



Photo: Doug Searle

Happy Holidays Bonaire

Holiday celebrations of Hanakkuh and Christmas have begun worldwide although limited, due to Covid 19. On Bonaire, like everywhere else, the traditional festivities are restricted or controlled. Many of our regular visitors who come to enjoy Bonaire's nature and diving in the winter months won't be making their yearly trip to the island until 2021.

But although things are a little different this year, Bonaire's holiday spirit and joy of giving are still very much alive. Colorful sparkling lights decorate our government buildings, businesses, homes and the boats on the waterfront. There is even a cactus with santa hats and Covid 19 masks.

Bonaire's spiritual community is adapting to follow government regulations and keep everyone safe.

San Bernardo Catholic Church has cancelled their regular Christmas concert due to coronavirus measures. But, the yearly Holy Mass will be held at 5 am December 16th-24th. On December 24, Christmas Eve, there will be a Mass at 10pm and Christmas Day at 9am and 7pm.

Our Lady of Coromoto Christmas Eve Mass, December 24 will be held at 8pm in English and Dutch and at 11pm in Papiamentu. Christmas day, December 25, Mass will be held at 7am and 10pm.

No Christmas Eve service this year or popular Christmas concert at International Bible Church, (IBC). But, instead, the audio/video geniuses are putting together

a great video compilation of 12 different musical performances by talented church members. The musicians and singers, including their pastor Doug Searle, are filmed performing at various iconic Bonaire locations including Sera largu, Willemstorum Lighthouse and Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park. Viewers can expect to enjoy traditional and contemporary Christmas music with an island flair. Air date is Christmas Eve at 7:30pm. Here are the links: <https://www.facebook.com/IBCbonaire> and [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC436MZPAUuWQA5NZ-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC436MZPAUuWQA5NZ-KmLwOtA)

[KmLwOtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC436MZPAUuWQA5NZ-KmLwOtA).

In the spirit of giving, 17 families at IBC, which regularly receive food boxes, are in for a surprise with a specialty Christmas Feast box, gifts for their children and even cleaning kits. These donations are made from generous people in the congregation.

Sun Rentals and BYOF are celebrating Christmas with their gift giving drive for kids. Donations and/or a \$10 toy are accepted at Sun Rentals till December 18. See related story page 11.

"Chef Helpen", the team comprised of

30 chefs from some of Bonaire's premier restaurant will be creating Christmas meals through the holidays for Bonaire's less fortunate and elderly. Since the coronavirus lockdown in late March, the team has served 13,000 meals from donations and support from OLB, Rotary and individuals. The project will end December 31.

Thanks to Fundashon Akohida Profesional pa Mucha, kids can enjoy a Christmas movie with snacks on December 18 from 1:30 to 5pm. The movie will be shown at Kaya Sonmontuno #6, Amboina.

Voedsel Bank Bonaire (food bank) is serving their regular 480 clients their normal package of food but it will also contain a ham, cakes and cookies. Donations are still being accepted at Van den Tweel or monetary donations are accepted through their Banco di Caribe account 32799701. Swiftcode/BIC: BDCBQBN

The holiday season is the perfect time to help out Bonaire's animals. Donations are always welcome at Bonaire's Animal Shelter, (animalshelterbonaire.com); FKK, (fkk-bonaire.org); Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab, bonairewildbirdrehab@gmail.com; Sea Turtle Bonaire, (<http://www.bonairereturtles.org/wp/act/donate/>); Donkey Protection League (BDPLF@hotmail.com and Echo. (EchoBonaire.org))

The Bonaire Reporter wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. JM.



Holiday lights shine on the Pasangrahan. Photo Julie Morgan

The BONAIRE REPORTER online

news that has broken since the printed issue

<https://nl.times.nl> WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 - 08:16

Negative travel advice for Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Maarten; Entire world now on “code orange”

The Dutch government escalated its travel advice for Aruba, Bonaire and Sint Maarten from code yellow to code orange, which means that all but absolutely necessary trips to the islands are strongly discouraged. The negative travel advice was not issued because of the coronavirus situation on the islands, but because of the situation in the Netherlands, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said in a debate in parliament, NOS reports.

Aruba, Bonaire and Sint Maarten were the last Caribbean parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that did not yet have negative travel advice. The Canary Islands were also still on code yellow, which allows recreational travel as long

as travelers adhere to local Covid-19 measures, but they will also go to code orange on Wednesday.

This means that the entire world now has negative travel advice from the Netherlands, being either on code orange or red. In parliament on Tuesday, Rutte again stressed that only absolutely necessary travel is allowed. “If you are so impudent to still go winter sporting, that’s really anti-social!” he said.

A number of parliamentary parties were annoyed by photos of a crowded Schiphol while shops and schools have to be closed. Minister Cora van Nieuwenhuizen of Infrastructure will again

talk to the airlines and point out to them that negative travel advice now applies to the entire world. According to Rutte, if that does not have the required effect, a complete flight ban is the only other option. “But believe me, nobody wants that. We can’t shut down all civil aviation.”

The Schiphol website shows that KLM still has a large number of flights scheduled for today. According to the broadcaster, the Dutch airline recently scheduled four extra flights to Bonaire before Christmas. A spokesperson could not tell NOS whether these flights will be canceled.



Press Release December 16 2020

Code orange blow to Bonaire

Kralendijk - Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna is very sorry that the Dutch government has decided to give Bonaire a code orange travel advice. “Lately, we have worked hard to switch from code orange to code yellow. We succeeded and the number of infections has remained low,” said the Lieutenant Governor. Therefore, the decision comes as a surprise.

The decision comes when a large flow of tourists from the Netherlands is expected. Airline companies have even increased their number of flights because

it is safe to go on holiday to Bonaire. Concerns about this arose on the island, because not all tourists adhere to the applicable measures.

With this measure, the economy of Bonaire, which just got going again, is hit hard again. Discussions are underway between the Bonairean government and the Dutch government about additional support measures to help the population through difficult times. Many have already lost their jobs in the tourism industry. With tourists returning to the island for several weeks, many were hopeful

for the future.

The fact that the Netherlands decides to take tough measures in its own country is understandable now that the number of coronavirus infections is rising again. On the other hand, the virus on Bonaire is under control. There are only five active Covid-19 cases left at this point. This week, the government of Bonaire is looking at how to deal with this setback. Tomorrow during the press conference it will be announced how this is handled.

Numbers December 23, 2020

Of the 16 people tested for Covid-19, 2 people got a positive result. The source and contact investigation is still ongoing.

On December 23th there are 4 active cases of Covid-19 on Bonaire.

151 persons have recovered and no people are admitted in the hospital.

Do you have a fever, sore throat or other complaints related to Covid-19? Stay at home and call 0800-0800.

Maintain the hygiene instructions. Eat healthy, exercise and get enough sleep. Take care of yourself and the people around you.



Selibon receives big grant from The Hague

Selibon has been granted 2.8 million euros for the development of more sustainable waste management on Bonaire, according to Secretary of State Van Veldhoven. Some of the money will cover the cost of facilities already under construction and equipment already purchased. Some will pay for investigation and implementation of future solutions.

When BOPEC shut down, Selibon was tasked with collecting the island's waste oil and sending it to Curaçao where it is burned for industrial fuel. Facilities for storing the oil temporarily are being constructed, as are facilities for temporary storage of small hazardous waste products such as batteries, paint, cartridges, and aerosol cans. Selibon will also be reimbursed for a magnet, a press machine, an excavator with a grab, and other equipment already purchased.

The grant will support refurbishing the Lagun waste center and developing a sustainable way to collect and process household waste separately. The training of several Selibon employees will be upgraded too.

Coffie and Abraham riled by budget decision

The Financial Supervision Council (Cft) recently announced it would write Bonaire's budget for 2021 because OLB has failed to meet the legal deadline for submitting one. Consequently during the public meeting of the Island Council on December 3, independent member Daisy Coffie proposed a 500 word motion of censure against the Executive Council. And according to new Bonaire.nu, PDB leader Clark Abraham accused the Executive Council of needlessly hiring expensive consultants to act as a change team. He said the government already has "some perfectly capable people" who could manage the government's financial matters and improve the annual process of producing a budget. No action was taken on either contribution. *DMR*

Aruba failing to cut employment costs

Aruba has made little progress in cutting the salaries of government employees by 12.5%, one of the reforms it must achieve to qualify for liquidity support from the Netherlands. The government of Prime Minister Wever-Croes asked 23 government entities to reduce their remuneration to their civil servants, but only six have complied, and some only partially.

In the meantime, Aruba's total debt burden increased by 313 million florins to 5 billion, partly because of the AWG 132 million in liquidity funds the government borrowed on the open market and because of an AWG 172 million bond issue in the third quarter.

On December 1 Aruba failed to meet four fiscal reform deadlines. It had not adopted its annual accounts for 2016, 2017, and 2018, and it had not submitted its 2019 accounts to Parliament for adoption. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

Curaçao sends Venezuelans home

Earlier this month the border between Curaçao and Venezuela was briefly opened so 128 Venezuelans could be returned to Caracas on a charter flight. Of the 128 passengers, 45 had been locked up in the Aliens Barracks of the SDKK because they did not have valid residence papers, and 83 left voluntarily. Ten Venezuelans were allowed to remain on Curaçao because they applied for asylum. Another 16 stayed behind because they were infected with corona. The government of Curaçao says that if the barracks on Curaçao threaten to fill up again, it will charter another plane. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*



The south pier, previously repaired, is now being extended by 44 meters. The 21 posts that will support the addition have been drilled into the seabed and strengthened with concrete. Early next year, the pre-built parts of the pier will arrive from the Netherlands. With the expansion of the south pier, the center pier will be always available for containers. Both cargo and cruise ships will be able to dock better, as will car boats.



A brand new Kaya Amsterdam is coming.

By next summer construction should be well underway on a redesigned Kaya Amsterdam. It will be rebuilt from the roundabout in Hato to Kaya Caribe. An insertion lane will be added at De Pelikaan primary school, and a two-way cycle path will be built along the south side of the street. When the lighting columns are moved, the utility companies will have an opportunity to renew or modify their cables and pipelines. The new road will be designed for a 30 year lifespan. The project is part of the 2017-2026 Roads Management Plan, funded by the national government, that the OLB is implementing. *DMR*

COVID-19 news roundup

The Netherlands has gone into a hard lockdown until January 19. The closure affects all non-essential stores like clothing stores and garden centers, contact professions like massage parlors and physiotherapists, and schools. Schools must close their doors and switch to online education. Prime Minister Mark Rutte has urged Netherlands residents to stay at home as much as possible and to not receive any guests, even during the holidays. The daily number of coronavirus infections is still sky high and the pressure on intensive care units is alarming.

A public corona vaccination campaign in the Netherlands has kicked off via radio commercials, advertisements in newspapers and online, and social media announcements. The government wants to ensure as many people as possible get vaccinated against the corona virus. No starting date for vaccinations has been announced.

Dutch tourists are flocking to Bonaire. The island has retained its code yellow travel designation. The average number of new daily COVID-19 cases increased, but only slightly. One dark cloud has appeared. Most of the recent positive tests have been traced to contacts with business visitors from Curaçao.

American tourists aren't. The closure to flights from the US, expected to be lifted this week, has been extended until Jan-

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Covid on Bonaire

as of December 23, 2020

4 active	0 hospitalized
151 recovered	3 deceased
158 positive	2959 tested
2801 negative	31 in quarantine

For breaking Covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com>

Disposable plastics are on their way out

“Nature on our island is our greatest asset. We can be proud of it,” said Governor Edison Rijna.

In order to protect our nature, a plan that was two years in the making to ban single use and disposable plastics will come into being January 2021. And for the next three years getting rid of plastic will be a major priority for Bonaire.

The world is literally drowning in plastic waste. The life expectancy of plastic is immeasurable. Conservationists and governments ask us to accept that we don't need plastic and that discarded plastics won't just disappear on their own.

For the first year, 2021, Bonaire's island council is setting in motion a plan to ban the distribution of disposable plastic straws stirrers, cutlery, bags and food containers.

Governor Rijna said, “When I walk around the island I am always amazed at what waste is left behind - by young and old and by residents and tourists; plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, drinking cups, bottles And our beaches are used as an ashtray. Local research indicates that nearly 10,000 cigarette filters have been found on Te Amo beach in the past two years. Did you know that cigarette filters are made of plastic and therefore do not decay? Pollution on our island is not the only reason to reduce plastic use. Our landfill on Lagun is almost full.”

Helping to lighten the landfill overload can easily be done by separating and recycling. Some people say it is a waste of time because it all goes in the landfill anyway. Not true, if you separate your bottles, cans and paper products it stays separated. It doesn't just go into one big, garbage soup after Selibon picks it up. (In the coming weeks, The Reporter will include a story and video



On December 12, anyone dropping by Selibon with Type 2 plastic bottles (detergent, milk jugs, oil bottles, toys etc) received information on recycling and a free tote bag from NOBO and A Plastic Free Bonaire. The team from NOBO, Alex van der Kroft, Carolyn Caporusso, Sharon Bol and Michael LaFortune were all on hand in addition to Selibon's marketing director Shanelca Martha. Others pictured were a few fans of recycling. The team displayed the NOBO products recycled from the #2 plastic.

about what really happens to your recycling at Selibon).

Many people think they are doing the right thing by using bioplastics for take-out, but guess what? They may

be made of natural materials but they have the same properties as regular petroleum based plastics, they don't break down in nature. And they can't be recycled

Plastics, continued on page 12

FOR SALE Caribbean Club Blue Tower A Penthouse and 2 studios



- Location : Barkadera / Hilltop
- Lot size : 153 m2 / 1647 sq. ft.
- 1 bedroom / 2 baths penthouse with ocean views

- 2 ground floor studios with garden or ocean views
- Communal pool, onsite dive shop
- Fully furnished

3D tour



Price \$365,000 US Dollar per tower

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



New Bonaire commissioner

Hennyson Thielman will be replacing



MPB Party Leader Elvis Tjin Asjoe who recently resigned as the Commissioner of Finance & Tourism in Bonaire's Executive Council. Thielman, himself a candidate in the latest Island Council elections, has worked as assistant to Tjin Asjoe. In a short announcement December 1st, Tjin Asjoe said Thielman has worked on important matters such as the Masterplan 2030, and the Economic and Tourism Recovery plans. He has also dealt with the fallout of the current covid-crisis.

The change at the Executive level is not the only change in Island government. Renata Domacassé and Joselito Statia will also leave the Island Council. Tjin Asjoe and MPB candidate 'Din' Domacassé will replace them. (source: BES Reporter)

Electric airplanes coming to Bonaire

Within three years, the government hopes, planes powered by electricity will be taking off from Flamingo Airport. Thanks to rapid developments in battery technology, capacity is increasing, lifespan is being extended, and costs are dropping. Currently two hundred or more companies are working on some form of electric flying.

The ABC islands are an ideal location for pioneering the commercial application of electrically powered flight. The distances between islands are well within the projected range of the planes on the drawing board. The planned aircraft capacity, 19 passengers, would serve the island populations well. And the islands have plenty of sun and wind for generating sustainable energy for charging the batteries. Also, into the foreseeable future planes will continue to dominate the ABC transportation market. People here either fly or they stay home. DMR (Boni Bonaire, Winter 2020/2021)

Nurses can wear marine beret

Reversing an action taken several years ago, the Marine Corps. has decided that the approximately 120 nurses who care for marines can also be marines themselves and can wear the black

beret. The nurses will now have a recognized career path in the Marine Medical Service and will retain their civil BIG registration as well. Recently five nurses, including one serving on Aruba, put their black berets back on. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)

Women's shelters, domestic violence hotline coming

The BES Islands are launching a joint effort to counter domestic violence and child abuse, two serious and long standing problems in the Dutch Caribbean according to several studies. Bonaire now has a women's shelter, and Saba and St. Eustatius will soon have shelters as well. Each island will also create a hotline where abuses can be reported and professional assistance received. Prevention of violence and abuse is one of the goals set by the 2017-2020 administrative agreement between the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the public entities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

Cooperation between care givers, police and judicial partners will be strengthened, as will measures to support the perpetrator and prevent repetition. DMR

Work progressing on pipeline

Despite some minor setbacks (partly due to the rain of the past weeks) work is progressing on the plastic irrigation water pipe from Belnem to Hato. The 11 kilometer section is an important new artery in the network that transports purified wastewater back to hotels from the sewage treatment plant (WWTP). The pipeline supplies irrigation water to more than 38 hotel connections.

WEB, the project supervisor, will suspend work during the holidays to avoid traffic disruptions. DMR

The Reporter is third most read newspaper

On December 14 RCN published their media research report. It was designed to answer the question: How do the inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands use the media and how are they receiving messages from RCN?

The Bonaire Reporter is read by almost a third of Bonaire's respondents (29%). It is the third most read newspaper on the Island.

Visit us!



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Question: Are there condos there that allow pets? I have two dogs. Sheila

Hi Sheila,

Most condos that are rented to vacationers do not permit the renters to bring pets. Some condos permit owners to have pets in their unit, with restrictions. Some common restrictions are the number of pets you can have, the weight or breed of dog. There are also strict rules about noise, disturbing others, staying out of common areas and cleaning up after the pets. Other associations ban pets completely, even

for owners. With two dogs, you'll want to read the condo association rules carefully before buying, or you may want to consider buying a house.

All the best,
Kate Butler and Jean Searce
Re/Max Bonaire

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at kate@bonairehomes.com.

POLICE REPORT



KPCN has nine new police officers

On Wednesday, December 9th, the nine candidates who started the police training in 2018 were certified. The graduates were congratulated by the Chief of Police, Jose Rosales; the Island Governor, Edison Rijna; the acting Chief Public Prosecutor, Marian Veneberg; the training coordinator, Lionel Vrutaal; the team leader of the Police Academy, Rob Apelfhof; an employee of the Internal Affairs Office, Angelo Diaz; and the head of Basic Police Care, Edwin van der Giessen.

Arrests

On Monday, November 30, a woman, 64, was arrested on a charge related to human trafficking and people smuggling. Some articles were also confiscated. The investigation in this case is ongoing.

On Tuesday, December 1, a young man, 17, was arrested for violating traffic regulations, for failing to comply with police demands and for objecting during arrest. The suspect was doing a "wheelie" on a bicycle on a public road, ignored police orders to stop, and became aggressive. His bicycle was also confiscated.

Traffic accidents and violations

On Sunday December 13, a motorcycle was seized on the Kaya Neerlandia when a police officer saw the engine running without lights. The driver had no driver's license, valid insurance or registration number. The motorcycle was impounded, and the driver fined. Fines range from \$45 for driving without a license plate, \$115 for driving without lights to \$225

for driving without a license and insurance.

Community Policing

Since this week, bike patrols on duty have warned a number of children who have been riding bicycles without lights at night around the city center, making wheelies and endangering themselves and the traffic.

A resident who insulted a civil servant in office while making a police report was harshly held to account for his behavior. He apologized.

On the weekend of December 11 to 14, several locations were checked for noncompliance with the emergency ordinance. Some owners were warned but some locations were closed because owners had been warned previously. KPCN wants to emphasize that parties and / or events where people dance are prohibited in accordance with the emergency ordinance. (See Covid-19 roundup, page 13.)

Reach 1000s of customers
Advertise in The Bonaire Reporter
(+599)796 4055 info@bonairereporter.com

Online petition for Captain Don Day – Please sign



In July 2019 a formal proposal was sent to Bonaire's Lt. Governor Rijna to establish May 21 as Captain Don Day. The proposal was sent in response to a speech Rijna gave celebrating the day the Captain first arrived. This online petition is in support of the formal proposal.

Captain Don Stewart, known as the father of Bonaire diving, was one of the world's first ocean conservationists. Captain Don created Bonaire's permanent dive boat mooring system, which eliminated the need for boats to drop anchors on our reefs; dive destinations worldwide have installed permanent moorings but Bonaire's were the first. Captain Don led the campaign to ban spearfishing on Bonaire, founded the Council of Underwater Resort Operators, instituted the procedure of dive orientations, and worked with Karel Steensma to establish the Bonaire Marine Park. He received many awards throughout the years, one of which was the prestigious Netherlands Order of the Orange.

The petition reads: *We the undersigned request that Bonaire establish May 21 as Captain Don Day. By establishing a day honoring Captain Don, we hope to encourage both visitors and residents to show the island's ocean, animals and nature the same respect he demonstrated.*

Here is the link to the online petition asking for a Captain Don Day.

https://www.petitions.net/captain_don_day_may_21_in_bonaire_na

The petition is also on *The Bonaire Reporter's* facebook page. If in favor, please sign it and share it. *Julie Morgan*

Stuck at home? Tell us a bit about yourself and send us your photo with *The Reporter* in print, iphone, ipad or computer - Picture Yourself!

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

Opinion

Dabney Lassiter

Wearing a mask can keep Bonaire safe

While building back the economy of Bonaire via tourism is important, protecting the health of those of us who live here is important too. Health authorities around the world all agree and strongly recommend that when in public places people should wear masks and observe social distancing. However one element of the disease that people often don't think about is AIRBORNE TRANSMISSION. This form of the infection is spread through exposure to virus-containing droplets comprised of smaller droplets and particles that can remain suspended in the air over long distances, usually greater than 6 feet, and time, typically hours. The droplets are spread by breathing, speaking, singing, coughing, and sneezing. Think about this when you sing in church or are speaking with a group of friends. Wearing a mask is easier than infecting your friends and family.

With all the publicity and recommendations about mask wearing and social distancing it is amazing how many people ignore this. And more astonishing than that is the fact that most large stores do not require their customers to wear a mask. It's interesting to note that many of the small toko stores do insist on this requirement and customers do comply.

In the US right now 1,000 people per day are dying from Covid and still many people refuse to do the simple thing of wearing a mask. Let me put the death rate in perspective for you. 1,000 people a day dying is the equivalent to two jumbo jets crashing EVERY DAY. If that was happening you can bet that the horrified public would be demanding that something be done RIGHT NOW. Yet here we have the tremendous loss of life and millions infected and all that's required to stop it is to wear a mask and social distance. Yet so many say it's infringing on their freedom or its too inconvenient to do 'the mask' thing.

In the US the CDC has updated its mask wearing guidance and now says it protects the wearer (that's you) as well as well as the people around them (that's the people you love). So let me ask you, is wearing a mask too much to ask? Do you think it infringes on your individual liberties? You don't need to be a genius to figure this out. Wear masks and we'll conquer the beast; go without and you could be counted in the death toll.

If we are to take a positive and supportive stance on opening our island to tourists, the trade off should be for the government to MANDATE that masks must be worn when out in public and that social distancing at

bars and restaurants be required and ENFORCED. The alternative to a mandate may end up being an increase in Covid cases requiring another island lockdown. And who wants to go through that again?

In addition, I would like to add the following information from Holland. Mask wearing there is now mandatory. The rule will apply to those over the age of 13 in buildings such as shops, hair dressers, offices, etc. Here on Bonaire each day we are seeing visitors from Holland happily shopping in our stores totally mask free. When asked why they are not wearing masks many have told me that they are enjoying the freedom of going mask-free. What is it going to take for our Lt. Governor to wake up to the fact that our 'happy place/low numbers' will not last if the guests to our island have no respect for us or, apparently, for themselves by not observing the safety regulations. If protocols are not ordered we are soon to be at the mercy of potential COVID carriers from all over the world. Are you prepared to get sick so that visitors can have a mask free vacation? I'm certainly not.

72 hour testing

The following is from CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta taken from the medical journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*. According to this report the value of being tested 72 hours before a flight is essentially useless. Not good news for the residents of Bonaire who will soon be exposed to an influx of tourists from countries overwhelmed by the Covid virus

Q

If I got infected with coronavirus yesterday, would a test today pick that up?

A

Probably not. A study in the medical journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* estimated that during four days of infection before symptoms typically started, the probability of getting an incorrect/negative test result on Day 1 was 100%.

On the day people started showing symptoms, the average false-negative rate dropped to 38%. Three days after symptoms started, the false-negative rate dropped to 20%.

There is no hard and fast rule on how many days a person should wait after possible exposure, "but the evidence suggests getting a test before the third day after exposure is not of much use," Justin Lessler, a senior author of the study and associate professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, told CNN. *Dabney Lassiter*

Mrs. Crispina Cicilia Volunteer of the Year 2020



On International Volunteer Day, December 5, Mrs. Crispina Cicilia was elected as 'Volunteer of the Year 2020' by the jury of Bonaire's NGO platform. Mrs. Crispina Cicilia, better known as 'Yùfrou Chèmi,' has helped Mangazina di Rei Foundation for years with their cultural education programs.

During the election night Yùfrou Chèmi said: "You

can see the woodpile as a symbol for our cultural heritage. The wood has to be of good quality in order to cook with it. If the wood is not of good quality it will quickly burn to ashes. The same goes for our cultural heritage; we must not let it perish because of outside influences. We should cherish our cultural heritage and keep it alive." *Mangazina di Rei Foundation*

Can you help?

It has been a difficult year for everyone, especially non-profits like ourselves, who rely on the generosity of supporters to continue conservation programs. If 2020 has shown us anything, it is that we need nature more than ever. It is where we make memories, find peace, embrace ourselves and most importantly stay healthy.

For many people on Bonaire the Yellow-shouldered Amazon is a piece of nature that continues to bring them joy: from their unmistakable calls to their playful antics, On Bonaire, they are not just a parrot, they are becoming a symbol of hope and joy.

Will you help Echo rescue, rehabilitate and release these parrots of hope on Bonaire by donating today?

Long term supporters and friends of Echo, Don and Penny, have visited Bonaire and were moved by the beautiful parrots and how Echo has made a difference for the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot population. To encourage gifts, their charity fund will match all donations up to \$3,000!

Your doubled gift will help:

- Rescue and rehabilitate ex pets, injured and confiscated parrots
- Provide care for parrots unable to return to the wild
- Release rescued parrots back into the wild.
- Monitor wild nests and help protect parrots from poachers

To learn more about Echo and donate visit website or Facebook page Echobonaire.org page.

Photo Julie Morgan



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Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

In *Live Inspired Today!*, I will regularly be sharing three inspirational triggers to ignite your daily success!

A *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

From Clarity To Action!

Reflection For Today

"Action is the foundational key to all success."

- Pablo Picasso

Tip For Today

Good news, people...Swinda is back!

With the help of one of our readers, Chichi got back in touch with Swinda and they had a long conversation.

Chichi was curious to know why Swinda gave up on their Malecon Sunset Walk, after such a motivated start.

"You know how it is, Chichi. I got caught up with this and that and before I knew it, days turned into weeks. I knew I let you down and I didn't have the courage to tell you. That's why I've been ignoring your WhatsApp messages."

Chichi, in her own way, showed understanding for her friend's situation. "Life happens, Swinda! No use crying over spilled milk. Let's figure out where we go from here, okay?"

With the *Tips for Today* from our previous columns, Chichi helped Swinda to clarify her *What, Why* and *How*.

And then came the surprise...

"Chichi, I know *what* I want, *why* I want it and *how* to do it. But...I just don't feel like doing it!"

Has this ever happened to you?

Swinda's behavior was sucking the patience out of Chichi.

It's a good thing she used these tips to shift from crystal clarity to taking action (and so can you)...

1. Visualize it.

Can you see yourself achieving your goal? What does it look like? What does it feel like? Swinda started to visualize herself in that future state.

2. Commit to it.

While "feeling" your future state in your present situation, lock in the next step. Swinda scheduled an appointment with Chichi for their next Malecon Sunset Walk - date and time.

3. Remember it.

Why do you want what you want? Swinda keeps reminding herself *why* she wants to achieve her goal.

Remember...

Sometimes we feel stuck, even though we know what to do. Tapping into your emotions of your future state and securing the next step in your action plan will help you act.

Successful people quickly transition from having crystal clarity to taking action!

So, this is how Swinda got back on track with Chichi, working out three times a week at sunset.

When cruising the Malecon here in Paradise (also known as Bonaire), keep an eye out for our dynamic duo!

Do you think it will last this time around?

Affirmation For Today

Today I am confidently taking action based on crystal clarity in *what* I want, *why* I want it and *how* I will achieve it.

So...

Think, be equipped, be empowered, and...

Live Inspired Today!

Malcolm Wilson is an inspirational speaker, success coach and certified John Maxwell speaker, coach and teacher. Born and raised in Bonaire, his purpose in life is to inspire, equip and empower students and adults to be successful in school, at work and in life. Malcolm defines success as "Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people."

Three complete IDC/IE at Dive Friends Bonaire!

After 10 days of hard work, studying and preparing and two days of exams, Dive Friends Bonaire is proud to announce three new PADI Open Water Scuba Instructors: Henk, Maaïke and Duncan.

The Instructor Development Course (IDC) is made up of two parts - the Assistant Instructor (AI) course and the Open Water Scuba Instructor (OWSI) program. Most dive professionals complete the entire IDC and go on to attend an Instructor Examination (IE), which is the final step to earn a PADI Instructor certification.

IDC candidate Duncan recently moved to Bonaire together with his wife Gwen, who is doing her Divemaster internship with Dive Friends Bonaire.

As Duncan told us about his IDC: "The course was a bit too overwhelming for me in the beginning, I think they do it on purpose to wake the students up. I was lucky I had a lot of time in advance to prepare and I am happy I did. I needed some days to understand how and the way PADI does things, but the learning system is good. Honestly the first days I felt running behind all the learning materials and not getting it in my head. The last couple days I saw a little light at the end of the tunnel. Annie (PADI Course Director) and Eddy (PADI Staff Instructor) were very helpful and more important very supportive and patient. Thank you both very much for that. You believed in us from the beginning through the end and that gave us a great feeling of confidence. Thank you for a very exciting course. It's amazing how much you can learn in two weeks."

IDC candidate Henk totally agreed about the steep

learning curve of the Instructor Development Course. Henk has been on the island for a while and did his Divemaster internship with Dive Friends Bonaire back in 2018.

"In the beginning you think of yourself as a good diver but then you discover there is lot to learn. We had a big workload throughout the course but bit by bit you gain knowledge, and you get more confident. The last couple of days I really gained the confidence that finally am capable to pass the IE. Thank you Annie and Eddy for the patience and excellent guidance," said Henk.

Congratulations to Henk, Duncan and Maaïke on behalf of the full Dive Friends Bonaire crew!

Are you interested in becoming a dive professional? In 2021 Dive Friends Bonaire has four more Instructor courses coming up. Send an e-mail to Course Director Annie (coursedirector@divefriendsbonaire.com) to receive all the information!

IDC#1 January 29th - February 12th

IDC#2 April 23rd - May 7th

IDC#3 June 11th - June 25th

IDC#4 November 19th - December 3rd



Labor survey coming to Bonaire

Between December 2020 and March 2021, almost 1,000 randomly selected households on Bonaire will be visited by interviewers conducting a Labour force survey for Statistics Netherlands (CBS). People on St Eustatius and Saba will be interviewed as well.

Conducted every two years, this survey measures labour market developments in the Caribbean Netherlands, such as the number of people who don't have jobs, the number who do, and people's level of education, profession, and working hours. Such employment data is especially important now, when the island economy has been so seriously disrupted by the pandemic.

Public authorities, scientists, enterprises, and citizens need to know how things stand in the Caribbean Netherlands.

All interviewers will have a CBS identification badge and must identify themselves upon request. During home visits they will abide by the safety rules in force at the time. And the collected information will be kept strictly confidential, as the law requires.

More information regarding the Labour force survey is available on the webpage www.cbs.nl/arbeidskrachten. *DMR*

Car rental sector unites

Where other sectors have been organized in an association for years, the car rental agencies have never been united. With all the challenges they have faced since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic Taskforce Car Rentals has been established.

Luite Berkenbosch, general manager of AB Car Rental and vice president of BONHATA, is heading up the BONHATA initiative. Existing members of BONHATA and six other companies have joined the taskforce to tackle the challenges of renting and dealing with motor vehicle tax, car rental tax, insurance and crime for the companies' cumulative 1000 rental cars.

Since March, a large part of the rental fleet has been inactive due to the lack of tourists.

"You can imagine that this is a difficult period for all car rentals and that together we are looking for solutions to the challenges we have now, and in the future. We notice that we are being heard and solutions are formed to help us survive these tough times," said Berkenbosch.

Several agreements have already been made with representatives of the local government. *Julie Morgan*

Nature plan booklet released

A booklet, BONAIRE 2050: A NATURE INCLUSIVE VISION, can now be downloaded from <https://www.dcbd.nl/document/nature-inclusive-vision-bonaire-2050>

The colorful and attractive booklet presents to the general public views of a future for Bonaire in which economic development and a nature inclusive society join forces. The goal is to maintain what is precious, and to improve what is damaged or threatened on the island. The plan is the joint effort of researchers from Wageningen Research, experts from Bonaire and experts from the Netherlands. It was developed during many design sessions, interviews and workshops with local experts and decision makers, and with researchers in the field of nature, culture, recreation, agriculture and governance. The plan includes strategies for managing population growth and tourism, preventing high erosion rates due to free-roaming cattle, recharging fresh water in the soil, increasing the use of renewable energy, and adaptation to sea level rise. *DMR*



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Reef Glimpses White Reef Christmas

*Our nightmare is a white reef Christmas
Unlike the ones we ever knew
With land pollution leaching
And corals bleaching
The reef world takes on a different hue.
(with apologies to Irving Berlin)*

The last thing we could have expected on Bonaire was a white Christmas – underwater, that is. When I first began diving here, in 1980, water temperatures were regularly 77°F (25° c) or 78°F (25.5° c) in the winter, with occasional drops to 76°F (24.4° c) – ideal temperatures for stony corals, the builders of the reef. Last month our water temps were 82°F (27.7° c) – 83°F (28.3°c), noticeably warmer and well out of the comfort zone of the corals, or more accurately out of the comfort zone of the algae on which the corals depend. I believe this is the worst coral bleaching Bonaire has ever undergone; it's the worst I've ever seen in 40 years. (Bleaching is a problem because without their algae, coral polyps cannot collect enough food from the water to keep themselves alive. The



Meet my first underwater Santa: His head is coral rock, his beard is an encrusting gorgonian, his rosy face is a boring sponge, his eyes are the exhaust ports of the sponge, his mouth is the edge of the gorgonian, his nose is ... not there (because the sponge breathes for him!), and the tassel on his cap is a fireworm.

less time the corals are bleached, the less likely they are to starve to death.) For a scientific, worldwide perspective on coral bleaching, read Caren Eckrich's articles in The Bonaire Reporter: Oct 21-Nov 4, and Dec 2-16, 2020 issues.)

The biggest problem with the worldwide perspective is that the worldwide solutions

seem so ... far away. We're lucky, here, to be able to deal with things on a considerably more personal level. The feedback each of us gives the government about how Bonaire can grow while protecting the environment is critical -- so keep your eye on The Bonaire Reporter to learn when and to whom to communicate!

How is your "adopted" coral doing? In the Nov. 4-18 Bonaire Reporter, I suggested that readers pick one or two coral colonies and follow their progress, especially through this bleaching event. You did find a coral head to track, didn't you? My prediction – this is what happens to me, anyway – is that following specific colonies makes the experience much more personal than a larger overview.

I adopted Tootsie, who was an unbleached, almost perfect colony at the time. Less than one week after I wrote about Tootsie, I discovered that "she" had bleached, from the bottom up, almost completely except for a small area on her top surface.

The week after Tootsie bleached was an overcast and rainy one; the sea got a bit cooler, and Tootsie's brown area -- the healthy, unbleached part -- is expanding. How is your adopted coral head doing? Can you correlate bleaching with water temps or weather?

We're lucky that the water began cooling off relatively soon after our coral bleaching began.

With a little more luck and a lot more overcast, Bonaire's Christmas Day reefs will appear much less snow-sprinkled than they appeared on St. Nicholaas



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Reef Glimpses, continued on page 10

Did You Know? that the rate at which plants and animals are going extinct has been increasing exponentially?

Did you know that the rate at which plants and animals are going extinct has been increasing exponentially? Of all the animals that have disappeared since the 1800's, almost 40% of those with a known cause were the result of invasive species.

Invasive alien species, or IAS for short, are plants, animals, bacteria, or fungi that are introduced into areas that are outside of their historical range. But, besides being established outside of their native range, these species also cause harm to the new systems they are introduced into. This harm can occur as damage to the biodiversity, to the benefits that the system provides, or to human well-being. Globally IAS is one of the main causes of biodiversity loss and extinctions, next to global climate change and habitat loss.

One of the more (in)famous invasive species is rats. Since we first began to circumnavigate the world these ferocious rodents hitched a ride. Through us they managed to colonize nearly all corners of the world. And so did all the negative impacts that come with them. In just a few centuries, only three species of rats have managed to seriously impact ecosystems on over 80% of the world's islands. What makes rats, particularly the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), such a successful invasive is their adaptability. Not only are they larger and more aggressive than the other two species, the black rat (*Rattus rattus*) and the Polynesian rat (*Rattus ex-*

ulans), are also excellent scavengers able to feed both on plants and animals. These animals, recorded widely in both urban and suburban areas are so successful, that if you're looking for a profession that will never be affected by pandemics or recessions, pest control is the way to go!

Besides the many stories of rats wreaking havoc on agriculture, and occasionally being the literal bringers of death in the form of disease, they also impact the native flora and fauna. While they do also impact plants and invertebrates, birds are particularly vulnerable. When the rats are present on islands where pelagic bird species nest, their breeding success is significantly lower. One such island was Teuaua, an island in the Marquesas Archipelago in French Polynesia. This island, a nesting and breeding site for sooty terns, which only return to land to breed and raise their chicks, served as a veritable buffet for black rats for decades. The rodents and their unstoppable appetite were destroying eggs and even snacking on the chicks of the birds that nest on the island. Had this been allowed to continue, it is very likely that the largest sooty tern colony in the Archipelago would have gone completely extinct. To save the terns, birdlife together with island conservation launched a large-scale campaign to restore the island's ecosystem, which included the systematic removal of all the introduced predators. In a matter of months, the island was officially rat free and the recovery could begin. Now the



Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*).
Image from ebird

island offers a haven to over 90,000 terns where they can safely raise their chicks. There is even hope that now that the island has begun to heal, some of the species that were driven out by the predators might return.

Bonaire also has its share of introduced species including the lionfish, goats, donkeys, and pal'i lechi (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*). And while invasive species can have devastating effects on ecosystems where they are introduced, the good news is that we can also do something about them. Island wide restorations projects are having amazing success. And with each project we learn more about how to not only tackle invasive species, but also how to prevent invasions from happening. Protecting our island from IAS and their harmful effects also has the added benefit of making these systems that much better at withstanding the negative impacts of climate change. While Bonaire as a small island can't do much about global climate

change, we can make our island resilient to it; one important step to increasing the resilience and resistance of our island is tackling the problems brought on by invasive species populations.

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

Reef Glimpses, continued from page 9

Day. So get your white reef Christmas while you can and be grateful it's a limited-time experience.

While you're diving this holiday season, keep alert for underwater Santa Claus and his helpers. Accompanying this article, instead of another photo of bleached coral, is a portrait of the first underwater Santa I've found. Happy Holidays! *Dee Scarr*

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



A Garden? Just Do It! Christmas memories of Grandma

Christmas is almost here. It makes me remember the good old days of grandma's cozy, old wooden house, decorated for Christmas with the paint almost gone. I remember the sweet smells coming out of her kitchen, with pots and pans filled with recipes you rarely see anymore and of course, grandma's voice singing above all the noise. There were Christmas carols, and, oh yes, grandma knew them all: Brook Benton, The Platters, Frank Sinatra, Bing Cosby, Mahalia Jackson, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr.

Yes, those 'oldies but goodies', bring back memories that make one feel safe and warm inside. At the time, I didn't know anything about the Cold War, Iron Curtain and all the world problems. Of course, in all times, Christmas songs have a great impact on Christmas but the old legendary carols in combination with Grandma and her house are some of the most precious, happy times of my life. I could lick with my finger the batter of cakes and cookies and the last drops of the chocolate drink. Grandma had a cacao tree in her yard and used to make her own chocolate. I would dip into the desserts and sometimes get too much of the whip cream and get scolded. Grandma used to make all of her Christmas menu with veg-

etables from her garden, her chickens and goats. The wood fire under the roof of the garden kitchen had a smell which also gave a certain taste in the pies and cakes she was baking. Grandma always used pure, fresh milk to make butter and cream.

There were a lot of fruit trees in the yard and Grandma made guyaba, berry jams and marmalades, She added them to cookies, cakes, sweet Christmas bread with nuts and raisins and fresh warm bread from the stone oven. One could smell that freshly baked stuff from far away which gave a nice appetite. In fact, the whole street, during Christmas had the smell of delicious food. When the bakery aroma mixed with Christmas carols, all the neighborhood children would hang out in each others granny's kitchens, waiting for the pots and pans to lick. Yes, it was great to be a child in those old days around Christmas.

I used to help my granny clean the old wooden floor until it shined. I also helped her to clean the yard, pick fruits, vegetables and herbs to prepare for Christmas. There was Kouseband, corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, sweet peppers, green papaya for pickles, lemons, and always hot peppers. Grandma had a lot more in her garden but I tried to avoid it because there was always work to do

there. As a child I used to stay with my granny and I loved to be with her but I did not like the garden work. Can you imagine? Nowadays, my garden is the place I love to be. So I think, grandma put a spell on me for gardening, hahaha.



The little local cucumbers

Now, I look in my garden and because of so much rain these days I have a lot of fruit and vegetables. Just today I made an list of all the stuff ready to use for my Christmas menu. I have a lot of little local cucumbers, which are delicious in a vegetable mix, used as a pickle or boiled a little and filled with shrimps or crab

cocktail as a starter. I'm also planning a vegetarian soup from fresh pumpkin flowers with bean sprouts, garden herbs like lemon grass, parsley, garlic, turmeric and fine rice noodles.

There are three eggplant fruits, that are just enough for a Greek moussaka with an extra avocado tomato salad and green olives.

And last but not least, my homemade ice cream that is easy to do. I choose my own concentrated tamarind syrup mix with Greek yogurt and freshly beaten whipped cream. Mix all and let it stay in the freezer until almost frozen, take it out, stir again and put it back in the freezer. This ice cream can be made with other fruits, jams, chocolate and nuts. The basis is yogurt and whipped cream with added sugar if you please.

For a drink, I have my own homemade ginger ale lemon drink and, last but not least, herb tea with homemade star fruit pie, cinnamon and raisins. By the way, the star fruits are picked fresh from my own tree. Does it sound like grandma's kitchen?

I guess, you have your own special memories of Christmas. Keep them in mind, because the older you get the more valuable they become to you.

So I wish you a special sweet Christmas with your dear ones to bring up the good memories to lift up a difficult year.

Angliet, Nature lover

Give a gift to a child

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Or

Summer roll

Shrimp, Sugar snaps, Sweet & sour carrot, Glass noodles, Cilantro, basil, Sesame seed

Fresh Catch & Shrimp

Pumpkin, Eggplant, Bell pepper, Red onion Tajine, steamed Couscous, Roasted tomato tarragon relish

Or

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Please let us know if vegetarian, gluten free or any other dietary adjustments need to be made for any in your party. So our chef's can accommodate to them



For the last 20 years Sun Rentals has held a gift giving drive along with Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation, BYOF, for the island's less fortunate children. The collaboration began with previous owners Muys and Jose Cieremans and has continued with new owners Peter Van Dusseldorp And Eef De Bruin.

The idea is to ensure every young child receives a gift for the holidays. Parents and teachers place the kids name on a list for the Christmas gift giving. For years Bonaire's tourists have made this an amazing Christmas for the children but this year has been different due to Covid 19. There were over 200 gifts present-

ed last year. It is possible to make this happen again by embracing the spirit of giving. Whether you live on Bonaire or just visit, there is still time to put a smile on the faces of Bonaire's children this Christmas. Buy an unwrapped gift for \$10. and drop it by Sun Rentals at Kaya Grandi 65, Monday - Saturday from 8am to 5pm. till December 18. Monetary donations are welcome and can be made at Sun Rentals or at Getfunded - "Every Child a Christmas Present Bonaire".

The youth of BYOF wrap the gifts and they will be delivered to the children on December 19.

Story and photo Julie Morgan



Sinterklaas and a team of his Black Pieters entertained and delighted the young kids at the community center across from the San Ludovico Beltran Catholic Church in Rincon on December 4. The children and adults were full of smiles and excited about the visit.

What's Happening

December 16-24	San Bernardo Catholic Church. <i>Holy Mass will be held at 5 am December 16th-24th.</i>
Friday December 18	Kid's movie will be shown at Kaya Sonmontuno #6, Amboina. <i>Thanks to Fundashon Akohida Profeshonal pa Mucha, kids can enjoy a Christmas movie with snacks on December 18 from 1:30 to 5pm.</i>
December 24-25	San Bernardo Catholic Church. <i>On Christmas Eve, there will be a Mass at 10pm and on Christmas Day a Mass at 9am and 7pm</i>
Thursday December 24	International Bible Church Concert. <i>Visit a great video compilation of 12 different musical performances by talented church members. Air date is Christmas Eve at 7:30pm Here are the links: https://www.facebook.com/IBCBoinaire and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-436MZPAUuWQA5NZKmlwOta.</i>
Thursday & Friday December 24/25	Our Lady of Coromoto <i>Christmas Eve Mass 8pm in English and Dutch and at 11pm in Papiamentu. Christmas day, December 25, Mass will be held at 7am and 10pm.</i>
Friday & Saturday December 25/26	Christmas Day holiday and Boxing Day holiday. <i>Government offices and most businesses closed</i>



Making Bonaire Accessible Giving gifts to the elderly

The holidays are coming and I am sure there are a lot of people and organizations that consider making donations. The elderly are becoming a serious group of interest. They have a very low income and because lots of their peers are passing for another life, their world is getting very small. They surely need some extra attention. It is a season to create joy.

Instead of giving them things like decorations or things they don't really need, you might consider presenting them with these items:

A bottle of lotion or a nice bar of soap that smells good pampers that "old" skin and will just make them feel very good. Together with some fluffy towels, it will make a sweet gift.

Considering that many elderly are suffering from diabetes and get chilled easily, one can pay special attention and find light socks and a nice thin blanket.

Most elderly have lost their own teeth and are using dentures. A packet of denture adhesive, cleaning tablets and a denture holder makes a very useful gift.

For those who still have good eyesight some puzzles and coloring-books for adults might be a pretty surprise. Big lettered books and magazines will surprise them as well.

Some people crave for special food or typical sweets. Wrap them up nicely and your gift will be highly appreciated.

When your significant elderly lives in a home, you may make small packag-

es with little sweet gifts and share that amongst their peers.

And for those who want to make 'care-packages':

Pack decoration items to decorate the rooms, get disposable undergarments, denture-cleaning products, socks, pajama's, nightgowns or handkerchiefs,

The best thing to donate is your time. Contact the homes in your neighborhood and ask management if there are elderly who are alone and do not get any visitors. Get as much info about them as you are allowed to get and work with that.

You may also want to contact Fundashon Ambiente Kultural. They just started another special activity for the elderly, Kompañia nos Grandinan. Tell them about your abilities and tell them you want to be a volunteer. Start visiting lonely elderly on a regular basis and you can take them special treats, out for a walk or tour. Take them out to a high-tea or a concert or a special event. Or just visit with them and talk. Ask them to tell about the good old times and their memories.

It does not matter what language you speak: Papiamentu, English, Dutch, Spanish... They will match the elderly to a volunteer that speaks their language.

Consider what you would like, whether it is getting Christmas cards, going out for a Christmas dinner..... or just spend precious time with someone. Any of these things will have their eyes lighting up for joy because there is somebody who cares for them. *Ria Evers-Dokter*

Disposable plastics, continued from page 3

with other plastics. Therefore, bioplastics will be added to the list of banned products too. But in the beginning of Bonaire's new plan, bioplastics for take out will be accepted until everyone can get used to the new rules. The government is banning all styrofoam for takeout. Aluminum foil used to be an alternative for take-out but according to the Aluminum Association it has to be thoroughly cleaned otherwise it can contaminate other recyclable aluminums like cans.

More information about the government's single use plastic initiative will be announced in the future. But for now, you can get involved in sustaining Bonaire nature by limiting your plastic use, recycling and joining one of the cleanup groups: A Plastic Free Bonaire/NOBO, One Hour Power Cleanup, Dive Friends Bonaire, Bag it Up and Boneiru Duradero.

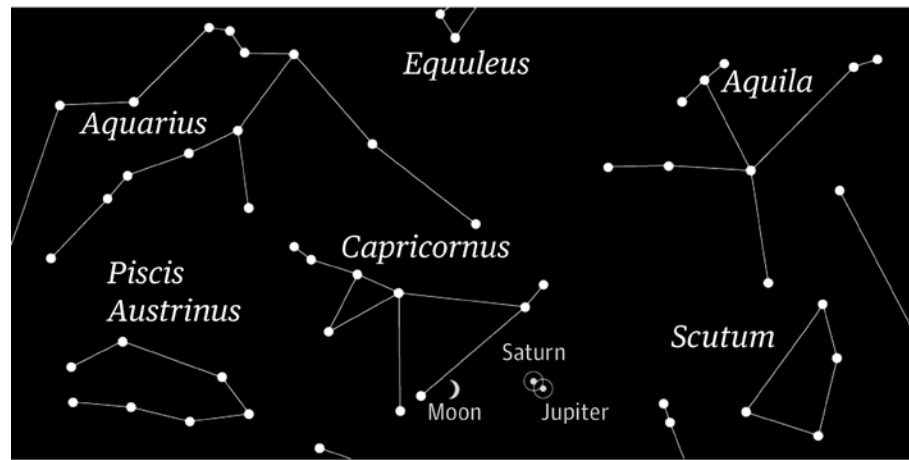
In another campaign, the World Wildlife Fund has kicked off the Sushi or Dushi challenge. Take a photo of a litter filled area, clean it up and take another photo... then post it on Instagram or Facebook. Your photo could be an inspiration to others to do the same or hopefully not litter and take a big step against plastic.

Story & photo, Julie Morgan



BONAIRE SKY PARK

The Christmas conjunction



How fare ye? Hearty? Maister Trace here with something that hasn't happened in the sky since Shakespeare's plays were new hits: a GREAT CONJUNCTION of Jupiter and Saturn!

In a conjunction objects appear close to each other in the sky. Great Conjunctions are pretty rare -- happening only every 20 years -- but this is even MORE special, as Jupiter and Saturn haven't come this close since 1623! It is dubbed the "Christmas Star," except this isn't some distant star. It's two planets in our Solar System.

On the 21 December solstice, the planets will look like one brilliant star as Jupiter's and Saturn's 12- and 29-year orbits bring them together. Hopefully you followed Jupiter and Saturn's lead-up to this meetup, but even if you missed the approach -- the event is worth it!

Hit up the nearest patch of sky just af-

ter sunset, and look southwest to see a super bright spot above the horizon. That is TWO PLANETS. Jupiter is fifteen times brighter than Saturn. They'll be so close together it will be hard to pick them apart! But while Jupiter and Saturn appear close in the night sky, they are anything but close together. The planets are still roughly 400-million miles apart.

And with binoculars (or a low-power telescope) the view is even better. Since both planets will be so close, you should be able to view both of them in the same view when using a telescope or a pair of binoculars. If you have a powerful enough telescope or binoculars, you may also spot the major moons of both planets. The moons will look like tiny dots of light in along a line that cuts through the planet. Keep lookin' up!

Source: Trace Dominguez-Star Gazers website: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>

Every Saturday

Pakus di Pruga- Flea Market store sponsored by the Animal Shelter from 8am till 4pm
Open but with "social distancing" requirements

Open

TCB (Tourist Corporation Bonaire) front office is open: Monday - Thursday, 8-12; 1:30-5; Friday, 8-12; 1:30-4:30;

Washington Slagbaai Park is back to regular opening hours from Monday to Sunday as of October 26th. Hours: 8 - 5 (entry up to 2:30) (Some days closed because of bad weather-- check STINAPA's FB page.)

Animal Shelter is open to the public by appointment only during our regular business hours (Mon.-Fri. 9-12 and 3-5, Sat. 9-3 nonstop. Please call or Whatsapp 701-4989



The creation of the internet

Please do not Google or check this with Snopes. They will lie to you. Trust me!

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy. And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns

and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew to the People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who

bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth.

I would not make up this stuff, trust me.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

A reboot from the past/ A reprint from Anon/



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

A face mask shows you care

Health is a global state of wellbeing, not just the absence of illness. We are happy that more tourists are going to be allowed to enter the island. Some might think, this is bad because it will increase the risk of letting the virus enter the island. Some might think, this is good, more people will be investing in Bonaire through their vacation activities, others will be back to work, moving, producing and all will be fulfilling their lives doing what they love. Probably both positions are right. What can we do to balance the risk of infection with the benefits of reactivation? Following the protocols, would be the logical answer and I will add: strengthen our immune system.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the position on using or not using a mask has been changing. This worldwide situation has been plagued with trial and error recommendations. What is the dilemma about using or not using a mask? Mounting data points towards the benefits of wearing it. We will also explore how to counteract any possible negative secondary effect.

Studies have repeatedly shown correlation between the generalized use of a face mask and decreasing numbers of severe cases. According to an article published in The New England Journal of Medicine, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2026913> "universal facial masking might help reduce the severity of disease and ensure that a greater proportion of new infections are asymptomatic". How will this work? The mask acts as a physical barrier minimizing the number of germs travelling in the droplets. This will make a big difference in the development of the illness, as the viral load, or to say the amount of germs one receives, is one of the main factors to determine if the condition will be asymptomatic, mild or serious. This means that when someone that carries the virus sneezes on you without any barrier it will have a different effect than if that happens when both persons are using masks and keeping a safe distance. Adherence to generalized use of a face mask and keeping safe physical distance are effective ways to handle viral exposure.

Have you ever wondered why surgeons and their team use face masks during an operation? The purpose of face masks during surgery is to protect the patient, preventing the passage of germs from surgeon's nose and mouth into the patient's wound and also to protect the surgeon's face from spray and splashes from the patient. Face masks are thought to make wound infections after

surgery less likely. Some surgeries last many hours and there are no reported negative effects in the team members using masks all those hours.

Clean, pure air is very important. We can fast for weeks or stop drinking water for days and stay alive, but we cannot stop breathing. Do we want to constantly re-breathe our own exhalation? It doesn't sound like the healthiest idea. But how accurate is this? And how do we handle the situation when we have to use the mask for hours?

The air we exhale is depleted in its oxygen content, the same physical barrier that prevents us from sharing the virus, also exerts a resistance to normal air exchange but we have to consider that the air trapped in the space created by the mask is very small. So how can we handle long periods of mask use? We can try every few minutes to flush the space created by the mask, by doing a forced exhalation and if that doesn't feel good enough we can gently lift the lower part of the mask one centimeter while we exhale. Once we are in a safe environment where we can breathe without the mask, we can practice some deep breathing. Start by exhaling deep and slowly to deflate your lungs, without actually squeezing them. During inhalation, just let the air penetrate your lungs, without forcing it. If we force inhalation we can cause hyperventilation, which is not the idea.

Some people complain about the smell from their own breath in the mask. In this case it could be a good idea to use just one or two drops of lavender, mint, eucalyptus or rosemary oil in your face mask. Do not place them in the part of the mask that is in front of your nostrils, but on the sides as it can be too invading. I like to gently rub rosemary leaves in my mask or you can make a pocket in your mask and put some leaves.

The use of a mask shows that you care for others and it doesn't prevent you from sharing your feelings as most of our emotions are shown by eyes and eyebrows and not that much by your mouth. The use of masks neither curtails freedom of expression, in fact you can make a personalized mask with the message that you like the most or best reflects you. So, we can say: welcome visitors, we are ready to interact with you, please keep minimum safe distance, use face masks and wash your hands frequently. We care for you and we expect that you care for us.

Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

Covid-19 roundup, continued from page 2

uary 15, 2021 by which time the government intends to have an improved method of managing flight bans and a way of limiting the import of covid infections.

Bonaire and Curaçao both now have emergency laws that give authorities legal powers to enforce COVID-19 restrictions. The new enforcement powers come at time both islands increasingly need them. On Bonaire, KPCN, supported by the Supervision and Enforcement Department of the Public Entity Bonaire and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, has been raiding, warning, and sometimes shutting down owners of bars and restaurants for violation of the emergency ordinance. Private parties have been shut down too. Exceeding crowd limits, staying open later than allowed, and permitting dancing are common infractions.

Party island or dive destination? "Quiet Bonaire" is getting noisy. The Police are raiding more big parties and encountering more aggressive, even violent, patrons. The KPCN speculate that a different kind of tourists is coming, people who want to party rather than dive and seek peace and quiet. They says the problems could become worse as stricter measures are enforced in Curaçao and the European Netherlands..


On Curaçao, Prime Minister Eugene Rhuggenaath has declared a ninety day emergency that extends restrictions that have been in place and now, because of new legislation, have the force of law. There is a curfew between nine in the evening and half past four in the morning and all shops and restaurants have to close at eight in the evening. Alcohol is prohibited in the catering industry and in public spaces and people are not allowed to come together in groups..

Curaçao is now code orange for visitors. Unnecessary visits are discouraged, agents have stopped booking tickets, and travelers who are now in Curaçao must be quarantined for 10 days upon their return to the Netherlands.

Hospital visits to family members who are patients of Fundashon Mariadal are permitted again, although carefully controlled. A patient is allowed only one visitor per day. Visitors must have no COVID-19 symptoms and should not have been exposed to recent risks. They must wear a mask, practice good hand hygiene, and keep a distance of five feet. .DMR

At Your Service

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


Bruce Bowker's
CARIB INN
Boat dives MWF
departs 9 am
minimum 4 divers
770-7879 / caribinnpr@gmail.com
JA Abraham Blvd 46 




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Everyone likes a Second hand store

But not everyone likes to sell their own things.



Bonaire's first online consignment furniture and home decor market is now open at www.BonaireForSale.com. The profits go to help Kitten and Cat rescue and sanctuary on Bonaire.

What is Bonaire For Sale and how is it different than the Facebook groups or other online markets? "If you have items you would like to sell, but don't have the time or energy to deal with it, and you don't want strangers coming to your home, then let us sell it for you from our

secure facility." says Cami Naylor, who was in the Interior Design industry for most of her life.

How does consignment work? "You just contact me with your list of what you would like to consign and I will come check out the items, and I take them to my facility and put them online. If anything needs to be cleaned and/or repaired, or items are too large for me to move, there may be extra costs. When someone wants to buy, an appointment is made for the buyer to come and see the items, purchase and take away."

Bonaire For Sale's online system informs the consign- or when their item has been sold and provides full online accounting available to review at any time.

What kind of things do you have for sale? "Microwaves, coffee makers, outdoor awnings, picture frames, dining chairs, desks, lamps, coffee tables and even some tech stuff. There is more coming every day. The best way to keep on top of what is available is to watch our website. Soon you will be able to sign up on the website

and be informed by email of any new items available."

Do I need to be on Facebook to use it? "No, our website operates independently of Facebook because not everyone uses Facebook. Although we do post some of the items for sale on the various Bonaire Facebook Sales groups. Another benefit of registering on our website is that we provide an online auction system for featured sales which notifies you when someone else outbids you."

Why do you do this? "I have always liked selling things online, and Bonaire For Sale is my hobby. The profits go to help Kitten and Cat rescue and sanctuary on Bonaire. In addition to that, the fact that we help upcycle, repurpose and recycle items and keep them out of the landfill is a big factor. When we receive items that are unsaleable, but useful for the sanctuary, we give them to the cats to have fun with."

To see what is available, visit www.BonaireForSale.com. To contact us with questions, to make an offer, arrange an appointment to see/purchase an item, or to inquire about consignment sales, email to forsale@bonaireforsale.com or use Facebook Messenger <http://m.me/ajaebi.9/> for instant chat. *Brian Niessen*

Shelter News

Pet tips for "fireworks season"

The fireworks have already begun and will only get worse. It is one of the busiest times at Animal Shelter Bonaire with intake of many dogs and cats found wandering and scared. While humans delight in the dazzling displays, many animals are lost, seriously injured, even killed, during this time of year so here are some tips to keep your pets safe.

- Walk your dogs during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely
- KEEP YOUR PETS INSIDE WHEN FIREWORKS ARE BEING SET OFF
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks
- Put on some music or TV to mask the firework sounds
- Prepare a quiet space or hiding place for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.
- Ensure your pet is wearing some form of easily readable identification – even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag with a phone number.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, meow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out – it's just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.



• Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behavior. It's OK to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead

• Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed.

• Pets are likely to drink more when they are worried, so fill their water bowl up to the brim. **BEST TIP:** Include Florence Ditlow's Rescue Remedy in their water bowl. Available at Animal Shelter Bonaire, DA or Just 4 Pet. The Remedy should be started now and continued through the fireworks season. Add just a few drops every time you fill their water bowls, or put a few drops on one paw each day.

• Seek veterinary advice if you feel your pet needs a prescription calming medicine. **Do not give your pet anything that is not prescribed by a veterinarian except for rescue remedy.**

- **Never** take your dog to a fireworks display.
- **Do not throw or set off fireworks when your pet or other pets are in the vicinity.** Dogs that may not be afraid of the noise of fireworks may likely chase what you throw or be curious. This is how many dogs on the island have been seriously injured or killed. *Jane Disko*

Pet of the Week: Glenn

Glenn is a relaxed and distinguished gentleman about two years old. Since he was about four weeks old he has lived at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Glenn is very "laid back" cat and likes to snooze and eat. He is very happy to be petted and get some attention every now and then. Guess you could say Glenn is a bit of a couch potato! He is healthy, vaccinated and sterilized and would be a wonderful companion to watch TV with or just hang out. If you're looking for a couch buddy, please make an appointment to visit him at Animal Shelter Bonaire. Call or Whatsapp for an appointment 701-4989, or 717-49489.

Story: Jane Disko. Photo: Glenn Doeze



Warning: Dettol Cleaning Product Toxic To Cats

Many people are taking greater care to clean these days due to concern over CoVid-19. One local favorite cleaning product is Dettol. PLEASE DO NOT USE DETTOL IF YOU HAVE CATS IN YOUR HOME. IT CAN KILL THEM. The main ingredient in Dettol is Chloroxylenol. Do not use any product that contains chloroxylenol if you have cats. Chloroxylenol is toxic to many animals, especially cats. Phenolic compounds are of particular concern because cats are unable to fully metabolize them. A cat may swallow the product by licking its paws after they have come into contact with it.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chloroxylenol>

2021 FNF agenda and winners announced



L-R: - Winners of the art contest for 2020 and 2021 agenda Zales Anthony, director of FNF Parisina Maltest and Kephsha Sint Jago

For the last 21 years, Friends of Nature Foundation (FNF) on Bonaire has published a unique agenda featuring art by children ages eight to 12.

Two of the children, Zales Anthony and Kephsha Sintjago were honored for their artistic contributions to the 2020 and 2021 agendas. In a small award ceremony on December 4 at San Luis Beltran in Rincon, FNF director Parisina Malatesta presented awards to the girls, a gift and a copy of the agenda in which their art appears.

A former teacher for 30 years, Parisina, has been the sole coordinator of the agenda sponsored by local businesses. She believes it is important for children from an early age to develop an appreciation for nature.

“We think that if they appreciate nature then they will also appreciate themselves and others,” said Parisina.

The agenda is not just a calendar. In addition to the student art it includes imagery

from local photographers.

Each year the agenda includes a focus on a certain area of Bonaire’s nature and sometimes a person that has made an outstanding contribution to island’s nature or animals. In the past the agenda has included maps, information on sharks, bats and people including Elly Albers of the Wild Bird Sanctuary.

The agenda is colorful, just the right size and provides enough space to jot down schedules and notes.

Sponsors for the 2021 agenda are: Bonaire Home Factory, BSC Pool & Spa, Digicel, TCB, WEB, Island Time, Bonaire Windsurf Place, Antillean Wine Company, Yogarriba, Tambu, The Place, Beauty Center Idalia, Storehouse Mangasina, Van den Tweel and Littmans Jewelry. The FNF Bonaire nature themed agenda is available for \$25 at Van den Tweel, Addos and Brunos
Story & photo Julie Morgan.

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COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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