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BONAIRE The REPORTER

March. 25 - April 8, 2020, Year 27, Issue 6



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NEW to online version: SEE page 17+ for Corona Updates.

Bonaire mobilizes against COVID-19

April Fools edition

Algae Park



Volunteers join the Mangrove Maniacs during Bon Doet. Story & photos: Julie Morgan

We did it! Bon Doet 2020



Animal Shelter Bonaire housedog, Roxy, gets into the spirit of lending a paw during Bon Doet.

More Bon Doet photos on facebook.

Bon Doet, the largest volunteer event on Bonaire, was held March 13th and 14th. Volunteers completed an amazing 98 jobs across the island in celebration of Bon Doet's 10th anniversary. Approximately 1600 to 1700 volunteers helped out. They did everything from building a greenhouse at Echo to adding a new coat of paint and weeding at Jossy Ball Park.

Everyone had fun taking part in a little manual labor and doing something good for various organizations across Bonaire.

On March 15, many of the volunteers and organizations gathered for an anniversary party in the NGO parking lot. Food and drinks were served and thank you and recognition prizes were awarded. The winners were:

- Het Koraal was the winner for the first NGO that registered their job.
- Qredits won for being the first organization or company to promote their job on social media before Bon Doet.
- MCB and Alpha FM won for sending an update of their job on social media during Bon Doet.

• Stichting Lezen and Schrilven won for sharing promotional materials on social media

• FUHIKUBO was awarded for making their own promo material for the promotion of their job.

• Fundashon Cocari won for participating 10 times in Bon Doet

• Riordan Emerenciana, four years old, won for being the youngest volunteer.

• MCB Bonaire was awarded for including BonDoet in their year plan.

• Miny Koeks won for having the dirtiest clothes.

• Association Domino Rincon, Stichting Krusada (Adelanto) and Forma tied for being the best prepared for the job according to the volunteers.

• Forma na Villa Antonia was awarded for having the best atmosphere.

• STINAPA won for having the most volunteers (250).

Local businesses contributed the many prizes awarded:

Donations were from: Bonaire Travel - Two gift certificates (\$100); DA Drogist: 30 gift packages; Between 2 Buns - 20 gift certificates for \$10 each; Divi Flamingo - One breakfast gift certificate for two people; Courtyard by Marriott: - One gift certificate for access to the pool for two people and a hamburger and drink; Elegance Spa: - 30 gift-cards for \$10 each; Julians: 10 gift-cards for food; Luciano - 400 gift certificate for one scoop of ice-cream and Cityshop - Two packages with various items.

A game called Kahoot which tested attendees' knowledge of the various NGOs was played with a cell phone app. The winner, Raynel Cecillia, won a barbecue grill from CityShop. Raynel was also the composer of the new 10th anniversary Bon Doet jingle that played on the local radio stations.

The next Bon Doet is scheduled for March 2021.

Bonaire mobilizes against COVID-19

Emergency Ordinance COVID-19 Bonaire

The regulations of the Emergency Ordinance COVID-19 Bonaire came into force on March 18, 2020. The regulations apply until April 7, 2020, 12am local time, unless extended or repealed.

The following regulations apply:

- Schools, sports and fitness clubs, sports facilities, churches and swimming pools are closed immediately.

- Restaurants and catering establishments must take into account social distancing and may not exceed 50 people.
- There is a ban on gathering, a ban on nuisance, a ban on events with more than 50 people
- The airport is secured and is only accessible to destination traffic
- Companies do not have to close, but are asked to exercise caution and take measures to prevent the spread of disease.
- Tourists on the island who have come

from a risk area are now required to remain in quarantine.

- Childcare facilities have been arranged for the children of people who work in healthcare and cannot arrange childcare themselves. Childcare is currently being sought for the children of people who work in other essential services.
- From March 19, you can call 0800-1351 toll-free between 07:00 - 21:00 if you have any questions about anything related to the Coronavirus.

OLB considering plans for repatriating stranded Bonaireans

The OLB (Public Body Bonaire), assisted by experts and physicians, is pondering how to help stranded Bonaireans who are blocked from returning to the island by COVID-19 travel restrictions. By April 7 it will announce whether repatriation can take place or whether other aid measures are needed.

The first step, now completed, has been to create an inventory of those wanting to come home. The government needed to know how many people are involved and where they are located before meaningful planning could begin. That inventory was completed on March 23.

Lieutenant Governor Rijna and his team

understand that the decision to wait for repatriation is difficult for stranded Bonaireans and their families. However, the OLB says, "It is important that during this turbulent period, appropriate precautions are taken with regard to the safety of the island. The people on Bonaire have also been confronted with restrictive measures that have reinforcing consequences. Everyone contributes in his or her way to the safety of Bonaire."

As an exception to the travel ban, a small group of residents was brought back from Colombia, where they had been receiving medical treatment. The patients were screened for the COVID-19 virus before departure, again after their arrival, then placed in self-quarantine. *D.M.R.*

COVID-19 has brushed Bonaire

Two tourists tested positive for the COVID-19 virus after returning to the U.S. following a short stay on Bonaire. According to the investigation so far, they acquired the virus before arriving on Bonaire, were here during the incubation period, and probably left before they became infectious. The chances of any Bonaireans being infected are very small.

Following its protocols, the Public Health Department is trying to contact the travelers and is making an inventory of their likely contacts on the island. *D.M.R.*

Medical announcements

Fundashon Mariadal activates emergency plan. Fundashon Mariadal aims to ensure acute care and to have the institution ready to handle COVID-19 cases should they occur on Bonaire.

Prevention is important to prevent the virus spreading. In that context, the hospital's Crisis Policy Team has introduced changes to safeguard the health of clients, visitors and employees.

All regular consultations with specialists for curative care are canceled. The regular outpatient clinic with specialists is closed until further notice. But at the same time, specialists can decide to consult and provide curative care to their patients;

Visits are limited to one person per patient in the nursing, nursing home wards and First Aid department;

Informal caregivers will be asked to increase their share of home care. Home care will be subject to changes that require broader collaboration between the caregiver and the caregiver (the family member helping to care for the patient). Fundashon Mariadal makes this request for cooperation to guarantee the safety of our home care nurses.

Fundashon Mariadal employees will not shake hands when greeting. Furthermore, hygiene regulations are emphasized, such as regular hand washing. *March 20*

Elective medical procedures: Patients needing elective medical procedures will

not be sent off island until further notice. Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Colombia have closed their airspace to passenger transport from the Caribbean Dutch islands. Acute medical emergencies from Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius can continue to Curaçao, Aruba and St Maarten. Oncology and dialysis treatments will continue as acute treatments on Curaçao, Aruba and St Maarten.

The Health Insurance Office (ZVK): "As soon as elective medical treatments can be performed again, insured persons who are awaiting medical treatment will be notified via their referring doctor. In view of the increased pressure on our medical facilities, we ask policyholders to only call the clinics in case of emergency." *March 18.*

Employees on sick leave should no longer visit offices of SZW (Social affairs and work). Instead of visiting the examining physician, employees should make a telephone appointment on the third day of illness by sending an email to loonderving@rijksdienstcn.com or by calling 715-8877.

Other services from the SZW unit will continue as usual. Head of the SZW unit, Mr. Brakke: "We receive patients in our office building where citizens also come for other schemes, such as for an AOV pension. We do not currently consider it justifiable to receive frail elderly and patients in the same room." *March 15*

Keeping in touch



1. Page 17+ of our online version will post up-to-date news of COVID-19.

2. Information is available on the website rijksdienstcn.com, which is shared on Facebook of the OLB and the RCN.

3. The Bonaire Reporter's Facebook page. We will post critical local updates on COVID-19 on our Facebook page.

4. Liveblog [Bonaire.nu](https://bonaire.nu) also keeps its online visitors up-to-date by posting questions and answers about the precautionary measures on Bonaire, as well as announcements and cancellations.



Bonaire mobilizes against COVID-19
continued on page 4

This Week's Stories

BonDoet 2020	1, 9
AlgaeParc	3
Alan Gross Obituary	4
OLB phone & email contact list	4
Booi wins appeal	5
Finies loses case	5
April Fools: New species	5
Peanuts	6
Bonhata meeting online	8
Three new bird species	8
April Fools: Changing Lanes	9
April Fools: Hilma Hooker	10
Mirrors placed at intersections	11
April Fools: Dubai's offer	12
April Fools: Eco-Gardens, Bolivia	13
New COVID-19 updates j1717+	

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2,4
(Bonaire mobilizes COVID-19 plans)	
Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Letters: COVID-19, repatriation, litter	4
Ask Kate (COVID-19)	5
Law enforcement	5
Reef Glimpses (Puffers & Flounders)	7
Parrots & People (loras & taki tree)	7
Making Bonaire "Accessible" (COVID-19)	10
A Garden? (Vitamin C)	10
Did You Know: viruses	11
What's Happening & not happening	12
Final flights schedule	12
Practicing yoga on Bonaire (Sarah Sati)	7
Sky Park (Elongation; Juno)	13
Pet Of The Week (Millie-dog)	14
Shelter News (COVID-19 & pets Shelter closed)	14
Ask a Geek (COVID-19)	14
Business Directory	15

How to Find Us:

Read us online: <https://bonairereporter.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>
 Available in 80 locations
 Printed every two weeks
Next edition: April 8, 2020
News Deadline: April 3, 2020
Contributor's Deadline: April 3, 2020
Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:
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 Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
 Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo
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AlgaeParc pilot program opens

News first broke in January (Reporter Jan 22-Feb 5) about an experimental algae farm to be built in Bonaire. The farm is actually a pilot program by Wageningen University's professor and biomass engineer Dr. Rene Wijffels. Two of his PHD Biotechnology students, Robin Barten and Rocca Chinon, are completing their thesis on the project. They are continuing a project that began four years ago and developed into a feasibility study two years ago. But with a major twist, Rocca Chinon is from Bonaire and designed the photo bioreactor being used. The pilot study involves using one reactor in realistic conditions of energy from Bonaire's sunshine, regular water from WEB, CO2 from the air and nutrients (algae) from the ocean.

The test photo bioreactor will be placed in an 88 cu meter cooling pool containing WEB water whereas previous studies used salt water. The algae could die if the water is too warm and the cooling pool is the fastest way of controlling the temperature. In time other reactors will be added as the study progresses.

The algae itself comes from Bonaire's inland shallow waters and mangroves and has not been genetically altered. Students Barton and Rocco are currently testing one strain and growing it for use and then placing in the photo bioreactor. They found a total of eight possible strains to test for the project.

Wijffels related that the algae here on Bonaire can tolerate high temperatures up to 48°C while others die at 30°C. The pre-culture goes into the reactor and with the energy of natural light it is turned into the biomass.

Algae is rich in protein (50%) and can be used for a number of end products including food. It can replace soy protein, palm oil and fish oil. Algae can also be used to produce fuel among other things.

"We want to expand activities and integrate with the solar power to capture energy for the process so it will be completely carbon negative. This is our major objective," said Wijffels.

STINAPA is behind this project and will be sharing the onsite laboratory for research projects.

On hearing of the project initially, the public was concerned about the algae finding its way back to the ocean. Wijffels said that was not a possibility as the algae is confined and not in an open tank. The water used would be evaporated and dry into salt. The loop is enclosed.

AlgaeParc is a test of the efficacy of growing algae under realistic conditions on Bonaire. The project is expected to last a year and if all goes as they hope, plans for a major algae facility will be engaged. Check this link to view video. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sSN2rCMCb1QebuOu_fyZdq4_fr986OhB/view

AlgaeParc is an initiative of Professor Rene Wijffels, the public body of Bonaire and WEB, NV.

For more information about AlgaeParc visit AlgaeParc.com. *Story and photos Julie Morgan*



The first photo bioreactor prior to being placed in the cooling pool. L-R: Professor Rene Wijffels and PHD Biotechnology student Robin Barten.



Bonairean Rocca Chinon, PHD Biotechnology student at Wageningen University takes a sample of the algae growing for the photo bioreactor at the laboratory in Bonaire.

FOR SALE Kaya Onix 3B Ocean View Condo



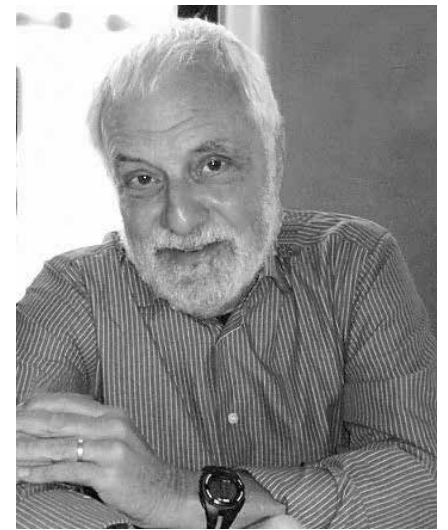
- Location : Republiek
- Living area: +/- 123 m2 / 1324 sq. ft.
- 1 bedroom / 1.5 bathrooms / office / parking

- Large L-shaped covered porch
- Spacious open living / kitchen
- Scan code for a virtual 3D tour



Listed for \$ 250,000 US Dollar

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info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



Alan Gross, 80, died in the U.S. on March 21 after battling cancer intermittently for four decades. It's impossible to write about Alan's contributions to Bonaire without talking about Jane Townsend, his wife. They were a team. They had been frequent visitors to Bonaire. When Alan was initially diagnosed, they sold the successful advertising company they had founded in New York City and moved to the island. They involved themselves in volunteer activities from the beginning, contributing marketing, financial, and organizing skills that impacted the success of several non-governmental organizations.

Working together with others in the community, Alan and Jane resurrected the dormant Jong Bonaire to create an after school center for young people. They helped raise funds, led the renewal and expansion of the building, created a popular activities program, and hired and trained a professional staff.

They were active in Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi, Turtuganan di Boneiru (a snorkeling program for youngsters), the Red Cross Disaster Plan, and the founding of the NGO Platform. They also created Luga Aleha, the collection of large acreages in Bolivia with strict development rules that protect the natural environment.

Because of their hard work, generosity, and public service, Alan and Jane both were awarded knighthoods in the Order of Orange-Nassau on the Queen's Birthday in 2006. They were the first husband and wife team, and the first non-Dutch citizens, to be so honored.

Alan was an intelligent, knowledgeable, humorous, creative, and generous man. When Alan's health required a reluctant relocation to the U.S., he left behind on Bonaire many close friends, admirers, and achievements. *D.M.R.*

Bonaireans will not go hungry

Bonaire is well stocked with food, container deliveries will continue unabated, and there will be no price gouging, the Bonaire Importers and Supermarkets Association has assured the Executive Council. The flow of products delivered by air will continue as well, such as medicines, medical equipment, and hygiene articles. Some products may be in short supply because of international demand, such as face masks and hand sanitizers. The reserves of toilet paper are more than adequate. *D.M.R.*

Repatriating Americans Abroad

Many Americans around the world are trying to get back to the United States. On Thursday, March 19, the U.S. Department of State established a Repatriation Taskforce to assist with this process. Americans abroad are encouraged to register online in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive alerts. Travelers may also visit the COVID-19 crisis page on travel.state.gov for the latest information.

OLB serves public by appointment only.

From March 23, the public must contact OLB by telephone and email. Personal service at the departmental desks is possible only by appointment.

Civil Affairs; Society and Care; Public Places

- You can visit the Burgerzaken department (Civil Affairs) only by appointment between 9am – 12noon. For questions and appointments, please email burgerzaken@bonairegov.com. You can also call +599-715-5315 or +599-717-5324.

- The Society and Care Directorate can be reached by email at kontami_sz@bonairegov.com and info.sz@bonairegov.com. You can telephone at +599-715-5311.

- Public places such as the Library (library@bonairegov.com / +599-717-5345, +599-717-8944), SKAL (felix.thomas@bonairegov.com / +599-715-5323) and INDEBON (indebon@bonairegov.com / +599-715-5319) are temporarily closed to the public.

Space and Development Department (R&D)

- As of March 23 all questions regarding the services

of R&D (permits, requests for house numbers, site requests, etc.) can be asked only by email and telephone on working days between 8am and 12noon. Phone +599-717-8130 and/or email at directie_ro@bonairegov.com. The R&D operators will record all requests and ensure that the employees contact you by telephone or email. You will be called back within one day and emailed back within two days.

- Please email permit applications to: directie_ro@bonairegov.com. If it is not possible to email your request, contact R&D by telephone and they will help you further.

The Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV)

LVV can be reached by telephone between 8am and 12noon, +599-717-8836, and by email at aftlvv@bonairegov.com.

For all telephone numbers and email addresses of the OLB, please refer to the website www.bonairegov.com. The OLB states the departmental telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Letters

Editor,

Coronawise, on Bonaire everything seems to be under control: there are - as we speak - no known cases, and thanks to the measures taken by the island government an uncontrolled spreading of the virus doesn't seem very likely.

What worries me is the fact that because of this relatively 'healthy' situation, the island population doesn't have the chance to build up any resistance to the virus, which at the moment isn't a big deal, but will prove a disaster the moment tourists and cruise ships from the outside world will come back to the island again. Because of our lack of 'herd resistance' (Boris Johnson ipse dixit) and a working vaccine, we will form a defenseless prey to the virus, and all of Bonaire, starting with the dozens of people directly in contact with the cruisers, will be victimized.

Does the government have a more or less comprehensive plan on how to deal with a tourist-induced outbreak of the virus on Bonaire?

Regards, *Gijs Borsten*

Dear Editor

The group of stranded residents in NL has written a letter which was sent out today to the governor, government, and the Dutch press. Here is the text in English, and the list of all signatories:

Trying to get home.

In these difficult and uncertain times, precautionary measures are being taken worldwide to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Each country takes the most appropriate measures in its own way.

A country's responsibility is to protect all its citizens and residents. That means taking care of the residents present within the country, and taking care of the residents who are currently outside the country.

Due to the unannounced and sudden closure of the island last Sunday, 15 March, residents of Bonaire (adults, students, children) have been stranded abroad and are not allowed to return to their country and families until further notice. With this decision, Bonaire abandoned these citizens.

Article 13 * of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that a citizen has the right to return to his country.

Until now, every other country, including those within the Caribbean islands, has given citizens this right. Especially in uncertain and anxious times, a country must be ready for its citizens, for all its citizens! Bonaire is the only country that is not.

* Article 13 - Everyone has the right to move and reside freely within the borders of any State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country.

Like the King of the Netherlands, Willem Alexander, said on Friday, 20 March: "Do not abandon each other."

What about equality for residents of the public bodies of the BES islands? The other islands let their inhabitants repatriate.

This week KLM runs their last flights from the Netherlands to Bonaire to pick up its citizens and repatriate them to their home country. After 28 March, it may take weeks or even months before planes can land on Bonaire again.

We urge the Island Council and the Bonaire Government to seize this opportunity and give its own residents the opportunity to return.

We are happy to participate in any kind of quarantine, health tests and screenings that are required, just like the resident group who came back from Colombia on Friday, 20 March.

We hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Jolanda van Dijk, Erwin van der Ree, Marcel Schroeder Carien Vogt, Ulrike Bartz, Geert and Vronie van der Plas-Sieverding, Anne de Konink, Jane Hall, Stephen Hall, Lizzy Zeeman, Tom van den Bergh, Chester Kruijt

Dear Editor,

As a return visitor to this beautiful island, it makes me sad to see that some people leave their trash where they go. At one dive site I picked up plastic cups that were a few feet from a garbage can. Others throw it out their car windows. I pick up what I can. Please, locals and tourists alike: be considerate and pack it out when you go. It will help to keep Bonaire beautiful. *Sue Krueger, USA*

Legal decisions

Ramonsito Booi wins Ombudsman appeal

The National Ombudsman, Reinier van Zutphen, has ruled that the Public Prosecution Service on Bonaire made “mistakes and wrong choices” in a criminal case against the prominent ex-politician from Bonaire, Ramonsito Booi, and should acknowledge its errors and apologize.

The criminal investigation in question concerns the Zambesi investigation. A foundation had accused several politicians, including Booi, of fraud and money laundering. The Zambesi investigation was started in 2009, lasted for years, and was extensively featured in the media. The case against Booi ended in 2015 with an acquittal. *D.M.R*

James Finies loses court case

James Finies was arrested last September for not following police instructions while demonstrating on Wilhelminaplein

during the celebration of Dia di Boneiru. Because Finies had not previously come into contact with the judiciary, the Public Prosecution Service suspended the criminal case, conditionally with a one-year trial period. Finies appealed to the Court because he believed the conditional dismissal constituted a criminal charge against him. He asked the judge for an acquittal to clear his name. The Court dismissed Mr Finies’ complaint, ruling the decision of the public prosecutor not to prosecute and to dismiss conditionally the case was justified.

Finies had received a permit from the Lieutenant Governor to demonstrate during the event, subject to certain conditions. In the judgment of the police, Finies had violated several of those conditions, and altercations occurred regarding their interpretation. The police repeatedly ordered Mr Finies to move and to clean up his belongings. He refused and was arrested.

The conditional suspension of the criminal case means that the public prosecutor can recharge Finie if he is found guilty of another criminal charge within the one-year period. *D.M.R*

Police report for March 6 to 20, 2020

Traffic accidents & violations

At around 2pm on Friday, March 6, the police reported a “hit & run” at the Kaminda Jato Baco. A truck hit a car and then drove on. The car with the driver still in it, was parked in front of a house. The car had damage to the right rear tire and to the right rear door.

A traffic control was held at the airport in the early evening hours of Friday, March 6. A total of 20 vehicles were checked, with seven official reports written for driving without a seat belt, driving without valid insurance documents, driving without a license, driving with a child without using a child seat and driving without a helmet.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, March 7, the police reported that a car had overturned near the church on Kaya Korona. The driver stated that a donkey suddenly crossed, causing him to swerve and lose control of the wheel. The driver complained of back pain and passenger suffered cuts to his face and neck. They were both treated on site by the paramedics.

Saturday, March 7, around 6pm, a man, 24, was detained at the Kaya Mewchi for failing to comply with a police order. He received a police report for not using the turn signal, for showing dangerous driving on a public road and for not wearing a helmet. The moped on which the perpetrator rode was confiscated.

Arrests

On Sunday, March 8, a woman, 28, was arrested at a home on Kaya Dradu for attempted manslaughter, mistreatment, and destruction.

Public safety

On Friday March 20, around 13:20 there was an accident on a construction site involving high voltage electricity. The victim was transported to the hospital. At the time, Labour inspection was at the work site.

Property Crimes

On Tuesday, March 10, at about 11pm, the central police reported that an armed robbery had occurred in the parking lot of a casino at Divi Flamingo on Bulevar J.A. Abraham. When the security company’s cash transporter came to fetch the money bag, the security guards were surprised by two men, after which a struggle took place. The perpetrators ran off with the money. They fired shots at the security guards and injured a security guard’s arm. The security guards, in turn, had also fired shots at the perpetrators. *KPCN*
#

Source: Bonaire.nu: In the afternoon of March 12, at the request of the KPCN, the Coast Guard of Curaçao intercepted a boat with two people on board. A large amount of dollars was found. The two men were arrested and the boat and money confiscated. Later in the afternoon, KPCN conducted a search of a house in the Antriol district in connection with this case.

On Tuesday, March 17, around 7:40pm, an armed robbery took place at a lottery office on Kaminda Djabou. The two masked men, one of whom had a machete with him, got away with an amount of money.



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Dear Friends,

This issue my real estate partner Jean and I wish you all good health during the coronavirus outbreak. We do not have any cases of the virus on Bonaire at this time. Flights and cruises to Bonaire have been suspended to further protect us. A number of you have asked about the effect this will have on the real estate market. Current offers and sales are still in process, with off-island buyers and sellers not being present at the closing. Until flights resume, there will be not be buyers flying in to look at homes. However, RE/MAX listings are still available to walk through online

with virtual 3-d tours, and Jean and I are available for information and questions. Once the virus has passed, we anticipate sales will continue to remain strong on Bonaire.

We are thinking of all of you and wishing the best for you and your loved ones, until we see you again on our beautiful island.

All the best,
Kate and Jean

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at kate@bonairehomes.com. Tollfree from U.S.: 1-866-611-7362

Another new species discovered on Bonaire!

Have you noticed that, especially on the reefs off Playa, there seems to be less plastic trash?

Recent research confirms that there actually is significantly less plastic debris off Playa than recent projections have led us to expect. Fewer plastic cups, to be sure, but also many fewer soda bottles and plastic forks have been inventoried than in the past or in the projections.

“Our initial hypothesis to explain the paucity of plastic debris was straightforward,” stated Amsterdam University marine biologist “Oester (“Oyster”)” Visser. “People are better educated these days, they respect the environment, and therefore fewer plastic items would be discarded into the sea.”

The inaccuracy of that hypothesis was made clear when surface studies showed that exactly as much plastic debris was discarded as was projected. Where did it go?

The answer to this question was found during one of the quarterly underwater cleanups sponsored by Dive Friends. Mrs. Gloria Blob’s trash collection net bag rubbed against her leg, which began to burn and sting. Mrs. Blob exited the water and was taken to the hospital.

After she left, the cleanup staff emptied her trash bag for debris inventory. In addition to the plastic cups and bottles, beer cans, and other detritus she’d collected, they discovered a three-foot (1 m) long wormlike animal whose body had hundreds of bristle-like projections. When a staffer picked up the animal to return it to the sea, many of the bristles penetrated his hands, which, like Mrs.

Blob’s leg, began to sting. He was taken to the hospital.

A second cleanup staffer, with great care, gently slid a 2-foot-long (60 cm?) piece of iron bar under the creature and lifted it from the ground preparatory to returning it to the sea. The creature lunged, with incredible speed and ferocity and with its mouth wide open, at the staffer. Two other staffers were splashed by slimy mucus dripping from broken bristles as they tried to scrape the creature off their colleague using pieces of trash, including a plastic knife. Suddenly the creature spit out the staffer and bit onto the plastic knife. The second staffer and her two slimed colleagues were taken to the hospital.

The quarterly cleanup staff placed a cardboard carton over the Beast to keep it contained while they finished their cleanup duties. When they lifted the box, the Beast was there with a sprinkling of shiny yellowish sand nearby, but the plastic knife was gone.

Spoiler Alert: it turns out that Beasts eat plastic, and when they do, they poop out gold!

The lack of plastic debris on the reef is due to increasing numbers of Beasts, not decreasing numbers of plastics. Since the tiny granules of gold they produce are heavy, they’ve sifted down through the sand around our reefs and are not yet noticeable.

The Beast has been tentatively named *Midas horribilis bonairiensis*. A Beast breeding program proposal has already (continued on page 53)



Visit us! There are always more photos on our current facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>

It's not just Peanuts



Curious people driving along Kaya Grande back in November 2019, probably wondered what was going on with the old ramshackle Bonairean tin house next to Obersi. Was it a tear-down, a new business or something historical? As the weeds were cleared away, repairs were made and brightly colored paint was added the answer was revealed. This worn out, discarded building had been transformed into the new “Peanuts” store and cafe.

The original store had opened on the corner building across the street from Paradise Photo in November 2017. It was an immediate hit due to the location. The

little store offered something no one else had at the time – healthy fast food.

The owners, Victor Pouchet and his mother Mireya Marmol are originally from Venezuela but lived in Bonaire when Victor was a child. The family lived in Miami while Victor attended school and then later worked in marketing for Houston Dreamworks. Mireya had returned to Bonaire in 2007 and Victor joined her in February 2017 after having enough of the high-paced life in the U.S.

“I came to Bonaire because I needed a change. I loved it here when I was six. I always liked the vibe of the island,” said

Victor, “But when I returned from the US, I couldn’t find healthy, fast food on Bonaire.”

Mireya had been doing healthy, lifestyle recipes with no sugar, Vegan, vegetarian and keto for sometime and this was the driving force behind Peanuts.

The new location took much longer to open than hoped. With an original opening date as the first week of December, it was delayed until February 24. There were construction problems with the old Bonairean home, building permits and shipping delays.

The new “Peanuts” offers many of the same things as at the previous location but a lot more. The bulk food bins (with PEANUTS) are still available and now there are ground nut butters, ground coffee, 28 different teas, wine and beer by the glass, specialty waters and Mireya’s specialty jams.

Everything is homemade and fresh including the juices, shakes and smoothies. According to Victor, his creation, the “Silver Back Gorilla” shake, made of banana, cocoa powder and peanut butter, is one people come back for religiously.

The menu of burritos, wraps, arepas and breads is always the same, but people select from the various proteins, veggies and sauces to make it their way.

Victor said, “What we like about this concept is you can have a burrito ten times but it’s different every time because you make it yourself.”

On the sweet side, there are cupcakes and cookies that are gluten free and vegan

according to Mireya’s recipes.

The new location has the capacity for seating 17 inside, eight out front and 24 on the patio. There is also a kids area and lounge. Regular hours are Monday – Friday 7am – 9pm and Saturday 9am-9pm.

Due to the Coronavirus and the safety of everyone, Peanuts is only open from 10am to 4pm for take out and free delivery for orders over \$10. There are also free Vitamin C boosts on any shake and juice.

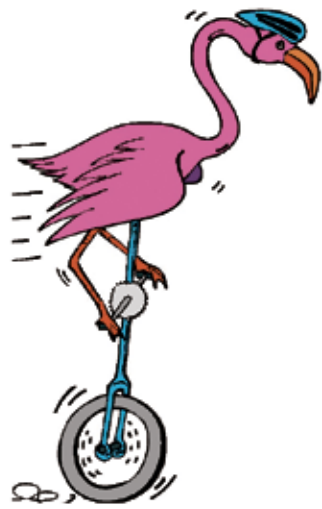
For online ordering: peanutsbonaire.com/order-online

Visit Peanuts Bonaire on Facebook and Instagram.



The owners: Victor Pouchet and his mother, Mireya Marmol.

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Reef Glimpses

How Many Lives Are Saved?

Life isn't always straightforward. Granted, usually a predator either gets its prey or it doesn't, and the prey either gets eaten or it gets away. Gary Wirth got these amazing photos during one of those rare times that things got a little

deflated and moved off a lot more casually than I would have expected!

The puffer invoked its Defense Mechanism #1, puffing, and succeeded in escaping.

However, there is more going on here than meets the eye, because of the puffer's Defense Mechanism #2: being deadly poisonous. Did you know that most pufferfish, including sharpnose puffers, are poisonous? No matter how hungry you get on a dive, do not snack on a sharpnose puffer!

The poison, called tetrodotoxin (TET ruh doh TOX in), has been used in more than one television detective story to create "unexplainable" deaths. The heaviest concentration of the poison is usually in a puffer's liver, but it extends everywhere -- even into the puffer's mucus coating -- so that Gary's flounder may have tasted something amiss with this snack. Did the puffer escape because of its alien puffiness, or did the flounder spit it out?

If the flounder had succeeded in swallowing the puffer, the puffer would have been eaten and the flounder would have been killed by the puffer's poison.

So a little puffing and a little tetrodotoxin saved two lives! *Dee Scarr*

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses". The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.



We know about pufferfish inflating as a defense mechanism, but we don't get to see it very often. Thanks to Gary Wirth for capturing this moment!



The little puffer is scraped but perfectly healthy. The flounder, to the left, could have taken a second chance to swallow the puffer, but did not. Photo by Gary Wirth.

complicated.

The sharpnose puffer is one of the boldest fish who lives on and near the coral reef, which is especially nice for us because they're so doggone cute! If you've thought about why they're so bold, you may have concluded it was because of their ability to inflate -- that's certainly the traditional wisdom, and that's exactly what Gary's photos show.

The puffer was probably busily doing whatever was on its agenda that day, and either didn't notice the flounder flattened to the bottom, or didn't think it would be a danger. Then the flounder lunged, and in that split second the puffer began the procedure for which it was named, and inflated quickly and completely. It also may have turned sideways, a particularly difficult angle for a predator.

One of the disadvantages of being a sideways fish like a flounder is that you can't open your mouth as wide as other predators, such as scorpionfish or groupers. The flounder, who expected to be swallowing a surprised little fish headfirst, instead found itself with a tenuous grip on the side of a tough-skinned, tightly-inflated, alien creature! Now what?

As you can tell from Gary's second photo, the puffer popped free with only minor injuries; puffers look delicate but are remarkably tough-skinned. The escapee

Everything PARROTS AND PEOPLE need



as fast as these flying beauties.

The parrot is Bonaire's canary in the coal mine. The Bonairean parrot is emblematic for the state of the larger ecosystem on the island. If the parrot does not thrive, Bonaire's nature is in peril and vice-versa. If nature is healthy and robust, the parrot will not require our care as nature does a far better job of caring than we humans ever can. Luckily at Echo, our motto is "parrot and people, so all of the plant species we grow have its benefits for you." The following tree of Bonaire is one of them:

Palu di Taki (Geoffroea Spinosa) Nutritious fruits



Loras love the yellow, nutritious berries of the Taki. People can eat them as well: boil them a minute and turn them into the local juice or syrup -- also delicious on deserts. The seeds taste good when roasted.

The taki is a native tree; it grows naturally on Bonaire. If you plant a native tree in your garden, you contribute to a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity on the island.

The taki grows up to six meters. It develops deep roots so within a few years it can survive the dry climate here without extra water.

Adopt a Palu Taki



You can adopt a Palu di Taki for only \$10. We give you the planting instructions on paper. For detailed, professional info: book a consult via info@echobonaire.org. Echo is only open on Saturday morning from 9-11 am. Your money pays back double time as it goes straight into our reforestation projects. Thanks to people who believe in investing in nature we continue to monitor our reforestation sites and will be able to continue protecting and restoring habitats.

Julianka Clarendo, Director, Echo

Echo is still running its small group tours. See page 12.



Three New Species of Birds Identified on Bonaire in 2019

2019 proved to be an exciting year for birders on Bonaire, as three new species have been identified. The Brown-chested martin, White-collared swift and Ringed kingfisher were added to Bonaire's increasing index of local birds. The addition of these birds brings the total number of bird species recorded on Bonaire to 235.

Brown-chested martin (*Progne tapera*)

On June 7th 2019 Peter-Paul Schets noticed two large martins which flew in very fast, wide circles in Lac Cai. These birds flew for hundreds of meters very low, near the ground, a behavior which he had not seen before in Caribbean martins (a species not uncommon on Sint Eustatius and Saba). Due to the brown coloration of the bird's backs Schets believed he had found Brown-chested martins. He sent resident birder and photographer Steve Schnoll a message and asked him if he photograph the birds. The next morning, Schnoll was able to take several great photos. These proved the birds were in fact the Brown-chested martins, a new bird for Bonaire. This species was recorded first on Aruba in 1993 and in June 2016 on Curaçao.

Two subspecies of Brown-chested martins occur in South America. Birds which belong to the migrating population fusca can be identified by a brown vertical line down from the broad brown band on their breast. The birds spotted on Bonaire belong to this subspecies, as can be seen in the photos of these birds. Southern winter birds of this migrating population travel as far north as northern parts of South America and Panama.

White-collared swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

On July 21 2019, Bonaire resident Martijn Hickmann was taking pictures of brown pelicans and terns at White Slaves on the southwest coast of Bonaire. Just before sunset Hickmann noticed a very different bird which had joined the terns. This bird seemed to be foraging by flying up and down, low over the surface of the water. Hickmann was able to take a few pictures of the bird. As Hickmann was not familiar with this bird, he put his pictures on Facebook. It was identified as the first White-collared swift for Bonaire.

Interestingly enough, the first record for the ABC islands was only six weeks earlier, when Michiel Oversteegen, from

Aruba, recorded (and photographed) a similar bird which flew over Bubali Bird Sanctuary. So far, this bird has not been recorded on Curaçao. White-collared swifts breed between southern Mexico and northern Argentina, in large parts of northern and central South America as well as within the Greater and some of the Lesser Antilles.

Ringed kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)

On July 30th, local birder and photographer, Steve Schnoll, saw a large kingfisher near the old saltpans of Lac Cai. The bird was much larger than a Belted kingfisher, had a huge bill and showed much more red on its belly. Fortunately, Schnoll's pictures clearly show a female Ringed kingfisher.

Ringed kingfisher occurs between southern Texas, USA, through Central and South America, as far south as Argentina and Chile. They also breed on some of the Lesser Antilles and on Trinidad. There are very few records of this species from Aruba and only one from Curaçao. Both islands had their first sightings in 1991.

Written by Peter Paul Schets



Brown-chested martin (*Progne tapera*)
Photo ©Steve Schnoll



White-collared swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)
Photo ©Steve Schnoll



Ringed kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)
Photo ©Martijn Hickmann

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Bonhata addresses Coronavirus in online meeting



Due to the Corona virus pandemic, the last passenger plane will depart Bonaire on March 28 and the airlines will not be returning anytime soon. Bonaire will be free of tourists and their dollars that move the economy of the island. The island's main product is tourism and everyone in one way or another is connected to the tourism dollar. Bonaire's Master Plan of 2017 states that \$229 million dollars is due to tourism on our island.

The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (Bonhata) is trying to address all the issues involved with the absence of visitors, the effects of their absence and concerns of businesses.

In an online meeting on March 20, a panel of representatives presented opening remarks about the state of Bonaire's tourism. The individuals on the panel consisted of Bonhata CEO Veroesjka de Windt, Bonhata president Bas Noij, BBE (Bonaire Business and Employers Association) representative Anja Romeinders, HBN Law managing

partner Chris de Bres and interim director for TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) Delno Tromp. The panel answered questions in their individual realms of expertise. The questions were submitted by Bonhata members and other concerned businesses through an online video chat. Topics discussed were taxes, handling reservations, government compensation and employee status.

The meeting was led by Bonhata CEO de Windt.

President Noij and panel members speculated that it would probably be at least three months without passenger flights to Bonaire. This would be followed by three slow months before things could possibly return to normal.

"We stand by the [government's] official policies and it is important to stay aware," said Noij, "We can look at different opportunities to bring people together. This is a time to unite so we can improve our product and services..."

Julie Morgan



Selibon lends a hand during BonDoet

On March 14, in connection with BonDoet, some employees of Selibon and members of Fundashon Boneiru Limpi i

Bunita joined the cleanup force of "One Hour Clean Up Power" (OHCUP). For the last year OHCUP volunteers have

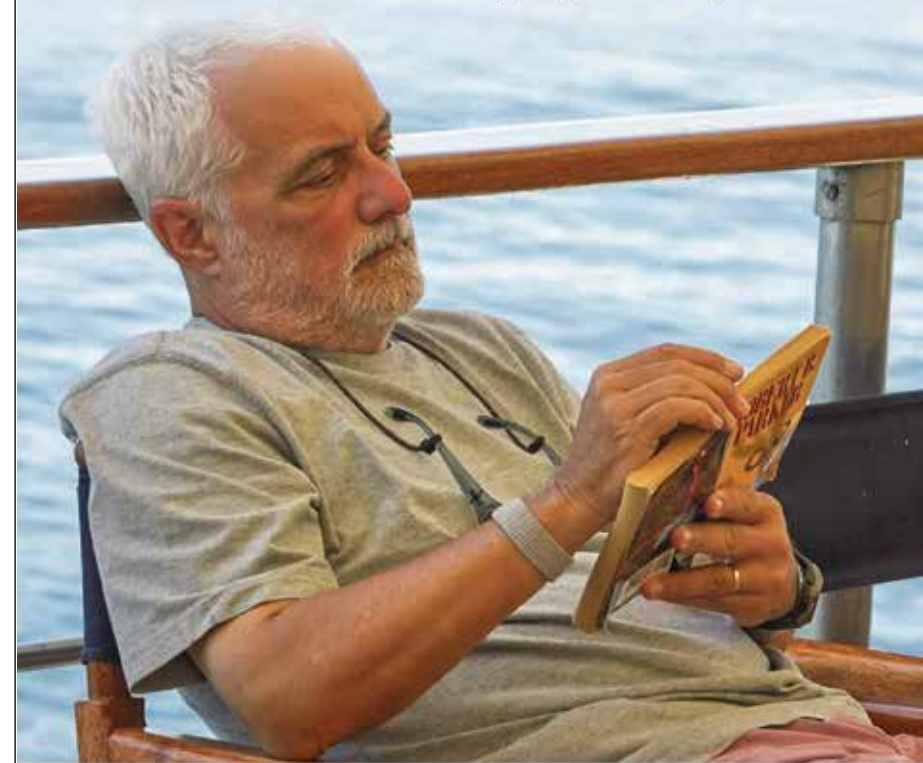
met every Saturday for over a year for one hour to clean up the coast or a portion of Sorobon/Lac.

On this BonDoet Saturday, for just one hour, the group rolled up their sleeves and

cleaned at the turn of the coastline along the road to Lac Cai. Selibon and Fundashon Boneiru Limpi i Bunita, proud to be a part of the "One Hour Clean Up Power," thank everyone who helped on this day.

In Memoriam ALAN GROSS

One of the founders of Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire



You made this world, especially the island of Bonaire, a better place.

Many of yesterday's youth were motivated and inspired by you to become today's leaders of our community.

Alan, may you Rest in Peace. Thank you for everything you did for the island you loved so much, and whose people loved you just as much.

**You will always be part of dushi Boneiru.
Soseg'a na pas.**

On behalf of current and former: Board members, Staff and Kids of Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire



Changing lanes

Bonaire's Island Council has, only days after the implementation of the new traffic legislation on March 1st, decided on a number of additional, more complex measures to reduce the number of traffic accidents and casualties on the island. They are planned to go into effect exactly a month later.

Research into the data of what caused the large number of accidents on Bonaire (almost 1,800 on 20,500 inhabitants, more than twelve times higher than the 'continental' Netherlands) has learned that the share of RHD vehicles, ie. cars carrying the steering wheel on the right side, which in 'our' traffic obviously is the wrong side, is clearly over average. RHD cars on Bonaire account for about 37% of the total amount of four wheeled vehicles, whereas the number of accidents in which at least one of the parties involved drove a RHD car was an astonishing 92%, a clear sign this type of vehicle constitutes a great risk for road safety.

Additional research by a specially appointed government committee indicated a number of specific causes for the dangers caused by the RHD cars and their drivers. A report, officially to be issued next week, points out that:

— RHD cars, because of the position of the driver in the car, often act erratically, not only on straight stretches, but especially in curves, confusing and/or forming a threat to oncoming traffic. Drivers of RHD cars have a view from their windshield and their side windows that is different from their 'normal' counterparts. They, in other words, don't see what others do, or what they should see in LHD traffic. However, the cars themselves don't seem to blame, it's the mainly the drivers that can be held accountable (guns don't kill either). The cause



The test in progress: Left hand side traffic on Kaya Industria. Gezag Rijna (in the white sedan) flawlessly makes a left turn.

of the dangers involved, according to the report, is clear:

— RHD cars can be purchased for practically nothing, and are therefore available to everybody, and attract mainly 'new' drivers, lacking the necessary experience both in traffic, in controlling their vehicle and in technical abilities, and missing the empathy towards others to drive safely.

— The cars themselves have flaws, not being designed for 'our' traffic: unadjusted headlights blinding oncoming traffic, their drivers unaware of upcoming dangers because of missing left side mirrors, to name a few.

To facilitate these drivers the Island Council, after having performed a number of successful tests in a real life traffic simulation on the Nikiboko Zuid and Kaya Industria last week has, in order to improve road safety, decided to facilitate driving conditions for RHD drivers, only slightly burdening the more experienced owners of LHD cars: Bonaire's going to change lanes! We're moving from right to left (like in the UK, Japan and Surinam, to name a few), to enable the RHD-drivers to enhance their driving abilities.

The decision suggests a lot of work, relocating traffic signs and the like, but according to a government official all can be accomplished in slightly over a week, starting Monday, March 30. hvdb





Making Bonaire "Accessible" Our wheelchair challenges

The virus

While the rain pours from a dark grey heaven, the cruiseships are not allowed to enter our port and the aircraft only get here to pick up stranded tourists. We are trying to cope with all things that the Corona-virus has in stock for us.

We understand that the elderly and the very young are easily affected. So this needs our immediate attention. Schools close, no more gatherings and no more hand-shaking or touching otherwise.

But on Bonaire there has notably been very little information so far about what to do if you fall into a high-risk group. Disability and health charities in Europe report an increase in calls from disabled people who are concerned about the virus. So, what about our risk-groups?

It is a privilege to be able to cut yourself off from the world by having enough disposable income to stockpile food and medicine. Or if you have a job you can do at home or one that provides sick pay if you're not there. Poverty and poor health are strongly linked, so it's highly likely that the very people who may need to self-isolate to protect themselves will be the ones who find it hardest to do. Put it this way, avoiding public spaces such as supermarkets is all well and good if you can afford regular deliveries, but not if you're relying on a food bank to eat. This gets even worse when you consider that food banks are running out of stock as a result of panic buying.

Disabled and older people deserve to be reassured that their wellbeing is a priority. The coronavirus response can't be survival of the fittest.

Here is what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have to say:

1. The people most often cited as being at serious risk are largely, by some definition, people with disabilities.
2. It can be harder for disabled people to take prudent steps to protect themselves from the coronavirus outbreak.
3. COVID-19 coronavirus threatens not only disabled people's health, but their independence
4. This outbreak has the potential to add new perspectives and urgency to a number of long-time disability issues.
5. You can help a lot by just being aware and sensitive to the specific risks and obstacles faced by disabled people in an outbreak of contagious illness like COVID-19.

On facebook one can find info sites the Bonairian government offers with daily updates. Since the elderly and handicapped mostly do not use internet or What'sapp, It would be a good idea if the gezaghebber and the diputado would address these risk groups, inform them with daily TV spots and regular updates in radio programs. These target-groups are very insecure and very afraid and need reassurance in every kind of way.

In the meantime air traffic between the islands has been restricted with an exception for medical emergencies. Doctors from Curaçao, Aruba, Holland cannot get to Bonaire. This might be a reason for concern.

Let us hope and pray that this lock down will be the right thing to do and that it will help to keep everybody safe and as healthy as possible.

Especially for the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

This is the situation and we will have to adapt, accept and pray for safety. A good thing yet, food-supply keeps on going !

Ria Evers-Dokter

Who Owns the Hilma Hooker? OR Wreckless Diving on Bonaire?

by David Batalsky



Papers were filed in The Netherlands this month contesting Bonaire's stewardship of the Hilma Hooker. If the lawsuit is successful, ownership of the Hooker would revert to *, who was very recently released from prison, having served a 17-year sentence for smuggling.

When interviewed by The Reporter, * commented, "Too bad I was in prison when the Hooker was confiscated – I borrowed much money to 'personalize' spaces in that vessel. Now I must raise Hilma and put her back to work so I can pay the loans. When I win the lawsuit, not only will I regain Hilma herself, but the cost of raising her will be borne by (continued on page 34)



A Garden? Just Do It!

Vitamin C

I read in a science paper that a scientist said the world is facing five big challenges that can terribly harm and even destroy human race. He said they are:

- climate change with extreme nature forces.
- virus, bacteria and fungus.
- collision with another body in the cosmos.
- world war.
- artificial intelligence.

While reading, I was thinking that the most realistic scenario would be a world war and climate change. But now we have the Covid19 virus.

It has disrupted our society and we are scared for the consequences it has on our life now and in the future. Medicines and vaccines are not ready yet, in fact, they are still in the experimental stage. However, we can build up the body with healthy food to make it stronger so it can fight the virus. We want healthy food in general and in particularly Vitamin C. A week ago, holistic healer in the Netherlands, Roy Martina MD, advised in a lecture: "Give your immune system a boost by vitamin C."

We already know that Vitamin C has a very important function in the body. It makes the body strong to fight sicknesses and it builds up a weak body. The more Vitamin C we have in our body, the stronger we are.

When it's too much, the body system is able to get rid of it. Vitamin C is in fruit and vegetables. Sour fruit like oranges, lemons, grape fruits, yellow mombin (hog plum), cherries, carambola, mandarin and citroen are good sources of Vitamin C. But one of the best providers, growing everywhere here and is full of ripened fruit these days, is tamarind. Oh yes, it has five times more Vitamin C than oranges. It's a blood cleaner, good for people with high blood pressure and very good against constipation. Look around you, the biggest trees on Bonaire are often tamarind trees.



Tamarind is an excellent course of vitamin C.

With the dry season starting now, the tamarind gets ripe and drops off the trees due to the strong blowing wind. The fruit is covered by a shell and for a few days the brown tamarind stays good in the shell while it lays on the ground. These days there are a lot of nice, dry tamarind under the trees. So go with a bag and pick them.

How to use the tamarind. Peel the shell off and put the tamarind on a plate for a day in the sun. This is to let the bugs, which are often in tamarind seeds, crawl out. Then rinse the tamarind a little and soak in hot water like a tea. It's very sour, so if you like you can use it with some

honey, sugar or molasses. One can cook with it in Indian dahls (Hindu soup) or in Indonesian culinary. There are a lot of recipes including tamarind sweets and juices. So make use of these very healthy fruits for free around you. There are a lot of other Vitamin C fruits, that you can find fresh on Bonaire: Carambola, passion fruit, plums and berries and don't forget fresh vegetables. The fresher the better and you can find them on Bonaire. Look at the Chinese toko's, and ask around where the farms are with fresh vegetables.

In his television address on March 16, Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands said: "The reality is that coronavirus is here in our midst, and for the time being it is here to stay."

You can plant your own veggies like: (bok choy , paksoy , amsoy), spinach, kalaloe (vegetable growing in wild here), purslane, paprika, kouseband (yard long bean), tajeerblad (American taro) and yambo. They grow so fast and easy here and you don't need to have a lot. It takes about six weeks and while you start to eat it, you start to plant again. So you always have some fresh vegetables and herbs like yerbi hole , basil , lemon grass Mexican mint and ginger.

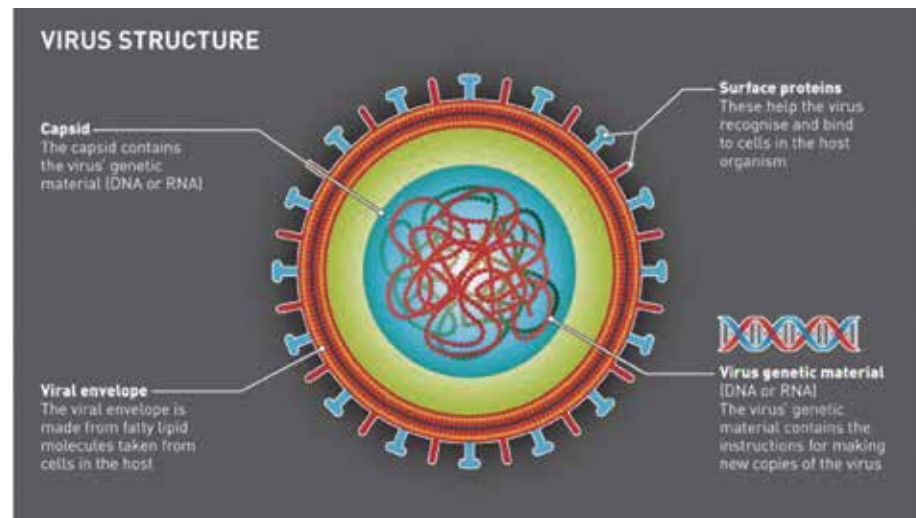
If you have your own stuff, you don't depend that much on food from the grocery.

Your food is your medicine, make sure you have it in your own garden, don't count on the world.

Take this seriously, just do it now.

Angliet, Nature Lover

Did You Know? that even though viruses are not technically alive, they can be found almost anywhere on the planet? They infect all animals, plants, and even bacteria!



Schematic representation of an influenza virus. Image from <http://medblog.medlink-uk.net/pallavig/2013/11/15/everything-you-need-to-know-about-viruses-research-project/>

some. Viruses are the smallest known infectious agents; they are so small that unlike most bacteria, you need specialized microscopes to be able to even see them. So, what is a virus? Or, to use the official lingo, what is a virion (an individual viral particle)? The shape and composition of viruses is deceptively simple. A virion consists of a core, for storing genetic material, surrounded by a protein structure called a capsid. Often viruses, particularly those that infect animals (and us), will also have a third layer. This exterior envelope is made up of fats and proteins.

Schematic representation of an influenza virus. Image from <http://medblog.medlink-uk.net/pallavig/2013/11/15/everything-you-need-to-know-about-viruses-research-project/>

So, if viruses are not alive, how do they multiply? They hijack the cells of their host and trick them into making more virus particles! Once a virus has entered the host, it needs to make its way into the host's cells since viruses can't replicate outside of a cell. The proteins on the envelope of the virus function as keys to unlock the cells of the host. Once inside the cell the virus then takes control of the cells mechanisms for copying DNA and assembling proteins. By doing this it has turned the cell into a microscopic virion making factory. At a certain point the cell will have produced so many viruses that it can't contain them anymore. The cell will then pop, like a balloon, and release all the freshly made viral particles. These

can then go on to infect other cells and the cycle keeps repeating.

A virus that is confined to only one host would, from the viruses perspective, not be a very successful virus. All viruses need to find a way to jump from one host to the next. Luckily the majority of viruses are confined to only one species. The envelope proteins are so specialized that they usually can't open cells from other species. But, occasionally, a virus will just happen to have the right key to fit the lock of this new species' cells. In such a scenario we call the virus a zoonotic virus. Meaning it originated from an animal, but is now also infecting people. This is the case for SARS-CoV-2 or, otherwise known as, coronavirus.

To reduce infection risk we are all being advised to wash our hands with soap and water frequently. The reason soap

works so well against the virus is because, as anyone who frequently washes dishes can attest to, soap is great at tackling grease and fat. Since the viral envelope is made predominantly of fat, it is dissolved into the soap foam and can then be washed away with water. High alcohol concentrations also work, but in a different way. For the proteins on the envelope to work and unlock the cell they need to have a very specific shape. But if those proteins come into contact with alcohol, the alcohol changes their shape in such a way that the 'keys' become useless and no longer fit the locks. So, wash your hands frequently, sanitize the surfaces in shared spaces, and finally catch up on that show you've been meaning to watch!

Roxanne-Liana Francisca. STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature

Traffic mirrors placed at dangerous intersections



Public works Department (R&D) are placing traffic mirrors at intersections where motorists can't see oncoming traffic clearly. In March employees of Public Works have placed mirrors at the intersection of the Gouv. Nicolaas Debrot Blvd with the Kaya Zephir; in Playa Pabou at Harbor Village, and at the intersection of the Kaya Papa Cornes with the Kaya Rosaura in Antriol.



See more BonDoet photos on [The Reporter's facebook page](#)

At Your Service-pg 15.
this issue's featured advertiser

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599.717.3911 retail@diver-friends-bonaire.com

Bonairean schools, gyms, creches and churches were ordered closed by Emergency Ordinance March 18, 2020

Public places such as the Library (library@bonairegov.com / +599-717-5345, +599-717-8944), SKAL (felix.thomas@bonairegov.com / +599-715-5323) and INDEBON (indebon@bonairegov.com / +599-715-5319) are temporarily closed to the public .

What's Not Happening —Canceled or Closed—

- **Animal shelter.** Call for an appointent to adopt. newalbonaire.org
- **Bridge club.** Wednesdays. Contact: Je-roen Seegers. peejeesee@gmail.com
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga).** Contact: 717-4989.
- **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour.** Monday, Wednesday & Friday.
- **Chess Club Bonaire.** Thursdays, at Jasmin Garden. Facebook: Chess Club Bonaire
- **Cultural Dinner Shows** (Charity event sponsored by DSD & Cuba Compagnie)
- **Magazina di Rei** is closed.
- **Nos Zjilea Cultural Event.** Mangazina di Rei, Rincon.
- **"Reef Renewal Bonaire."** Sundays at Blennies at Buddy Dive. info@reeffre-
- **Rotary lunch meetings** Wednesdays. All Rotary events are canceled. info@RotaryBonaire.org
- **Sea Turtles of Bonaire** presentation at Yellow Sub is canceled March 25. Contact: 780 0433
- **Soldachi Tours.** Maria Koeks: 796-7870, 717-6435.
- **Tai Chi Bonaire.** All Tai Chi classes with Ron Sewell. Contact: ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com
- **Taste of Bonaire** Cultural Edition, April 3, Wilhelmina Park.
- **Timbo Funrace March 29**, in the Yatu Bacu area of Bonaire is cancelled.
- **Washington Slagbaai Park.** The park will be closed for visitors as of Friday march 20th 2020.

What is Happening

—Nature Tour—

Echo. See Bonaire's parrots. Echo offers you a small group, outdoor tour. Wednesday at 5pm \$10 per person. Public Conservation Tour. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echo-bonaire.org. We need at least one day's notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

12-step meeting. Wednesdays at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Meeting starts at 7:15pm. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

—Open but limiting contact—

STINAPA is limiting the number of visitors to their main office. Contact: info@stinapa.org or 717-8444/ 786-8444; WhatsApp: +599 777-8444.

To pay the nature fee STINAPA advises everyone to use the online payment system stinapa.bonairenaturefee.org


—Online Church services—

• **Bonaire Christian Fellowship:** Due to the RIVM advice, all our services will expire until April 6. Preaching of the Wings of Healing will be featured via Youtube from Sunday March 22, 10:00 See facebook page.

International Bible Church. Service will be live streamed on IBC's facebook page starting at 9am, Sunday. <https://www.facebook.com/IBCBonaire/>

We apologize to winners Aja Radl, Doug Searle and Cathleen Whillock for misspelling their names in the "A Plastic Free Bonaire" Trash Bin photo contest.

Final Flights to Bonaire



FLIGHTS OPERATING TO BONAIRE DURING PANDEMIC COVID-19

Nr.	AIRLINES	FREQUENCY	A/C TYPE	LAST DAY OPERATING
1	KLM	Daily	A-330	28-Mar-20
2	TUI	FRI - SAT	B-787-8	Not yet received
3	DELTA	FRI - SAT - SUN	B-7-37-8 / B-757-2	Not yet received
4	UNITED	SAT - SUN	B-737-8	Not yet received
5	AMERICAN	MON - FRI - SUN	A-319	23-Mar-20
6	SUNWING	SUN	B-737-8	23-Mar-20
7	SKYHIGH	FRI	B-1900	13-Mar-20
8	SARPA	SAT	ERJ-145	
9	ARUBA AIRL	TUE - THU - SAT - SUN	DH-8	15-Mar-20
10	DIVI	Daily	BN-2 / DHC-6	Still operating as no restrictions
11	EZAIR	Daily	BN-2 / B-1900	18-Mar-20
12	WINAIR	Daily	ATR-42	19-Mar-20

**Schedule subject to changes
Information source from BIA

To confirm your return flight please contact your travel agent or airline

2020 Cruise Ships

Cruise ships will not be visiting Bonaire during COVID-19 pandemic

BONAIRE'S HISTORY

Dubai's offer to Bonaire, back then

Some people forget that joining the Netherlands as a municipality was not inevitable. At the time Bonaire began to think about adopting a new political identity, a delegation from Dubai arrived with tempting proposals. As they pointed out, Bonaire lacked many features that Dubai could supply in abundance. Bonaire had no skyscrapers, for instance. Dubai had lots of them. Dubai had many petroleum refineries, while Bonaire had none; not even a single oil well, just a few storage tanks that belonged to Venezuela at the time.

The Dubai delegation pointed out that Klein Bonaire could be rebuilt as an up-scale residential subdivision-shaped like a giant Bonaire palm. They also talked about the winter sports facilities being planned for the people of Dubai, an indoor ski resort and ice skating facilities.

On the other side of the negotiations, Bonaire asked the Dutch if they'd build a ski resort. The Dutch said no. Bonaire offered to settle for an ice skating rink. The Dutch again said no. The Dutch did offer to start building more roundabouts right away, to be followed by upgraded health care, improved schools, and other good things to follow.

The new roundabouts probably swung the deal.




Tues.-Fri. 9-6 pm
Sat. 9-2 pm

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Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Sarah Sati

found teachers who spoke to me in ways I understood. This was the beginning of taking control of my reality by taking control of my mind. During this time, I became a Certified Iyengar Yoga Instructor while simultaneously pursuing a master's degree in Experimental Psychology, where I focused all of my academic work on studying mindfulness meditation.

Now, 13 years later I teach the physical practice of yoga in the Iyengar tradition, both in a strict Iyengar style, as well as applying the Iyengar method to Ashtanga and Progressive Ashtanga yoga. These are viewed as very physically demanding practices, but what they are really demanding is the full use and discipline of the mind. For this reason, these practices can feel intimidating to people who are in fear of facing their own mental weaknesses. Although I can assure you, facing your mental weakness is the path to becoming mentally strong.

I teach physical yoga both on island, publicly and privately, as well as in the United States, however my main emphasis is on teaching mindfulness. I have been called to be part of the conversation around how humans can use the power of their mind to wake up to the truth of their inner self, and in that way end the cycles of suffering that leave them feeling less than satisfied. My primary focus is on writing and teaching scientifically

backed, integrated mindfulness programs that provide space for people to come closer to their true self.

To learn more, visit www.mindfulisland.com and follow us on Instagram (@mindfulisland) and facebook (@livemindfullybewell). On our platforms we share mindfulness tips and inspiration and offer mindfulness courses online and in person.

To learn about the physical practice of yoga as a method of developing the mind, find me on facebook @sarahsatiyoga.

We were all put on this planet to support and uplift all of humanity. Every challenge in our lives leads us closer to understanding the gifts of we have been given to help transform our planet from mundane to extraordinary. If you're struggling to find your gifts, yoga and mindfulness can shine light on your path. If you want help turning on your light, me and many like me are waiting for you.



Bonaire has a strong and diverse yoga community. We have invited each of the Island's teachers to write about the type of yoga they teach.

Yoga has nothing to do with your body. This is the most important thing I want to convey. I teach yoga not because you need to be able to tie your shoes when you're 70, or because you need flat abs. I teach yoga because it is a path to end the mental suffering that is the number one chronic illness of our global community. I teach yoga to your mind.

When I was 26, I broke my neck in a car accident and spent a year on pain killers. Surgery that left me with cadaver bones and metal holding my neck together did nothing for my pain. I went, in a very short period of time, from being a healthy, active, married young mother, to a shell of my former self. Everything I once identified myself as, I was no longer. I was empty and broken and faced with a choice; confront who I really was or surrender to fear. I chose option one and began to seek a path to freedom. Not of the body, but of the mind.

I turned fully towards the spiritual practice of Yoga and Buddhist mindfulness meditation. I became a seeker and

An informant for The Bonaire Reporter has found this draft of a press release announcing the developer's plans for Bonaire's Bolivia area:

Coming soon: Bonaire Eco Gardens

Lionfish Development Company is proud to announce plans for our latest project, Bonaire Eco Gardens, on what was formerly Bonaire's Bolivia:

- We want to be sure to preserve Bonaire's history, so all the **Indian inscriptions** will be removed and placed on indoor display.
- The area along the top of the cliff provides a fabulous view of the coast of Bonaire. Lionfish Development will make that view available by constructing **four four-story structures** where the Indian inscriptions are displayed in glass cases, with tourist accommodations, long-term rentals, restaurants, a gym, a spa, and an up-scale retail area.
- **Elevators and escalators** will facilitate movement between the top and the bottom of the cliff.
- More than sufficient room for **parking** will be created by paving all undeveloped areas from the base of the cliff to the harbor.

- Bonaire is a favored destination for cruise ships, but her docking space is limited. Not any more! We will **construct a sheltered harbor** along the coastline of Bolivia, from Boca Oliba to Boca Spelonk. Two breakwaters, each reaching one full kilometer into the sea, will provide protection for an area large enough to host four cruise ships. Bonaire's cruise ship capacity will be tripled!

- We will construct a wonderful **Bonaire Nature Museum**, where visitors can view plastic and foam replicas of Bonaire's trees, cactus, and birds in air-conditioned comfort, with a gift shop, bar, and restaurant on site.

- Providing entertainment for people of all ages, the **centerpiece of Bonaire Eco Gardens will be an amusement park!** The most popular ride will surely be the **I'm Higher Than You Are Ferris Wheel**, from which riders can see Bonaire's entire coastline. **The Ferris Wheel**, with its bright twinkling lights, will be visible from everywhere on Bonaire, and also from Curacao and Venezuela!

- Enjoy the easiest dive on Bonaire, the **Undersea See Track**, a sealed tube installed along the reef from Boca Spelonk to Lagun. Participants will ride inside the Sea Track while enjoying the views of Bonaire's world-famous marine life without having to swim or even get wet! Also, the Undersea See Track will be lighted, so it will be open 24 hours a day!

- Finally, for those who seek more tranquility than even the Undersea See Track, we present the **Bonaire Land Dive Museum**, where, in complete safety, visitors can explore plaster, plastic, and rubber replicas of Bonaire's corals, fish, lobsters, and other marine life.

The Lionfish Development Company Pledge: when you visit Bonaire Eco Gardens you'll never know you're on Bonaire!

Lionfish Development Company is proud to be named after fish who inhabit new places and do what they want there!



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BONAIRE SKY PARK

Elongation.... Juno is an asteroid

March 23rd –29th
Welcome to elongation station.

Greetings star gazers! This week is the great western elongation for Venus and the aftermath of the great eastern elongation for Mercury!

Elongation is a measure of where the planets are relative to the sun and us on earth! Put your arms out straight, point at the sun with your left hand, and Venus with your right... This angle is the elongation!

And both Venus and Mercury are hitting their greatest elongations this time of year -- or their largest angles rel-

ative to the sun. Venus will reach about forty five degrees before sunset, and Mercury will peak at about ten degrees before sunrise. Remember ten degrees is about the same as the height of a fist on an outstretched arm.

By watching the planets like this Copernicus was able to calculate the distances of their orbits back in the fifteen hundreds!

Imagine, just, figuring that out... Wow. Go along-- and keep lookin' up!

March 30th – April 5th
Did Juno you can see an asteroid?

Three Juno was cataloged in 1804 as our tenth planet. Later we realized it was just big stony asteroid, and this week, if you're lucky, you can see it!

You'll need a set of binoculars or a small telescope

-- find Virgo by following the curve the Big Dipper to Arcturus in the southeastern sky after nine thirty pm (9:30pm). If you keep going you'll see Spica -- that's in Virgo. Three Juno will be near another Virgo star: Mine-lauva.

Look closely and you just might spot Three Juno. It doesn't shine so it will come up in brightness then fade again.

Even though it's rather dim, Juno is really big -- estimated to be one percent of all the mass of the asteroid belt. If you succeed in spotting one of the largest asteroids around, you should pat yourself on the back and definitely keep lookin' up.

Source: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>. Hosts: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini.

Shelter News

Out of precaution for the health of our staff, volunteers and visitors, Animal Shelter Bonaire will be CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC starting March 18 until further notice. The shelter staff and volunteers will remain on property during normal business hours to care for the animals. If you have already have an appointment to surrender an animal, please ring the bell at the front

gate and we will come to you. If you need to make an appointment to surrender an animal, have questions regarding adoptions or any other inquiries, please call us or WhatsApp or use Facebook messenger and we can help you over the phone. We remain focused on giving our animals the best care possible and apologize for any inconvenience.

Your pets and COVID-19

The World Health Organization and multiple other international human and animal health organizations, agree there is no evidence at this point to indicate that pets become ill with COVID-19 or that they spread it to other animals, including people.

If you are not ill with COVID-19, you can interact with your pet as you normally would, including walking, feeding, and playing. You should continue to practice good hygiene during those interactions (e.g., wash hands before and after interacting with your pet; ensure your pet is kept well-groomed; regularly clean your pet's food and water bowls, bedding material, and toys).

If you have COVID-19, it is recommended you restrict your contact with pets and other animals, just like you would with other people to avoid spreading virus traces. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. Avoid direct contact with pets, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you have a service animal or must care for your pet while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets, don't share food, kiss, or hug them; and wash your hands before and after any contact with them and wear a face mask as directed by your physician. (Sources:

WHO, CDC, American Veterinary Medicine Association)

There have been posts on social media stating that hand sanitizer is a threat to pets because it contains an ingredient also found in antifreeze. But this assertion is not true.

The chemical of concern in antifreeze is ethylene glycol. Hand sanitizers, which are either ethanol- or isopropanol-based, do not contain ethylene glycol. It is true that ethylene glycol is very dangerous to pets (and humans) if ingested, even in small quantities, but such a fact is irrelevant to the use of hand sanitizers.

Although ethanol poisoning (ie what happens when a human drinks a medically dangerous amount of alcohol) is possible if a pet were to consume large quantities of hand sanitizer. An animal merely licking a recently sanitized hand is not cause for concern. For that reason, the claim is "False." (Source: Snopes.com)

If you are quarantined, with or without the virus, here is a good article about how to keep your pets entertained during the quarantine period. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/smarter-living/dog-pets-quarantine-coronavirus-tips.html>

Jane Madden-Disko



Jane Madden-Disko

Sanne Attevelt

Travis Sullins

Amy Weir

Pet of the Week: Millie



Dear future family,

My name is Millie. I am a one year old, healthy and spayed beautiful dog!

I was brought to the shelter when I was only one month old together with all my brothers and sisters. They all found their forever homes but I am still waiting for mine. Here at the shelter they told me that they always save the best for last! That might be right because I am the prettiest of all my siblings. I like to be lazy and sleep and curl myself into the weirdest positions, but that's when I feel 100% ZEN! I do like to play with other dogs or just relax with them. I like long walks and just love the water.

The first time I see a new human I will keep my distance and observe you, and if you let me do that I will slowly come to you and sniff. If you smell good I will

definitely fall in love with you, and follow you everywhere. I love kids; they always smell nice. I would fit in any family because I am such a happy lady. If you would like to meet me and let me sniff you, then I will be on the lookout for you at the Animal Shelter. Call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment to meet me. *Story and Photo by Sanne Attevelt*

Ask a Geek: Corona Virus

by Brian Niessen

Q: How did I get the Corona Virus on my computer, and how do I get rid of it?

A: The Corona Virus is transmitted by germs. These germs can be on your mouse or keyboard. So the first thing you need to do is sanitize your mouse and keyboard using either a disinfectant wipe or lightly spray and wipe with a paper towel. Do NOT soak the keyboard or mouse. While you are at it though, wipe down your cell phone, tablet, and landline phones. It makes no sense to wash your hands, while your cell phone is full of germs and in contact with your face.

Here are links to a couple good article about cleaning your mouse and keyboard: <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-clean-and-disinfect-your-keyboard-and-mouse/> and <https://www.getdroidtips.com/how-to-sanitize-and-disinfect-your-keyboard-and-mouse/>



Although the Corona Virus is NOT a computer virus, you should always have a virus detector/checker/remover installed on your computer. Just google "Top Virus Checkers" for a list of the best ones.

Wash often, disinfect, stay anti-social, and good luck.

Do you have a question about using computers and computer technology on Bonaire? Email it to the editor, and we'll get an answer for you next issue.

Bobbejan's

"Great food, great value!!!"
Neptune, New Jersey USA - Sept. 2013

"Hopi dushi mes."
Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

"Heel erg lekker"
Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

WEEKENDS ONLY...

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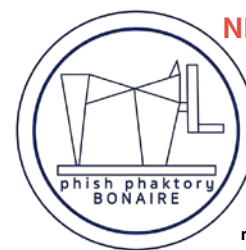
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Next Cleanup Sunday,
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3/31

Kralendijk, Caribbean Court C-320

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COVID-19 MEASURE & TO MINIMIZE INTERACTION:

- WE DON'T ACCEPT CASH PAYMENTS.
- ANYTHING RELEVANT TO INVOICES AND PAYMENT PLEASE COMMUNICATE BY E-MAIL & BY TELEPHONE **ONLY** 717-8922.
- PLEASE PAY INVOICES THROUGH ONLINE BANKING AND PLEASE E-MAIL PROOF OF PAYMENT to FRONTDESK@ROCARGO.COM
- PICKUP & DELIVERY ON APPOINTMENT ONLY E-MAIL: WAREHOUSE@ROCARGO.COM



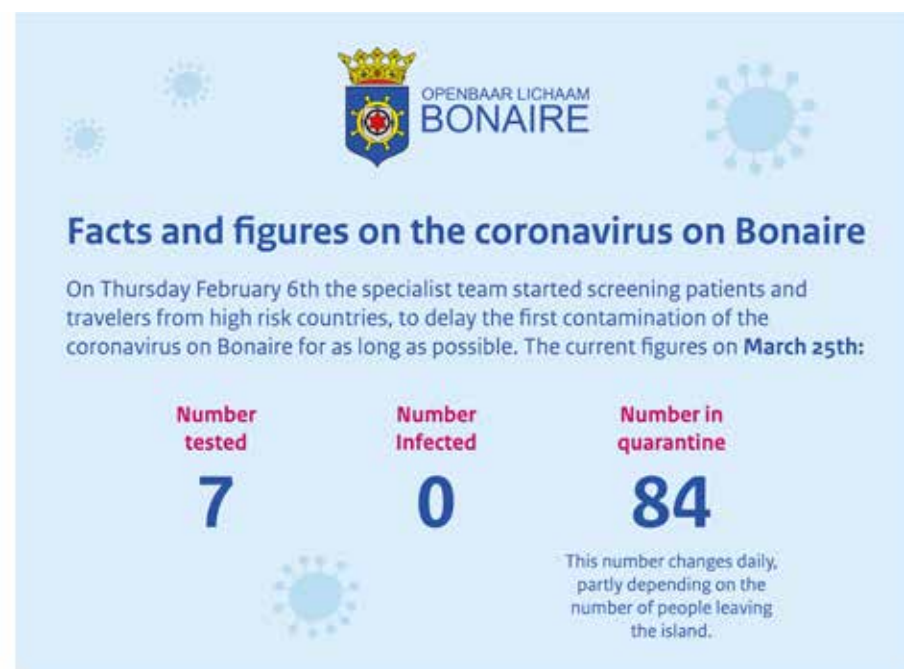
COVID-19 updates as of Friday, March 27, 2020



This Dutch video with English subtitles contains specific information about the medical resources in Bonaire.

The link is:
<https://youtu.be/Xqj67KWX6E>

Governor Edison Rijna speaks online March 25



I would like to start by saying that we still have zero infections on Bonaire. There have been seven tests, all 7 with negative result. There are currently 84 people in quarantine. I am glad there is still no infection, but we assume the Coronavirus will arrive on Bonaire. We have to realize that the situation may change overnight, although we will do everything in our power to postpone that moment.

I am pleased that the majority adheres to the restrictive measures and that people generally remain calm. We receive a lot of signals about fake news. I hope that the group of people who help spread fake news realize that they are putting themselves and others at risk. Unnecessary hours are lost to verifying the fake news. Hours that could also have been used constructively to effectively stop the Coronavirus. In addition, we receive signals that certain groups are not being reached properly. In addition to communicating in four languages, we are working hard to develop more resources for

low-literate people.

Furthermore, we see a demand for more communication about figures. I would like to assure everyone that we are in a different phase from our sister islands. They are already confronted with the Coronavirus and are therefore forced to provide more information to the population, in particular by tightening up the measures taken, in order to prevent a further spread of the virus.

Nevertheless, this does not change the fact that we also have to communicate a lot. We do our utmost to achieve this. Consult the official channels of the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland and the Public Entity. Information is available on radio spots and info-graphics. Up-to-date information and frequently asked questions and answers about the Coronavirus can be found on the website rijksdienstcn.com in four languages. You can also contact the call center via number 0800-1351.

Tax deferrals

**Belastingdiens / CN
with special deferral of payment**

Belastingdiens / CN is aware of the enormous consequences of the Corona virus and therefore takes measures to mitigate the consequences of the Corona virus for entrepreneurs and private individuals by applying special deferral of payment.

Who is eligible for this?

All entrepreneurs and private individuals who, as a result of the measures taken to fight the corona virus, can no longer fulfill their obligations.

To what does this special extension apply?

For all assessment and tax returns. These include Algemene Bestedingsbelasting (ABB), Loonheffing (LH), Inkomstenbelasting (IB), Kansspelbelasting, Opbrengstbelasting and Vastgoedbelasting.

For what period does the extension apply?

Immediately, for a period of three months.

When can special extension be applied for?

After filing a tax return or if you have received an assessment, you can submit a request for special deferral of payment.

Are there costs associated with requesting postponement?

No charges or interest will be charged for these deferral requests.

How do you qualify for special postponement?

By a request with your application for deferral of payment and a substantiation of how you got into payment problems in connection with the coronavirus.

Where do I send my request?

By e-mail to: helpdesk@belastingdienst-cn.nl

By post to:

Bonaire, PO Box 329, St. Eustatius, PO

Job opportunity

Rina Balla (rina.ball@p-direkt.minbzk.nl)

Wanted a self-employed mechanic with RERA BV. Broad knowledge of refrigeration. Must be prepared to work at night and in possession of a truck driving license. Customer oriented and stress resistant. In the possession of a MBO 2 degree. Please call at 782-973.

COVID-19 updates, continued on page 18



Do you have a combination of symptoms in the CORONA category? Then call your family doctor. Be aware, you may have something other than the corona virus. Your doctor will assess your personal situation.

SYMPTOMS	CORONA	FLU	A COLD
Fever	Yes	Yes	Rarely
Shortness of breath	Yes	No	No
Coughing	Yes	Sometimes	Yes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Yes
Sneezing	No	No	Yes
Runny nose	Rarely	Sometimes	Yes
Fatigue	Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes
Sore muscles	Rarely	Yes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Yes	Rarely
Diarrhea	Rarely	Children sometimes	No

To test or not to test

Public Health: "Is mass testing on the Coronavirus useful?"

Many opinions on whether or not to test on the Coronavirus are circulating on social media. Many people feel that mass testing should take place. From the Public Health Department we elaborate the testing policy.

International medical protocol

An international medical protocol was established on the basis of scientific knowledge and experiences elsewhere. According to this medical protocol it is considered whether testing is feasible and when it is unnecessary. Someone who has not been in contact with the virus cannot be infected with the Coronavirus. If there are symptoms that may point to the Coronavirus (fever + cough or respiratory issues) then people should call the general practitioner.

Making a diagnosis

Physicians are familiar with the history of their patients. They can assess the complaints of a patient and then contact a specialist in infectious diseases if necessary. The specialist re-assesses the patient and determines if and when the patient could have been in contact with the virus in the last 14 days. People who

have been in a risk area for more than 14 days ago can no longer be infectious and should therefore not be tested. The incubation period of the virus ranges from two to 12 days but to be safe we are honouring 14 days.

Mass preventive testing?

If there are no symptoms then testing makes no sense at all. There are many different clinical pictures that correspond with the symptoms of the Coronavirus. It is up to the doctors to determine.

In case of a realistic risk that infection took place, the test is taken. The patient is then immediately placed in isolation until the result of the test is available. If the test is positive then the isolation is continued. This way the chance of infection of others is reduced. Thus far no case of Corona has been established on Bonaire yet.

Paying your WEB bills

WEB is taking the necessary measures to protect our customers and employees against the possible spread of COVID-19 on Bonaire. We will continue to meet our customers need and follow the guidelines of the local government and EBT (Island Policy Team).

Visiting WEB's office is not recommended but we will continue to offer that service. To minimize the risk of spreading the virus we strongly discourage our customers from visiting the offices and instead use our online service. Our Rincon office is closed until further notice.

Online bill paying is available 24/7. Customers can only pay one invoice at a time. A combined payment of water and electricity is not possible.

If you must visit the office, keep at least 1.5 meters distance from others and only come if you have no symptoms of the virus such as fever, coughing or sneezing.

Our customer service is: info @webbonaire.com or 599-715-8244. More information and instructions can be found on www.Webbonaire.com and on our WEB Facebook page (Facebook.com/webbonaire).

COVID-19 UPDATE

For the protection and safety of our customers and staff, we will allow a **limited number of customers** simultaneously in our WEB office at Playa. We also ask our customers to follow the instructions given by our security staff.

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Let's do it Together

COVID-19 updates, continued on page 19

Coronavirus – not more than 50 people together – keep 1.5 meters distance



Coronavirus has broken out all over the world. The risks to our health are also on Bonaire high. That is why our Lieutenant Governor issued an emergency order. This has major consequences for the catering industry, for churches, for schools and for sports clubs. Nobody likes this, but it is urgently needed. Please follow the emergency ordinance!

What is the emergency ordinance?

These rules apply to everyone:



Get together(s) are only allowed in groups of 50 people or less. Groups of more than 50 people are prohibited.



You must keep a distance of 1.5 meters from each other. This is what we call social distancing.

What does that mean for the catering industry, sports clubs, churches and schools?



Restaurants, bars and snacks are allowed to remain open.

- More than 50 people are not allowed on the premises. This also includes the staff.
- Everyone must maintain a social distance of 1.5 meters.
- Keep the music low, so conversations can be held at the 1.5 meter distance.



Sports clubs, gyms, swimming pools, sports halls, saunas and sports fields must close.



Churches must close.

This also applies to other places where people gather to profess their religion.



Schools must close.

This also includes day care, before and after regular school hours.

Q&A

I have an educational institution. May I remain open?

No, you may not stay open. An educational institution is a school and must therefore be closed.

I have a small establishment of 100m². May I have 50 customers inside?

Everyone must keep a distance of 1.5 meters. So if your establishment is 100m², 50 people cannot be inside. Each person needs 2.5m². You are allowed to have 100m² divided by 2.5m² = 40 people inside. **Please be aware that this is including staff!**

I have a sauna. Can I stay open?

No, saunas must close.

I have a restaurant. Can I stay open?

Yes, you can stay open. But there shouldn't be more than 50 people in your restaurant. This also includes the staff. All customers need to keep the 1.5 meters social distance. Please keep the tables at least 1.5 meters apart.

Does the staff also belong to the group of 50 people?

Yes, this is including your staff. It's not about the customers but the amount of people. So if you have 4 staff members, you're allowed to have 46 customers in your establishment



This is a message from the Directorate of Supervision and Enforcement