

**Electrical planes for local travel • COVID news •
 Quarantine art exhibit • Bonaire's seaweeds
 Online edition publishes COVID updates: June 15
 airspace open from European Netherlands**



Malin Kaijser standing on the coastal edge at Boka Onima on the east coast of Bonaire
 Story and Photo: Julie Morgan

World Oceans Day - The Ocean is our Lifeforce

*The ocean is our life force producing over 50 percent of the oxygen we breathe, absorbing carbon dioxide and regulating the earth's climate. It is home to an unknown number of species because only 95 percent of the ocean has been explored.**

As we celebrate World Oceans Day on June 8, 2020, our air and water are a lot clearer than they were this same time last year. The world shut down and cleared the waterways, the airways and roads due to Covid 19. Some of the most polluted places in the world announced a return to clear skies and waters.

Reports came in over the news of smog free skies in Los Angeles, California and crystal clear water fish swimming in the once polluted canals of Venice, Italy.

The list of improvements is worldwide. And that includes Bonaire. Within a week of the shutdown on Bonaire, divers reported clearer water and more fish.

Diver and resident Rich Schwerdrfeger said, "In the absence of cruise ships, dive boats and tourists we are seeing Bonaire water clarity soar and our reefs now teaming with life, similar to 15-20 years ago. The pandemic creates an opportunity to establish a water quality and reef assessments baseline."

Ideally water quality testing would scientifically prove these observations but there is no data to support this. A STINAPA spokesperson said there has been no funding for testing of the water due to budget cuts.

According to World Environment Forum, the pandemic has allowed for an improvement in air quality and also cleaner water. These reductions in emissions worldwide have lessened our human footprint and given us a view of a possible new future.

As things begin to open up again on Bonaire and worldwide, what can we do to ensure we don't revert to the old ways?

For World Oceans Day, The Wyss Campaign for Nature, in association with National Geographic, is calling for a global movement to protect 30% of our oceans and land by 2030.

Currently only seven percent of our oceans and only 15 percent of the land is protected on planet Earth.

The campaign hopes to enlist all governments worldwide to embrace this idea and strive for cleaner oceans and protect and preserve ecosystems and wilderness at the Convention on Biodiversity COP15 Summit in October 2020. To show you care sign the online petition for 30x30 for nature. <https://www.campaignfornature.org/petition>

To celebrate World Ocean's Day and World Ocean Month, an underwater fishing line cleanup is scheduled by Dive Friends/STCB and Blue Destination and the Junior Rangers are joining forces for a cleanup. Regularly scheduled cleanups will be held by One Hour Cleanup (weekly) and Clean Coast Bonaire (June 14).

*Sources- Ecotricity, NOAA



Strip by: Irwin Hasen © Chicago Tribune Syndicate, 1976

Bonaire continues to respond to the pandemic

► The Island Governor of Bonaire has announced an extension of the emergency ordinance to include the period June 1st until June 10th. Sports competitions for children up to 17 years of age shall be allowed from June 1st. The complete emergency ordinance can be found at eng-lish.rijkdienshch.com/covid-19.

► As of May 29, Bonaire still has reported only two cases of CORONA-19, both recovered.

► The total count on Curaçao so far is 18 positive cases. The 18th is someone who was abroad and has been in contact with the 17th person who tested positive last weekend. Both individuals were already quarantined and are now in isolation.

Epidemiologist Dr. Izzy Gerstenbluth estimates that Curaçao now has the care capacity to handle more COVID-19 infections if a second wave of the coronavirus strikes, but only if people adapt to "the new normal." "That is why quarantine is important and we also must keep a distance at a snack bar or restaurant, for example. Otherwise, it is not two people who become infected but much more," said the doctor.

Dr. Gerstenbluth said, "There is no question of local infections now, but if someone is infected from abroad, a super spread can take place if more people come together and do not keep to the distance." Curaçao must be prepared in advance to deal with the threat.

► KLM proposes to start operating four return flights per week at the beginning of June from Schiphol to Curaçao, where travelers could connect to Bonaire, Aruba and Sint Maarten. KLM CEO Pieter Elbers said, "We want to start up the network further and see demand for tickets from the market. The Dutch would like to go on a summer vacation." His announcement was reported in Luchtvaartnieuws.nl.

► Dutch holidaymakers will be able to book flights only when the islands begin to relax their travel restrictions. Aruba and Curaçao will likely be the first to open their borders to tourists. Once that happens, KLM will start selling tickets. Bonaire's tentative plan to reopen Flamingo International on June 15 remains in effect.

► During the corona crisis, KLM transported more than five hundred tons of freight to the Caribbean Netherlands via Curaçao, much of it providing relief supplies and medical care. More than twenty repatriation flights arrived as well.

► Benefits paid as SZW's "emergency regulation" have been extended until October 12, 2020. These include payments to prevent employers from having to fire employees, and payments to independent entrepreneurs or people who no longer have an employer because of the coronavirus. The EZK allowance to help entrepreneurs cover high fixed costs during the business downturn have also been extended to October 12.

► The Island Council has approved the extension of the Childcare Subsidy for the third quarter of 2020. On Bonaire, the cost-reducing subsidy is \$200 per child per month for day care and \$150 per child per month in out-of-school care. Childcare organizations may request a monthly parental contribution as well. The maximum charge to parents for both daycare and out-of-school care is \$200 per month. The minimum for daycare is \$150, for out-of-school care \$100. Parents who are unable to pay the minimum parental contribution can apply for a child placement subsidy from the public body. *DMR*



Electric planes could be option for local traffic

Within this decade people may be traveling between the ABC islands on planes powered by electricity. Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management Cora van Van Nieuwenhuizen foresees the relatively short routes being flown by smaller aircraft up to twenty passengers. She announced, "I intend to explore with market parties what options there are for aviation electrification between the islands of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom mutual."

A number of companies around the world are working on developing feasible electric planes for the low-passenger, short-hall market. Because electric planes burn no fuel, have fewer moving parts, and are less complex than conventional jets, they may cost about half as much to operate as internal combustion engines. They produce zero CO2 emissions.

Swedish Heart Aerospace is developing an electric aircraft for 19 passengers with a range of four hundred kilometers. The company expects the device to enter service in 2025.

The major limiting factor in developing electrically powered planes is the weight of batteries. The development of lithium batteries was a huge step toward feasibility for electrically powered aircraft, but further reductions in the weight to power ratio are needed. Because current aircraft designs can be adapted to electrical power, development costs and certification delays will be relatively low. *DMR*



The crew of the joint support ship Zr. Ms. Karel Doorman enjoyed a rest & recreation port visit ashore on Bonaire from May 26th until May 29th. A logistics support vessel with two helicopters, it can perform a wide range of tasks, from guaranteeing food security to medical evacuations. It also has aboard a hurricane emergency package.

Earlier the crew of Zeeland took a break on the island also. The Karel Doorman and Zeeland are sailing in the Caribbean Sea to support the Coastguard patrol of the maritime borders and provide support during the corona crisis. *DMR*

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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: June 17, 2020

News Deadline: June 15, 2020

Contributor's Deadline: June 12, 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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Exhibit features quarantine art

Fires set at Tolo



Fred Ros made the most of his time of 14 days in quarantine at Buddy Dive Resort by doing what he loves. He made art.

Fred is one of the 245 residents stuck elsewhere when passenger flights to Bonaire were halted due to the coronavirus. And he is one of the lucky ones repatriated to Bonaire by the government.

Fred told friends John and Erica of "Everything but

Lola", that he was very happy the way things were arranged during the repatriation.

To show his appreciation he has created this exhibit to thank everyone involved: the local government, the airlines and Buddy Dive.

Receipts from the show will be donated to the food bank.

The "336 Hours in Quarantine" exhibit is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 6pm to 8pm at "Everything but Lola". The show will feature 14 pieces of art, one made on each day of the quarantine, from May 20 to June 3.

Fred has been called a "life artist". He likes to say that



Fires were intentionally set on five termite nests near Tolo on May 23. STINAPA and Bonaire fire department put out the fires. STINAPA warns that starting fires on public lands is not only illegal but can be dangerous as they can easily get out of control. For more information on termites and Bonaire's natural habitat read this week's Did You Know on page 7. Photo Leanne Pinkerton

he makes something positive out of something negative. The work is eclectic and subjective. Paintings are 30x40 cm on stretched museum boards done in acrylic and mixed media.

The artist has lived on Bonaire for 15 years. He had a show of work several years ago at Eden Beach and Casa del Arte. In addition to being an artist, Fred Ros is otherwise known as Kip Tukkie, selling the best smoked chicken on Bonaire.

To learn more about Fred and his work visit these sites online: www.fredros.net/bonaire, www.fredros.net/publiciteit and <https://www.fredros.net/terschelling>

By Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Courtyard Village Apartment H3 Modern Apartment



- Living area : 112 m2 / 1206 sq. ft.
- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- Open floorplan, fully furnished

- Communal swimming pool with sundeck
- Centrally located, close to town and ocean
- Great rental possibilities

Listed for \$209,000 US Dollar



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Letters & Opinions

Dear Editor:

Once again I find that in the “Reef Glimpses” column there is a picture of the author touching reef life. This seems to be a constant in every one of her columns. It seems many/most/all (not sure) show her touching or “playing with” marine life. In some articles she even brags about it in the text portion. I believe this is strongly against STINAPA rules. Do you really think it is a good idea to encourage this type of diver behavior by posting pictures of it in your paper? Do you really think the ignorant cruise ship divers that already disrespect and damage the reef won’t take this as a go ahead to try and do the same? Or maybe you really didn’t think before you published those photos and text. As a conscientious diver I am appalled by that type of behavior. I certainly hope I don’t see it repeated in subsequent publications.

Nonetheless, touching marine life is forbidden by STINAPA. Showing it being done blatantly is an awful example for divers. It matters not how many awards a person has. That just adds to the arrogance displayed by that person. Marine life are not pets. Habituating marine life to human interaction is detrimental to them. In addition, touching them can disrupt protective mucus and transfer microbial life which could infect the creature. You say she is hyper environmental. Nonsense! What she is doing and promoting is considered harassment of marine life almost every where people dive. I am certain every serious diving agency would disparage this type of behavior. It sets a very terrible example and should not be promoted.

Deeply disturbed,
Larry M. Litwin

Dee Scarr responds:

Some readers, including the Bonaire National Marine Park, have objected to the photo of Snaggles with my hand that appeared in the May 20 issue of The Bo-

naire Reporter, stating that such contact is against BNMP regulations and it’s not appropriate to show such images. These objections are partially valid; the text of the Reef Glimpse and/or the photo caption should have made it clear that the event occurred years ago, when STINAPA’s regulations were different. This omission is not the fault of The Bonaire Reporter; it was I who failed to include the information.

Let me also add that even now, I can’t think of any negative effects that might have been caused by my interactions with Snaggles. For more than a decade, I – and many of my clients – gently touched sharptail eels, the Snaggles eels, certain moray eels, scorpionfish, and other creatures. We know these interactions were not harmful to the fish involved, because the same individuals interacted with us over and over again for months and even years, and they remained healthy. We know these interactions were not frightening to the fish involved, because the same individuals interacted with us over and over again for months and even years. (Oh yes, and no diver was ever injured, either.)

Two additional facts to consider: first, that there were many many fewer divers thirty years ago than there are now, and second, that the huge majority of divers back then were afraid of marine animals to some extent. I’m hoping to write more for The Bonaire Reporter about what we learned in those days, and how it affects what we’re doing in these days.

To Larry: I don’t use the phrase “playing with” marine animals; I use the term “interacting” deliberately and accurately.

Also, what’s your source about how touching marine critters disrupts protective mucus or transfers microbial life? I know that this happens under other circumstances, when people handle trout or other fishes out of the water, with dry hands, and then release them. When we gently touch marine animals underwater,

there will be the idea that smaller hotels and guesthouses are safer places to stay: we should take advantage of this. It is highly likely most people traveling during the pandemic will feel the same way: less people the better. In the event of an infection the ability to perform “contact tracing” in smaller accommodation is far less complicated than in a larger one.

No more than 72 hours prior to arrival each traveler MUST have a COVID-19 test with a clear “negative” result. Between the test and arrival on the island, self-quarantine to ensure minimal risk of infection. The element of risk here is a direct relationship between someone who does not have the virus, and their desire to get it: very little.

Currently we are practicing social distancing, washing hands frequently, not gathering in crowds, and being respectful to each other. These steps alone go a long way to slow down the spread of a possible outbreak, allowing our medical systems to cope. Before opening the island to tourism we should add one more precaution: a face mask. Everyone on the island must wear a face mask when in public.



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@bonaire-homes.com

this effect doesn’t occur. One reason I know this is because the marine animals we touched never had any problems.

Please feel free to contact me or The Bonaire Reporter with any other questions or comments you may have.

Dee Scarr

Dear Bonaire Reporter,

What Brian Niessen writes is absurd and in his article he sums up why he cannot order groceries in Bonaire.

First of all: Groceries can be ordered online and through WhatsApp from Pietersz Distribution Bonaire Supermarket.

Number 2: In Saba with only about 900 residents people send an email to the supermarket to order and they get a call before it is delivered and then they tell the client what has to be paid and then they deliver the food and the cash is given to the driver.

In Curacao people order by phone and they are told what the expenses are and they pay to the person who delivers the groceries. Brian Niessen says the supermarket here cannot do it because of all kinds of reasons: supermarket needs to have elaborate website made, supermarket needs to employ so many people for this also for delivery. And he sums up so many problems, problems with delivery, tomatoes that are not good, problems with payment at the end etc..etc..

Well unfortunately this article does not represent reality because in Saba people all get their groceries delivered at home, no problems at all. In Curacao the same and in Bonaire Pietersz Distribution Bonaire supermarket delivers groceries to your house.

It is disappointing that Van den Tweel

Supermarket and Warehouse do not give this service. Those supermarkets are economizing on all fronts. They stopped buying meat products from Pietersz and are producing their own meat in the back of Warehouse and the meat looks terrible so I go to Pietersz to get the same meat I used to buy at Van den Tweel and get it at a lower price also. Van den Tweel also stopped paying me for bringing the people on the Jachts to them twice a week because they are economizing because of Covid-19. I used to be the shuttle for the people on the jachts for Van Den Tweel. I still bring those people to Van den Tweel twice a week but without payment from Van den Tweel. Van den Tweel and Warehouse also have people working making less hours since Covid-19 and so these people make less money. All to economize. There are no fresh products because there are no flights. On Tuesday often there are no fresh vegetables at van den Tweel and since it now is MY ride and not the supermarkets ride anymore when there are no vegetables I bring the people to Pietersz afterwards also so they can load up on vegetables. Pietersz is never without. So Van den Tweel is still making a lot of money because all these cruisers I bring to them spend a lot of money on groceries in their supermarket. Especially Friday they buy a lot because then finally Van den Tweel has more supplies. If in the future Van den Tweel pays me again for these rides I will stop bringing them to Pietersz also but Right now the cruisers themselves are giving me some compensation for the rides and my first interest is to keep them happy.

Therese Rosier Taxi 7859900

Opening Tourism on our island

opinion by Peter McNiff

To decide the best way to open our island, we should look at the people we want to attract and who will want to come. Look at what they will do on the island, and what we have to offer. We need to look at what level of “pain” will they tolerate in order to come here. Then can we make an informed decision on the best way to move forward for Bonaire: we are not the same as Aruba or Curacao and what works for them will not necessarily work for us.

We will attract people who participate in a lot of solitary, or small group activities: Scuba Diving, Wind Surfing, Kite Boarding, and Nature, etc. By the very nature of these activities most guests are “self-quarantining”. We don’t need to have drastic quarantine measures.

Our sales proposition can be: safe, small, uncrowded and secluded. Real or imagined

The face mask will help further reduce the chance of someone with the virus infecting others. Wearing a face mask in addition to following the other established procedures is an additional layer of protection. This is small price to pay in my mind.

I for one want to see the island open in a safe, equitable and sustainable way: easy to understand, implement, scale, and manage. We will have more competition for the same income streams than before. This is why our product is as painless as possible for the tourists, while effective and efficient for ourselves. With the exception of getting a test and self-quarantine for a few days the potential guest has little inconvenience. Bonaire is ideally positioned to be an extremely attractive destination.

Start in September, with three flights a week from Amsterdam. Avoid flights on consecutive days. September is traditionally a slow month and foreseeable future I do not envision the island being busy. We go from here and we move forward understanding the risks.

Peter McNiff, Bonaire resident

Tim Muller declines Bonaire’s appointment

Tim Muller has informed the Executive Council that he is relinquishing the position of Island secretary that he was to have taken up on Bonaire as of May 1, 2020. Instead Muller will remain in his current position of island secretary on Saba. Muller said that he could not leave Saba given the vulnerabilities on the Island due to the corona crisis. His decision was also determined by personal considerations. The procedure to recruit candidates for the vacancy of Island Secretary will be started again as soon as possible.

Visit us!



Rincon man dies after massive rescue attempt



Enoc Poulino Melaan

ed around noon the next day incapacitated and was sent by air ambulance to Curaçao. He died there a few days later.

When Melaan failed to return to their vehicle near Playa Frans, family members and friends searched unsuccessfully for him in that area well into the night. A full scale search was organized the next morning that included the use of a drone provided by the Kadaster office and a Coast Guard helicopter.

The helicopter located him near the upper reaches of Salina Tam two or three kilometers from where their vehicle was parked. The helicopter evacuated him to Flamingo International.

Searchers had to use machetes to free him from the brush where he was entangled. Later it was determined that he had fallen from rocks above the spot. *DMR*

A seriously injured Rincon man, rescued following a massive search in the Sera Wecua area north of BOPEC, has died of wounds he suffered in the bush. Enoc Poulino Melaan, 39 years old, was hunting iguanas with his uncle when they became separated. He was locat-

New laws coming for dealing with juvenile offenders

In the Caribbean Netherlands, the legal system has only two ways to deal with juvenile offenders. They must be tried and sentenced under same laws as adults, or they must be released with no action taken. However, by the end of this year a juvenile criminal law should be in force. It will respond to juvenile malfeasance with more out-of-court settlements for minor crimes and will focus on providing assistance and counselling rather than punishment.

Minor criminal offenses such as vandalism, school absenteeism or driving

without a driving license will be handled outside the courtroom so a young person does not start life with a criminal record. Instead, the legal system will be able to discourage repetition of criminal acts by affecting offenders' behavior in positive ways.

Recent research has shown that theft and driving without a license are the two most frequent offenses committed by juveniles on Bonaire. In more than half the cases, it was the juvenile's first offense. *DMR*

Bonaire is prepared for the hurricane season

Bonaire has a disaster response team that prepares for crises, then coordinates with the police, the fire brigade, the medical services, the population care authorities, and the shelters if a hurricane or tropical storm strikes the island. Information is available that answers people's two most pressing questions: What should I do? And, who do I call if I need help?

Last year the government distributed a four-language hurricane brochure to all households on Bonaire during the hurricane season. The brochure explains how to prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane, what the disaster response team does during a hurricane, and which emergency number people can call. A copy of the brochure can be downloaded from www.bonairegov.com.

An app, Disasterprep Bonaire, can also be downloaded from iTunes and Google

Play. It explains how to prepare for different disasters, how the OLB will respond, what information will be provided via social media, and the emergency number to call. The OLB can also send important emergency messages to all users via the app. *DMR*

Official hurricane season starts late again

By the time the hurricane season officially began on June 1, tropical storms Arthur and Bertha had already struck the Carolina coast of the U.S. Another disturbance in the Atlantic threatened to activate the name Cristobal, then faded away. This is the sixth consecutive year that the official hurricane season didn't begin until after the actual hurricane season had started. *DMR*

Summer edition of Bon Bini Bonaire almost available

The summer edition of Bon Bini Bonaire has been published digitally by the Lieutenant Governor's Cabinet. The magazine, written in Dutch, is intended to keep various target groups outside Bonaire informed of developments on the island. Unfortunately we couldn't find it at the link given (www.bonairegov.nl) and have asked the communications department for a more reliable link to pass on.

The Bonaire Reporter June 3 - June 17, 2020

POLICE REPORT May 18 to June 1, 2020

Property crime

Between Sunday, May 17, 11pm and Monday, May 18, 12:30am two bicycles were stolen: a gray Giant bicycle and a brown Gazelle bicycle. Both bicycles were unlocked in the yard of a house on Kaya Marowijne.

On Thursday, May 21 thieves entered in a house on the Kaya Teresa Ilario between 6:30am and 6:45pm, probably through the kitchen window, and took away jewelry, cash, branded sunglasses and some power tools, among other things.

In the early morning hours of Saturday May 23, a Gilera scooter was stolen from the backyard of a house on Kaya Flamingo sometime between Friday, May 22, around 7pm and Saturday, May 23, around 4:30am. In the afternoon, the police station was notified that the owner, after a search, had found the scooter in a mondi nearby.

Also on the 23rd, between midnight and 2am, a Merida light green mountain bike was stolen. The bike was locked with a cable lock at a bar on Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

Between 1 and 8am on Sunday May 24, a white / red Gilera scooter was stolen from the yard of a house on Kaminda Lagun. The scooter was not locked.

On Thursday, May 28, a champagne colored scooter (Peugeot brand, model Vivacity) was brought to the desk of a restaurant on Kaya L.D. Gerharts without a license plate. The scooter had been parked in front of the company for more than a day. If anyone recognizes this scooter, please contact the police at 717 8000 or 717 7251.

Between Wednesday, May 27, 9pm and Thursday, May 28, 9:45am, thieves took the radio, some boat parts, and cash from a pickup parked in Kaya Francia.

Arrests

After a routine police check on Thursday, May 21, a man, 18, was found to have violated the suspension conditions for previously released prisoners.

On Sunday, May 24, around 1am, a man, 29, was held at Kaya L.D. Gerharts in connection with assault and theft.

Traffic accidents & violations

On Wednesday, May 20, at Kaya Internashonal, the driver of a car lost control of the steering when cornering, causing the car to tip over. The driver had a cut on her lip and abrasions on her arms and legs. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

In the afternoon hours of Wednesday, May 20, the police station was notified that a car had overturned near Subi Blanku on the road to Rincon. When the patrol arrived, the driver was already out of the car and had a wound on his head. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

In the evening of Saturday May 23, a 'hit & run' took place on the Kaya Gutu. A car hit a cyclist and then drove on. The cyclist complained of pain in his limbs and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

The checks for compliance with the new traffic regulations are continuing. In recent days, official reports have been issued for driving without a seat belt, a valid driver's license, insurance documents, or a license plate. Reports have also been issued for driving with a mobile phone in hand and not wearing a helmet on a scooter or motorbike.

During a traffic control at Kaya Gilberto F. Croes on Wednesday, May 27, police focused on those driving without a seat belt. KPCN would like to emphasize that wearing a seat belt guarantees the safety of the occupants of a vehicle. By putting on your seat belt, you also contribute to safer traffic.

Public Safety /Fire

At about 7pm, a fire was reported on the premises of a government company where cars are destroyed. Firefighters spent about

3 hours putting out the fire. Nobody was injured.

The weekend - from Friday, May 29 to Monday, June 1, 2020

On the night of Friday, May 29 to Saturday, May 30, during a patrol on the Kaya L.D. Gerharts the officers on duty talked to a pedestrian about using a pedestrian crossing. After the conversation, someone else began interfering and insulting the police. That person disobeyed the orders of the police, so the officers arrested the resisting man, 31. Subsequently, a large number of bystanders began to interfere and issue threats, forcing the policeman to fire a warning shot. When the crowd did not respond, another officer was also forced to fire a warning shot.

A little later around 5:15 a man was arrested at Kaya Papa Cornes for threats, assault with a weapon and attempted manslaughter.

In the early hours of the night from Saturday, May 30 to Sunday, May 31, a motorbike was seized when the driver demonstratively raced in front of police officers. After this, another person raced on a moped and then drove away. Another patrol saw the moped driving and saw the driver increase his speed before losing control in a bend on Kaya Internashonal. He was taken to hospital for medical treatment by ambulance. The driver received an official report for driving without a license and not complying with the identification requirement. The moped was also confiscated.

At around 3am Sunday, preventive patrols were carried out in the central area by the police. A driver of a car demonstratively raced in front of the police and the crowd and then drove off. Pursuit started which ended in Nort Saliña. The driver of the car, 28, was arrested for endangering traffic and resistance during his arrest. The fellow passenger, a man, 26, was arrested for non-compliance with the identification requirement. The car was seized.

Shortly after this, a brawl was reported in the center area. The two people were fighting with a bottle and a machete. They were surrounded by a large crowd who didn't respond to police orders to stop. A police officer was forced to fire warning shots to separate the fighting. A man, 28, was arrested for violating the BES Weapons Act and for disturbing public order. A woman, 22, was arrested for disturbing public order. The person carrying a machete could not be arrested at that time. The investigation is ongoing.

In the afternoon hours of Sunday, May 31, the police station was notified that a diver was in distress at a dive site on Bulevar E.E.G. The diver had no sensation in his legs and was taken to the hospital for medical treatment by ambulance.

On Sunday May 31, a unilateral collision with a scooter took place at Kaya Karaña at around 4.15 pm. The driver lost control in the corner and fell. The driver had an injury to his face and was taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

In the night hours of Sunday, May 31 to Monday, June 1, the man, 36, was held for assault.

On Monday, June 1, 1:50am, four shots were fired from a passenger car in the city center. After investigation, a man, 28, was arrested at a house on Kaya Kalipso, in connection with violations of the BES Firearms Act. A search was also conducted at this address, where ammunition and a small amount of narcotics were seized.

The police see increasing violence and nuisance in the city center. Violence and insults against the police will not be accepted and action will be taken. The police have a duty to maintain order, and must be able to do their work in difficult circumstances.

Did You Know? Termites first began creepy-crawling across the earth around 200 million years ago?



Did you know termites first began creepy-crawling across the earth around 200 million years ago? That makes them three times older than dinosaurs and 28 times older than humans! Because termites are so old, their colonies have had a long time to evolve an extremely complex social structure, similar to bees and ants. One mound can have up to one million individuals! Do you think you could share a house with one million of your siblings without going crazy?

Each individual has its own role in the nest – the king and queen, reproductives (baby makers), workers, and soldiers; and each has to work together to survive. The king and queen are the only ones that can fly and they require lots of attention, as befits a royal. The queen can lay up to 30,000 babies per day and the type of termite that will be hatched is all up to her. She will feed her babies her own feces, sprinkled with some pheromones for flavor, and these pheromones determine if the baby will grow up to be a soldier, worker, or reproductive. Imagine if your mom could decide whether you would be a doctor or a fireman or a gardener just by feeding you

different kinds of poop! Most of the termites in a mound are workers, followed by soldiers and reproductives. The soldier and reproductive termites cannot even feed themselves, so the workers need to chew up food and spit it into their mouths!

Termites are extremely selfless and will do anything, even pre-chew their food for them, to protect and support their families. Studies have also shown that termites have an extremely important relationship with many types of birds and lizards. On Bonaire, prikichis (brown-throated parakeets) will take advantage of a ready-made nest and lay their eggs in inhabited termite mounds. Besides providing a warm and safe nest, termites act as built-in housekeepers and keep the nests nice and tidy. Termites potentially might even keep parasites and other predators away from the young. In return, it is hypothesized that the holes created by the birds might provide ventilation and control the temperature of the nest for the termites. In some places, birds like kingfishers create these holes by kamikaze diving headfirst into the mound!

Termites are necessary for Bonaire’s wildlife and to keep our ecosystems healthy. They provide food and habitat for other animals and play a large role in decomposing dead organic material.

Recently in Bonaire, there have been several incidents where termite nests have been set on fire and destroyed. This is terrible! Setting fires on public land is illegal and, as it is now the dry season, any fire could accidentally spread and cause huge habitat loss and damage. Additionally, both prikichis and some of the trees termites lay their nest in are protected by law and need to be kept safe.

Termites are fascinating and incredibly old creatures. They are extremely selfless and care about their fami-



lies above everything else. Additionally, termites play a large role in the cycle of life and help to make Bonaire the island paradise we all know and love! We can learn a lot from these tiny creatures so please help us spread the word about the importance of these crazy white ants and the next time you see a termite mound, try to see if you can find a prikichi flying nearby – maybe that is their nest!

Written by Mackenzie Stoeltje, recent graduate of UC Davis and current intern at STINAPA Bonaire. Connecting People With Nature.



Flamingos make a visit to Bonaire’s Flamingo International Airport. Photo by Robert Croes Jr.



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Reef Glimpses

Lionfish

Causing Changes



Once upon a time, little attention was paid to the fact that tropical fish populations weren't the same all over the world. In the 1980's, for example, an exhibit at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium was labeled "Caribbean Reef Fish" but contained a Pacific angelfish. Fishes for sale in aquarium stores were rarely classified by native habitat. In Florida and other coastal states, it was a fairly common practice for home aquarists to deal with unwanted fish by releasing them into the sea.

None of this mattered for decades. One or two non-native fish, usually of different types, might be released. They might find a way to survive in this strange ocean, but they were considered unlikely to ever find a mate. Their alien appearance was considered insignificant.

Until an unexpected, unintended consequence occurred: tropical Pacific lionfish began to appear in surprising numbers off Florida, not just because more and more people were releasing them; they were appearing in greater numbers because they were reproducing. Pacific fish, reproducing in the Atlantic/Caribbean. (For a map showing lionfish sightings by year, go to <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/ecosystems/impacts-invasive-lionfish>)

Early reports from the Bahamas showed lionfish gobbling down 79% of baby fishes who'd settled on their reefs – leaving only two of every ten babies to

grow up, and taking the other eight off the menu for snappers, groupers, and other native predators.

Consequently, the BNMP made us as ready as possible for the lionfish invasion. The first was discovered here in 2009, and removed from the reef by BNMP rangers the same day. Local volunteers were trained for netting lionfish. Almost every lionfish we saw then was the same size – little ones at first, but growing about 1" a month – which means they drifted in to Bonaire as either eggs or babies. By the time they reached 4–5", they were reeeeeeally difficult to net. Our government and BNMP/STINAPA made a decision they'd never expected to make: they allowed spearfishing in the BNMP, with a few stipulations: only lionfish could be taken, only trained volunteers could get permits and only permitted individuals could take lionfish, the only device that was permitted was the ELF (which was distributed to permitted volunteers by the BNMP). The numbers of lionfish dropped significantly. Thousands of lionfish have been removed from our reefs by BNMP volunteers.

Skimming through a few early articles, I found one which stated that Caribbean predators who ate lionfish would be killed by the lionfish's venom! (That author needs to learn the difference between poison and venom.)

The behavior of a few lionfish-eating

morays, however, indicates very clearly that once some predators get a taste of lionfish, they want more. The other day, off Playa, I missed a 4" lionfish, which bolted into a crevice. Right after the sound of my unimpeded ELF, a spotted moray zoomed into the area. Since I completely missed the lionfish, the moray had to be attracted solely by the sound of my ELF firing! Pavlov's dogs, Bonaire's morays...

For the past few years, it has seemed to me that our lionfish population has lessened. Initially, I figured our lionfishers were doing a fantastic job. That's true, but now I have an additional idea.

Fish hatch into a fish-eat-fish world. Developing fish must get food for themselves while avoiding being eaten, and they must do this pretty much by trial and error. More than a decade after lionfish first arrived here, our native fishes have grown up with lionfish of all stag-

es of life, and lionfish aren't the least bit mysterious. Since Bonaire's anti-lionfish procedures were established before lionfish showed up, we have plenty of native fishes to gobble up lionfish at all stages of their lives, plus hundreds of lionfishers to go after the lionfish that our other fish miss.

In the wild, the BNMP is in the forefront of lionfish research

Out of the wild, aquariums are much more accurate about who came from which ocean. *Dee Scarr*

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



A Garden? Just Do It!

Bottle gourd

While traveling at the beginning of the year, I saw one of my favorite vegetables that I have not consumed for a long time. The funny thing is that during my childhood in Surinam, I found its taste so awful I swore many times that when I'm able to cook for myself, I will never eat this veggie again. But then once in a hotel, unknowing that I was being served this veggie, I loved it. So I asked what it was and can you imagine how surprised I was with the answer. Since then my mind has changed and I have prepared it many times in different ways. When I recently saw it again, I thought, I want to know more about it. You wonder what it is? I'm talking about Bottle Gourd, a very nice healthy vegetable.



ca but later spread around the world.

That means that it can grow on Bonaire too, so who dares to take the challenge? Me, for sure, because I know how healthy it is and I need to give it a chance in my garden. Its nutritional value is great; look at this. It's low in calories, rich in fiber and contains Vitamin C, folate, calcium, iron, zinc and B vitamins. The juice is also rich in vitamin C and zinc.

But take caution: never use gourd juice

with a bitter flavor as it may contain toxins that cause ulcers and extreme harm to the digestive track.

How to use bottle gourd? This vegetable is used most often with skin on or when slightly more mature, remove the skin for a tender texture. It can be sautéed, fried, pickled, grilled and cooked in a wok. Cubed gourd is delicious in curry or stewed in fresh coconut milk or if grated, its nice in cakes, quick breads and soups. For vegetarians, it's a great vegetable to use in different dahls and as a chutney.

The gourd typically has a pale green skin but can be darker green depending on the size. Uncut, the gourds can be stored in the refrigerator for two to three weeks. When prepared for food, remove gourd seeds and spongy interior and chop in small parts with or without skin.

Bottle gourds grow easily from seedlings. Sow directly in small pits and they will germinate in seven to eight days. The seedlings grow fast and quickly form the habit of a climber. Build a strong trellis support for the climber to grow. Or use the poles of a house or roofs. When the plant is about 10 centimeters, re-pot it in a bigger container with a good mix of potting dirt, goat manure and compost.

Make sure it has enough water so the soil is always moist. Sun and open air is important for this plant and it can go directly in the ground. But remember, Bonaire ground is very dry, so if you use big pots you will be more successful. Pinch off growing points of the young plant to induce branching. The side shoots will develop separate male and female flowers in the second month. After pollination, the female flowers have little gourds beneath them. Harvesting begins about three months after seed sowing when the fruits have a soft, smooth surface.

Immature gourds fall off when there is lack of sufficient nourishment, watering or when soil is in not healthy. Small fruits rot and turn yellow due to water-logging or imperfect pollination.

You can support pollination by hand pollinating. Take pollen from male flowers gently on a painting brush and dust the stigma of female flowers. When you have a lot of plants, hand pollination isn't needed.

Bottle gourds have big fruits and there are a lot on a plant for months.

So good luck with it, if you take the challenge.

Angliet, Nature lover

World Parrot Day a celebration for PARROTS AND PEOPLE

On May 31st we celebrated World Parrot Day, another global movement to show how much we care about the planet.

For Echo, World Parrot Day marks the peak of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon's breeding season and a busy time for our team to identify nests being used by breeding parrots.

At Dos Pos Conservation center it was a big celebration:

Just three days before the team welcomed a new arrival to the Echo family. Mrs Pink & Bruce have hatched a healthy chick at our Dos Pos conservation center. The third time breeding pair have been a part of our captive breeding program since 2015. And as some of you may know, they have hatched five babies in the previous years. The first two babies ever were John and Nathan, who are now a part of the Bonairian wild population. For the 2020 breeding season Mrs. Pink laid one egg. As soon as the egg hatched, she has been overprotective and has not left the nest till now.

Mrs. Pink is not the only mom. In breeding room two, Sylvia spent World Parrot Day incubating her three newly

laid eggs! For Sylvia and Earle, who first bred babies last year, it is looking as if it will be just a few days before the little bundles of joy are hatched. This would be yet another accomplishment that brings satisfaction to our people. Parrots are an excellent flagship species to the environment they call home. By inspiring other people about parrots we help make this world a better place.

This is a reason Echo's spirit has always been about bringing Parrots & People together.

Did you know ?

The special day to celebrate parrots was started in 2004 by Echo's Partner World Parrot Trust with the submission of a petition calling for the European Union to ban the trade of wild birds in Europe. In January 2007 it was officially announced that in July of that year a ban would go into effect thus stopping two million birds from being imported to Europe. That is why, way before Echo's existence, our local government has protected the parrots. But in nearby islands, they are threatened with extinction. Our aim is to safeguard them on Bonaire and



that will make a worldwide difference. Echo and the Yellow-shouldered Amazons on Bonaire need your help!

Are you in Bonaire and can you volunteer two hours or more a week? If so, then we would love to invite you to join our field team at this critical time.

Volunteers will receive instruction and once comfortable they will be assigned to a local nest to monitor. The aim is to determine whether your local

Yellow-shoulder nest is being used by breeding parrots this year. Finding active nests early gives our team the best possible chance of the chicks surviving and detect poaching in the wild.

By contributing your time to helping parrots you will be ensuring their future for generations to come. If you are interested in joining us, please email to info@echobonaire.org. by Julianka Clarendon



Saturday, May 30, three teachers from Pienter in Taal gave their final speech in front of colleagues and family and received their certificates in public speaking.

In the quiet weeks during the corona period, the teachers had lessons in public speaking from Jefferson Rosalia, coach at the Talent School. In a crash course of 11 lessons, they were taught the tricks of a good presentation, skills that are very useful for their work in the classroom. The photo shows students Wianda Steffens, Giovanna Winklaar and Darlene Janga flanked by instructors Jefferson Rosalia and Saignée Evertsz-Rosalia from Eagle Eye Media. Paul Ruijs Stichting Lezen en Schrijven (Reading & Writing Foundation)

Ask a Geek: by Brian Niessen

Why I quit fixing computers and will start picking up donkey poo!

Last week, Microsoft sent down an Update for Windows 10. Whahooo!!!! Or not!

I let it do its thing, and when it rebooted for the fourth time, it told me "Sorry, no can do".

So, here I am with a useless piece of silicon and metal that I can see laughing at me.

So, what to do... boot up the laptop and see what I can find out about fixing this mess. Of course, there is no simple "UNDO and Try Again" option.

First thing to do, make a backup of the hard drive so that the good stuff (my photos, documents, etc.) are all kept intact. Simpler than it sounds, since every backup program said "Sorry, error XYZ - You must fix the folder/partition/hard disk before I can make a backup." --- Kind of like the doctor saying "you can't come to the clinic unless you are healthy."

I spent the last four days trying to make

a decent backup, and of course, the partition is encrypted to the computer, which at the moment, doesn't do much to help except laugh at me.

So, hacker hat on, I managed to recover the data on the WINDOWS hard disk using Linux. Now working to reinstall Windows. But again, it's not easy like it used to be; no more CD's or DVD's to do the install. It's on a "recovery" partition on the hard disk, which is currently unusable.

I apologize for the short column this week, but I need to get back to this before I lose yet another day of productivity!

If this doesn't work, look for me with a little wagon and shovel walking the streets of Bonaire picking up donkey poo! At least I know what I am getting into!

Cheers!!!



Just add plants

The Educational Greenhouse project is ready, except for the plants. Many thanks for the hard work of the Mangrove Maniacs, Junior Rangers (JR), Stinapa and Echo. All the Bonaire elementary schools have a greenhouse. The project is a collaboration with Echo and sponsored by Cargill.

Front row L-R: Saffras Samad (JR), Nely Maria-Guanela Sluis (Nature and Environment Education Stinapa), Bonnie Roefs (JR), Rianne Gietman (JR), Bruce Davis (JR Volunteer)

Second row L-R: Chris Schmitz, Sabine Engel, Joost van Galen, Arno Verhoeven (all Mangrove Maniacs), Sharline Phelidio (JR) and Johan van Blerk (Echo).

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Making Bonaire Accessible

A special tourist market

The corona-crisis affected Bonaire as much as the rest of the world. We did not have many cases, but our borders were closed. No more tourists for now, no more cruise-ships and no more divers.

When our borders open again, we must know if we want tourism to stay the same as it has been. Many people that feel we should aim for another type of tourism and another kind of tourist. And I agree. We can address accessibility to attract a tourism market: the handicapped.

To start with air flight arrival and disembarking: we are in dire need of a few good Aviramps to withstand our strong winds and to make getting on and off the plane a pleasant experience.

Many hotels could renovate, adapt and offer special services to guests with special needs as care-hotels. They could offer arrangements for families with handicaps and to couples where one partner suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

We could offer special dive arrangements, lessons and water-activities. Because I am sure that not only the wounded warriors would like to enjoy our underwater world, but other handicapped too.

Organizations for care-giving could start up and offer services such as providing companion care, doctor visits, shopping and pedicure and hairdresser visits. Or even better, most of these services could be offered within the tourist residence itself.

We would need more special transportation, like wheelchair-buses, handicap adapted cars, etc.

Cruise boats could still come to Bonaire, but preferably smaller ones. Vessels like the Henry Dunant that offers a vacation with a loved one and all the care needed.

A series of ground level apartments, specially adapted to cater to the handicapped and elderly with live-in caretakers would be excellent for those in need of a vacation and still need care.

The Island would need to adapt public spaces. All curbs need to be in perfect order, for mothers with children in prams, people with vision problems and those using wheelchairs or walkers. Every shop, every restaurant and every bathroom should be accessible.

Persons with special needs should be involved much more in tourism. Extended vocational training should be offered to the handicapped and they should be able to work as waiters, cleaners or bus-boys/girls. A few restaurants should be staffed with handicapped persons and shops should offer their products and souvenirs.

Bonaire could become a quiet and safe haven for recovering patients and elderly who want to spend their vacation in a safe way and get all the care they need. Let us go ahead and plan in this direction and make Bonaire a very special place for everybody.

Ria Evers-Dokter



BONAIRE SKY PARK

Our strange, average sun

Hey star gazers, Trace Dominguez science communicator and astronomy enthusiast here! Our sun is always up there, consistently shining is warmth and energy onto our planet every day of the year for billions of years now... But even though it seems as basic as a Tuesday iced coffee, our sun is actually kind of a weirdo. Like, in the best way.

For example: it's not actually yellow or white... If you look at the spectra coming off the sun it's about 5,800 kelvin or greenish-blue! We *think* of it as white or yellow because of how our eyes and atmosphere scatter and process light...

Honestly the sun is not even that bright: I mean for a star. When you are out at night, all stars you can see are brighter than the sun. From Alpha Centauri our sun would be about as bright as Rigel in Orion appears from earth. But Alpha C is only four light-years away. Rigel is eight-hundred-sixty-four light years away, and that star is forty seven thousand times brighter than the sun.

Not to say the sun isn't powerful! Right now the sun is at a period of very low activity! We're in a solar minimum! But during a solar maximum the sun is Nutso. Emitting stronger magnetic fields, creating solar storms and space weather, and of course producing powerful

explosions of material like solar flares and coronal mass ejections which can cause blackouts on earth's poles and pose a danger to astronauts and satellites in space. *Breathe* it's all pretty amazing.

This is why we keep a close eye on our sun and track the solar cycle. We do this by counting the number of sunspots on the sun's surface. Fewer sunspots, less solar activity; more sunspots, more activity!

Sunspots aren't actually dark. They just appear darker than the surrounding solar atmosphere. By counting the number of sunspots, astronomers were able to recognize a pattern in solar activity that coincided with lots of other atmospheric and solar phenomena -- like aurora, which are strongest during solar maximums.

We're at the end of the 24th solar cycle since we started keeping track in the mid-1700s. We've already spotted the start of cycle 25 -- and hopefully it will make for some amazing astronomy from a average, amazing star.

Keep lookin' up!

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

Shelter News

Animal Shelter Bonaire mourns the loss of faithful volunteer: Helma Schreuder



Most of you have probably seen our money houses around the island. There are over 30 of them spread all over the island. But many of you probably never saw or even met the remarkable woman who for 25 years faithfully collected, tabulated, and deposited all the money that

appeared in those boxes. Helma Schreuder retired from that task at the end of 2017 but she continued to be a part of the Shelter "family". She had a remarkable, dry sense of humor and the largest collection of funny animal-themed shirts of anyone we knew, some of them fairly risqué! She loved her dogs and "her" Shelter...and we loved her. A few years ago, it was estimated that she had collected at least \$100,000 over her 25 years of service. Those funds had a definite and positive impact on the ability of the shelter to continue to provide care for all our cats and dogs. Her faithful service with little recognition is an example for all of us to follow. It is how much we do for others that matters, not how many people know about it.

Helma passed away on May 20, 2020. We will miss her! Our deepest condolences to her family and her many friends here on Bonaire.

Pet of the Week: Rosalie

Dear Human Subjects,

I am writing this letter in search of my purrfect royal human subject to serve me. The Chosen One will be forever showered with my love, which is worth more than any amount of Earthly currency.

I, Queen Rosalie, Fluffiest of Meows, first of her name, am the most beautiful cat in the Universe. Michelangelo himself could not have chiseled from marble a more beautiful feline. As a 2 year old calico lady, I boast soft satin fur and a flowing tail more delicate than a golden feather in the breeze. Myself and my young kitten heirs were brought to the Shelter a couple of months ago and I have been the reigning queen since.

As Queen, I require a human subject who will pet and groom me every day and provide me my royal meals. In return, your heart will burst from happiness upon gazing into my royal golden eyes. This often causes humans to cry uncontrollably from bliss, or erupt into the their joyous human noise that sounds like "AAAAYWWWW!!!"

Every human I meet is my royal subject, but only the best will be the Chosen One. I do not tolerate sharing my royal home with other cats and so must be your one and only feline. I am a Queen after all!

Potential subjects may visit the Animal Shelter Cat Palace to see how beautiful



and regal I am. If you are worthy, I may roll over and bestow upon you my gorgeous Royal Belly. It is then customary to give gentle Royal Belly Rubs fit for a Queen. Only then might I deem you the Chosen One, and you will be forever rewarded with my royal love.

Royal visitation hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm, and 3pm-5pm and also Saturdays from 9am-3pm nonstop. You may also contact the Animal Shelter Bonaire by Tel. and Whatsapp at 701-4989 and by (royal) email at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com *Story and Photo: Amy Weir*



Jane Madden-Disko



Sanne Attevelt



Travis Sullins



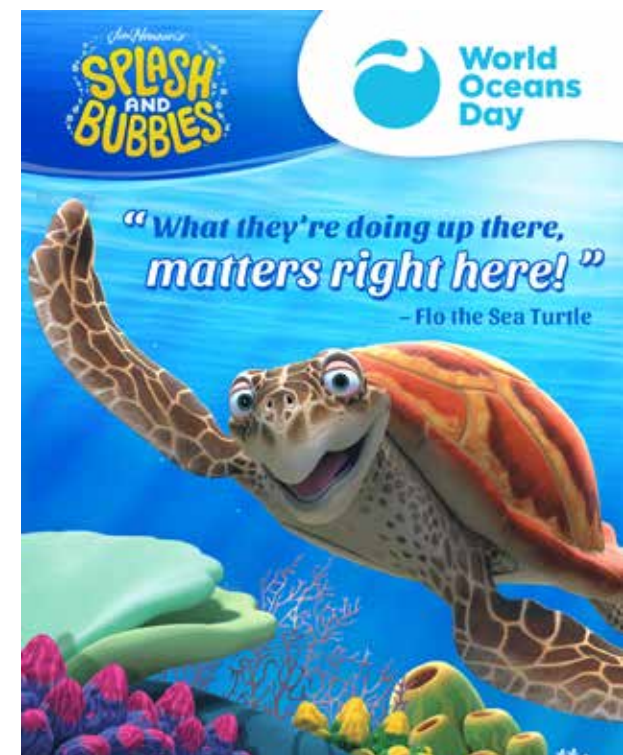
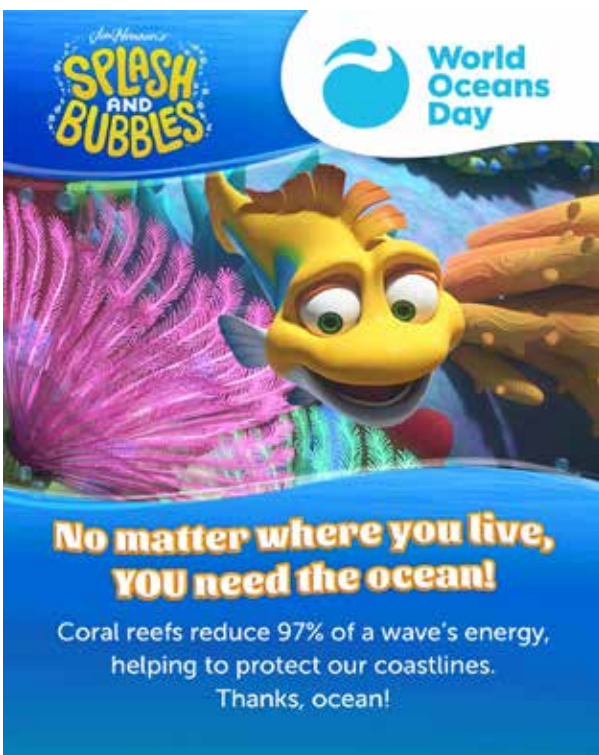
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COVID-19 updates



Prime Minister Rutte at the Hague, announced in a press conference today, that travel to the Caribbean part of the kingdom will be possible again beginning June 15. Germany, Belgium Italy and Croatia and six islands of the Caribbean have received a possible okay to travel with a rating of Yellow. This does not mean a complete Go at this time.

With hearing this news Bonaire's Lt. Gov. Rijna responded:

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 03 - 06 - 2020

Bonaire happy that airspace can open

Kralendijk - Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna thinks it is a positive signal that the airspace of Bonaire can open again from 15 June. He does emphasize that a final decision will be made after consultation with the Outbreak Management Team (OMT) of RIVM, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment.

The OMT will soon present their report during a four-country consultation. The public body Bonaire has asked the team to give advice on how to prevent the spread of the corona virus on the island. And whether quarantine is desired. The recommendations in the report determine when the airspace will open. To travel in the Kingdom, hygiene measures must also be observed at the final destination. Then it is safe for all parts of the Kingdom to receive guests.

The airspace of Bonaire has been closed from March. This was decided to prevent the coronavirus from spreading on the island. Now that the situation is under control, the precautions can be further relaxed. Lieutenant Governor Rijna emphasizes that the hygiene instructions are still valid. That people still need to keep a foot and a half apart, wash their hands, cough on the inside of the elbow, and avoid touching the mouth, nose, and eyes.