sold? As in previous years, exhibitors can offer various products and activities, including: Food, Snacks, Beverages, Works of art, Card game 'Bon kuné' and Games and activities for children

You can register online via www.dia-di-boneiru.com. Before registering for a stand, it is important to read the rules on the website carefully. Organizations and individuals located on Bonaire are given priority when renting a stand. Registration closes on August 28, 2026.

The rental price of a stand depends on what is being sold. The different rates can be found on www.dia-di-boneiru.com. After your request for a booth has been approved, you will receive an invoice for payment. Friday, August 28, 2026 is the last day on which proof of payment can be submitted. In the event of cancellation of a stand, the amount paid will not be refunded. OLB release.



At the 2025 scavenger hunt the absolute first place winner was Group Bokoba (banana), leader – Xioella Janga
Photo TCB

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is organizing a fantastic scavenger hunt for children for the fourth time to mark Tourism Month this coming September. The event will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026, between 10 am and 12 pm in Rincon and the surrounding area. A bus will be available to transport participants from Playa to Rincon.

Children aged 8 to 12 are eligible to participate. To take part, groups of five children must be formed, accompanied by an adult aged 21 or older. Participation requires completing a registration form at TCB; the event is entirely free of charge. The deadline for registration is Friday, September 11, 2026.

Each group must present a creative costume based on a specific fruit assigned to them at registration. This theme must be reflected in the costumes they wear. A prize will be awarded for this aspect of the event.

The scavenger hunt involves visiting various tourist and historical sites, with associated activities included along the way. After the hunt, all participants will receive lunch at Kos Bon So and a goody bag from TCB.

The group that scores the highest number of points and finishes within the allotted time will be declared the winner. Prizes will be awarded for third place, second place, and the overall winners. Attractive prizes will be presented during the Taste of Bonaire event on Saturday, September 26, 2026, which marks the conclusion of Tourism Month.

For more information about the scavenger hunt, please contact Angelo Domacasse at 717-8322.

TCB release

TEMPORARY HR ADVISOR

(m/f) fulltime (36 hours a week)

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AT STINAPA BONAIRE

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vacature@stinapa.org
before August 21, 2026.

For full job posting see
the Reporter online, page 21
and
<https://stinapabonaire.org/join-us/vacancies/>

SACA Bonaire Open Call For Submissions

Photography Exhibition

“WATER WORLD: Above & Below the Surface”

SACA Bonaire invites photographers to submit work exploring the many ways we experience, observe, and connect with water.

Whether your images are taken beneath the surface or from above the water looking across or into it, Water World celebrates the richness and diversity of aquatic environments through the artist's unique photographic vision.

From vibrant coral reefs and marine wildlife to seascapes, reflections, abstract compositions, and personal interpretations of aquatic life, we welcome photographs that explore the beauty, mystery, fragility, and power of the world's waters. While Bonaire's extraordinary marine environment is a natural source of inspiration, photographs from anywhere in the world are welcome.

This exhibition is rooted in photography. We are interested in how artists see and interpret the world through their own camera lens. The primary image must be an original photograph(s) taken by the submitting artist. Mixed-media and digital enhancements are welcome. Artists may incorporate collage, painting, digital compositing, Photoshop, or other creative processes, provided that the artist's original photograph(s) remains the primary foundation of the work.

This is a physical gallery exhibition. If selected, artists will be asked to deliver their finished artwork mounted and ready to hang. Details and recommendations will be provided upon acceptance.



Entry Deadline: October 1, 2026

Eligibility: Regional

Location: Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands

Number of Submissions: 1-3 JPEG images

Exhibition Dates: Nov. 27 – Jan. 23, 2027

Email Submission Requirements:

Please email submission(s) to info@sacabonaire.com.

Subject line: OPEN CALL WATER WORLD

Attach: 1-3 JPEG images

In the body of your email, please include:

Name • Age • Address • WhatsApp number • Artwork title • Artwork dimensions • Website (if applicable) • Instagram (if applicable)

Questions?

Please contact us at info@sacabonaire.com

SACA Bonaire, Kaya Korona 74,

Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands

<https://www.sacabonaire.com/>

A Thank-You Note to Bonaire

Having taken her last breath on Friday, August 7, 2026, Ann Joseph is not here to write her own thank-you note. But sometimes you know someone so well that you can write such a letter on their behalf.

To the warm and loving Bonaireans who, in 1996, welcomed Ann to the island, who shared your culture, your homes, and your way of life with her: thank you. Ann believed she was a guest on your island and did her utmost to live accordingly. She learned Papiamentu, sought your friendship and respect above all else, and applied her legal skills to the victorious fight to save Klein Bonaire.

To that early group of expatriate ladies, who shared adventure and freedom, who swam together and gathered beneath full moons by the fishing shacks: thank you. And thank you for the grace of allowing Ann the space she sometimes needed when her story pulled her in other directions.

To the Island itself: you were safe harbor to Ann. A place of refuge and beauty. A sacred place. A place worth loving above all other places. You were home to Ann.

Thank you.

And to the friends and neighbors who were by Ann's side and at her sickbed: thank you. You are angels. You embodied compassion and love, and for that, Ann would be forever grateful. You will surely see her again in heaven.



Ann Joseph
9/27/1946 - 8/7/2026

To honor Ann, there will be a private ceremony in Washikemba.

But please think of Ann when you are south—especially at sunset, when the light settles over the water and the flamingos fly overhead, making their way to their night roosts.

That is where you may still find her.

STINAPA planted a kibrahacha for Kerenza



Kerenza Rannou (center) celebrated 30 years of service at STINAPA on August 5, 2026. In honor of this service, her colleagues planted the hardwood kibrahacha tree which has stunning yellow blossoms when it rains. The tree can live for many

decades or even centuries. “A strong woman deserves a tree that reflects her strength” and the perfect way to thank Kerenza for her dedication and many years of hard work.

A Garden? Just Do It! -24 hours of artificial light / legumes- by Angliet, Nature Lover

Major changes are coming to the world; we notice them every day. In all sectors of daily life scientific and technical developments have, and will continue to have, small and large impacts.

For instance, the idea of placing satellites in the atmosphere to provide the earth with 24 hours of artificial light emerged as early as the end of the last century. This idea has been seriously adopted by various countries, and China is very close to realizing it.

The goal of illuminating the earth 24 hours a day is to use less energy. Using fossil fuel energy is currently under heavy pressure due to fuel shortages and also due to the high emissions of CO₂, which lead to global warming with all the associated consequences, such as the climate crisis. The world is actively searching for alternative forms of energy and the idea of artificial lighting from satellites is one of them.

You might be wondering what this has to do with gardening. Nature, meaning people, plants, and animals, needs the cycle of day and night for their biorhythm. Everything alive is closely linked to the light of day and the darkness of night. During the night rest and sleep promotes growth in the bodies of humans, animals and plants. All of this will be disrupted when the earth is illuminated 24 hours a day.

For trees and plants in the garden, 24 hours of light would disrupt their full growth, development and the restoration of life within them. The same applies to humans and animals. Humans will likely

find a way to create night in their homes and greenhouses with curtains that block out light. But for animals in the wild it would be a different story. And how will this end for our great hobby, namely gardening?

Many believe the future will tell. But the technology of 24-hour illumination of our planet Earth is already far advanced and very close at hand. It is said that the light will be dim during the nighttime hours to give a difference between day and night. But how nature will react is unknown. Scientists are looking anxiously at this major intervention in nature. On the other hand, it could be an exciting future for the plants in your garden and for gardeners.

Eat more legumes, is the new advice from the Nutrition Center in the Netherlands. When I read the article in A healthy life.nl on April 19, I found so much interesting information to share.

The core of this article is especially important for people who eat a plant-based diet. However, quite a few people cannot tolerate legumes because they cause bloating or stomach and intestinal acid.

Legumes are very healthy. In addition to protein, they are rich in fiber, minerals, vitamins and antioxidants. They are easy to plant, inexpensive, and hardly tax the soil. But because a group of carbohydrates in legumes cause many people digestive issues, many people do not eat legumes. However, not all legumes lead to the same severity of complaints such as abdominal pain, irritable bowel syndrome, and a general feeling of illness.

Research shows that mung beans, broad



Above: Yard-long beans;
Below: Wandu beans Photos: Angliet



beans, and soybeans cause few complaints. Young peas are also gentle on the intestines. Lentils and chickpeas cause slightly more complaints. However, for some people, even lentils cause quite a few symptoms.

Then come the common bean varieties such as brown beans, kidney beans, and

black beans. But lupine, yard long beans, and yellow peas cause the most complaints. Eating beans, especially in the evening, can be very uncomfortable for a good night's sleep. We buy most of these beans, but yard long beans are grown on Bonaire and are a tasty vegetable that can be stir-fried or boiled and cook quickly.

Wandu beans (pigeon peas) grow on many kunukus and in local gardens. If the pods are green, the beans can be cooked immediately and are usually stewed with rice. If the pods are dry, the beans must be soaked overnight and then cooked. It is important to soak legumes and beans for a long time and cook them thoroughly. Add a pinch of nutmeg, this helps with bloating and intestinal cramps. Do not eat too much at once, but do not stop either, so that your body gets used to it.

Finally, plant the wandu bush in your garden and the yard long bean in the greenhouse to deter iguanas, and enjoy these very healthy legumes.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Returning to the Caribbean, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



Creating Optimal Health by Irene da Cunda Costa

Why It's Never Too Late to Start Strength Training

Exercise scientist Evelien Van Roie from the University of Hasselt in Belgium explains why you can start strength training today (yes, even if you are 75) and why you will be glad you did tomorrow.

Many people in their fifties, sixties, or even eighties believe that starting strength training is pointless if they've never done it before. However, modern science tells a very different story: not only is it possible to begin later in life, but doing so can dramatically improve your quality of life.

One of the most important concepts in aging is the difference between "lifespan" and "healthspan." While people are living longer than ever, the number of years spent in good health has not increased at the same pace. In fact, many individuals spend the last five to six years of their lives struggling with reduced mobility and independence. Everyday tasks such as climbing stairs, standing up from a chair, or carrying groceries can become difficult or even impossible.

This decline is largely due to a natural process called sarcopenia, the gradual loss of muscle mass and strength as we age. Surprisingly, this process begins as early as age forty, with muscle strength decreasing by about 1 to 1.5 percent per year. At first, the effects may be subtle, but once muscle strength falls below a critical threshold, daily activities quickly become challenging.

A key factor in this decline is the loss of fast-twitch muscle fibers, which are responsible for strength and quick, powerful movements. These fibers are essential for preventing falls, reacting quickly, and performing tasks like lifting objects or getting up quickly. Additionally, communication between the brain and muscles becomes less efficient with age, further increasing the risk of accidents.

The good news is that strength training can significantly slow down, and even partially reverse these effects. Studies have shown that even people over ninety years old can achieve remarkable improvements in muscle strength within just twelve weeks of training. These improvements make the difference between independence and reliance on assistance.

Strength training also offers benefits beyond stronger muscles. Muscles act as an endocrine organ, releasing substances called myokines that positively influence other parts of the body, including the brain, liver, and digestive system. They also play a crucial role in metabolism, helping regulate blood sugar levels and reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, stronger muscles place beneficial stress on bones, helping maintain bone density, reducing the risk of fractures.

Getting started doesn't require complicated routines, although a medical checkup is recommended and professional guidance is preferred, at least in the beginning, to prevent unnecessary injuries. A few basic exercises—such as squats, push-ups, rowing movements, and step-ups—can effectively target the entire body. These exercises can be easily adapted to different fitness levels, using body weight, resistance bands, or simple household items like a backpack.

Over time you can increase weight, repetitions, or intensity. This principle, known as progressive overload, is essential for building strength.

Experts recommend strength training two to three times per week, with rest days in between to allow muscles to recover and grow. Incorporating short activity bursts throughout the day, sometimes called "exercise snacks" can also be highly effective.

Ultimately, the goal of strength training is not to achieve athletic performance, but to maintain independence and quality of life. By building and preserving muscle strength, individuals can continue to perform the activities they value most, well into older age.

The message is simple: it is never too late to start. Even small steps taken today can lead to meaningful improvements tomorrow.



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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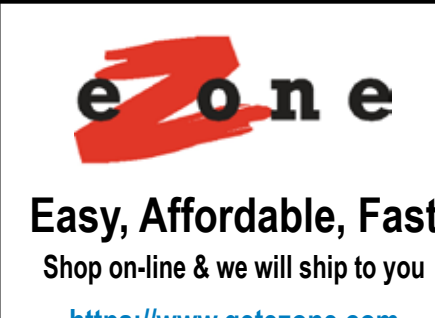
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Pets of the Week

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



Jack

Meet little Jack. This cute boy was found together with his sister Pearl in a van. He is now around nine weeks old.

Jack has one eye that is a bit smaller than the other, but that just makes him extra cute! He is very affectionate, loves to cuddle, and shows it by purring very loud.

We would love to find Jack a good home, and hope his sister could come with him too, because he loves his black Pearl. If you would like to meet Jack and his sister Pearl, come to the shelter and ask for them! . Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet Lila. A sweet girl with a unique ridgeback.

Lila came to us three years ago as a puppy together with her siblings. Luckily, all of her siblings found their forever home but she is still waiting.

Lila is a very social girl who is always up for a game or a walk. She is gentle with kids and loves to cuddle and needs her own home where she can play, run and feel loved.

Lila has a unique feature... her ridgeback, but that is not the most important. Even though she has been here for 3 years, she will always happily greet you. Come meet Lila so she can finally find her own forever home.

Story / Photo: Janne Schepers



Lila

New Caribbean Research Platform Foundation seeking board members

The new Caribbean Research Platform Foundation (stichting CaRP) is receiving a grant of 1.4 million euros from the Dutch Research Council (Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, NWO) to provide support services to the research community in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. A request for applications for CaRP board members started today, with at least one board member being sought from each of the six islands.

The CaRP Foundation was founded on Bonaire in April 2026. The grant will be used to support the regional research community on several fronts through work packages. The platform assists, for example, with (training in) applications for research funding and encourages the translation of research findings into policy, education and the business sector. CaRP also supports sustainable regional data storage and exchange, helps to strengthen research skills and ethics across all levels of education and is supporting the establishment of a graduate school to train researchers.

DMR



Animal Shelter News Summer = Kids at the Shelter



We were excited to take part for the third year in welcoming children to Animal Shelter Bonaire to learn about the care of the animals in the program Buki di Pret.

Over the summer, we hosted eight activities at the Shelter for the children. There were two different programs: washing dogs/puppies and being an animal caretaker for a day. The children had the opportunity to interact with the animals, learn more about their care and, most importantly, have lots of fun and laughs

To mark the end of summer vacation, the Shelter organized one big activity in Playa where everyone enjoyed a fun morning walk with 14 dogs along the boulevard. The dogs had a great time and so did the kids.

It was a successful summer filled with smiles, learning and fun moments. We are grateful to everyone who participated.

Janne Schepers



And do you all remember
Miep and Jacky?

Both of them found the forever
homes they deserve!



LVV is helping you grow

Raising vegetables and livestock on Bonaire just became a little easier with LVV's (Department of agriculture, livestock and fisheries) new solar powered water pump. Farmers and livestock owners can now satisfy their water needs 24 hours a day for free. This is a major savings, not only for the cost of the water, but will also save farmers on fuel from traveling to the closest well on the island or purchasing water from WEB.

Maurice Adriaens, manager for the department of agriculture said, "This is good quality well water, not for drinking water, but perfect for farming and livestock. More and more we are seeing the demand as more people are growing vegetables, fruit and caring for livestock. The solution was the wells at LVV."

This particular well was in service for

a mill a long time ago and then abandoned and neglected. There are six wells at LVV and now this one is the first to be returned to service due to its easy access for the users. The solar run well is located to the left on the LVV access road closest to the main building.

Adriaens said, "We are trying to maintain all the public wells around the island, If one breaks, then we are trying to put them back into service."

Under Adriaens management, LVV is developing the entire LVV property. With the leasing of the LVV land to companies, Bonaire is beginning to become less dependent on expensive imported foods. The leased agricultural land now supports 10 businesses and that number is expected to grow to 17 by 2027.

Julie Morgan



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is looking for a
Communications & Outreach Coordinator (0.8fte).

*Are you a great storyteller with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in
Communication and at least two years of relevant work experience?*

Contact STCB at stcb@bonaireturtles.org.



**EFFECTIVE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026**

AMCAR IS MOVING!

Office & warehouse relocating to a larger 126,000 sq ft facility

Our U.S. agent **Amcar Freight** is relocating. Please send all shipments to:

NEW ADDRESS

**3850 West 108 Street, Suite 10
Hialeah, FL 33018**

Deliveries here start September 1, 2026 — not before.

Tel: 305-599-8866 • traffic@amcarfreight.com • www.amcarfreight.com

HOW TO LABEL SHIPMENTS

Name: (customer name) — Bonaire
Address 1: 3850 West 108 Street
Address 2: Suite 10
City: Hialeah **State:** FL **ZIP:** 33018
Tel: 305-599-8866

**Advise your suppliers today — the Name line with
customer name & Bonaire is required on every shipment.**



Your logistics partner on Bonaire

OUR SERVICES

- Air & ocean freight to Bonaire
- Weekly consolidations from U.S.A. & Europe
- Customs clearance & documentation
- Warehousing & local delivery

CONTACT US

Rocargo Logistics Services

Kaya Industria 12, Bonaire

Tel: +599-717-8921

info@rocargo.com

www.rocargo.com

Questions? We are happy to help.

Working at STINAPA:

TEMPORARY HR ADVISOR

(m/f) fulltime (36 hours a week)



MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS AN HR ADVISOR AT STINAPA BONAIRE!

Are you an experienced HR professional who can quickly find their way within an organization? STINAPA Bonaire is looking for a temporary HR Advisor to replace a colleague who will be taking maternity leave. Are you available for a challenging interim position in which you can apply your knowledge and experience at one of the most beautiful nature organizations in the Caribbean? We would be pleased to meet you.

Would you like to make a temporary contribution to a strong organization dedicated to preserving Bonaire's unique nature?

As a HR Advisor, you will play a key role within STINAPA Bonaire. During the absence of our HR Advisor (from mid-October 2026 to mid-March 2027) you will be responsible for ensuring the continuity of the HR department. You will advise management and employees on a wide range of HR matters, monitor HR processes, and ensure that day-to-day HR activities run smoothly. You will be a strong sparring partner for management and contribute to a professional, safe, and future-oriented organization.

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

- Advise the executive team and management on HR matters, employment law, and organizational development.
- Monitor and implement existing HR policies and make improvement proposals where necessary.
- Coordinate the entire recruitment and selection process.
- Guide the performance management cycle.
- Check the monthly payroll.
- Provide support on training and professional development matters.
- Monitor sickness absence and maintain contact with the occupational physician.
- Prepare HR advice, policy documents, and management reports.
- Support managers with personnel matters and organizational changes.
- Ensure that HR processes and laws and regulations are applied correctly.

WHO ARE YOU?

You are an independent and experienced HR professional who quickly finds your way within an organization. You can easily switch between strategic issues and operational tasks, and you know how to build trust with colleagues and management.

You have:

- A completed bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management or a comparable qualification.
- At least three years of relevant work experience as an HR Advisor, HR Business Partner, or in a comparable position.
- Knowledge of employment law and modern HR processes.
- Experience in policy development and organizational development.
- Strong advisory and communication skills.
- An ethical, discreet, and service-oriented work attitude.
- A good command of Dutch, English, and Papiamentu.

YOU CAN EXPECT

A varied temporary position in which you will make an important contribution to the continuity of the organization. You will join a committed and enthusiastic team that works every day to protect Bonaire's unique nature. STINAPA offers attractive employment conditions in accordance with the applicable collective labor agreement, including:

- A temporary employment contract to cover maternity leave.
- A 36-hour working week.
- Salary in salary scale 11: (4,199 - 5,507 gross).
- 8.33% holiday allowance.
- Vacation leave in accordance with the collective labor agreement.
- A sports allowance covering up to 2/3 of a membership at a recognized sports facility.
- An inspiring work environment where nature, collaboration, and social impact are central.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

STINAPA Bonaire is a nonprofit organization responsible for managing Bonaire National Marine Park and Washington Slagbaai National Park. Every day, we work to protect, preserve, and restore Bonaire's unique natural environment. Together, we work toward a sustainable future in which nature and society go hand in hand.

READY TO MAKE A TEMPORARY IMPACT?

Send your cover letter and résumé to vacature@stinapa.org, stating "Temporary HR Advisor" in the subject line, within August 21.

For questions about the position, please contact Director M.K. van Hoorn at ceo@stinapa.org or call +5997773369.

For questions about the application procedure, please contact HR at hr@stinapa.org.



BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE

JULY 2026

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

These data are preliminary figures.

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
15,984 2026

All non-residents are registered as visitors

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
16,653 2025

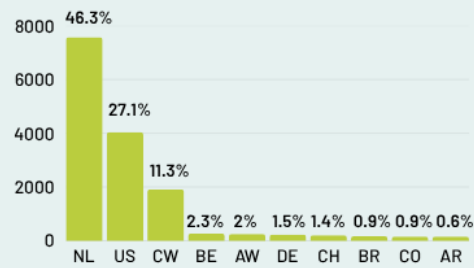
2026 COMPARED TO 2025

4%

Decrease in non-resident arrivals



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



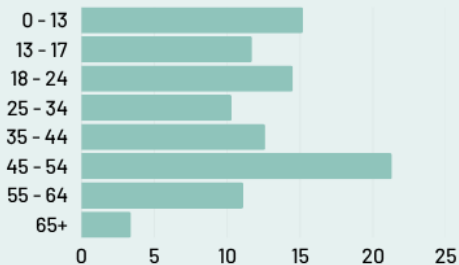
TOP STATES & REGION

US Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, California, and Virginia.

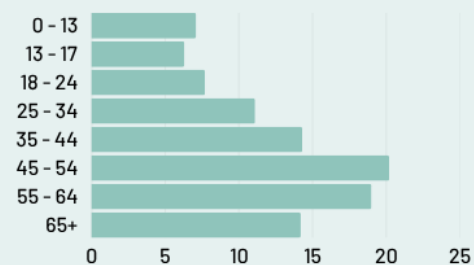
NL North Holland, South Holland, North Brabant, Gelderland, and Utrecht.

DEMOGRAPHICS

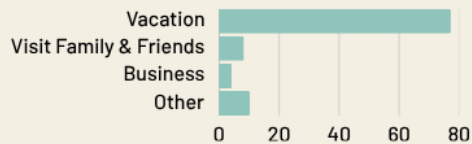
AGE | DUTCH



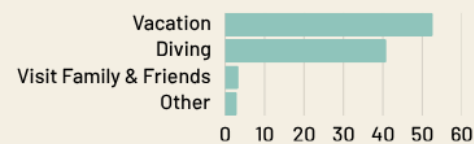
AGE | AMERICAN



REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH



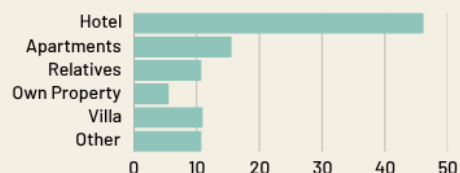
REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN



VISITOR BEHAVIOR

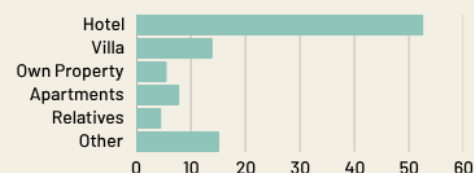
ACCOMMODATION TYPE

DUTCH

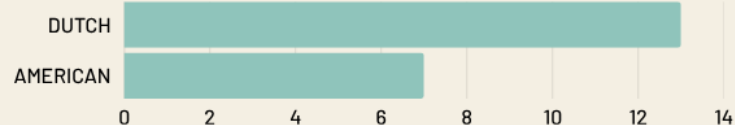


ACCOMMODATION TYPE

AMERICAN



LENGHT OF STAY



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

• www.bonaireisland.com
• info@bonaireisland.com
• bonaire.portcall.com

NEW OPENING HOURS

Headquarters

Monday - Thursday:

8AM - 4PM

Friday:

8AM - 12PM

Saturday - Sunday:

CLOSED

Washington Slagbaai National Park

Monday:

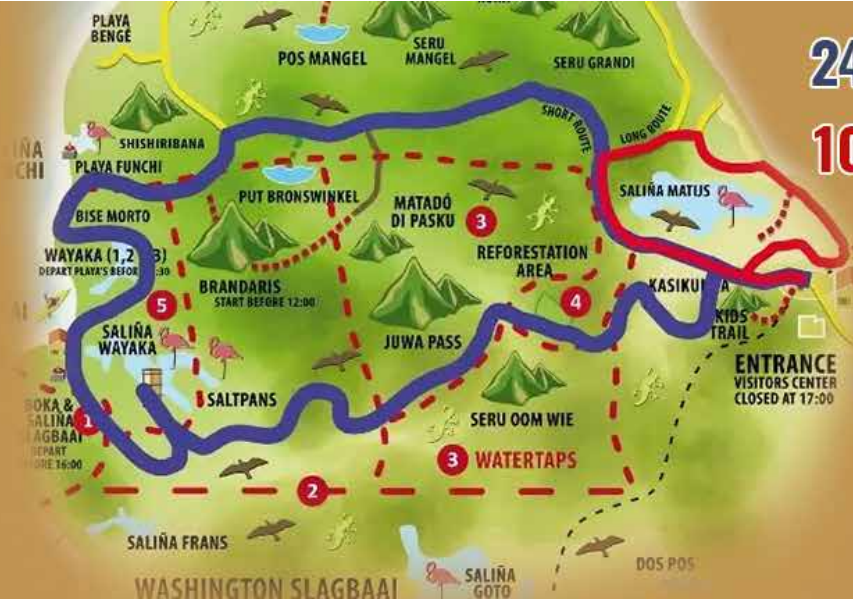
CLOSED

Tuesday - Sunday:

8AM - 5PM

Entry allowed till 2:30PM

WASHINGTON PARK TRAIL RUN



24KM WALK & RUN

10KM WALK & RUN

THE SECOND EDITION OF WASHINGTON PARK TRAIL RACE

**23 AUG
2026**



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
[TRAILRUNBONAIRE.COM](https://trailrunbonaire.com)

 **24 KM**
START AT 5:30 AM

 **BUS LEAVES AT**
STADION DI PLAYA - 04:30 AM
STADION DI ANTONIO TREINBAAD (RINCON) - 04:45 AM

 **10 KM**
START AT 6:30 AM

 **BUS LEAVES AT**
STADION DI PLAYA - 05:30 AM
STADION DI ANTONIO TREINBAAD (RINCON) - 05:45 AM



PICK UP YOUR RACE NUMBER ON:
Friday AUG 21 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday AUG 22 10:00 AM - 2:00 pm

LOCATION :

Sporthal Jorge Nicolaas at Kaya Amsterdam

**DISCOVER THE PEACE OF NATURE.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF.**



PARKING:
Stadion Antonio Trinidad
Stadion Di Playa





WATER- EN
ENERGIEBEDRIJF
BONAIRE

ELECTRICITY STATEMENT



A: Kaminda Djabou 35
E: info@webbonaire.com
T: +599 7158422
KVK: 884
CRIB: 303000806

Customer A
Kaya Blank 1
PO Box 23
Route: 929 - 123

A. Customer Number: 123456
B. Invoice No: 98765432
C. Invoice Date: 30-JUL-2026
D. Payment Amount: USD 100.24

Account Information

A. Deposit Amount USD 150.00

Meter Information

B. Meter Number E12345678
C. Read Date 11-Jul-26
D. Prior Read 66212
E. Current Read 66392
F. Usage (kWh) 180
G. Days 30

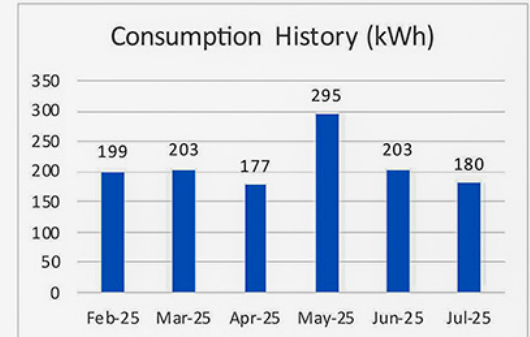
YOUR ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Since your previous invoice

A. Previous balance	USD	100.00
B. Last payment received on 30-JUN-2026	USD	100.00
C. Outstanding Balance with DUE date 30-JUL-2026	USD	0.00
D. New Invoice		
E. Variable Usage Rate Electric 180 kWh x \$ 0.3868	USD	69.62
F. Fixed Usage Rate 3x35A	USD	43.79
G. Total Charges with DUE date 30-AUG-2026	USD	113.41

Total Open Balance USD 113.41

State customer number by payment
Reduce CO2 emission. Send request for digital invoices to info@webbonaire.com.
Delivery subject to Terms & Conditions 2024, available at www.webbonaire.com.



Bank Information

RBC: 8400.0000.2305.7557 MCB: 915.041.02
Orco: 7600730195 BDC: 60348502

COMING SOON:
YOUR ELECTRICITY
AND WATER BILL
THROUGH MI WEB

WEB will soon launch a new digital customer portal that makes it easy to view and manage your bill.

let's do it together



Rank	Store	Number of cheapest items	Savings	
1	Kooyman Megastore Bonaire	53	\$1,738.29	51%
2	Playa Trading Bonaire BV	78	\$899.78	26%
3	Lucky Megastore	9	\$415.75	12%
4	Building Depot Bonaire	12	\$155.35	5%
5	Boomerang Hardware	4	\$147.73	4%
6	Dijtham	6	\$63.92	2%
			\$3,420.82	100%

• **OPEN CALL**
for submissions
Deadline: October 1, 2026

• Photography Exhibition

WATER WORLD

ABOVE & BELOW THE SURFACE

Peter Mane



BONAIRE
CULINARY WEEK

FALL EDITION 2026

Save the date!

Bonaire Culinary Week

FALL EDITION 2026

September 24 - October 8

WHAT IS 'BAN LESA 2.0'?

A new radio series about Caribbean books with a new episode every week!

Starting Tuesday, June 2, the new radio series Ban Lesa 2.0 begins on BonFM. Every week at 5:30 PM, listeners will dive into the richness of Caribbean literature for half an hour. The series consists of 24 episodes of 30 minutes, divided across three languages: eight in Papiamentu, eight in English, and eight in Dutch. In this way, the versatility of the Caribbean language area will be made accessible to a broad audience.



BAN LESA 2.0





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.

 2026 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule 2nd Sunday of each month		
January 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
February 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
March 8th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
April 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
May 10th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
June 14th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
July 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
August 9th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
September 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
October 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
November 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
December 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM

No dogs on beaches

STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems.

Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

Nesting Area Respect: No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

Off-Limits Shores: Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
Playa Chachacha
Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
Fòrn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
Sorobon and Cai
Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
Tolo
Klein Bonaire





BONAIRE FRIENDS

CELEBRATING THE BEST PART OF BONAIRE

DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND DURING
YOUR STAY ON BONAIRE?

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

We're celebrating the wonderful people of Bonaire and want to hear your stories! Have you met a local who made your visit unforgettable, maybe by showing you a hidden gem, helping you try something new, or simply lending a kind hand?

Share your experience and tell us about your Bonaire Friend, they could be recognized with a special prize!



FILL IT IN HERE!



BONAIRE
It's in our nature.

WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM