

FREE

BONAIRE
The REPORTER

April 8-April 22, 2020, Year 27, Issue 7



Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone (599) 796-4055, www.bonairereporter.com email: info@bonairereporter.com

Sargassum
Who's open and who's not
Contour Global and WEB

See page 13+ for
COVID-19 Updates



Residents Rich and Doreen Schwerdtfeger dive Red Slave. Story & Photo: Julie Morgan

Our nature is still here to enjoy

Tourism has stopped on Bonaire due to Covid 19, the Coronavirus.

There are no airplanes or cruise ships carrying groups of visitors to enjoy Bonaire's beautiful clear blue water, coral reefs, and nature. But the nature that attracts the tourists to Bonaire and keeps locals and imported residents here is still available.

The main product of Bonaire is nature tourism. Many of Bonaire's working residents are linked to tourism in some way. Perhaps they work at a dive resort, hotel, tour company, rental agency, restaurant, etc., the list goes on. But everyone is connected to the product in some way even if its not in your job title. Tourism drives the economy of Bonaire.

Some working residents were once tourists themselves. They fell so in love with Bonaire that they decided to take the plunge and dive into a big move to the island. Many thought they could work on the island and still enjoy the benefits of Bonaire's nature. But as work encompasses their lives, the idea of taking time to enjoy the nature of Bonaire fell short.

Amidst the threat of Covid 19, everyone's lifestyle has suddenly changed. On Bonaire, daily life has been altered even though the virus has yet to land here. And, the local government and everyone is working hard to keep it that way. First, by government order, the flights



Kayaking in the mangroves. Photo by John de Winter, thanks to Outdoor Bonaire

and cruise ships were canceled and then later the closure of schools, churches, sports clubs and gyms. In addition, events for more than 50 people are banned. Without tourists, dive resorts and hotels have closed. Many restaurants are only doing take-out and delivery. Stores are shuttered or require an appointment for services.

Virtual press conferences and meetings are now held. Communication with family and friends is done online or by cellphone. Friends are actually holding get-togethers

online to watch the latest Netflix movie and have cocktail parties. Social distancing of at least six feet is practiced everywhere to avoid any possible transfer of the virus. But what isn't closed is Bonaire's nature. There is no social distancing required unless you are with other people. And Bonaire's nature itself is getting a little tourist vacation too with no planes or cruise ships visiting the island.

With the tourist economy running at a deficit, people can experience health issues from stress and anxiety. Experts from Harvard Medical School emphasize the importance of finding a release. They say being outside and exercising in nature can be the answer as long as social distancing is observed.

Whether it is diving, snorkeling, biking, kayaking, windsurfing, walking or just sitting on Pink Beach looking at the ocean, everyone can be a resident-tourist and enjoy the nature of Bonaire.

Facebook posts have been loaded with amazing photos of Bonaire lately. Photographers have finally had the time to share their images and we would like you to share them with us. In the next issue we will announce a Reporter photo contest with prizes, in which we will display your great images of Bonaire in one place for all our on-line and in-print readers to enjoy.

Emergency measures are extended

The Emergency Ordinance COVID-19 Bonaire March 27, 2020 has replaced the Ordinance of March 18, 2020.

The bans and regulations have been extended to April 30, 2020. In addition, public beaches have been closed to more than three people at a time. Families with more than three people, who reside at the same address are exempt from this prohibition.

Repatriation of residents of Bonaire is underway. See pages 13 and 14 for updates.



Proactive planning for the pandemic began early

As everyone knows, the OLB was prompt to shut down Bonaire’s airport, to send away the cruise ships, and to order social distancing. But Bonaire has responded promptly and proactively to the COVID-19 pandemic in many other, lesser known, ways, thanks in part to prior planning. Much of that planning was done at The Hague.

The Public Health Directorate in the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport began mobilizing as soon as news of the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China arrived in December, 2019. The Directorate’s involvement was scaled up to interdepartmental cooperation under the umbrella of the National Coordinator for Security and Counter-terrorism (NCTV) at the beginning of February. So when a broad response to the pandemic was required, much of the preparatory thinking had already been done. Here are some of the resulting measures now in place.

- Employers may apply to the RCN-unit of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) for emergency financial support that will help them retain personnel. Others who no longer have an income, whether previously employed or self-employed, can also apply.
- The schools are closed, but schooling continues. Primary and secondary students are given homework and have contact with teachers or mentors via phone, app or mail. Normal exam schedule will not be followed, but schools will try to meet the requirements of the PTS (Program of Assessment and Closure).
- The final test for group 8 of the primary school for the 2019/2020 school year has been canceled. But in August group 8 pupils can continue to secondary education conditionally, if recommended by their teachers.

• Senior secondary vocational ed students in MBO programs will be examined so they can obtain a diploma this study year. Online oral examinations may be arranged for them, or examinations conducted at the location of their work placement, or at some other safe site.

• Importers of personal protective equipment may apply for Customs exemptions.

• Neighbors and relatives have been alerted to keep an eye on vulnerable children, given the closure of schools, childcare, and sports clubs. Social distancing measures can magnify family stress in unsafe homes and increase the dangers of abuse.

• Repatriation of residents stranded elsewhere will be delayed until the extension of island closure until April 30. However, 225 people have registered for return; mandatory 14-day quarantine has been arranged for them; and those needing financial aid are receiving it.

• Entrepreneurs and individuals may apply for three month tax deferrals. Their applications will be decided leniently.

• Three specialists have arrived from the Netherlands to care for virus victims. They are writing their treatment protocols while quarantined for two weeks. The hospital now has 11 medical specialists.

• Bonaire now has two air ambulances, plus eight additional crew. The new crew members were quarantined in Columbia for two weeks before arriving.

• A “test only when warranted” protocol has been instituted on the island. Only people who display symptoms, or who are known to have been in contact with carriers of the virus, will be tested. *D.M.R.*

Source: <https://english.rijksdienstcn.com/latest/news#>

No Easter camping

Bonaire and St. Eustatius governments have prohibited the traditional Easter camping on the beach.

In his March 26th speech, Lt. Gov. said: “As of tomorrow there will be a total ban on gatherings and events in both public and private areas. This also means that it is temporarily not allowed to camp, for example on the beach. This

has been decided in response to advice from the RIVM.” (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)

Rijna prefaced his prohibition with: “Provided that I am glad there is still no infection, 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.”

Sint Maarten sends seriously ill patient to Bonaire

A seriously ill patient was flown by air ambulance to Bonaire for hospitalization. He is not infected with CORONA-19 but would be at high risk if admitted to the Sint Maarten hospital, already overburdened with coronavirus cases.

On Saturday Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs declared a state of emergency on Sint Maarten. The island had 24 positively tested corona patients, up from six at the beginning of the week. Four patients had died. More of the infected were residents rather than visitors.

Sint Maarten will have a 24-hour curfew for two weeks. Only medical personnel and emergency services will be allowed on the road. Anyone without the required documentation can be arrested. Marines on the island will help the police enforce the 24-hour curfew and will have full powers of arrest. Supermarkets also remain closed. *D.M.R.*

Medical supplies for corona patients sent to Sint Maarten

Medical equipment and medicines for corona patients sent to Sint Maarten

A C-17 military transport plane left April 4th to Sint Maarten from the Eindhoven Air Base in the Netherlands. The aircraft carried medical and protective equipment, and medicines to treat corona patients. In part, the shipment included a mobile hospital, (a ‘Hospitainer’) in which six independent intensive care (IC) spaces will be set up. In addition, there was also be enough equipment so that six extra IC places can be set up within the hospital in Sint Maarten.

State Secretary Paul Blokhuis (VWS): “This shipment to Sint Maarten is a concrete step in increasing the capacity of medical care for all islands.” According to the National Institute for Health and Environment (RIVM), the supplies are being sent first to Sint Maarten because strengthening the medical capacity for the Windward Islands is currently most needed.

The first team of physicians and nurses is expected to arrive in Sint Maarten in the coming week. Additional medical personnel are being supplied by an international company that dispatches medical personnel.

As of April 5th, Sint Maarten had 25 confirmed cases and four deaths of COVID-19.

This Week’s Stories

Enjoy Bonaire’s Nature	1
Sargassum.....	3,6
Curaçao moves to acquire Bopec	4
STINAPA needs volunteers	4
Fuel plans ContourGlobal & WEB	5
Beaches posted: No dogs	6
Earch Day April 22	6
Fuel prices drop	7
Food Donations	8

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
(Proactive COVID-19 plans; no Easter camping; St. Maarten update)	
Who’s Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Letters: Silver lining; Alternate fuel storage; Three months stay for Europeans; Fan letter.	4
Ask Kate (stay healthy til next time)	4
Law enforcement	4
Ask a Geek: Talk to me	5
Sky Park: Mornings; Bootes, Arc & Spica	5
Reef Glimpses: Sharptailed eels	6
Did You Know: Balloons kill	11
A Garden? Hydroponics	8
What’s Happening	
• Hotels / Restaurants /	
• Advertisers hours	
• Easter & Passover online services	9
Business Directory	10
Pet Of The Week: Parker-cat	11
Shelter News: COVID-19 & pets pt.2	
Shelter open by appointment	11
Making Bonaire “Accessible”:	
Social distance	11

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 22, 2020
News Deadline: April 20, 2020
Contributor’s Deadline: April 17, 2020

Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:
Phone (+599)796 4055
Email: info@bonairereporter.com
Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:
Julie Morgan, Publisher
BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com
Production: Barbara Lockwood
Contributors: Angliet Nature Lover, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Sky Watch: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini, Kate Butler, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Jane Madden-Disko, Travis Sullins, Amy Weir, Careen Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Julianka Clarendra, Don M. Ricks, Pam Teitel, Alan Zale, Sabine Engel, Leonel Martijn
Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline,
Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo
© 2020 The Bonaire Reporter

Sargassum-What is it and why is it here?

Sargassum has been around forever. It was first noticed and recorded by Portuguese sailors with Christopher Columbus. They called these floating plants with its small grapes 'salgazo'. Which eventually became sargassum.

Huge mats float around in the Sargasso Sea, and windrows break off and are carried away with surface currents and wind. Some eventually land on islands, coasts of the mainland United States and Mexico. Texas experienced these landings in the past as reported in the one of the state's newspapers, the Silsbee Bee, in July 8, 1954. And there are probably records before that time.

The landings were unpredictable, and only occurred every once in a while. But, recently massive landings resulted in a negative impact on tourism in 2011, 2015 and then again in 2018, 2019 and now in 2020.

Sargassum is a brown alga, growing and floating in the Sargasso Sea, north of the Caribbean. There are several species, but two of them are completely pelagic and floating. These are Sargassum natans and Sargassum fluitans. Reproduction is vegetative by fragmentation.

In the past mostly the northern area of the Caribbean was impacted, with incidental small quantities more to the south. On Bonaire. Boi Antoin of the Extra told some years ago that the dried sargassum was used as a filling for cushions and mattresses.



Beginning March 26, Bonaire Marine Park (BMP), Mangrove Maniacs members and other volunteers, have raked and gathered the latest influx of Sargassum that has floated into Bonaire's inlets from the ocean. Along with the volunteers' hard manual labor, heavy equipment was brought in to remove the seaweed from Lagun, Washakimba, Foodies, and the Sorbonne area. The marine park

has put up oil booms in all areas where the sargassum is threatening the shoreline. The 'Maniacs' positioned screening over the inlets to the cleared pathways of the mangroves to keep the stuff out.

According to Leonel Martijn, of BMP, the sargassum first became a problem for Bonaire in 2016 and has returned every year since.

Sargassum, continued on page 6

FOR SALE Kaya Piedra Precioso 2 Spacious Home



- Location : Republiek
- Living area: +/- 341 m2 / 3671 sq. ft.
- 5 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage / carport

- Large parcel
- Structurally sound building
- Needs renovation



Listed for \$305,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



Letters and Opinions

A silver lining

Global quarantine has come with many hardships, but here on Bonaire there is a silver lining.

Just a month ago, crowded streets were choked with golf carts and rush hour traffic jams. Friendly smiles and safe left turns were few and far between, and the interconnectedness of island life was a distant memory.

Many have found their way back to the places they call home, and it is a joy to see local families enjoying open beach access and roads again safe for bicycles. Pedestrians can rely on respectful traffic to yield, and eye contact with a smile leads into friendly conversation. In the slow rhythm of island life we can appreciate this tranquil beauty as we make time for home projects and connection with neighbors.

Explosive growth, high rise buildings at Cargill and development of Bolivia will forever change the face of our beautiful nature island. With plenty of places like Miami, Aruba and San Juan, do we really want our Bonaire to become just another overcrowded tourist mecca?

These harmonious island vibes can be more than a glimpse into years past. It can be a renewal of the core community and a time to envision the future we wish to build.

Bonaire's magic will always call in visitors; we can still choose to protect it or watch it sold for greed.

Brie P., Lugá Alehá

Hi

We visited Bonaire for the usual tourist vacation. Came back the very next year! Loved it. Neat vibe there.

Before we ever got there I searched for an English newspaper from your island to try to get a feel for what was happening there. And found you guys. What a great read!

It's been two years since we visited Bonaire, but I still check out the Reporter every few months because what you put together works so well, and makes me smile.

I applaud your efforts. Well done!

Rae from Canada; Sun and Snorkle Chaser

To the Editor:

After reading about Curacao's refinery taking possession of Bopec ((Reuters and Bonaire.nu)

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/curacao-seeks-162-million-pdvsa-210407884.html>

<https://bonaire.nu/2020/03/24/beslag-op-assets-van-de-bopec-olieops-lagterminal-op-bonaire/>

I was disturbed to see no mention in the Reporter especially in light of the plan to put two temporary tanks in the water by the airport pier. I find the location near the airport ill-conceived given:

1. The dangers inherent in storing highly

1. polluting material in temporary containers where you can not contain or likely notice leakage until damage is done and can not be remedied;
2. the distance from the users of the fuel to be stored are on the other side of the island where one truck has already caused a spill because of the long and winding route;
3. a better solution would be for one container, properly secured against leakage, in each location accessible from the sea as both are seaside and Contour Global is known to have direct piping already from Bopec.

Given that Bopec is no longer under Venezuelan control, accessing Bopec's facilities should be easier.

Bonaire should do everything it can to not store volatile substances in its marine environment.

Charles M. Baltayan

Editor's fact check. Curaçao has not "taken possession of Bopec." A Dutch court in Curaçao has authorized only a legal attachment of the Bopec site pending Curaçao's pursuit of an arbitration claim. See article this page: Curaçao moves to acquire Bopec.

Dear Editor

Everybody has a hard time right now. The world is up side down. It's even harder for the Bonaireien people. They are depending on the money of the tourists. No cruise ships anymore, no airplanes. How to get more income in future? People from the Netherlands and the United States are allowed to stay six months in a year on Bonaire. People from European countries and Canada are allowed to stay three months in half a year. We are retired and lucky owners of a house on Bonaire. We are overwinterers since eight years. We arrive middle of December and after spending 90 days on a beautiful island we have to leave middle of March. We would like to stay some weeks more and come back for a couple of weeks in June and October. 2018 I got in big troubles because I stayed in October for two weeks on Bonaire. I was not allowed to overwinter the following 90 days. Why does the Government is keeping out visitors like us? We are spending money in grocery and hardware stores, in dive centers, car rentals and restaurants. Together with our neighbors from El Pueblo we like to do little things for Bonaire. We do clean up dives, help by the reforestation projects, cleaned the area of Karpata and placed a bench (not there anymore, maybe stolen) and seats. We hope we get the same rules in future like the people from the United States.

Inge Frey, Switzerland

Visit us!



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Dear Friends,

We hope you all stay healthy during this crisis, and we look forward to seeing you again on Bonaire. Please send your real estate questions to Kate and Jean at kate@bonairehomes.com

Curaçao moves to acquire Bopec

The U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control has renewed the licence that allows Bonaire to buy crude stored at Bopec for power generation. However, another uncertainty has appeared regarding Bonaire's fuel supply. A Dutch court on Curaçao has awarded Curaçao a legal attachment of the Bopec site pending resolution of an arbitration claim.

Accusing Venezuela's state-run PDVSA of mismanaging the Isla refinery and failing to meet financial obligations, Curaçao engaged the International Centre for Dispute Resolution, a firm in New York, to arbitrate its \$162 million claim against PDVSA. Curaçao's declared intention is to sell the PDVSA assets if it acquires ownership.

The legalities of the case are complicated because of an earlier ruling. An arbitration panel of the International Chamber of Commerce awarded the PDVSA assets in the Dutch islands to ConocoPhillips. Subsequently a Curaçao court issued a series of rulings in 2018 allowing ConocoPhillips to seize the

PDVSA assets on Curaçao, as well as on Aruba and Bonaire.

Bonaire has been buying the crude oil still stored in Bopec's tanks to generate power and desalinate water. Those sales have been conducted under strict conditions imposed by an agreement between Bonaire and ConocoPhillips, and in compliance with U.S. licensing restrictions. The OLB says the fuel stored at Bopec will be used up this month, and that it is working on short term arrangements to switch Contour Global to diesel fuel delivered from Curaçao, and on long term, island-owned, provisions for storing fuel safely and in a sustainable manner, regardless what transpires at Bopec.

Venezuela, via PDVSA, still owns Bopec, and the competing claims will likely be tied up in the legal system for years. *D.M.R.*

See also page 5, the article: Contour Global and WEB about to run out of fuel again

Stinapa Bonaire is looking for volunteers

Do you have time and want to do something good for the nature of Bonaire? Stinapa is looking for volunteers to help clean up Sargassum.

Last week, Stinapa's volunteers helped clean up the beach and water at Foodies (Kontiki). If you want to help in cleaning up Sargassum, please send a WhatsApp message to +599 777-8444 or sign up via this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezfDcYbnxnNrqr90TqpfoLha7hankWh1SE1K-Sk0p1PGESg/viewform>

Police report for March 27 to April 6, 2020

Traffic accidents & violations

Around 7pm on Sunday 29 March, a report was made of a hit and run at Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana.

Fire

On Friday, March 27 at about 11:55pm, the fire brigade extinguished a fire in an uninhabited house near Kaya Victoria. There were no injuries.

Property crimes

On Friday, March 27 at about 7:50pm, an attempted theft was reported in a kunuku on Kaminda Sorobon. Thieves broke open a container door and prepared things to take away.

On Sunday, March 29 a theft of a golf cart near the J.A. Abraham Boulevard was reported. Later in the day, the golf car was seen and chased and the young

people got out and ran away. Police have seized the golf cart.

Control of social distancing

In the past few weeks, the multidisciplinary team consisting of representatives of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN), the Supervision and Enforcement Department of the Public Entity (T&H) and the Koninklijke Marechaussee (Kmar), has checked for gatherings at catering establishments and beaches.

During the control, 72 catering establishments were visited. Owners were given guidelines on how to apply social distancing. One location was shut down as the owner had received a warning a day earlier and the following day still did not meet the rules applicable in the emergency ordinance.

Contour Global and WEB about to run out of fuel again

The tanks at Bopec are about to run dry, but Bonaire's power and water supply will continue uninterrupted. Less than a month after the OFAC (U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control) extended the permit allowing Bonaire to buy the HVO stored at Bopec for making power and water, Bopec's tanks will be empty. Contour Global will immediately switch to diesel for power generation. The temporary arrangements are in place and ready to go. In the meantime, the OLB is moving ahead with mid-term and long-term plans to build a Bonaire owned and controlled fuel storage infrastructure.

In the shorter term, diesel fuel from Curaçao will be offloaded to Curoil's existing tanks at Hato, then trucked to Contour Global twice a day.

After three months, Contour Global should be able to switch back to HVO

(heavy crude oil) for power generation. The HVO will be delivered to an emergency facility being built at the airport. The fuel will be offloaded into a fuel barge tied to the existed airport fuel jetty, then trucked to Contour Global. Preparations are underway for this mid-term solution.

In the meantime, the Fuels Steering Group of the OLB continues to work on plans for a long-term structural solution. Two new storage terminals will be built on Bonaire. One will be located on the southern side of the airport. It will be used to store kerosene (jet fuel) and other commercial products.

The other storage terminal, for HVO, will be built adjacent to the Contour Global power plant. According to the government, the oil will be transferred to Contour Global by pipeline after being offloaded



Generators at Contour-Global

at "an existing jetty adjacent to Bopec." "Existing jetty adjacent to Bopec" presumably refers to the remains of Bonaire's original dock, where the Windjammer wreck is located.

When both terminals are complete, Bonaire will own its own storage facilities and be able to buy fuels on the open market. The OLB insists that all construction will meet vigorous environmental standards. *D.M.R.*



Beaches are now posted: No Dogs

Since February, 2012 dogs have been banned from certain beaches or coastal areas of Bonaire. No one is allowed to take their dogs on these beaches, leashed or unleashed. Recently, signs have been placed on the prohibited beaches so everyone knows that the area is closed to

dogs. The ban applies to the areas of Sorobon, Cai and the entire area between the salt pier and the Willemstoren, including Pink Beach and Peliké, for example.

It is still possible to walk a dog between Punt Vierkant and the Zoutpier or between the Willemstoren and Sorobon.

It is forbidden to walk with dogs on the following beaches (coastal areas):

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach);
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard);

- Playa Chachacha;
- Playa pal'i mangle (Donkey's Beach);
- Forn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach);
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren);
- Sorobon and Cai;
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps);
- Tolo;
- Nukove;
- Klein Bonaire.

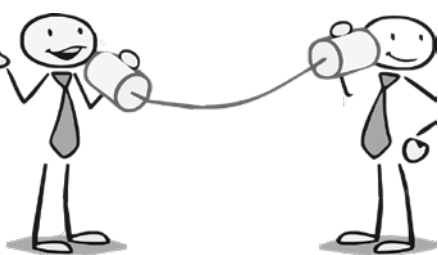
It is forbidden to enter the Cargill Salt Company area without permission

The ban was issued to protect both people and wild life. It prevents dogs from digging out turtles' nests or escaping and entering a nature reserve such as the Brine Lake. The ban also prevents accidents and people being bitten by dogs, as well as hygienic problems caused by dogs' feces.

Visit our online archive for STINAPA's article: Did You Know? That dogs pose a serious threat to wildlife? (2019, June 24 - July 8, 2019, Issue 13, page 11)

Ask a Geek: Talk to Me...

by Brian Niessen



Q: What are the best ways to communicate with my family and friends during the pandemic (or any other time)?

A: Before the world's problems, the main programs we used for communication were FaceTime, Skype, Facebook Messenger, and Whatsapp. While there

is nothing wrong with using these programs, there are a few new programs worth mentioning which do things a bit differently.

Marco Polo

If you want to video chat with someone but can't do so in real time -- perhaps they have a busy work schedule, or live in another time zone -- Marco Polo is the app for you. You can send video messages to individuals or group chats, which the other parties can watch and respond to at their leisure. Unlike Snapchat, Marco Polo saves all of your video messages so you can revisit conversations, and doesn't limit your video time. You can also add fun filters and voice effects if you want to mix up your conversations. <https://www.marcopolo.me/>

Houseparty

Houseparty is a video chat app owned by Fortnite developer Epic Games that lets you play popular games like trivia and Heads Up! on video chat with friends virtually through its interface. <https://houseparty.com/>

Netflix Party

While not a video chat app per se, Netflix Party lets you watch Netflix videos with your pals at the same time, thanks to a clever extension for the Google Chrome web browser that syncs video playback and allows group chat. <https://netflixparty.com>

Zoom

Zoom may cater to the virtual classroom and workplace, but its free basic plan should more than do the job for friends and family members. Zoom's

free service hosts up to 100 participants (virtual reunion, anyone?), though that plan does limit video meetings of three or more to 40 minutes each. Still, you get unlimited meetings, so expect to hang up and call again. <https://zoom.us>

POTS

This stands for Plain Old Telephone System -- you can always just make a phone call -- but beware, it'll be long distance with all the associated charges of the "olden days".

Stay healthy, keep communicating, and see you on the other side.

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.



BONAIRE SKY PARK

Morning astronomy
Boötes, Arc and Spica!

April 4th -5th
Morning astronomy

"Yawn." Astronomy sometimes means burning the candle at both ends -- but you can look at the sky even if you're one of those "morning people" especially this week!

Depending on how early you get up you should get quite the show in the southeast. First Jupiter will emerge from the horizon, then Saturn, then Mars, all in a beautiful parade of planets. If you're really lucky, as the sun rises the planets will slowly disappear, but because they're so much closer, and brighter, you'll get the show for a bit longer.

Stars are technically up there all the time, but the scattering of sunlight in our atmosphere obscures them during the day. So you can still do astronomy when the sun's out if you just keep lookin' up!

April 12th - 18th Boötes, Arc and Spica

Here's how to find Arcturus and Spica -- and we'll slide right into the constellation Boötes DMS (Double and Multiple Star) on the way.

This'll be your night sky this week, looking east.

Start with the Big Dipper and draw an imaginary arc through the handle of the large saucepan in the sky -- and you'll run right into the bright orange star Arcturus.

The mnemonic device is "follow the Arc to Arcturus!"

Along the way to ol' arc-y we bisected Bootes the Herdsman, see him here?

If you keep going along a line from Arcturus, you'll see a bright blue star -- that's Spica!

Spica is part of the constellation Virgo, and is one of the brightest stars in the night sky.

So impress your friends with your star hopping and new constellation knowledge while we all keep lookin' up!

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



Reef Glimpses

Sharptail Eels

Before I discovered Bonaire, I worked in San Salvador, the Bahamas, as a scuba instructor and dive guide. The only snake eel I'd ever seen was in a photo on a Skin Diver Magazine calendar. Consequently, when I saw my first sharptail eel in person I was pretty excited. As I climbed the ladder back onto the boat I spit out my second stage and shouted, "Did you see the snake eel? I've never seen one before! It was so cool!"

the party hoping to gobble up critters fleeing the eel. Everyone in the hunting party is concentrating on the eel, so divers can get up to say 12' (3m) away from the eel, which is closer than most other hunting situations, and watch. (Good hovering skills are critical; sculling with your hands sends pressure waves that will affect the hunt, and moving your fins kicks up sand which also affects the hunt, usually in that it moves away from you and disturbs the natural behavior of the fishes.) You may see one of the predators actually catch a critter, and get

Reef Glimpses, continued on page 8



This sharptail eel is swimming along some sponges.

The divers glanced over at me and said, "Gosh, Dee, they're all over the place on Bonaire."

Two years later I was working (okay, dive guiding isn't exactly work for me, but you know what I mean) on Bonaire and enjoying the heck out of sharptail eels, our most common type of snake eel. My favorite way to find a snake eel is by noticing groups of predators, such as graysbys, trumpetfish, and maybe a bar jack or yellowtail snapper. The focus of this what I call "hunting party" (what the scientists call "nuclear hunting") is almost always a hunting eel. The eel can get into places that other predators can't reach, so the others join

Sargassum, continued from page 3



Marine biologist and Mangrove Maniac Sabine Engel examines, *S. fluitans*, one of the two species of Sargassum found during the recent invasion.

Recently the southern parts of the world experienced these sargassum invasions. Satellite images show another source off the coast of Brazil. The Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt that is increasing in 'productivity', and impacting both the northern coast of South America, islands in the Caribbean and Mexico, and coasts of western Africa.

Given the economic impact, on the tourism sector but also on fisheries, a lot of effort has been put into studying these algae. Researchers question what causes these blooms. Global warming plays a role, but also the eutrophication of the ocean from overly rich nutrients runoff that are carried by large rivers like the Amazon and the Congo to the ocean. Activities along these rivers, deforestation, agriculture, wood-treatment and such play a role. Other research questions are include: can we predict the landings, how can we mitigate the influxes and once stranded can we make use of sargassum?

The sargassum that land is a mixture of the two species, *S. fluitans* and *S. natans*. Of the latter another form is now found, which is called *S. natans VIII*. The differences between the three forms are the leaves, the small bladders that keep the alga afloat and the stem. And in the samples taken here on Bonaire another strange form is found with small protrusions on the bladders and the leaves. Images will be sent off. We hope our colleagues can tell us more about that.

Researchers Olson and Tonkin of the Sea Education Association, Woodshole, state that:

"Distribution of Sargassum varies with the overall current direction. This may mean that different Sargassum types originate in different areas of the sea, and then are distributed to new locations by the currents".

There are a number of collaborative efforts to look into the 'sargassum issue'. We are now looking at the relative proportion of the three forms that arrive and getting samples and sorting and weighing them. This information will be shared with the University of Mexico, where Brigit van Tussenbroek is doing the same. This way we can get more information on the source of the landings on Bonaire.

Next step will be looking into the chemical composition of the plants, so we know if we can use it or other purposes and how we need to dispose of it.

By Sabine Engel, marine biologist and member of the Mangrove Maniacs. Photos: Julie Morgan

Freedom | Comfort | Royal Treatment

Majestic

Comfortable banking

Comfortable banking

Orco Bank is your personal banker in Curaçao, Bonaire and St. Martin. Entrust all your banking needs to us and be sure to receive the most courteous and competent of services available. With ample experience operating in the international arena, we offer expert advice and the perfect platform to design a mortgage tailor-made to your needs.

At Orco Bank, it's all about your comfort: knowing that your finances are well taken care of, so you can enjoy a carefree lifestyle!

Orco Majestic: the ultimate feeling of freedom and comfort

Orco Majestic is our private banking service for select customers only. No other bank in Curaçao, Bonaire or St. Martin will offer you more personal attention or privileges. We provide a complete package of extraordinary banking products featuring attractive conditions and lots of extras. Your freedom, comfort and flexibility are our first priority.

Majestic Current Account | Majestic Savings Account | Majestic Mortgage | Majestic Car Loan

The Majestic Lifestyle: you deserve it!

Kaya Grandi #48, Bonaire
Tel: (599) 717-2000 Fax: (599) 717-2035
www.orcobank.com
email: John.soliano@orcobank.com

Your Personal Banker

Get the 'Earth Challenge 2020' app on your phone and help the planet.



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2020

Did You Know? That balloons kill 1000s of animals every year!

Whether they 'accidentally' blow away from a kid's birthday party or are intentionally released into the air at a celebration, balloons are mistaken for food by many animals that then die a painful and useless death caused by our carelessness and stupidity.

Balloons are popular, pretty and fun – a go-to party item. However, especially in windy Bonaire, they are a death-toll for marine animals like fish, turtles, seabirds and dolphins when they blow into the sea. Or, if filled with helium, they rise up into the atmosphere and burst, and the pieces fall back down where they may also be mistakenly eaten. They say balloons sometimes look like jellyfish and other brightly colored food items and are easily mistaken by some animals. Although it sounds ridiculous, an animal mistaking a balloon for a jellyfish, I saw someone almost pick up a Portuguese Man O' War (a very dangerous jellyfish-like animal) last month at The Windsurf Place thinking it was a balloon! Hm. Also, many animals don't bite or chew food, but rather swallow it whole. These are the ones most at risk.

Once eaten, the balloon pieces either get stuck in the animal's throat and it dies immediately or they get stuck in the animal's digestive track and the poor creature can no longer digest food. Then the dolphin or the fish or the pelican slowly starves to death. A study by researchers

from the University of Texas found that 5% of sea turtles that were found dead (pollution was the cause in most cases) died from swallowing balloons.

There are two types of balloons – latex (stretchy and made from rubber) and mylar (shiny and non-stretchy – usually filled with helium). Latex balloons will eventually biodegrade, but this takes months to years depending on the environmental conditions. Mylar balloons are not biodegradable. Both are dangerous to wildlife.

Another crazy fact is that sometimes animals don't even eat the balloons, but get entangled in the balloon strings and die. Imagine having wings or fins instead of hands and getting caught up in a long plastic string!

In a world where the population of humans is approaching eight billion, let's work together to save what wildlife remains. Once aware, it's not so difficult to make informed choices when planning an event.

Be creative - there are plenty of alternatives that are more environmentally friendly than balloons:

- 1) Bubbles – talk about FUN! Much more fun and whimsical than balloons!
- 2) Mini lanterns - reused glass jars with candles in them
- 3) Reusable decorations like banners, streamers, flags, paper balloons, pom-

- poms, pinwheels and paper chains
- 4) Christmas lights



And for those of you who REALLY love balloons and tell yourself that you'll be extra careful and tie the balloons really well, don't kid yourself. At least one or two will get away and then you might ask yourself – did I just sign the death warrant for some poor creature? Was it really worth it?

Special thanks to the Nature Foundation St Maarten for their commitment to the reduction of all plastic pollution, including balloons, and their informative and inspiring article on the impacts of balloons on the environment.

Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature

Fuel prices drop

The Bonairean island government announced a price decrease for petrol, kerosene and diesel as of April 3, 2020. The gasoline drops by 18 cents, kerosene by 21 cents and diesel fuel by 20 cents.

The price of LPG 100Lbs and 20Lbs remains the same compared to February 2020.

The next fuel price adjustment is in May 2020.

Prices for small consumption

Petrol	115.00 USDct per liter.
Kerosene	47.00 USDct per liter.
Diesel	70.00 USDct per liter.
LPG 100LBS	36.78 USD per cylinder.
LPG 20LBS	9.42 USD per cylinder.

Prices wholesale

Petrol	108.09 USDct per liter.
Kerosene	44.37 USDct per liter.
Diesel	65.98 USDct per liter.
LPG 100LBS	30.66 USD per cylinder.
LPG 20LBS	7.91 USD per cylinder.

At Your Service-pg 10.
this issue's featured advertiser

Denture Prosthetist
Full or Partial Dentures
Call for Appointment - Pain and Repairs Only
Dutch & English 796 3714
Papiamentu & Spanish. 700 1271
E.M. Rijswijk - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
landprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
landprothetische praktijk

alainmiki

Buena vista Optics

Perfect service and Quality. Our Passion!

<p>Experienced Staff Eye Exams on Site Insurance Accepted Advanced Equipment Lens Fabrication</p>	<p>Over 1000 different frames and sunglasses Ray Ban, Oakley, Maui Jim, and more</p>
--	--

Closed for now
Emergencies: email buenavistaoptics@gmail.com

DE FREEWIELER

Sales & Repair:

Road, Mountain & Dutch Bikes.
Giant, Specialized, Bikkell & Golden Lion Bikes
Parts and accessories for all brands of bikes
Beautiful bike clothes, shoes, helmets
House and car keys duplicated

Kaya Grandi #61 "The blue building"
Open 8:30-12:30, 14:00-17:00
Owner Operated Call 717-8545

Website: www.freewielerbonaire.com
Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com

For the Protection of Your Family or Business

Your Most Trusted Name in Security since 1983
717-8125
E-mail: info@sssbonaire.com
Website: www.sssbonaire.com

SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES

Kaya Nikiboko Noord 37, PO Box 225, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Sportswear. fashion. skate and sporting goods.
Keeping Kaya Grandi cool since 2015.... That's Dushi Style!

dushi style
kaya grandi 6
kralendijk bonaire
599.717.3911 retail@dive-friends-bonaire.com



Ms. Piggy and I.

eels allow divers to get so close to them.

Where are sharptail eels when they're not hunting? They rest in non-burrows. Yes, non-burrows: an individual finds a sandy bottom he or she likes and investigates the bottom with the tip of the "sharp" tail. When an acceptable spot is found, the sharptail eel wriggles down under the sand tail first. Sometimes they bury completely, including their heads; other times they rest with only their heads subtly protruding from the sand. When they swim out of the sand, the "burrow" collapses; thus, the name non-burrow.

Ms. Piggy was the first sharptail eel I met, back in the late '80's. Her burrow was a "gift" from human beings, a 3" diameter pipe which mostly rested on the bottom -- but which extended out over a shelf, about 2' up from the bottom. We all regret the existence of the pipe in the sea, but it gave me and my buddies an insight into snake eel behavior we would never have gotten otherwise: how Ms. Piggy returned to the pipe. Initially, when we'd arrive, Ms. Piggy's head would be just at the entrance of the pipe. Eventually, she not only came forward, but would come completely out of her pipe to greet us. When she chose to return to the pipe, Ms. Piggy swam backwards toward the pipe, leading with her tail. The trouble was, with the pipe sticking out over the bottom, her tail had no guide, and she was facing the wrong direction to see where she was going. She'd feel the pipe and snuggle backwards against it, only to discover she was next to the pipe, not inside it!

She solved this problem by swimming normally to the pipe, and then entering it headfirst -- but only a few inches. With her head in the pipe, she whipped her tail around and slid it into the pipe alongside her head, with her body in a loop outside the pipe. As her tail wriggled (backwards) into the pipe, her head popped out, and she ended up, as she had begun, inside the pipe looking out.

This is a great time for those of us on Bonaire to watch sharptail eels: they search for prey slowly enough and openly enough for us to see almost everything they do, and we're not affected at all by their primary defense.

Unless we try to taste them. *Dee Scarr*

the chance to watch how it swallows it and keeps the others away from it.

If the eel is a spotted moray, it's looking for fish. Morays have sharp teeth and strong jaws which they use for both hunting and defense.

If it's a sharptail eel, though, it's more likely to be looking for shrimp or crabs. Sharptail eels have short teeth, and their jaws are only strong enough to catch and crunch small crustaceans. They don't bite in defense.

In fact, sharptail eels do nothing active to defend themselves other than swimming away from a threat with surprising speed.

Snake eels don't need to actively defend themselves because of a passive defense they share with sharpnose puffers: a distasteful mucus covering their bodies. Their confidence in being distasteful is why sharptail



Two Bonairean organizations are collecting donations to help feed Bonaire's more vulnerable citizens.

Foundation Foodbank Bonaire (Stichting Voedselbankbonaire) has set up a collection table at the entrance of van den Tweel. The boxes are regularly picked up by volunteers to make room for new empty boxes.

The foundation asks: "Please keep donating, because it's much needed. Now, but certainly in the coming months."

You can also transfer a financial donation to Banco di Caribe 32799701 Attn. St. Food Bank Bonaire. Facebook: Voedselbankbonaire

Foundation Nutrition at School Bonaire (Stichting Voeding op School Bonaire)

The foundation writes: "Now that the schools and after-school shelter on Bonaire are closed, we can no longer be able to perform our program Breakfast at School. Every day of school, 788 children of needy families on Bonaire received a free bread meal at the school or shelter."

The foundation is now delivering to the homes of children a weekly bread package consisting of five to seven meals. The costs for home delivery are much higher, so donations are very welcome.

Bank details can be found on the foundation's donation page: <https://www.voedingopschool.org/doneren/>

If you want a heart-warming read, visit the facebook pages of both foundations to learn of the community support given both projects.



A Garden? Just Do It!

Hydroponics

All of the plants' nutritional needs must be met by the water they are in, so it's important to use a complete nutrient formula. Hydroponics systems come in many different types and many prices. It's up to you what you want to spend on it. Plants need a balance of different elements to survive and it only works if the water contains the full range of nutrients: nitrogen, copper, calcium, and zinc. Besides regular fertilizers there are also various specialty products made for hydroponics that contain everything your plants require. And your indoor plants will need artificial light.

There is no need to make this type of gardening expensive. You can make simple, deep water culture systems from almost any thing that can hold water. Adding an air stone and an aquarium pump puts oxygen in the water and boosts the plant growth in these systems. Plants you can grow in these systems are the smaller ones like lettuce, kale, spinach and mint. For larger plants you need the ebb and flow system, which costs more but works better for some types of plants like tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants.

Many commercial growers around the world are turning to hydroponics as an alternative to traditional farming.

Interesting to know that on Antarctica, scientists are testing hydroponics techniques that may be used on mis-



sions to Mars.

The term hydroponics, was coined in 1936, by a scientist in California who planted a tomato in a tub of water. The plant grew more than 25 feet high.

At EPCOT Center in Walt Disney World, they have hydroponic tomatoes that you can consume in their restaurants. Strawberries are a popular hydroponics crop in Australia and we know Canada grows herbs with this system.

To me this looks so easy and how great it would be to just step out the door onto your porch or patio and pick some fresh vegetables or herbs for the next dinner.

Since the whole world is doing this, we can do it here too, yes we can. Just do it.

Angliet, Nature Lover

Celebrating Easter and Passover

Holy Week and Passover mark the most sacred time on the Judeo-Christian calendar, but this year the doors of churches and synagogues are locked. There will be no religious gatherings, and no Seders or Easter egg hunts. Instead, people can attend virtual get-togethers or watch online services on their computers, cellphones or stream on their televisions.

Here are some local services you can attend online.

International Bible Church: Services will be live streamed on IBC's Facebook page starting at 9am on Sunday. (<https://www.facebook.com/IBCBoaire/>)

Members of local Catholic churches can log onto Holy Mass performed at the Cathedral of Willemstad in Curaçao via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/203380356679592/posts/1128811040803181/?%20sfnsn=mo>) :

Holy Thursday, April 9, 6pm
Good Friday, April 10, 3pm
Holy Saturday, April 11, 6pm
Easter Sunday, April 12, 9am

Bonaire Christian Fellowship - online Easter service in Papiamentu on Facebook page and YouTube. Service begins at 10am.

Restaurants: Who's open-who's not

Restaurant	Open for guests	Hours	Take-away	Where to find menu & contact info
Peanuts Fresh Market Cafe	Yes	10am-4pm	Yes	Peanutsbonaire.com/order-online
Karel's Beach Bar	Yes	8am-10 pm	Yes	Website / facebook
Avocados by Boudoir	Yes	8am-5pm, Wed. til 3pm.	Yes	during the regular opening hours, www.bonaireboudoir.com
Burger Bar	Yes	5pm-10pm Wed.closed	Yes	www.bonaireboudoir.com
KFC Bonaire	No	Sun-Thurs. 11am-11pm Fri & Sat til midnight	Yes	Menu on KFC Bonaire FB page; and for \$1 Deliveries, www.dinnerinabox-bonaire.com
Kite City	Yes	11am-4pm	Yes 12-2pm	https://www.facebook.com/kitecity-bonaire/?ref=bookmarks and phone 701 2782
Exito in Playa	Yes	7am-2:30 pm	Yes	Call 599 717 8822. We have a daily changing menu
Krispy Chicks & Burgers	Yes	11am-8pm	Yes	Beef, chicken, vegetarian, hamburgers, salads. Call 785-2100
Between 2 Buns	No	7am-5pm-Sat 8-4; Sun. closed	Yes & delivery	Menu is on FB page. Call 717 1723
Posada Paramira	Yes	11:30am -4pm	Yes	FB page Posada Paramira
Osaka Japanese Fusion Restaurant	Yes	Tues.-Thurs. 6-10pm	Yes 6-9pm	www.osakabonaire.com
Rum Runners	No	5-9pm for take out	Yes	pizza on website, weekly changing take out menu on FB
CarreFour in Hato	No	10:30am – 11:30pm	Yes	782-6188
CHEFS	No		No	
Cuba Compagnie	Yes	7 days 5-10pm	Yes	Sit down, takeaway and free delivery Call +599-717-1822
Brass Boer	No			
Bobbejans	No			
Gios	Yes	everyday 8am - 10pm		
Luciano	Yes	everyday 7:30am - 10pm		
It Rains Fishes	Yes	Mon - Fri, Lunch 11-3 Dinner5-9	Yes	Sit down, take away and free delivery

Hotels	Open	Provides
Grand Windsock Bonaire	Yes Mon - Sun 8 - 5	two and three bedroom villa's with private pool. Restaurant "The Beach" is open daily from 9:00 - 21:00.
Coco Palm Garden & Casa Oleander	No	appt. by email or WhatsApp. We still have Long time customers in 5 units
Delfins Beach Resort	Yes Office is open everyday 8 - 8.	Accommodation. We don't sell day passes for the pool and beach now, it's only possible to make a reservation for a room.
Aqua Viva Suites	Yes 9 - 4	Answering to emails of cancelations and new reservations, preparing for better times
Sand Dollar Bonaire	No	Nothing
Plaza Beach & Dive Resort Bonaire	No	Resort accommodations
Carib Inn	No	Taking reservations. Call for repair or to buy dive gear by appointment 717-8819
Central Hotel Bonaire	Yes Call+599 786 1200	Rooms at a special price
Starshipvillas	Yes	Villas for rent. Two villas are occupied.
Harbour Village Beach Club	No	Horeca - All services closed at this moment until further notice
All Seasons Apartments bv	Yes 7-11 & 16--19	Rooms, bar, breakfast
Captain Don's Habitat -	No	Closed. For advance reservations Call cell 599-701 4709 or (mainline 599701 4709 & 0 to get cell 599-701 4709)
Buddy Dive Resort	No	Taking advance reservations: reservations@buddydive.com

Business not quite as usual



eZone Bonaire is fully operational and ready to serve their customers in the manner they are accustomed. The Miami office is open to receive packages, with a slight change in shipments temporarily due to airplane cargo shipments.

Cargo from Miami now arrives on Curaçao every Monday and is then shipped to Bonaire, twice a week, in accordance with customs procedures.

Customers will receive a message directly from us to pick up the package. eZone services remain the same but in compliance with government precautionary measures.

Office hours remain the same for your pickups. Home and office deliveries are now available by a simple request. Open Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm and Saturday 10am – 2pm. Contact: Bonaire@getezone.com 599-717-6161.



Because Elisabetta uses Zoom for her online classes, she can hear and see her students, allowing her to give individual feedback. At the moment, classes are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 8am Bonaire (AST) and 2pm Europe. To join in from Bonaire or anywhere in the world contact Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de

Advertisers' Hours: some changed-some not

Bonaire Coastal Living - Shop online or by appointment 700-9082 or 782-3144

Buena Vista Optics Closed. Emergencies: email buonavistaoptics@gmail.com

Carib Inn – Usually open from 8-12 or call for repairs or shop open by appointment 717-8819

Cadushy - closed

De Freewieler - open regular hours Mon - Fri 8:30-12:30/ 2-5 & Sat 8:30-12 or call 717-8545

Denture Prosthetist – Repair or Pain assistance by appointment only. add phone number For dutch and english 796 3714 Papiamentu and Spanish. 700 1271

Digicel - Regular hours - Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm Sat 9am -1pm

Dive Friends dive shops

• Sand Dollar and Yellow Submarine open from 8 – 5 / 599-780-2572

• Dive Friends Roundabout store – open with apt 599-787-3860

• Dushi Shoes, Dushi Style – closed except by appointment 599-787-3860

• Reef – 9 to 12 and 2-4; 599-787-3860

Yoga Sensibile – online class via Zoom. (see above)

Ezone – hours the same (see above)

RE/MAX – The office is closed and open only by appt. All agents are available via email.

Rocargo - Call 717-8922 or email for pickup and delivery warehouse@rocargo.com; invoices or payments email frontdesk@rocargo.com

Rum Runners - open for take out and delivery. We have pizzas and weekly changing limited menu Hours are 5pm till 9pm

Sunbelt - Our office is 'manned' between 08:30 – 17:30 to answer phone calls and e-mails.

At Your Service

The following businesses have been recommended by Bonaire residents.
Introductory rate - call or email for availability - 796-4055 - BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

Drive a few minutes - Save a lot!
Best prices on gear!!

CARIB INN

Open 8am-12
for sales. Call for
dive equipment
repairs.



www.caribinn.com
717-8819
JA Abraham Blvd
46.




Online with Zoom
8am Bonaire (AST) • 2pm Europe
sign up: Elisabetta +599 7807362
betta@web.de



BEST CELLARS
WINE & SPIRITS

Wines & Bubbles Liquors & Tobacco
Kaya Industrial, Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm



MULTISHOP
Local Arts and Crafts - Souvenirs

Handmade One of a Kind Items
Unique and Locally Made
paintings, drawings, photography, jewelry,
cards, clothing and so much more...

Closed for now

\$45  **lowest prices on Bonaire**

unlimited fitness

FLAMINGO FITNESS
Closed for now

Latest Movies Shown Daily

EMPIRE
C I N E M A
(behind the MCB bank in Hato)

Closed for now

island time
vacation rentals bonaire

indulgent ocean view vacation rentals

+599 700 1660
info@islandtimebonaire.com
www.islandtimebonaire.com

 www.facebook.com/islandtimerentals

Speak Papiamentu With Me
(Papia Papiamentu Ku Mi)

Classes with author **Xiomara Frans**

papiapapiamentukumi@hotmail.com
00599-782-2166

Bobbejan's



BBQ

Closed for now

NEED SEWING?
full service company for your marine & residential needs

CUSTOM MADE
cushions and covers
roofs and shades
kite and sail repair
repairs and alterations
and much more...

 **phish phactory BONAIRE**

780 9124 / 782 5755
located at kaya Rotterdam 22
  www.phishphactory.com

ezone

Easy, Affordable, Fast
Shop on-line & we will ship to you

https://www.getezone.com

Penny Lane Exchange
The Fashion Revolution

Kaya Grandi #23-G First Floor
Shopping Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10:30 to 5:30
Saturday 11:00 to 3:00

Affordable name brands
Upmarket consignment

Denture Prosthetist
Full or Partial Dentures

Call for Appointment - Pain and Repairs Only
Dutch & English 796 3714
Papiamentu & Spanish. 700 1271

E.M. Rijswijk - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE



EVERYTHING FOR YOUR HOME

www.BonaireCoastalLiving.com

Shop Online or By Appointment
call 700-9082 or 782-3144
bonairecoastalliving@gmail.com

South Beach Plaza
Kaya Industrië #17  

OUTDOOR BONAIRE
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPELLING
ABSEILLEN • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING

+ (599) 785-6272
hansoutdoor@hotmail.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com

THE STOREHOUSE MANGASINA
STORING EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN

Call 700-1753
www.bonaireselfstorage.com
info@bonaireselfstorage.com

HISTORIC
Stop catching our Donkeys



Bonaire

Donkey Protection League
BDPLF@hotmail.com/785-2205

Your business here.

Only \$22 an issue for 3 months.

Like us on 

Frequent Daily Flights
Between Bonaire, Curaçao & Aruba

Divi Divi Air

Reservations
24 hours a day
Call (+5999 839-1515)
Or (+5999 563-1913)
Now Non-stop to AUA



DIVI DIVI AIR




CLEAN COAST BONAIRE



Echo
PARROTS AND PEOPLE

Shelter News

Due to the current measures in place on the island, Animal Shelter Bonaire is temporarily changing their open hours. Until further notice, the Shelter

is open from 9am to 3pm by appointment only. Please contact us at 701-4989, Whatsapp or via FB Messenger to make an appointment.

Pet of the Week: Parker



Hey there, all you cool cats and kittens! My name is Parker Exotic. I am a 10-month-old ginger and white male cat (but I look like a tiger) and I live here at the Animal Shelter. Are you looking for a quarantine buddy or somebody to just hang out with? Then I might be your cat. I enjoy playing with other cats but what I really enjoy is my one on one time with you. Here at the shelter, we have a hanging bed that I love to climb and play in. My talents include litter box maintenance,

mosquito control, acrobatic performances and food tasting. You can visit me by appointment only, just have your people call my people. You can find me hanging out in the hanging cat bed, like the cool cat I am. Take me home and let me be the king of your kas (home)! Your people can call my people at 701-4989 or email them at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com to schedule an interview. *Photos: Amy Weir; Story: Travis Sullins*



Jane Madden-Disko

Sanne Attevelt

Travis Sullins

Amy Weir

Caring for your pets during Covid-19 crisis (part 2)

As reported in the last issue of Shelter News...you cannot get coronavirus from your pets!!!!

Please do not be misled by "fake news" or other social media posts claiming the opposite. As reported by the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control, there is no evidence that pets or domestic animals can get the virus, therefore, they are not carriers or transmitters of the disease. The contagion only occurs from human to human.

Please do not dump your pets! Pets can be of great comfort during this stressful time...you don't have to social distance from them...only from other people! Specialists in Costa Rica provided a series of recommendations to pet owners during the time of the crisis caused by Covid-19 in that country. (Source: A.M. Costa Rica news). Modified to suit our island, the main recommendations are:

- Avoid exercising your animal in places where there may be crowds of people, like parks, streets, or recreational centers.
- If you go out with your pet, keep the distance of two meters recommended by the Bonaire government with respect to other people.
- Dogs should always go for a walk on a leash so that you can have control.
- Do not approach groups of people with other animals.
- During this emergency period, avoid other people, besides your family, from touching your pet.
- Wash and disinfect your pet's collars, leashes and other accessories to keep

those items clean of the virus.

- It is recommended that people who are positive for Covid-19 avoid contact with their pets.

- In the case of a pet already living in a sick person's house, both should comply with the quarantine period; therefore, the pet will not be able to leave the home environment.

- In case a person becomes sick, it is wise to have an emergency plan, either a place or another person to take care of their pets.

- The pet should always wear a collar with contact information in case of loss.

- Always wash your hands before and after touching your pet.

- If you cannot take care of your pet due to financial reasons, find a person who can adopt it or make an appointment with Animal Shelter Bonaire to discuss your options. Never dump or abandon your pet on the street.

Another important issue to be considered. In the event of a closure of a company or workplace where there is also a pet, owners or managers should ensure the care of these animals or relocate them to a place where they can be cared for. The minimum attention for a pet is 24-hour access to water and access to daily sufficient and adequate food. In addition, the owner or person responsible for a pet should ensure the medical care that the animal may require.

Stay safe, stay well...STAY HOME!
And give your pet all the extra attention you now have time to give! *Jane Madden-Disko*



Making Bonaire "Accessible" Our wheelchair challenges

The elderly, handicapped and social distance.

Bonaire's streets are very quiet these days. One hardly sees cars driving around or people walking and shopping. The Coronavirus has us all in her grip. Keeping social distance is the newest hot item and we are all very scared.

No more gatherings, no more sports to attend and watch and no more club-activities. There are no more schoolchildren in the streets. They are at home, together with their parents and elders. The people who can work from home are requested to do so. The day-care centers are closed down. Only offspring of those who have to work can come to daycare. When you are a police officer, a nurse, a fireman, etc., you have to do your job and keep us safe. So it has been organized that their children are taken care of.

You can no longer visit one of the day-care centers for the elderly; you have to stay at home. When you live in the care facilities for the elderly, you are to stay inside and have no visitors. And this is also the case for persons

with mental disabilities: no daycare, no workshops, you stay where you live.

And this creates an enormous social isolation because this group of citizens needs a lot of special attention. They thrive on the visits, outings and the people that care for them. They cannot handle or do these things on their own. They need to see and feel love and attention. Their life has been disrupted. They can hardly understand why their family is not coming to see them and why they cannot go home for visits. This is especially true for those with severe mental retardation and those who suffer from hearing and seeing disabilities. They cannot express their feelings and fear and this might affect their behavior. Also for the parents of those people the isolation is hard. Contact with the families is so very important and this contact is not possible right now.

Now, there is one big thing we have to be very thankful for: we do not have one case of Corona-virus on the island. So contamination is not a threat.

At the latest press conference diputado Nina den Heyer told us that there are special social teams being formed. The social teams have a special task. They go and visit all of the persons as mentioned above and see to it that they get all they need: medical attention, care-packages and a person to talk to. Let us hope that these special social teams do their jobs well and that no one needs to be afraid.

When you watch Dutch TV or check on Facebook, you can see all kinds of heart-warming activities that take place. People want to help, they want to encourage those at home and show their love and attention. They come and play music in front of the houses so those inside can see and enjoy. People are asked to donate tablets and iPads to the elderly, so they can communicate through Facetime or other calling programs. In home TV systems at most homes for the elderly get films, electronic wishing cards to see and they can even enjoy mass or other church services.

Now I guess that this should also be possible on Bonaire. Let us all use our imagination, get together and offer special help and attention. Bonaire is for all of us, so let's show that.

Show love and flatten the curve. *Ria Evers-Dokter*

Belnem, Lima 4-F-72

Highlights:

- sought after residential area
- no building obligation
- close to public beaches
- build you own dream house
- freehold land (registered 4-F-72)
- total ground area: 11,441/ 970 sq.ft /m2

Asking price
US\$ 129,000 Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Sunbelt  Realty

717 6560 info@sunbeltbonaire.com
www.sunbeltbonaire.com



ROCARGO
LOGISTICS SERVICES B.V.

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

April 7th, 2020

Statement Island Governor Edison Rijna

Dear residents of Bonaire,

Today, I again have the opportunity of addressing you with some important information. The most important is that 26 tests were taken so far of which nobody was tested positive for coronavirus. The precautionary measures that we implemented, together with the exemplary behaviour of a large majority of our society, contributed that today we are still at 0 cases.

We are now arriving in the phase of searching actively for coronavirus in order to check if it is truly not present on our island yet. This means that since last week, on the recommendation of the RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment), a start has been made to test more people. That is why, this is also an urgent appeal to people who manifest symptoms that correspond with those of coronavirus to contact their general practitioner by telephone, who shall then evaluate whether it is necessary to have these people tested.

In the first phase we closed down the borders, strengthened the medical sector and took various other preventive measures, including the closing of schools and restricting social contact. In this new phase we want to ensure that, if the virus is hidden on our island, it is discovered as soon as possible and isolated immediately in order to prevent it from spreading further.

This implies that we cannot proceed with the reduction of the implemented precautionary measures just yet. According to the medical sector it shall take 2 to 3 weeks to test the group that falls under the category of people who may be infected with the virus. It regards

people with moderate or severe symptoms who were in direct or indirect contact with tourists who have recently visited our island and people who work in the care sector.

If there is still no case of coronavirus on Bonaire after this period then we can reduce the implemented precautionary measures. However, if one or more positive cases are detected then the intention is to proceed with a so-called lockdown, adjusted to our local circumstances.

That is why it is important that everyone keeps complying with the announced measures, keeps respecting social distancing and keeps applying the hygiene rules. I know that these measures mean that we are all making large sacrifices and that we are restricted in our day-to-day activities. However, the main objective of all of this is to preserve the safety of all residents of our island.

Another process that has also taken off, is the repatriation of our residents abroad.

Approximately 250 residents of Bonaire are abroad who shall be taken back. On April 14th the first group of residents shall be taken back. Everyone from abroad shall spend a mandatory 14-day quarantine at home. All people shall have a so-called 'buddy' who makes sure that these people have everything they need at home so that they do not need to leave their home. Hence, if food or anything else is required then the 'buddy' shall provide for this. Moreover, the people in quarantine shall be checked very rigidly and there are drastic consequences for those who do not comply with these rules. The first group to return are residents with a vital position who return to offer support in this period of crisis.

Hereafter, a group of at most 50 people shall every time be taken back, the latter on the recommendation of the RIVM, and this group



shall always spend two weeks in mandatory quarantine.

Both the Central Government and the Public Entity, through the Commissioner of Economic Affairs and the Commissioner of Social Affairs, announced measures for financial assistance to both businesses and people who are experiencing the negative effects of the coronavirus crisis. In the times to come the information about these measures shall increase so that the community as a whole shall be well informed of what has been organised and where to go to receive assistance.

In all my speeches I emphasised the considerable efforts that were made in the medical sector to strengthen it to prepare for the first person who tests positive for COVID-19. Medical experts arrived from the Netherlands and Colombia to assist at the Mariadal Foundation and to transport patients by 'ambulance flight', if so required.

Solidarity in this time of crisis is essential. Our sister islands assist us, where required, and we assist them, where possible. For instance, this weekend a patient from Saba was hospitalised for treatment that is unavailable on Saba. It is good to mention that on Saba, as with us, nobody has been tested positive for the virus yet. Today, two patients also arrived from Saba in order to be cared for at the

hospital.

Additionally, over the weekend we sent one of the air ambulances to St. Maarten to assist in the emergency transport of patients there. Instead a 'Learjet' from Colombia came to Bonaire that can transport 2 patients, instead of 1, at the same time. The crew of this airplane had already been in quarantine here for two weeks and can now start working.

We understood from the media that military assistance and assistance for the medical sector has arrived on St. Maarten from the Netherlands and that we shall also receive more assistance in this time of crisis on Bonaire from the Netherlands. This is certainly necessary and also encouraged.

The predictions of the international experts indicate that the coronavirus pandemic shall continue for quite a while and that it can also take a while before there shall be a vaccine or a medicine against COVID-19.

For the time being the only cure for the virus is you; your behaviour to protect yourself, your loved ones, your island and your planet. Together against corona.

Business not quite as usual

SELIBON changes in service:

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES COVID-19

Waste collection service

The waste collection service for household waste and industrial waste will continue normally. This applies to all types of waste (glass, plastic, aluminum/metal, cardboard, paper and residual waste).

Cleaning of Public areas

We will continue to clean the various public areas in the city center as usual.

Collection of bulky waste

Collection of bulky waste and electronic devices will be limited. This means that we will only collect a limited amount of bulky waste per day.

Cleaning of bins

Cleaning of bins will only be done by companies that have a wash agreement.

Waste delivery stations

Our waste disposal stations at **Kaya Industria**, **Lagun** and **Morotin** will remain open to the public.

Information desk

Our information desk will only be open for payments or for requesting a debris container.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call us at 717-8159 or send us an e-mail at balie@selibon.com.

We request you to limit personal contact with us as much as possible and to contact us by e-mail or telephone.

Take these adjustments into account. Protect yourself and prevent the corona virus.

Buena vista Optics

Dear Customers

Because of the threat of the corona virus we have unfortunately made the decision as of march 19th to temporary close the store.

We have made this decision because of the close contact we gave with our clients. We can't guarantee your or our safety of health.

For questions or emergencies you can send on email to buenvistaoptics@gmail.com please also include your phone number so we can contact you as soon as possible.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience and ask for your understanding for this difficult decision.

Managing board and staff Buena Vista Optics

Updates, continued on page 14

Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland
PRESS RELEASE
April 9

flight is evaluated before the next batch of returnees follows.

Central accommodation for residents in case of repatriation

The taskforce and the EBT are doing everything in their power to ensure that the return of residents takes place in a safe and responsible manner. The unrest that exists about this repatriation has been heard, but the request is to leave the work to the expertise of the right people. Supervision and enforcement take place under the authority of the security chain. The physicians and the Public Health department have been working on the necessary preparations for a long time. At administrative level, advice from various experts is considered and included in the decision-making.

Coronavirus is acting unpredictably, which is why it is important to be able to switch flexibly during the preparations. The medical knowledge about coronavirus develops every day. There is close contact with the RIVM and with other medical specialists. The RIVM has confirmed that the virus is already transmissible one to two days before there are any symptoms. It is then already present in the nose and throat without causing symptoms. This new insight, and potential subsequent insights, will be applied in the decision-making process regarding repatriation.

In recent weeks, the local authorities of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom have submitted various requests for assistance in the prevention of the coronavirus to Defence. At the moment Defence is already supporting among other the maritime border control and the enforcement of the public order with local units. With the vicinity of His Majesty (Zr. Ms.) Karel Doorman, Defence ensures that additional support is quickly available on location, if so requested.

His Majesty (Zr. Ms.) Karel Doorman is, apart from its own capacities as a transport and supply vessel, strengthened with 2 Cougar helicopters of the Airforce for medical transport and medical evacuations, a medical team with surgical capacity, a medical team for basic care ashore and drones of the Army and Navy for image composition. Moreover, navy units with vehicles and landing crafts are included for transport. If so required, an additional navy unit can be flown in. The vessel also brings along a hurricane emergency package.

France and the United Kingdom also have a navy vessel in the area. A coordination cell was set up with these countries on Martinique to cooperate, where required. For instance, the Karel Doorman can provide these vessels with fuel.

First repatriation on April 14th for people in vital professions.

The outbreak of coronavirus has resulted in a considerable number of residents stranded abroad. After having taken stock of the residents who want to return to Bonaire, a lot of hard work has been done on a repatriation road map. The residents must be able to return in a responsible and safe manner. That is why the EBT set up a taskforce to elaborate the preparations.

The decision so far is that the first repatriation will be carried out on April 14th for a group of people in vital professions. They are only repatriated if they dispose of a health certificate. They will then be placed in mandatory quarantine at a central location. The returnees are provided clarity about the conditions, the degree of security, enforcement and sanctions. Prior to the repatriation the conditions must be confirmed by signature. A so-called "buddy" system is used to support the returnees in the best way possible. These buddies comply with a strict protocol regarding social distancing and hygiene. The first repatriation

Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland
PRESS RELEASE
April 9th, 2020

Navy ship Zr.Ms. Karel Doorman comes to the aid of the Caribbean

Next Monday navy vessel His Majesty (Zr. Ms.) Karel Doorman leaves for the Caribbean from Den Helder. Defence is deploying the vessel to support the civil authorities instantly in the coronavirus crisis, if the situation requires this. The vessel is initially deployed for a period of three months.

With the presence of the logistic support vessel the islands can, apart from the already available station vessel His Majesty Zeeland, rely on a versatile capacity that can be deployed fast. His Majesty (Zr. Ms.) Karel Doorman can offer transport support to guarantee, for instance, the food certainty. In addition, the navy vessel can support the Coast Guard in the maritime border control and it can serve as an operational base during the support of the public order by quickly putting staff and equipment ashore. Finally, the vessel also disposes of medical facilities to support the local healthcare in non-COVID-19 related emergency care.



WEB asks its customers to take care of their business with WEB from home as much as possible and to use online banking to pay their bills.

WEB's office in Rincon is closed until further notice. If customers need direct contact at WEB's headquarters in Playa, they are asked to keep at least 1.5 meters distance from others, and come only if they have no symptoms such as fever, coughing or sneezing.

Payments by online banking can be

done 24/7 securely from home. Customers can only pay one invoice at a time. A combined payment of water and electricity is not possible. WEB asks those who use online banking from the MCB to take into account changes on the payment page for WEB N.V. It is important to replace or remove existing templates.

More information and instructions can be found on our site www.webbonaire.com and on WEB Facebook page ([Facebook.com/webbonaire](https://www.facebook.com/webbonaire)).

For questions, please contact WEB's customer service via info@webbonaire.com or 00-599-715-8244.

PRESS RELEASE
April 10th, 2020

30 respirators, medicines and protective equipment for coronavirus patients to Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao

This morning a KLM flight left for Curacao with a large shipment of medical equipment, medicines and protective equipment for the three Leeward Islands of the Kingdom: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. With all goods a total of 30 additional IC respiratory beds can be realised for COVID-19 patients. It regards 12 beds on Aruba, 12 beds on Curacao and 6 beds on Bonaire.

The additional IC beds are meant for patients of all islands of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. If so required, and epidemiologically responsible, then patients can be transported between the islands with the deployment of additional air ambulances. The Netherlands supports the healthcare in the three Caribbean countries within the Kingdom (Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten) and on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) to increase the medical capacity for COVID-19 care as soon as possible.

Tangible result for residents of all islands State Secretary Paul Blokhuis (VWS): "We worked hard on both sides of the ocean to have these goods on the plane today. The local hospitals cannot only technically prepare 30 additional IC respiratory beds with this, but also provide the care that is required with medicines and protective equipment. My fellow government members in the Caribbean, my colleague Raymond Knops of Kingdom Relations and I are cooperating more intensively than we have ever done before. Today we can see a very tangible result that assists the residents of all islands very specifically. It goes without saying that we shall continue working hard together on everything that still is and may be required."

Additional medical staff
The reinforcement of the medical capacity also requires additional medical staff. Arrangements for this are, also for Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, agreed on with an international company that deploys medical staff. The first team of physicians and nurses that is deployed this way started on St. Maarten this week. Sunday a medical transport arrived on St. Maarten from the Netherlands with medicines, protective equipment and equipment for 12 additional respiratory beds. These beds have meanwhile been set up.

The additional IC beds for Aruba and Bonaire shall be transported Saturday.



Updates, continued on page 15



The coronavirus is **unpredictable**.
Therefore decisions can be adjusted.



The RIVM confirms; **the virus is already contagious 1 to 2 days before any symptoms appear.**



Therefore **central accommodation** for the repatriation of residents.



The location will be **secured**.
By violation penalties will follow.



The assigned buddy's will provide in all basic needs
en will stick to **strict social distancing protocols and hygiene.**

An expert for every task

together against corona