

WEB invoices reduced • Radiothon success
COVID news • May 4 & 5 75th Anniversary WWII
Online edition publishes COVID updates.



Photos: Julie Morgan

Big money coming for reef conservation and restoration

The Cabinet is allocating 7.2 million euros in an attempt to halt the deterioration and encourage restoration of the coral reefs of the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba). The money will help fund the Nature and Environment Policy Plan which was drawn up in collaboration with the islands. The plan will be in effect for the next ten years.

One goal of the plan is the professionalization of farming in the islands. The islands have over 40,000 freely grazing goats (and other grazers like donkeys). Because they are free ranging, destroy vegetation, and disturb the soil, these animals create extensive erosion. They also scatter their droppings widely. Both the loose soil and the manure contaminate the runoff into the sea. The dirt smothers the coral. The manure carries nutrients like phosphate and nitrate into the water, promoting the growth of algae that subsequently overgrows the corals. If reared in confinement in accordance with good animal husbandry practices, these animals

would cause less soil erosion and their droppings could be better managed.

Extensive propagation of coral is also part of the plan. Recent research has shown that Elkhorn and Staghorn coral, two important habitats for different species of fish, can be successfully planted and grown.

The Nature and Environment Policy Plan covers the protection of natural areas and species, and the sustainable use of land and water. Sustainable fisheries and agriculture can contribute to the improvement of environmental protection and the economic prosperity in the Caribbean Netherlands. Another plan will therefore be prepared this year for organizing local fisheries in such a way that fish stocks will be stable by 2030.

Efforts are being made to develop more sustainable forms of agriculture for the island. For instance, the creation of a hydroponics farm is being considered for Saba. Less water would be required for producing food.

In 2017 Wageningen University & Research (WUR) published the report titled 'Staat van de natuur van Caribisch Nederland' (State of Nature of the Caribbean Netherlands). The latest report of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also discussed the biodiversity objectives in the Caribbean. The conclusions of both reports were clear: additional actions are required. This action is specified in the Nature and Environment Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2020-2030. It will not only benefit nature. Nature tourism and fisheries annually yield the islands approximately 150 million euros, which accounts for a substantial part of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The seven plus million euro allocation was announced by Minister Schouten of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, along with Minister Van Veldhoven for the Environment and Housing and State Secretary Knops for the Interior and Kingdom Relations. *D.M.R.*



Malin Kaisjer dives off Klein Bonaire

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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: May 20, 2020
News Deadline: May 18, 2020
Contributor's Deadline: May 15, 2020

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Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline,
 Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
Founders:
 George and Laura DeSalvo
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Utilities invoices reduced until year-end

For eight months, from May 1 to December 31, 2020, the government will pay a portion of everyone's utility bills.

The charge for all subscribers to fixed Internet connections will be reduced by USD 25.00 per month.

The fixed usage rate for Web customers will be paid in full by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management (I&W). Pagabon customers will also receive a discount.

The discount for a household with a small electricity and drinking water connection will be USD 33.26 per month. The discount for a Pagabon connection with a usage of 250 kWh per month and a small drinking water connection will be USD 34.73 per month. Those with larger connections (usually companies) pay larger fixed usage rates, so their discounts will be larger.

This temporary subsidy will cover only the fixed usage rate. All customers will

still be charged for the power and water they actually use (the variable usage rate). The rate for drinking water via the water truck is also unaffected because the transportation cost (USD 0.745 per m3) is separate from the fixed usage rate.

Households that, despite these measures, are not able to pay their water and electricity bills can contact the OLB via email yudami@bonairegov.com, and may be eligible for additional help. *D.M.R.*

Bonaire continues to respond to the pandemic

Schools will be informed on how children and teachers can best protect themselves and others. They will be encouraged to comply with the set rules creatively.

► Bonaire's flight ban has been extended to May 15. Dutch and American nationals stranded on Bonaire can connect via Divi to repatriation flights departing from Curaçao. Spirit Airlines will operate a humanitarian flight on May 10 for U.S. citizens. For information regarding KLM flights, email natasja@bontravel.com. The "wing-to-wing" procedure will be used for plane changes in Curaçao.

► Family members, neighbors, and social agencies have been reminded to be alert to children who are in potentially abusive situations because of domestic pressures caused by the shut down. Eighty children have been identified as at risk on the island. An emergency child-care shelter has been established for children whose home situation is insecure. It cares for 217 children aged 2 to 17 years

► The European Parliament has adopted a resolution to provide financial aid to member OCTs (Overseas Countries and Territories) for alleviating the consequences of the corona crisis. The BES islands have requested assistance.

► The HNLMS Karel Doorman, a

joint support ship, has arrived at St. Maarten. It will be available for three months and could respond to a wide range of emergency needs in the islands during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other facilities, it has 20 medical treatment areas and two surgeries. It is the largest vessel in the Royal Netherlands Navy.

► Families in need can apply for a food package at yudami@bonairegov.com or 0800-1351 (free).

► Active businesses in the BES Islands may be eligible for one-time grants of \$4,400 from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) to cover losses resulting from fixed costs. Entrepreneurs can get information and application forms at tegemoetkomingEZK@rijksdienstcn.com.

► The first batch of the island residents repatriated from the Netherlands has been discharged from their two-week quarantine at the Buddy Dive hotel. The judge who earlier ruled that the OLB was justified in bringing people home 40 at a time, every three weeks, has now recommended that groups of 80 would be appropriate instead. The plaintiffs who filed the second action still object to the spacing of the flights. They do not agree that a full week is needed to disinfect and prepare the quarantine quarters. *D.M.R.*



► Bonaire's COVID-19 score through April 28: only two people had tested positive; both recovered; 96 people were in quarantine. The island had tested 228 people, 190 at the Drive-Thru and 38 by general practitioners.

► Rincon Day was celebrated on Facebook this year. Some people from Playa wanted to attend in person, but the police turned them back on the highway.

► The government has announced that most pandemic measures will be relaxed as of May 6. However, the two primary restrictions—social distancing and the group limitation to 50 people—will remain in force and will be enforced. The current emergency measures will remain valid until Tuesday May 5 at 11:59pm.

► Schools, after-school care, and crèches, will not open until 11 May.

STINAPA reports

From STINAPA's April 2020 newsletter:

• Rangers have caught more people spearfishing in April than usual. Marine Park Rangers will be patrolling on land and on sea to catch these illegal activities.

• With the help of many volunteers, STINAPA has, to date, dedicated 500 hours cleaning up sargassum. Around mid-April the Sargassum started to slow down, but unfortunately this past Saturday it came back in the northern beaches and Lagun.

STINAPA writes: "We are monitoring

the situation daily and will continue to fight.

If you would like to help us out please send us a WhatsApp at +599 7778444.

So many volunteers came out to help us, if you were one of them thank you, we wouldn't have been able to do this without you!"

• Marine Biologist Caren Eckrich and volunteer Mack are checking the HOB0 light and temperature sensors that measure the water quality in the Bonaire National Marine Park. Every week, the data is offloaded from the sensors placed around the island. So far, there are four measuring stations; two at Klein Bonaire, and one each at Harbour Village Marine, and Plaza Marina.



Radiothon raises \$15,500



Radiothon volunteers hold signs and receive donations from passing traffic. L-R: Rosalie Bierings, Rotary; Marilijne Kats, Kiwanis; Orphaline Saleh, Rotary and Anniek Schouten, Rotary. Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Kralendijk organized a Radiothon fundraiser on April 27, Kings Day and Dia di Antriol. MegaHIT FM and Breezy radio stations donated airtime and were the sites of the celebration/fundraiser for Voedselbank Bonaire (food bank) and Voeding op school (breakfast for school kids).

The donations rolled in as people rolled up in their cars to hand over cash and groceries to the volunteers at the radio stations. Outside at MegaHIT FM, club

representatives, including Rotary president Jeaniro Balentien, worked the street for donations.

The Radiothon officially began with some inspiring words by Bonaire Lt. Governor Edison Rijna broadcast over the airwaves at both MegaHIT FM and Breezy. Other notable call-ins were from Kiwanis president Mr. Ricard Nicholson, Lions president Edi Carolina and Kiwanis LG Marlon der Meer.

MegaHIT FM DJ Arjen "the Wolff" took radio song requests in exchange for

online donations for the food drive. By his side was Patricia Gerritzen, immediate past president of the Kralendijk Kiwanis Club. She represented all three clubs in the studio. Over at Breezy, DJ Ash, Ramsley Krips and Semii Marten manned the airwaves.

Inside MegaHIT FM, Balentien spoke to listeners about the Rotary. Lions' president Edelmira Carolina made appearances at both radio stations and spoke on air about the Lions Club. Kiwanis' secretary Mimi Dongen also spoke about club activities. She then donated a game to be auctioned, compliments of Anke's Scissors.

Deputy Nina den Heyer dropped by the two studios and spoke over the air about how important this event was for the people of Bonaire.

Rotary past president Orphaline Saleh visited MegaHIT FM while Kiwanis LG Marion der Meer made an appearance at

Breezy. Flamingo Toastmasters called in a beautiful story in Spanish to MegaFM and also spoke on Breezy.

The younger set also donated. Three young girls, Alisha, Lily and Emelie dropped by to request songs and donate to the drive. Kids from Liseo Bonairiano VI called in to say they had chosen Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk as a fundraiser project.

In total the celebration/fundraiser was indeed a success.

Patricia Gerritzen said, "We were supposed to stop at 6pm but with all the song requests we just couldn't stop! At 7pm we had \$13,050 and two days later when doing the deposit, the total amount was \$15,500."

Gerritzen expressed thanks to everyone donating food and money to the fundraiser. The fundraiser was an overwhelming success at both stations, proving again that Bonaire is working together during the coronavirus crisis. *Julie Morgan*

Virtual Dia di Rincon observed

Observing social distancing kept the island residents from celebrating Dia di Rincon in the traditional way on the first year it was officially named a Bonaire holiday. But many joined the Wapa Challenge on the Bonaire Blue Destination Facebook page. They uploaded videos and photos of past Rincon Days. Some residents dressed up in traditional costumes and sang and danced for the camera. Go online and enjoy the party celebrating this special day for the first village in the Dutch Caribbean. Bonaire is truly united in observing the constraints of Covid 19 and our efforts are working for the island. Congratulations and Happy Virtual Rincon Day!



Rincon Day, 2019, photo Julie Morgan

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Relaxed contact procedures for R&D and LVV

The prevention measures regarding COVID-19 have been relaxed somewhat, therefore two government departments have relaxed their procedures for dealing with the public.

Space and Development (R&D)

- The public desks of the R&D management are open on May 11. On working days between 9 and 11am you can submit permits to the R&D desk.

- Permits can be collected only by appointment, on working days between 9 and 11am.

- All questions regarding the services of R&D (permits, requests for house numbers, site requests, etc.) can be asked only by email and telephone. R&D can be reached by telephone on working days between 8am and 12 noon

via +5997178130 and by email at directie_ro@bonairegov.com. The R&D operators 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.

Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV)

The Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) department can be reached by telephone at +5997178836 between 8am and 12noon and 2 and 5pm. You can reach them by email at aftlvv@bonairegov.com.

For all telephone numbers and email addresses of the OLB, please refer to the website www.bonairegov.com.

R&D is permitting Bonaire to grow, faster and better

R&D, the Space and Development department (formerly DROB) granted 102 building permits in less than four weeks during March and April, for a total construction value of USD 15.5 million. That was one third of the total number of building permits issued throughout 2019 (314 permits). A large number of business permits, 102, were also issued.

R&D will also begin enforcing new rules for approving neighborhood supermarkets in residential areas. The Executive Council of the OLB has decided to allow construction of new neighborhood

supermarkets only if:

- The market does not exceed 300 m2 in retail space. Up to 200 m2 is also allowed for storage.

- No other neighborhood supermarket exists in the residential area within 250 meters as the crow flies.

- The new market also conforms to other previously established regulations.

The new rules will help assure that residential neighborhoods retain their residential values, yet assure people the convenience of local shopping. *D.M.R.*

Opinion

Doing business is becoming easier on Bonaire. The Space and Development department (now R&D, formerly DROB) has announced it's approving many more building permits, and faster. Permits to start businesses are being processed more efficiently too. Some people consider further development and increased business activity on the island good news, others not so good. But it's not a simple trade off.

The growth in construction and human activity is by far the greatest danger to the health of Bonaire's reefs. On the other hand, the reefs by themselves have limited economic value. They attract visitors, but visitors wouldn't come to Bonaire unless assured they'd find established businesses where they'd be fed and sheltered, could rent vehicles and dive gear, and could find services for enjoying their time here. The business in-

frastructure is what turns our beautiful reefs into a resource that creates wealth for the island.

So we need to protect the reefs and try to restore them, but we also need to continue to build the infrastructure that attracts visitors. We can't prevent development. That's just not an economic reality. But we can manage growth thoughtfully and carefully. A good approval process, efficient, thorough, and well designed, is the best tool we've found so far for defending the environment.

Further, we can celebrate the fact that Bonaire has become a place where entrepreneurs can submit development proposals and expect clear and timely decisions, rather than entangling themselves in costly and inexplicable delays, uncertain requirements, and lack of transparency regarding who makes decisions, and why. *D.M.R.*



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

Fund compensates victims

As of April 1st, 2019, victims of violent crimes committed in Bonaire, St. Eustatius or Saba are eligible for a one-off compensation payment from Schadefonds (Victims fund). Last year 53 applications were submitted. Of the total, 28 have been reviewed, 22 applications are still pending and three were rejected because they did not meet the conditions. In total, 112,406 euros were paid out to the 28 assigned applicants, an average of 4,015 euros per person.

With the compensation payment, the Schadefonds, on behalf of society and commissioned by the government, recognizes the injustice that has been done to the victims. This way Schadefonds contributes to restoring trust and gives justice to the victims and their relatives.

For more information about Schadefonds CN, please visit www.schadefondscn.com.

Royal honors awarded four Bonaireans

This year King Willem Alexander has awarded ribbons to four residents of Bonaire who have for years contributed to Bonairean society.

Receiving the Royal honor of Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau is Mr. Gerardus Jacobus Arnoldus van Erp.

Receiving the Royal honor of Member of the Order of Orange-Nassau are:

- Mrs. Susana Ruthmilda Damascus-Martines,
- Mr. Nazario Inocencio Alberto
- Mr. Paulus Everardus Wichers Schreur.

Tourism on Bonaire up in 2019

In 2019, the number of visitor arrivals by air on Bonaire increased by 7 percent relative to the previous year. On Saba, the increase was 10 percent, while the number of visitor arrivals on St Eustatius remained the same. Tourism across the entire Caribbean region grew by 4.9 percent last year. Just as in previous years, most visitors were from the Netherlands, the United States, and from Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten.

The number of visitors arriving on Bonaire by air rose from 147.8 thousand in 2018 to 157.8 thousand in 2019. Nearly half originated from Europe (49 percent),

with the Netherlands accounting for 39 percent. This is similar to previous years. Furthermore, Bonaire has many cruise passengers visiting the island: 458 thousand in 2019, representing a 15-percent increase. Cruise tourism growth was mainly seen in the low season (May through October). *Statistics Netherlands (CBS)*

The war on potholes continues

With 8.5 million euros in hand for road construction under the administrative agreement, and another 11 million euros to made available In July, the R&D department of OLB is continuing its vigorous program of road improvement on the island.

The road repair project around the schools began last year in early December. At the moment, Kaya Chippewa is undergoing work, with Kaya Leiden scheduled next. Kaya Nicolaas is also being renovated. The renovation of Kaya Grandi and Kaya Gobernador Debrot from MCB to the Hato roundabout is being prepared and tendered, as is the renovation of Kaya Amsterdam from the Hato roundabout to Mentor.

Experts are also working on a solution for the flooding problem at the connection of Salinja di Vlijt with the open sea at Harbor Village. *D.M.R.*

Looking for owner

Police are looking for the owner of the stolen bicycle pictured below, brand Kejian. The police can be contacted at 715 8000 or by email at Police@politiecn.com.



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POLICE REPORT

April 20 to May 4, 2020

Property crime

On Monday, April 20, a Dynac solar panel battery was stolen from the San Jose nature reserve on the Kaminda Lac. Thieves broke the padlock on the cabinet where the battery was located.

Police are looking for the owner of a stolen bicycle. The police can be contacted at 715 8000 or by email at Police@politiecn.com.

On the night of Sunday, April 26, at around 00:15 hours, a house burglary was reported on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. Thieves destroyed the front door to enter and took away tools, a telephone and a laptop, among other things.

On Wednesday, April 29, theft was reported of two number plates numbered B-12325 from a car parked in a yard of a house on Kaya Tanki Matrimonio.

Between Thursday, April 30, around 7pm and Saturday, May 2, around 9:30 am, thieves burgled a house on Kaya Antonio P.N. Neuman. They probably entered the house through a bedroom window. They took two TVs (Aiwa and LG), an HP laptop and jewelry.

At dive sites

On Sunday, April 26 at the dive site 1000 steps, between 9:40 and 10:15 am thieves took a bag with contents while the owner was snorkeling. The bag included a white iPhone 5S, a black Samsung Galaxy and a wallet with various cards and cash.

Arrests

At around 2:55pm on Thursday, April 23, a man, 22, was arrested on Kaminda Lagun for assault.

Around 2:30am Sunday, April 26, a woman, 24, and a woman, 18, were detained for overt violence and assault.

At around 6:40pm on Monday, April 27,

a man, 58, was arrested on Kaya Rincon for threatening with a weapon. A knife was seized.

On Friday May 1, a man, 23, was held for not following stop signs, dangerous driving behavior, inability to identify and for destruction. The suspect was arrested after a chase.

On Sunday May 3 around 11pm, a man, 51, was detained at Kaya Caribe for insulting a civil servant in office.

Traffic accidents & violations

In the night hours of Tuesday, April 21, three cars collided on Kaminda La Union. Car 1 driving from Rincon towards Playa could not stop in time when car 2, which was driving in front of her, suddenly braked. Car 1 collided with the back of car 2. Then car 1 tried to divert to the lane of oncoming traffic and collided head-on with car 3, which was coming from the opposite direction.

On Tuesday April 21, a number of cars were checked for the light transmittance of the car windows. A few were given the opportunity to visit the office to have the windows measured. If they do not meet the set percentage, they must remove the foil and to return to the office for inspection.

Around 11:15pm Thursday, April 23, a single car collision occurred on Kaya Esther. The driver stated that he entered the corner at too high a speed and lost control of the wheel. As a result, he collided with a sand hill along the road. The driver was checked on the spot by the ambulance personnel.

Around 9pm Sunday 26 April, a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Korona. The car that drove north on Kaya Korona and wanted to turn left to enter Kaya Neerlandia, did not see the scooter arriving on Kaya Korona from the opposite direction. The driver of the scooter was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was taken to the office for a breath analysis and was banned from driving for 13 hours.

In the late afternoon hours of Tuesday, April 28, a traffic control was conducted

at Kaya Korona. Police measured the light transmittance of tinted car windows and if the drivers with too dark windows were given the opportunity to show the car at the police station with the correct percentage of foil or without foil by Friday. In addition, during the audit, two official reports were written for driving without a driving license.

Around 8.55 pm on Thursday, April 30, the central police reported that there was a collision on the Kaminda Lagun. The driver stated that he had to give way to a donkey in a corner, losing control of the steering wheel and overturning the car. He had abrasions all over his body and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Public Safety /Fire

In the evening of Tuesday, April 21, at about 8pm, the police reported that a confused woman, wearing diving goggles and swimming fins, was walking along the road on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. When the patrol arrived, the woman spoke gibberish and stated that she was looking for her child and that she had corona virus. Upon further investigation, contact was made with the woman's daughter and it was found that the woman has Alzheimer's and had been on a quarantined boat with her family for some time. There was no evidence that she had coronavirus. She had left the boat earlier in the evening without the family noticing. In order to err on the side of caution and to ensure the safety of the officers, separate transportation was arranged for her, accompanied by Dr. Patrol, to be returned to a location where she was met by her family to return to the boat.

At around 4:45pm on Monday, April 27, the police reported that someone had been abused. The victim was attacked by two unknown persons while he was taking a nap. He had to be taken to hospital with the ambulance for medical treatment. The case is being investigated.

At around 2:30pm on Tuesday, April 28, the central police reported that a container at a company on Kaya Industria was on

fire. On arrival, the patrol determined that the fire was under the container. The fire was extinguished by the fire brigade. There was no damage and no one was injured.

On Sunday May 3, the police station received report of a small fire that spread on Kaya Mendelsson. The fire brigade extinguished the fire and nobody was injured.

Emergency ordinance

Various reports have been received recently about gathering and social distance. The Supervision and Enforcement Department conducts the inspections in collaboration with KPCN if the situation needs the 'strong arm'.

On Thursday, April 23, the owner of a café / restaurant received a prevention warning for a party planned for April 26 and 27.

On Friday, April 24, during a patrol, the local police officer for Rincon spoke to several residents about with the Dia di Rincon which due could not be celebrated this year as usual. Most were disappointed but have indicated that they will celebrate in family circles with the raising of the flag and a BBQ.

In recent days, various places and companies have been checked on the application of social distance, among other things. At a bar on Kaya Nikiboko North, on Saturday April 25, the owner was maintained for violating the emergency ordinance regarding social distancing.

In the early morning hours of Monday, April 27, around 3:45 AM, reports were received of a celebration in Rincon. On arrival, the drivers of 7 vehicles as well as a group of 15 to 20 people were strictly maintained and sent home.

A check was carried out regarding social distance at a cafe restaurant on Kaya J.N.E. Craane. Everything was fine. At a snack bar at Kaya Navajos, people were called to account for not applying social distance.

On Thursday, April 30, several locations in Rincon were audited by KPCN and Supervision & Enforcement, and owners were told to comply with applicable regulations.



BONAIRE SKY PARK

The many faces of our moon

May 3rd – 9th

Another super moon!

This week is a supermoon -- it peaks on Thursday the seventh.

A supermoon is when the full moon aligns with the perigee of its orbit. Perigee means the closest point of the moon's orbital path. Like all celestial bodies the moon has an elliptical orbit which means sometimes it's a bit closer and full at the same time. It's only a little larger than usual. But it is still a great time to see details on our nearest celestial body.

Head outside try to find the Sea of Tranquility where the Apollo craft still sits from our landing over fifty years ago, or bring a camera with zoom or binoculars and spot the crater Tycho.

Even though supermoons aren't super rare, this is the fourth supermoon in 2020, and it's the last, so make sure you keep lookin' up!

The many faces of our moon

Our moon has a face to those in the United States and Canada.

To East Asian cultures the moon has a rabbit or toad on it, Hawaiians see a tree, and in India they see two hands.

We humans all look up at the same moon, but we don't all see it the same way.

The rabbit or toad in the moon comes from the ancient story of Chang'e, a young woman who stole an elixir of immortality and swallowed it.

In her attempt to escape she jumped and floated to the moon. She may have transformed into a toad as punishment, or a rabbit to indicate her beauty,

But either way the animal is working a mortar and pestle to make more elixir. The Polynesian story comes from a goddess named Hina who makes cloth for the gods from the banyan tree.

In the Hawaiian language the word for moon is "Mahina" -- based on her name. She moved to the moon because it was so nice there -- and sits in the space under the banyan tree.

But that's not all... In India a mythology describes two hand prints. These prints were left, according to legend, by Astangi Mata "the mother of all that lived and grew on the earth." She wanted to give

a gift to her children, Chanda and Suraj. Suraj became the sun, and Chandra, the moon.

As Mata reached out to touch Chandra's face one last time, she left two hand prints on the moon.

The other man in the moon isn't a face like in the U.S., instead it's a... man, holding a bundle of sticks and this shape predates the discovery of the new world, the old man is referenced in the works of Shakespeare and Chaucer in England, as well as in Germany and elsewhere.

Allegedly, he violated the Sabbath and was doomed to spend eternity on the moon as a reminder to others.

The great thing is, when you head to the southern hemisphere, the orientation of the moon appears to flip! The moon looks different which means we get a whole new set of myths!

For example, the Maori of New Zealand had a legend where a woman, Rona fought with her husband and the moon overheard.

When Rona trips in the dark, she curses the moon over and over. As punishment the moon pulls her into the sky to live with him -- she tries to stop him by grabbing a tree, and both end up in the sky.

Eventually, Rona realizes her mistakes and she and the moon fall in love. The moon gives her the ability to control the tides!

I love these myths because it helps us better understand each other -- for example, the Indian Space Agency named their lunar landing mission -- Chandrayaan, and the Chinese named theirs Chang'e -- both based on these myths.

The brain's tendency to see shapes that aren't actually there is called pareidolia. Human brains want to make shapes and patterns that fit with our understanding of the world. It's why we think clouds look like animals, why cars look like they're smiling, and why we make shapes in the stars, or on the moon.

Our brains are filling-in the gaps with our own assumptions and experiences, creating a story for simple random crater impacts, and colored patches of lunar soil.

Next time you're looking at Luna, try and spot the rabbit, the woman, the two men, the two hands, the tree, and -- of course -- the face. One person's man, is another person's tree.

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



Reef Glimpses

The two Snaggles – Uncommon Snake Eels

When I was a schoolteacher, one of my colleagues was an identical twin. Hearing the difference between my friend and her twin was almost impossible for me, but I never had any trouble distinguishing them by sight.

Visually distinguishing this spotted snake eel from its spotted spoon-nose eel cousin was much more difficult for me – but the situation was more difficult, too, since I never saw both individuals on the same dive. When one was around, it would be around for weeks and then disappear for months. For years, until I

was finally able to get photos of each of them, I thought they were one individual, and I named him “Snaggles.”

Even the scientific names of these creatures reflect their similarities: the scientific name of the spotted snake eel is *Ophichthus ophis*, in which “ophio” is “snake” and “ichth” is “fish”, so the translation of the scientific name is snake snake fish. The spotted spoon-nose eel is *Echiophis interinctus*, with “ech” another prefix for snake, serpent, whatever, and “ophis” another way of saying “snake”; but with the spotted spoon-nose species name we have a change of emphasis from the snake to the spots, with “inter” being “between” and “tinct” dyed. So one Snaggles is, scientifically speaking, a “snake snakefish”, and the other a “spotted snakefish.”

Looking back at my interactions with them, the most interesting reason I confused one Snaggles with the other is that I never noticed any differences in their behaviors! Generally, I would find Snaggles with his head either protruding from the sand or lying on the surface of the sand,

with the rest of his body buried just under the surface of the sand. The one time I tried to stroke Snaggles on the top of his head I had to move my hand away really fast to avoid getting nipped! Turned out that he tried to bite whatever was above him, which was logical, since above was where both his prey and any threats would come from. He couldn’t very well be threatened from below because there was nothing below but sand! Having figured that out, I realized the place to touch him (both of “him”) would be on the chin, and each Snaggles did accept my contact there.

Once we know there are two of them, it’s easy for us to tell Snaggles from Snaggles: we need only to see the band on the back of Snaggles the spotted snake eel’s head, or the lack of it on Snaggles the spotted spoon-nose eel. Luckily I never needed to distinguish them by sound, or – as with my schoolteacher colleague -- I’d still be trying to figure them out.

Dee Scarr



A tickle under the chin for Snaggles the spotted spoon-nose eel.

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. Dee’s books are available for purchase at Bonaire’s Carib Inn or through touchthesea.com.



Snaggles the spotted snake eel, showing band on head.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Berlin, Germany



Months ago, when we all could travel the world, two residents of Bonaire, **Jana Isaza and Antje Günther**, ran the marathon in Berlin on September 29, 2019. After the race they took a picture with *The Reporter* in the hotel where they were staying.

WIN A PRIZE! Are you elsewhere? We’d love to see you

in *The Reporter*. Hold up the printed cover, or go digital and pose with *The Reporter* on your tablet, computer, or phone. Please identify everybody in your photo, and tell us about yourselves. All the 2019 submissions that we were unable to run will be published in 2020. All photos run in 2020 photos are eligible for the annual prize.



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To all mothers forever

These days life is very hard for parents and their children with mental retardation or other kinds of handicap. The parents have to explain to their children that they must stay at home, and cannot go anywhere. And the sad fact is that most of these children cannot comprehend the reason. They experience it as a kind of punishment.

Last year a dedicated and proactive mom of a daughter with mental retardation wrote this poem and performed it to the music of an already existing song. On the International Day of Persons with a Handicap, this song was presented to the public.



Just like all of us...
 Here I am on this big wide world
 made for love and happiness
 So why they are not accepting me
 in this world, just like all of you.

I feel love, the same way you do
 Sadness also just like you do
 Feel happiness when they accept me
 In this world, just like all of you.

Maybe I don't have the things you do
 that does not mean I cannot do anything
 Accept what I can, that is what it is
 and teach me what I can do , even more

For you to accept me, means so much to me
 and if you can help me, it means even more
 If you can teach others , for them to accept me
 I would feel happy, the same way you do.

Don't make me feel lonely in the world around me
 I cannot be happy without all of you
 If you give me love , I can live happily
 and I will be happy with all of my heart.
 MOM.

It's not enough to honor the mothers of this generation who are living through hard times. The elderly - the mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles of past generations - are living through these rough times as well.

I dare all of you poets, text writers, artists to make artwork into cards and sent them to loved ones. Write songs to listen to, write poetry about all this pain and have people read it, and share with the world. But not only about pain and unhappiness...share also the joy, the essence of their being. Make them feel that they count, that they make part of your world.

There are so many funny posts now on social media. It is about time to show some other kind of attention and some other kind of love to make the world aware.

Ask the management of the institutions to cooperate and make it possible for their clients to enjoy. Donate laptops and tablets, so everybody can watch again, and again, and again.

And maybe someday, when this is all over, one may make a book with all that art into a very special memory to cherish. *Ria Evers-Dokter*,

Consumer prices on Bonaire one percent up in Q1 2020

In Q1 2020, consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 1.0 percent more expensive than one year previously, although prices were lower than in Q4 2019 (2.2 percent).

Prices also rose on St Eustatius and Saba, by 1.2 percent and 0.4 percent year-on-year respectively.

Lower electricity and water prices on Bonaire The slower increase in the average price level of goods and services on Bonaire in Q1 2020 was mainly caused by the prices of electricity and water. In the first quarter of this year, electricity was 14.1 percent and water was 12.7 percent cheaper than one year previously. Petrol and diesel prices, on the other hand, drove up the average price level on Bonaire. Petrol was nearly 20.8 percent and diesel was over 29 percent more expensive than in Q1 2019.

The price of fruit and vegetables on Bonaire had an upward effect on the consumer price index as well. In Q1 2020, fresh fruit was 22.9 percent more expensive than in the same quarter last year. Relative to Q4 2019, however, prices of vegetables were down by 2.5 percent and prices of fruit by 3.9 percent.

Average prices of petrol and diesel in the Caribbean Netherlands and on Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten Prices of petrol and diesel in the Caribbean Netherlands are generally higher than on Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten. The largest price gap between Bonaire and Curaçao measured over the past twelve months was in February 2020, when one litre of petrol was on average 33.5 US cents more expensive on Bonaire. The smallest gap was seen in May 2019, when the price of petrol on Bonaire was 4.2 US cents higher. Diesel was slightly cheaper on Bonaire than on Aruba, but more expensive on Curaçao in most of the twelve months. St Eustatius has the highest price of diesel per litre. *Statistics Netherlands (CBS)*

Happy Mother's Day — May 10, 2020

Easing of measures on May 6th, 2020 "Corona Smart"

<p>Beach</p> <p>You may go to the beach, together. Max 50 persons. Social distancing.</p>	<p>Swimming pools</p> <p>Allowed to be open for lessons. Max 50 persons. Social distancing. Strict hygiene measures.</p>	<p>Sport</p> <p>Gyms are allowed to open. Max. 50 people. Social distancing. Strict hygiene measures.</p> <p>Age groups 0-17: Contact sports are allowed. No large tournaments.. No social distancing. 18+: No contact sport.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px;">📅 Open as of May 11th</p> <p>Primary and secondary schools</p> <p>No social distancing among children. Max. 50 children together. Strict hygiene measures.</p> <p>Adult education</p> <p>Social Distancing. Max. 50 people together. Strict hygiene measures.</p> <p>Childcare and after-school care</p> <p>Age group 0-12 No social distancing. Max. 50 children together. Strict hygiene measures.</p>
<p>Horeca</p> <p>Just like before. Max 50 persons. Social Distancing. Strict hygiene measures.</p>	<p>Casinos</p> <p>Allowed to be open, but under the following conditions: Max 50 persons. Social distancing. Strict hygiene measures.</p>	<p>Entertainment</p> <p>Sex and nightclubs remain closed. Spas and saunas remain closed. Events with more than 50 persons are prohibited.</p>	

Did You Know? that you leave small traces of yourself behind everywhere you go?



Instead of spending hours in the field trying to spot elusive animals, in the future we might be able to identify animals just from the DNA they leave behind. Photo by Caren Eckrich.

Did you know that you leave small traces of yourself behind everywhere you go? Animals do this too and, with the right tools, we might be able to detect the presence of even the most elusive of creatures without having to spend hours in the field looking for them.

Every time we interact with our environment we leave tiny traces, DNA, of ourselves behind. As any fan of crime and detective shows will know, this DNA, left behind in the form of blood, saliva, mucous, or skin cells, can be used to identify individual people (well, except for identical twins). The same thing applies for all life on the planet. Picture a reef bustling with life; all kinds of creatures interacting with each other, and their environment, while going about their day. Just like us, these animals leave behind small traces of themselves in the environment. The DNA they leave behind in the water, known as environmental DNA or eDNA, can be used to find out which animals are present in which areas.

All life on the planet possesses a very unique genetic sequence. These sequences can be used as cellular bar codes that allow us to differentiate between different species. No two species, not even those that are very closely related such as dogs and wolves, share the same genetic bar code. The process for identification looks much the same as it does on CSI. First, we need to get our genetic

sample. Luckily DNA takes a few days to decompose so you can detect species even if they haven't been in the area all that recently. If we were looking at a reef, we would start by filtering large amounts of water through a tiny filter to capture the DNA. The DNA is then extracted from the filter and broken down into smaller chunks. These smaller chunks are then copied over and over, using a special machine, to make millions of copies of them in a process called amplification. These amplified DNA chunks are then 'read' by a special machine to identify species specific sequences. What you then get is a sequence of letters that is unique to each species. Once you have the sequences you can look up which animal, plant, or fungus they belong to. The sequence is entered into a database and it tells you which species that sequence matches.

The potential applications of eDNA analysis are endless. Amongst other things the results can be used to establish biodiversity baselines and monitor trends; look for exotic or invasive species; track population abundances; and even find crucial habitats, such as breeding or nursing areas, for protected species. Especially in the case of rare species, or difficult to access terrain, this approach can be incredibly cost effective. eDNA analysis is a relatively new field, yet it has already been successful. One such project was a project with WWF looking at populations of river dolphins and manatees in the Amazon. While they were initially only looking for these two species, and where they were found, in the end they identified 675 vertebrate species. One of the unexpected outcomes was the discovery of DNA from many terrestrial animals; in their samples they found 155 mammal species and 65 bird species. Of these more than a few were listed as endangered or critically endangered.

Besides informing us on which species are present, eDNA can also give us information about the abundance of the different species relative to one another. More abundant species generate more DNA sequences when amplified, while less abundant species will generate fewer sequences. While this does not tell us anything about the absolute abundance of the species, it does tell us which species are dominant in the environment and where they occur most. In the Amazon study, river dolphin DNA was found everywhere and in large quantities while manatee DNA was far less ubiquitous. This allows researchers to look for patterns in habitat use of the different species and pinpoint areas that are of high conservation value.

There is still much we don't know about our planet. New technologies such as this allow us to expand our reach and make new discoveries. If applied on Bonaire, who knows what we could find. Either in deep water, or maybe even in the shallow reefs right below our noses.

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

Seafood quiz

by Dee Scarr

The cold I had last month resulted in my spending a lot of time watching cooking shows. As a result, I thought a quiz on seafood – uncooked seafood, in this case – might be fun.

- Which of the following fish should not be on your menu?
 - Yellowtail snapper
 - Great white shark
 - Sharptail puffer
 - Mola mola
- Eating which of the following invertebrates is a terrible idea, no matter how hungry you get on the dive?
 - Sponges
 - Alaskan King crab
 - Sea cucumbers
 - Giant squid
- You come across a dead bristleworm (fireworm). Who is likely to be nibbling on it?
 - Surgeonfish
 - An octopus
 - A swarm of krill (tiny crustaceans)
 - No one is crazy enough to nibble on bristleworms
- You come across a dead fish. Who is likely to be munching on it?
 - Bristleworms
 - Trumpetfish
 - Frogfish
 - Yellowhead jawfish
- Which of the following critters can eat a raw egg yolk (yes, a chicken egg, and yes, out of the shell) without breaking the yolk?
 - Slender filefish
 - Giant Caribbean anemone
 - Maine lobster
 - Crown of thorns sea star
- A yellowhead jawfish with a mouthful of little orbs is:
 - Collecting algae seeds for a garden
 - Displaying, to a female, his ability to provide food
 - Protecting his fertilized eggs
 - A female, consuming the egg of a rival
- Parrotfish munch on coral and coral rock because:
 - Males are marking territory
 - Females and males are preparing an area for a nest
 - The coral and coral rock provide fiber
 - Crunching the coral keeps their teeth clean
- Octopuses:
 - Each have a beak like a flamingo's beak
 - Are expert at hovering in mid-water
 - Have four rows of suckers along each arm
 - Have two rows of suckers along each arm
- Squid:
 - Each have a beak like a flamingo's beak
 - Are expert at hovering in mid-water
 - Have eight arms and four tentacles
 - Have very primitive eyes
- Spiny lobsters:
 - Have poisonous spines for defense
 - Will use their shell-cracking claws for defense
 - Can use their antennae for defense
 - Take advantage of their defenses by spending most of their time out in the open
- Humpback whales:
 - Have been seen – rarely – between Bonaire and Klein Bonaire.
 - Birth their calves in Lac Bay every two years
 - Stay along our dropoff, all around Bonaire, to feed on the coral eggs and sperm during the fall coral spawning
 - Use the sponges on the pilings beneath our North and South Piers to massage themselves, and the corals to scratch their itches.

Answers on page 12.



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“Back on Bonaire, Rediscovering Diver’s Paradise as a Father”

In “Back on Bonaire, Rediscovering Diver’s Paradise as a Father”, Andrew Jalbert explores his personal reflections, experiences and love of diving on the island of Bonaire, and reflects on how he has evolved since fatherhood.

His love for the island shines through as he guides us in his journeys. Each experience is intertwined with bits of information about diving and the island itself.

Jalbert introduces us to the people he has met during his visits to Bonaire and how they influenced his life, not only as a diver but as a person.

In reading the book, I felt as if the author was talking to me personally about the island and diving. Anyone who dives has experienced the ‘after the dive’ chats with other divers. “Back on Bonaire”, has that same feeling. And as I read, I wanted to provide my input as he talks about his experiences as an instructor and dive guide, about the sites on Bonaire and his concerns about climate change. His information about traveling to Bonaire somehow wound its way around with a dialogue of geology about the island, and I found myself reading the book as if it were a Michael Connelly novel. This is a constant thread in his writing. He leads us through his exploration of parts of the island and instills little bits of information as if you were in a conversation about Bonaire.

Readers with a diving life before kids will take his

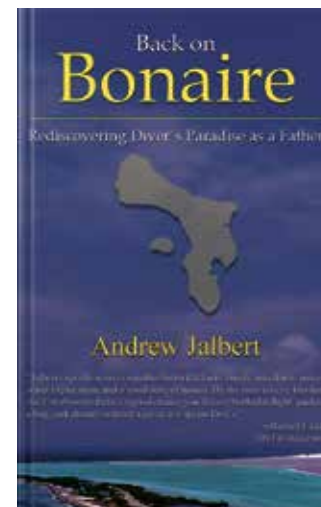


Eight year old Luc taking a PADI Bubble Maker class with his instructor dad at the Buddy Dive pool.

anxieties of a disruption of that life to heart. Jalbert’s thoughts of diving never being the same again are realized. Though, not in a bad way, as he finds an entirely new perspective of the ocean world through the eyes of his son Luc.

“Back on Bonaire” is a great read for anyone who has experienced the island a few times, has been visiting here since the 90’s like Jalbert or is a diver who is trying to figure out where Bonaire is. In short, it is a great read about the island even if you think you know everything there is to know about Bonaire. You might be surprised at what you will learn through Jalbert’s personal journey. *Story Julie Morgan. Photos Andrew Jalbert*

The book is currently available as a paperback and eBook from Kindle, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, and Kobo.



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The animal shelter’s puppy palace



The Alpert’s still have a few plans in store for the shelter including a unique little meet and greet area for new adopting parents. With this new addition potential adopters can have some one-on-one time with a dog. And if they already have a furbaby at home, they can test compatibility with the new pet. *Julie Morgan*



Gisela and Adam Alpert trying out the play ramp with the puppies. Photo Julie Morgan

The Bonaire Animal Shelter’s new Puppy Palace is finished and what little pup wouldn’t love this new temporary home.

The Seahawk owners Gisela and Adam Alpert and their talented animal loving crew completed the palace in record time. The new palace has shaded areas, a sand pit for digging, benches for lounging, hanging tire and toys and a play ramp. There are even some elevated beds in the enclosure for nap time.

Covid Drive through open



The Covid Drive-Thru at the hospital re-opened on Tuesday May 5th and will also be open on Thursday May 7th. If you are showing any of the signs of the virus and feel you need to be tested, please make an appointment by calling 715-8900 ext 1528. Test times are from 4pm to 6pm. Two persons per vehicle are allowed to be tested.

Help stop the spread of Coronavirus



Prevention starts with you. Stay safe | #ThereWithYou
Supporting Governments in their efforts to keep us safe during this time.

I Shall Return

By Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour

Lo mi bolbe. Atrrobe. Na bo playa, na bo kosta, den bo mondinan.

Lo mi bolbe. I kana soña den bo kaya, bo sabana i bo saliñanan.

Lo mi bolbe. Bo number den mi pechu, semper.

Mi stima bo, Boneiru.

— **Pierre Lauffer**

I shall return. Once more. To your beaches, to your coasts, to your woodlands.

I shall return. And walk dreaming around your streets, your flatlands and your salt pans.

I shall return. Your name, always in my chest, forever.

I love you, Bonaire.

As I turn around to get comfortable in my lazy chair on the sun-streaked patio of our “lockdown” house, a neighbor stops by to say hello. I’ve never actually met him before, just spotted him at a distance, jogging. He sports a face mask. We still do as well, but only when shopping. He always wears his outdoors, probably even in bed. He waves, standing by the iron fence, then frowns, noticing my tear-stained face. My husband, nowhere to be seen, disappeared into the depths of the refrigerator inside,

digging out cold bubbly. Good! Wine dulls the senses. Perhaps my masked neighbor, can spare a few minutes of comfort as well. . . .

It’s been almost eight weeks, sequestered away from my dushi Bonaire home, my family, my cat, my friends, . . . life. There’s a “shelter in place” order, here in Florida, since mid March. That means we go to the grocery store and back home. Nothing else.

The neighbor asks why I’m shedding tears. Aren’t we all in the same situation? Yeah sure, negotiating a heavy-duty storm, called Corona virus; all with different boats, though. My vessel is overloaded, crammed with ‘unwanted’ Bonaireans pining to go home. Moreover, it leaks and can’t leave the dock. And most critically, home port is not welcoming.

So, here we are, wannabe repatriates, cast adrift on a compromised ark. The dozens of passengers on this craft hail originally from several continents. Today, April 29, marks the climax of our frustrations. Formally declared: we’re stranded here a lot longer on the course home. There are hotels on Bonaire willing to put us up for quarantine. And we will submit ourselves to that indignity, because we’ll be home! Or better yet, get hold of those tests, said to be readily available in the Netherlands, to check for Covid-19 antibodies in those of us who have already had the virus and for the presence or absence of tell-tale markers in the rest.

For one of us, her newly-married husband is waiting on Bonaire for months now; for another, it’s her dad worrying, whose dear wife just passed away; for others, children and pets need them, or sedulas are expiring and/or USA visas are only valid for three months. We now reside in tiny apartments, hotels, motels, studios, rentals, mobile homes, you name it. The Bonaire judge claims there’s no real hardship or necessity to hurry this thing up. Oh, really??? What about missing your home so badly your heart hurts!

“Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.”

— **Robert Frost**

PS: All US repatriates have received an email in which they’re invited to book passage, on May 10, with Spirit Airlines from Fort Lauderdale to Aruba. Then, somehow, we have to get ourselves on to Bonaire, with incoming planes currently prohibited. Promising, but vague. And the costs are on us, we repatriates. When we called Spirit Air, they were clueless. However, we keep the faith! Let’s go home!

Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

Why can’t I order groceries online on Bonaire?



While we on Bonaire are lucky that we can still go shopping at the large stores with some restrictions, or at the local stores without any real restrictions, it would sure be nice to be able to just go online and order and have the food delivered.

Many people ask me “Why doesn’t VdT offer this service? It would be great.” so I thought I’d tackle it as a bit of a technical project and see why or why not.

Bring out the whiteboard, here we go.

First off, the store would have to build a website that contains their entire inventory with photos and descriptions, and have it connected to the cash register system so that it knows the cost and how many of each item are still in stock. This doesn’t include the non-inventoried items like fresh fruits and vegetables.

A typical grocery store has over 50,000 individual items, we would need photos and descriptions of each, in at least Dutch, English and Papiamentu so we don’t alienate any customers. That’s a LOT of items that need to be set up, photographed, photoshopped to the correct size, and then saved to the server. Add to that the descriptions need to be entered, translated and then proofread in three languages. We definitely don’t want any spelling mistakes. If you figure that this process takes at least five minutes per item, that is 250,000 minutes or 173 days to accomplish if one person did it 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So let’s say that they put 10 people doing this 24 hours a day, it’s only 17 days.

Now, while that is going on the website has to be built and tested. That can take two to three people at least a month to completely build it from A-Z.

So, with 35 extra people we can have the site up in a month. Then we have to advertise it and the buyers will flock to the site and make their orders, right? Not yet, there are a few other things to take into account. How do people who order pay? There is no payment system on Bonaire to accept credit cards online, and your local debit cards do not work for online purchases like they do in the store, or you only use cash and bank payments. And even if your card works, you can’t be charged at the time you order, because your order may be incomplete, so it has to be charged after the order has been assembled and the final bill tallied. What if you cancel then or don’t have enough credit? And will you pay extra for the picking and delivery service? HECK NO!

Who will be walking around the store assembling the orders for you? Who will be delivering the orders to you? All of these questions have answers - PEOPLE, but these are extra people who would need to be hired by the store, and the cost would be passed along to you, the online customer and me, the walk-in and do it myself customer. And don’t forget the cost of the website, and taking all of the photos. That to has to be factored in.

Even if it all works after all that, what if the tomatoes you received are bruised, then what happens? Will the delivery person come back to your house, take them back to the store, get you nicer ones, bring them back to you, or refund your money for just that part of the order? Lots of logistics problems.

“But they do it back home” you say. ...Yes, they do, but they also have many more customers, and many more stores to amortize the costs, much larger IT departments, and bigger bank accounts as well as doing the shipping directly from the warehouses and not from the stores themselves to allow them to keep the prices low or the same as if you bought it yourself.

So, living in a small country has it’s pros and cons. I guess having to go grocery shopping yourself can be looked at as either.

Good shopping, and remember - six feet apart or six feet under!



Mousework kept the kids learning through school closures

Since 2018, students from groups 7 and 8 have been given the opportunity to use the online computer program of Muiswerk (Mousework) to practice the Dutch language and arithmetic outside of school.

To encourage students during the schools shut down PiT (PiT*) offered rewards for the students with the most minutes worked per week via Muiswerk from April 15 to May 15, 2020. PiT assumes that each student will do at least 60 minutes of Dutch per week and at least 60 minutes of math. Students who do more than a total of 120 minutes per week are eligible for various prizes such as gift cards.

Kids who have forgotten how to log-in can send a WhatsApp message or call (+599) 782 4569. The login link of “Muiswerk Bonaire” is found on the Facebook page and website of Stichting Lezen en Schrijven Bonaire.

PiT provides three free guest accounts for Bonairean society. Students (and their parents) who wish to get acquainted with this language and calculation program can contact project leader of PiT Paul Ruijs for the guest login code. Call or app via (+599) 782 4569.

*“Pienter in Taal” translates as “Intelligent in Language.”

Visit us! For the photo contest, plus...



The Reporter’s Facebook page has more photos, and breaking COVID-19 news



The Bonaire Reporter photo contest is underway and anyone, anywhere is welcome to share their beautiful images of Bonaire. If you haven't submitted your photos or voted for your favorites, you have until May 17.

The idea of the 'contest' is to provide our readers with a gallery of Bonaire images to help beat the Covid-19 blues. Anyone who shares their fantastic 2-D memories of Bonaire has the opportunity to be published and win some great prizes.

The top 20 images will be juried by our talented panel of judges: Anna and Ned DeLoach, Michael LaFortune, Stephen Frink and Ann Louise Tuke.

The "Peoples Choice" winner will be the image that receives the most votes by the public.

Prizes include:

People Choice winner: Dinner for two at Rum Runners restaurant.

First place: \$100 prize, 50x70cm canvas print of your work (\$100 value) Sign

Studio Bonaire, Deep Blue Gear bag (\$90 value), Reef Books online fish ID (\$35 value) Anna and Ned DeLoach, cover page of the Bonaire Reporter with your bio and opportunity to have your work published in Caradonna Dive Adventures Bonaire advertising with photo credit.

Second place: \$50 prize, Reef Book online fish ID (\$35 value) Anna and Ned DeLoach, Deep Blue Gear bag (\$90 value).

Third place: Deep Blue Gear bag (\$90 value), Digidel DL3 phone (\$50)

To submit your images (four maximum) and vote, go to the Facebook page for The Bonaire Reporter. Click 'Photo Contest' and submit your entries or vote. A complete list of the contest rules are below the sign-up form on the Facebook page.

Announcement of the winners will be published in the May 20 Bonaire Reporter. *Julie Morgan.*

Donated walking aids arrive for Bonaire's seniors

Thanks to a dedicated intern at Fysio di Bario, a container filled with wheelchairs, walkers, and related equipment has arrived on Bonaire for free distribution to senior citizens. Many have had to do without walking aids since the care office reduced, and in some cases eliminated, the former reimbursements.

Riem also enlisted Rotary Bonaire and Rotary Bario Harenkarspel to help with shipping the equipment to Bonaire, and ZW-groep (to distribute it on the island free to people who qualify).

Riem was not here to welcome the container. She had since returned to the Netherlands. When Antje Günther, of Fysio di Bario, was asked about her role in the project, she said, "I just opened the container." She also said, "We are very proud of our young intern for achieving this beautiful result," praised the other parties involved, and celebrated the timeliness of the support that has arrived just when people most needed it. *D.M.R.*

The intern, Maaïke Riem, became concerned when she discovered older patients with restricted mobility were living unnecessarily difficult, even dangerous, lives. She contacted PhysioNet, a volunteer group in England whose mission is "collecting, refurbishing and delivering unwanted physiotherapy equipment to the disabled around the world." They agreed to assemble the needed equipment.



Receiving the shipment from Physionet: (L-R) Antje Günther Fysio di Bario; Patricia Schut Pinzon ZW GROEP; Genara Timp Silberie ZW groep; Janiro Balentin Rotary Bonaire; Yuraima Bodak ZW groep; John Flipse Rotary Bonaire.

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Bonaire's second winner of \$5000 CASH with Shake To Win with Digidel



Xiorandy Brigitta is Bonaire's second winner of \$5000 CASH with Shake To Win with Digidel. Mr. Andre McKenzie, Commercial Manager of Digidel Bonaire, indicates that Shake To Win with Digidel is a successful campaign that has given back thousands of dollars in cash and prizes to some of our faithful clients from its launch in November 2019.

Remarkably Mr. Xiorandy's wife was also a Shake To Win with Digidel winner in January and won a 40" TV.

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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges

Accessibility in literature.

Bonaire is very quiet these days. There is hardly any traffic and you don't see many people on the streets. But in the early morning hours there are quite a few people exercising and walking along the boulevard. Of course most of them maintain the correct social distance.

No walker, scooter mobile or wheelchair is seen, because of the intellectual lock down. Most people stay at home, where it is safe.

When you have children at home, because the schools are closed, you will have very busy days. When you are by yourself or alone with your spouse, something you might enjoy is watching films. Some suggestions are: The English patient, The Untouchables and Rainman are very entertaining and they all carry the theme of disability.

I am an avid reader. I love to read and can do so all day long. But not everybody does. You do not have to read

novels or detectives only. One can google themes on the computer and enjoy the education. One may even try to write a short story or poem. And if you do have children in the house, you may also like to read to them. Most children love that.

I learned that in times of need and unhappiness writing poetry is very comforting and soothing. So, pick up that pen and start writing.

I am also a person who loves to cook. Ever since graduating teachers-college, a group of women (50 years now) meet. We decided to make a cook-book about comfort food. Very fitting these days and its a lot of fun to do.

You can read a regular books, an e-reader or simply read something on the internet.

I like to practice all of the above, except for the e-reader. And I also like to research the possibilities. Since accessibility is my favorite theme, I checked to see what is available on that theme. Check out these books and maybe you will like them as well.

Some recommendations:

- Mouse and the Cossacks by Paul Wilson
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
- Moby-Dick by Herman Melville
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- The First Man by Albert Camus
- The Giant's House by Elizabeth McCracken
- A Son of the Circus by John Irving
- Far From the Tree by Andrew Solomon

Maybe you also have one or more favorite books of films that you would like to share with us.

Maybe people could start reading-clubs on social media and read books together, discuss them and recommend them.

Would you let us know what you did, what you wrote, what you watched and share that?

Please, stay inside, stay safe and stay healthy, everyone! *Ria Evers-Dokter*



A Garden? Just Do It!

Shimaruku

When I came to live on the islands I learned from locals that shimaruku, as it is called on Bonaire, is one of the healthiest fruits growing in the area.

So years ago a local lady took me to the "mondi" (country) and showed me where there were shimaruku trees. Since then, whenever I see shimarukus on trees I go to that spot to pick these most delicious fruits in the wild. Have a look at the picture. That was the harvest of a few weeks ago and I'm still enjoying them. By freezing them I have a handful a day.

The Latin name is *Malpighia emarginata puniceifolia*. I'm glad to write this down and not have to say it.

It's a tropical fruit bearing shrub or small tree, growing on Bonaire in the "mondi", but also on the "kunukus", in town and in small yards. It can be found growing in all types of soil and it can stand the hot climate very well. From generation to generation locals have picked these fruits to use in their dishes, juices, jams and smoothies or they just eat them raw. It's a sour fruit and its degree of sour depends on the amount of rain. The darker red the color, the sweeter it is. The growing season is November through March depending on the amount of rain in this

season. After a good rainy season, the shimaruku shows purple-pink flowers and soon after that young fruits show up.

This popular fruit is extremely rich in Vitamin C and four shimarukus are enough to meet the daily recommended amount of vitamin C for adults. It also contains Vitamin A1, B1, B2, B3 as well as carotenoids, bio-flavonoids and a high source of antioxidants. Further more it contains calcium, iron, phosphorus and a good amount of fiber. It's very good to treat common colds and flu, diarrhea, liver problems and other conditions. Also very good to treat scurvy, a disease caused by vitamin C deficiency.



Shimarukus, also called acerola cherries are a super fruit because of the high Vitamin C. But for some peo-

ple too much of this high Vitamin C can disturb their health leading to blood-iron disorders like: thalassemia and hemochromatosis.

Vitamin C can increase iron absorption, which might make these conditions worse. Also in large doses, acerola might increase the chance of getting kidney stones. People with latex allergy might also react to this fruit. Acerola is also an astringent, so its very good for treating skin blemishes, promoting skin elasticity and aiding digestive issues.

It's easy to plant a shimaruku tree as it grows by seeds. I did this myself and got six trees out of a bunch of seeds I grew in a small container. After a while the young trees pop up. I then transplanted them in a bigger pot and once they were about a half meter I planted them all in the yard. Now I'm waiting for the fruit which will hopefully come after the next rainy season.

Shimarukus are the best when consumed within two days. If you want to preserve them, the best way is to freeze them, otherwise the berries decompose within four days of harvest and lose much of their nutrition.

Children love these berries, so make a trip to the bush when it's shimaruku time and let them enjoy the real taste of nature and/or plant your own shimaruku tree(s) in your garden.

Just do it. *Angliet, Nature lover.*

Seafood Quiz Answers (see page 8):

Key: correct answers in boldface.

- Which of the following fish should not be on your menu?:
 - Yellowtail snapper
 - Great white shark (not easy to nibble on, though)
 - Sharptail puffer:** poisonous to eat
 - Mola mola
- Eating which of the following invertebrates is a terrible idea, no matter how hungry you get on the dive:
 - Sponges:** the spicules damage our insides
 - Alaskan King crab (if you find one here, good for you!)
 - Sea cucumbers (are a delicacy, but not here)
 - Giant squid (again, not easy to nibble on)
- You come across a dead bristleworm (fireworm). Who is likely to be nibbling on it?
 - Surgeonfish
 - Octopus
 - A swarm of krill (tiny crustaceans)
 - No one is crazy enough to nibble on bristleworms**
- You come across a dead fish. Who is likely to be munching on it?
 - Bristleworms (fireworms)** will munch on anything they can get
 - Trumpetfish (suck down live fish headfirst. Ignore dead fish.)
 - Frogfish (suck down live fish headfirst. Ignore dead fish.)
 - Yellowhead jawfish
- Which of the following critters can eat a raw egg yolk (yes, a chicken egg, and yes, out of the shell) without breaking the yolk?
 - Slender filefish (mouth structure prevents it)
 - Giant Caribbean anemone:** it's slow and deliberate
 - Maine lobster (mouth structure prevents it)
 - Crown of thorns sea star (mouth structure prevents it)
- A yellowhead jawfish with a mouthful of orbs the size of his eyes is:
 - Collecting algae seeds for a garden (algae doesn't have seeds)
 - Displaying, to a female, his ability to provide food (these orbs are not for eating!)
 - Protecting his fertilized eggs:** he's a good dad
 - The female consuming the egg of a rival
- Parrotfish munch on coral and coral rock because:
 - Males are marking territory,** and too bad for the coral
 - Females and males are preparing an area for a nest (parrotfish don't nest!)
 - The coral and coral rock provide fiber
 - Crunching the coral keeps their teeth clean
- Octopuses:
 - Each have a beak like a flamingo's beak (it's like a parrot's beak)
 - Are expert at hovering in mid-water (that would be fun to see!)
 - Have rows of suckers along each arm
 - Have two rows of suckers along each arm,** but they're often out of sight
- Squid:
 - Each have a beak like a flamingo's beak
 - Are expert at hovering in mid-water**
 - Have eight arms and four tentacles (they have 8 arms and two tentacles)
- Have very primitive eyes (the structure of their eyes is similar to that of human eyes, not primitive)
- Spiny lobsters:
 - Have poisonous spines for defense (nope, that's lionfish and scorpionfish)
 - Will use their shell-cracking claws for defense (sorry, they have no shell-cracking claws)
 - Can use their antennae for defense;** the spines face away from the lobster and they hold the antennae out and stop anything from getting to their bodies.
 - Take advantage of their defenses by spending most of their time out in the open
- Humpback whales:
 - Have been seen – rarely – between Bonaire and Klein Bonaire.** Once every decade or so...
 - Birth their calves in Lac Bay every two years (that would be so wonderful!)
 - Stay along our dropoff, all around Bonaire, to feed on coral eggs and sperm during the fall coral spawning (It would be nice to see them, but it's a relief that they don't seek coral reproductive stuff.)
 - Use the sponges on the pilings beneath our North and South Piers to massage themselves, and the corals to scratch their itches. (That would be fun, too!)

Jarno Knijff, Program Manager of the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA), tells us that most if not all restaurants will open their doors these coming weeks. The latest information shows there is little chance of Covid-19 being on Bonaire and relaxing the emergency measures will make it easier for people to go for a nice dinner again.



In accordance with restrictions for gatherings, few attended the ceremony. Two veterans who served in World War II, Rob Straus and Joop van der Linden, attended as did veterans association representatives and government officials. Among those who placed wreaths on the monument and observed a minute of silence were: Robert Sances, Kingdom representative Jan Helmond, Lt. Gov. Edison Rijna and Secretary of the Interior Gabriel van Arnevan.

There were no speeches, musicians or crowds to honor the countless fallen victims of war and violence on Remembrance Day, May 4 in Bonaire this year. The few who gathered observed a minute of silence and placed three wreaths at the memorial in Wilhelmina Park. And on May 5, there were no parades or celebrations to commemorate Liberation Day. This was the day that marked the end of Nazi Germany occupation in the Netherlands 75 years ago and the end of World War II.

So many years ago Bonaire had been the site of an internment camp for Germans.

There were many from Bonaire who served in the "war to end all wars". A look at the memorial plaque reveals the heroes names listed under the words "Commemorating our fallen in World War II."

This anniversary year Bonaire wanted to celebrate these fallen soldiers and all

victims of tragedy and violence. The Veteran's Association had plans to involve school children in the May 4th and 5th events. A program to educate the kids about the war had just begun in the schools when they were closed due to the threat of Covid 19. Island wide gatherings had been planned to bring people together, enjoy some food and discuss peace and freedom in the various neighborhoods. Plans had been made for an event in Wilhelmina Park for a celebration marking this 75th year with poems, videos, music and dance.

These heroes of war and other tragedies fought to keep Bonaire and the rest of the world safe. Much the same as government is doing now by enacting special measures against Covid 19. Protect yourself and people around you – Together Against Corona.

The steering committee is considering the possibility of shifting the activities to May 2021. *Story & photo Julie Morgan*

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		Gelato, coffee
Luciano	Yes	everyday 7:30am - 10pm		Ice cream, coffee
It Rains Fishes	Yes	Mon - Fri, Lunch 11-3 Dinner 5-9	Yes	Sit down, take away and free delivery
Donna & Giorgio	Yes	Lunch Tues-Sat Dinner Tues; Thurs-Sat.	Yes	Reservations for outside seating (four tables only)
Hangout Bar	Yes	Everyday 10am - 6pm		(max. 50 persons. Observing social distancing)

Advertisers' Hours: some changed-some not

599 cargo - Closed

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

Buena Vista Optics Closed. Emergencies: email buenavistaoptics@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

Ezone - Hours the same Open Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm and Saturday 10am - 2pm. Contact: Bonaire@getezone.com 599-717-6161.

Flamingo Fitness Open

Multishop Open again. See page 14.

RE/MAX - The office is closed and open only by apt. 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.

Yoga Sensibile - online class via Zoom and in person at Eden Beach after May 11.(contact Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de)

At Your Service

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

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Shelter News

Thank you for your donations... We've still a long way to go

Animal Shelter Bonaire is so very grateful to all the Reporter readers who responded to our plea for donations during this Covid 19 crisis. Together we are stronger and your assistance in helping us carry through is much appreciated. With no idea when, or if, the island will return to its prior tourism numbers, we still desperately need your support. Whatever donation you can make will help us survive. Donation information: call the Shelter to make an appointment to donate via cash or credit/debit card, through our website <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com> via PayPal or European credit cards or by bank transfer: MCB Bonaire, Beneficiary Account: Animal Shelter Bonaire/Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire Account # 10237800; Rabobank (Dongen Netherlands, Beneficiary Account: Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire Account #NL40RABO0137 7487 44



Pet of the Week: Ginny



Looking for a human roommate:

Hi, my name is Ginny. I'm a one year and three month old female looking for a suitable roommate(s) to share a home. My current living situation is nice here at the Cat Palace, but I am looking for something more permanent with a human roommate. A little bit about myself: I am a very clean individual since I bathe every day. Don't worry though, I won't hog the shower, I just lick myself clean. I want to be honest and let you know that I have had kids, but they're all grown up and moved out of the Palace. They each have their own human roommates with whom they live. I am very happy for my babies, but I have also been waiting my whole life here at the shelter to find the best human to live with. I promise I would make a great roommate to you. I can also get along well with other cat roommates, and after having my kittens, I have discovered my nurturing side.

What I look for in an ideal human roommate: You must be happy with me talking and singing for you every now and then since clear communication is important to me. An ideal human will also provide food and water for me, access to a clean litter box and keep me healthy. In return for these simple responsibilities, I will "knead bread" for you with my paws or share my healing art of soft purring with you. I also love playing with my roommates and getting pets. In fact, I'll make it extra easy for you, if you put your hand out, I will automatically ram my head into it and give myself pets from you! That's how dedicated to being a good roommate I am if you are the one for me! I'd love to schedule an interview with you, please call or Whatsapp the Shelter at 701-4989 to make an appointment.

Story and Photo: Amy Weir

As of May 6, the Shelter will be open to the public again from 9 am-12 noon and 3-5 pm Monday through Friday, Saturday 9 am-3 pm non-stop. Surrender of animals remains by appointment only; please call or Whatsapp 701-4989 for an appointment.

Bonaire animal organizations helping those in need

Animal Shelter Bonaire and other island animal welfare organizations are all struggling financially due to the Covid 19 crisis, trying to make ends meet while the island is in lock down and our donation sources dwindle. But we all can still continue to help others also in need on the island through the generosity of Stichting Dierenlot, the Dutch animal welfare organization. Dierenlot has sent 40 pallets of emergency food aid (20 for Bonaire and 20 for Curacao) for animals in need in homes that can no longer afford to feed their pets. Animal Shelter Bonaire, Dierenbescherming, Dierenhulp and FKK will distribute the food to those homes needing assistance. These organizations will work with FCB (Fundashon Cas Bonairiano), Voedselbank Bonaire (Food Bank Bonaire) and other assistance groups to identify families with pets who need support. The goal is to keep pets in their homes and prevent them from being abandoned because their owners can no longer afford to care for them. THANK YOU, DIERENLOT!!!



Shelter proud!!!!

Animal Shelter Bonaire is so proud of Paul Wichers, who received a prestigious royal award from King Willem-Alexander. Paul is now a Member of the Order of Orange-Nassau. The decoration is given by the King to citizens who have made outstanding contributions to their community through volunteer action.

Paul joined the board of the Shelter in 1999, and served as president for 16 years. The Shelter is what it is today because of his leadership. He continues to do his extraordinary volunteer work managing the Pakus di Pruga, the cruise market stand, supervising and planning construction...and just generally being a super volunteer!

Rini Van Leeuwen, another great Shelter volunteer, spearheaded the nomination process early in 2019. On April 24, 2020 the four recipients on Bonaire were notified. Due to the Covid 19 crisis, the official awards ceremony presenting the decoration to the recipients will be postponed to a later time this year. So the Shelter had its own mini-ceremony surprising Paul with a champagne toast when he received the phone call about his honor.

Congratulations, Paul! We are so proud of this honor that is so well deserved.



**Top L-R: Sanne Attevelt & Amy Weir
Bottom: L-R: Travis Sullins & Jane Madden-Disko**

HORECA

Stay



Strong

WE NEED YOU!



Now you have 'No Excuses' for not dropping off your recyclable trash at Selibon because the gate is closed. Two weeks ago Selibon installed paper, glass, plastic and can bins just outside the fence. So now, any day and anytime of day or night you can dispose of your recycle materials the right way and in the right place. Ban Kuido Boneiru! Pictured: Selibon employees demonstrate the new bins, photo by Julie Morgan

The Island Policy Team and Executive Council during the coronacrisis

The Island Policy Team (Eilandelijk Beeldsteam, hereinafter EBT)

The EBT advises the Island Governor on measures aimed at combating the coronacrisis. The Island Governor is the Chairman of the EBT, determines the team's composition and makes decisions.

What does the EBT do during the coronacrisis?

Combat:

- The EBT is primarily engaged in combating the coronacrisis.

React:

- The EBT advises the Island Governor on strategic and operational measures.
- The Island Governor, as Chairman of the EBT, makes the decisions.
- The EBT subsequently ensures a proper conveyance to the Public Entity Bonaire.

Follow-up:

- The EBT is responsible for dealing with the consequences of the coronacrisis.
- And takes measures to restore business as usual.

Who are on the EBT?

- The Island Governor, also Chairman
- The acting Island Governor, Technical Chairman
- The acting Kingdom Representative
- The Head of the Operational Team
- The Government Adviser
- The Legal Counsel
- Strategic advisers from the Fire Department, medical sciences, public health, communications, police and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee

The Executive Council (Bestuurcollege, hereinafter BC)

The BC endeavors to reduce the social and economic consequences of the coronacrisis. The BC takes measures and prepares plans to restore the situation after the crisis as soon as possible.

In addition to this task during the coronacrisis, the BC also remains responsible for all regular policy duties.

The Operational Team (hereinafter OT)

The OT advises the EBT on the viability of the policy and the measures. If the Island Governor makes a decision, the OT implements it.



Island Governor Edison E. Rijna is the Chairman of the EBT.



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LOGISTICS SERVICES B.V.

COVID-19 MEASURE & TO MINIMIZE INTERACTION:

- WE DON'T ACCEPT CASH PAYMENTS.
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