



Selibon workers separate the metal, tin and aluminum cans for recycling.

Selibon really does recycle

Selibon NV's, new focus is processing Bonaire's waste. That doesn't mean the trucks pick up your garbage every week and dump it in the landfill and bury it like they did in the old days. For the last several years separating and storing the islands recycled waste has taken priority.

Shanelca Martha, Selibon marketing and communications coordinator said, "With all the stored waste, all stored separately, we are focusing our attention on processing because we have no more room."

The land on the waste management site is laid out with individual areas for glass, household goods, metals, cans and of course plastics. There is a concrete slab area divided for can separation and household plastics and bottles. A large warehouse holds a massive machine for processing boxes into compressed cubes and they are hoping to do the same with plastic bottles. There is a secure building for chemical/medical waste disposal. On that same slab are two oil storage containers purchased last year with a million

dollar price tag. This acquisition was possible thanks to a 2.8 million dollar grant to Selibon from the Netherlands.

With the remainder of that 'take out the trash money' from the Netherlands, Selibon has engaged research companies to find the best ways of separating

household waste, plastics, chemical waste with different ideas as to what to do with all of it. The glass is earmarked for the glass-crushing machine, promised last year but delayed due to the emergency need for the oil containers.

According to Shanelca, the research has told Selibon what we can do with with all that garbage. Now we are hoping to find the answers as to whether or not the plastic trash can be used in some way on Bonaire.

So where and how is everything recycled? According to Shanelca:

- Small chemical waste – stored in a special safe room and then exported to the Netherlands or another country for toxic waste disposal.
- Waste oil – exported to Curaçao and reused in machines and used to process asphalt and motor oil.
- Cooking oil – local company uses it



Selibon driver off-loads the cardboard and paper boxes into the recycling center after a pickup at one of the waste drop-off sites.

Recycling
continued on page 7

The BONAIRE REPORTER online

news that has broken since the printed issue

February 8

Antigen testing available at Curaçao airport

Curacao is offering the Antigen test daily from 9am to 9pm so now things just got a lot easier for United States travelers to Bonaire. We spoke to the service and they said once travelers arrive and make their way through immigration

they can find the service. The test results take approximately 50 minutes and can be emailed to you or wait in the testing area. Cost for the test is \$20. If you need more information call 599 9 839 1350.

February 11

More on antigen testing in Curaçao

Charles de Rooy, owner of Sanwil Aviation NV, offers special customer services at Curacao Airport, as a concession with the airport.

Charles said, “I am not the official spokesperson for the airport nor the lab. I only submit information based on my customer service base. This is how I got involved in this testing issue because there was little information given to the connecting passengers to Bonaire. I am only helping to give the passengers a positive experience transiting in Cura-

cao.”

According to Charles the lab is in the arrival terminal prior to immigration clearance on the right side exiting the elevator. Official hours are 9am to 9pm but the lab worker does not stay if there are no connecting flights in the afternoon/evening.

Travelers, especially large groups, can reach out to Charles for assistance at - charlesderooy@gmail.com.

February 13

A first hand account of antigen testing in Curaçao

Hi.

I would like to add commentary that may help Bonaire visitors navigate (successfully) the ‘return-to-US’ required Antigen test, as I just completed this ‘marathon’ for my departure from Bonaire last Monday 08 February. I completed the Antigen ‘Return-to-US’ test at Bon Bida (Health Center) on Bonaire after making an online appointment and a credit charge of \$77.62.

However, there are two items of which travelers should be aware.

First is the ever fluid ‘time’ regulation regarding tests. Bon Bida uses the 72-hour timeframe rule. The United States CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) order of 12 January 2021, though, employs a ‘3-day’ timeframe instead of 72 hours to provide more flexibility.

This is helpful as there are NO direct flights currently from the US to BON.

Therefore, for example, if a passenger’s flight is at 1pm on Friday, the passenger could board with a negative test that had been taken ANY TIME on the prior TUESDAY (count back 3 days from Friday) or after!

In other words, the test did NOT have to be restricted to only after 1pm Tuesday or later to coincide with the 1pm Friday departure (which would have conformed to the 72 hours rule). This is where Bon Bida is not quite up-to-speed with the CDC timeframe and makes it more restrictive).

The CDC rule says that the traveler could have taken the test ANYTIME on Tuesday or after and been in compliance with the CDC 3 day rule. (See CDC

website: Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States | CDC).

The second item is that Bon Bida has to send the Antigen test samples to Curacao (MLS lab) for evaluation since there is no lab on BON! Additionally, I learned that the Bon Bida test samples (no matter what time the traveler took the test) are only flown to Curacao the following morning on the first flight to Curacao.

Now it becomes really ‘sticky’.

Although the antigen test requires 4 hours to evaluate the results, the MLS lab (main location on Curacao) is only open until NOON on Saturday and then closed all day Sunday and reopens on Monday. Then the administrative process requires approximately 1-1/2 hours to get into the computer and the results emailed. Yet the online Bon Bida website advertises that the results will be back in 24-36 hours following the test!

I took my test at 1640 hours on Friday 05 February to be within the 72-hour bubble (per Bon Bida) before my 1535 hours flight on Monday 08 February back to the US from Curacao. We padded the time by one hour so if in the event of an airplane delay at time of departure of 1535, I would still have one hour extra to play with. However, on Monday morning at 1000 hours before my 1245 Divi Divi flight from Bonaire to Curacao (to connect to my American flight at 1535 hours to Miami), I still had NO results via email.

At this point it has now been well past the 24-36 hours since the test...in fact, it was now 65-1/2 hours since the test!!!! I immediately sent an email to MLS labs

but no reply. Finally, at 1030 I call MLS labs and speak to a wonderful technician (Jennifer) explaining the dilemma.

She assures me that although my results are not ready, I WILL have the results in time for my American Airlines flight to the US at 1535 hours.

A few minutes later, I receive the negative results via email (I am positive Jennifer put my test results to the front of the line due to my call and assuring her I would give a complimentary email to her supervisor because of her outstanding help!).

But, alas, the debacle continues.

Upon arrival at Curacao, I check in with American Airlines for my connecting flight. (In case I failed to be transparent.....I am a retired American Airline pilot and obviously a well-versed traveler.)

American Airlines utilizes ‘contract’ personnel at Curacao (supplied by the enormous global contracting company ‘Swissport’).

Understandably, the agents at the ticket counter are also adjusting to the numerous and varied regulations.

The agent could not discern if my 1640 Friday 05 February test was within the legal timeframe to allow me to board the 1535 Monday 08 February flight to Miami!!!!

Additionally, she wanted to know why I had the test done in Bonaire and the test results showing from a lab in Curacao.

And as I learned a long time ago, I allow the agent to either exhaust themselves or ask their supervisor because I am well aware of the required documentation and travel restrictions and requirements. (I haven’t been on this earth for 67 years

sleep-walking!).

Finally, she merely hands my phone back to me (obviously no where to print off the results so they either get to see it on my iphone or nothing) and issues a gate pass.

It is obvious that these requirements are still so very, very new (and fluid) to everyone and that a traveler must be patient (yet persistent) and knowledgeable of the requirements.

Also, as I was in the Curacao terminal/immigration area, I saw a ‘Medical Testing’ module;

However, at that time (Monday 08 Feb @ approximately 1320 hours), I did not see any activity or personnel associated with the testing module.

As a supporter of Bonaire, I would love that more information for Bonaire travelers could be uploaded/disseminated or even passed along to the dive-enthusiasts websites so that more people can easily travel to Bonaire without the hassle that I incurred.

I apologize that this email is lengthy; but I believe it will underscore the obstacles encountered that may be circumnavigated if the traveler is provided this additional information and aware of all options and restrictions.

If I may be of any further assistance regarding this experience, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,
Sondra Singleton, EdD
Pensacola, FL USA

First deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines around the 15th of February to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom

The Caribbean part of the Kingdom is on track to start vaccinating against COVID-19 around the 15th of February 2021, just as planned. The RIVM is preparing the first shipments of vaccines. For Saba and St. Eustatius it concerns the first delivery of the Moderna vaccine. For Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten, this first phase concerns vaccines from BioNTech/Pfizer.

Hard work

Minister Zita Jesus-Leito (Curaçao), Minister Danguillaume Oduber (Aruba), Minister Richard Panneflek (Sint-Maarten) and State Secretary Paul Blokhuis (the Netherlands), have jointly confirmed in their four-country consultation that they want to offer the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to all adults in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The ministers conclude, together with vaccination envoy Marc

Sprenger, that a lot of people involved are working very hard on all islands to be ready in time for the implementation of the vaccination campaign and that it is very encouraging that the first batches of vaccine will be delivered around February 15th. For the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, this creates extra perspective on the end of the corona crisis. The aim is to complete the vaccination campaign on all islands / in all countries before the start of the hurricane season.

Vaccination envoy

By order of State Secretary Paul Blokhuis (VWS), vaccination envoy Dr. Marc Sprenger (former DG of RIVM) is assisting the islands of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom to start vaccinating in time. The vaccination envoy, together with the RIVM, has visited all islands to discuss the progress with all local stakeholders. The necessary equipment has

been delivered and the staff involved has been trained in 'cold chain' and vaccine management. The vaccination envoy and the RIVM have identified a number of further action points for each island. If these are met, the vaccination programmes will start.

Moderna en BioNTech/Pfizer

On Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten, the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine will be in the first phase of vaccination to the healthcare workers and people older than 60 years. In order to work as efficiently as possible and to limit wastage of vaccine to a minimum, the Moderna vaccine will be offered to all adults in one batch on the small islands of Saba and St. Eustatius. The vaccines for the first phase will be delivered and distributed in several batches.

Samsung new GALAXY S21 phone on sale



OMNI, Bonaire's signature Samsung dealer launched the new GALAXY S21 phone on February 12 with a great sale just in time for Valentine's Day.

According to manager Hitesh Baxani, Omni is one of the first in the Caribbean to launch this phone and the prices are cheaper than in the United States and Europe.

Omni is featuring this Valentine's Day special sale on all Samsung phones through the end of February.

The GALAXY S21 is the flagship phone for Samsung.

A short overview reveals the phone has five cameras, a two day charge, 100x space zoom, a close to shatterproof Gorilla type screen and features the fastest chip available. The phone features optical stabilization for video and photos and a

lot more (check the specs for yourself) www.gsmarena.com/samsung_galaxy_s21_ultra_5g-10596.php

The phone comes in three versions with a special launch price:

S21 - 128 gb for \$949; S21 Plus - 256 gb for \$1099 and the top of the line S21 Ultra - 256 for \$1399.

For the launch and till the end of February, the phones come with the \$200 Ear Buds that are good for eight hours of music time.

For the exact specifications visit: <https://>

OMNI is open today for your Valentine's Day shopping from 9am - 6pm. Regular store hours are M-F 8:30am - 12:30pm and 2 - 6pm. OMNI is located 25B Kaya Amsterdam.

The BONAIRE REPORTER online

news that has broken since the printed issue



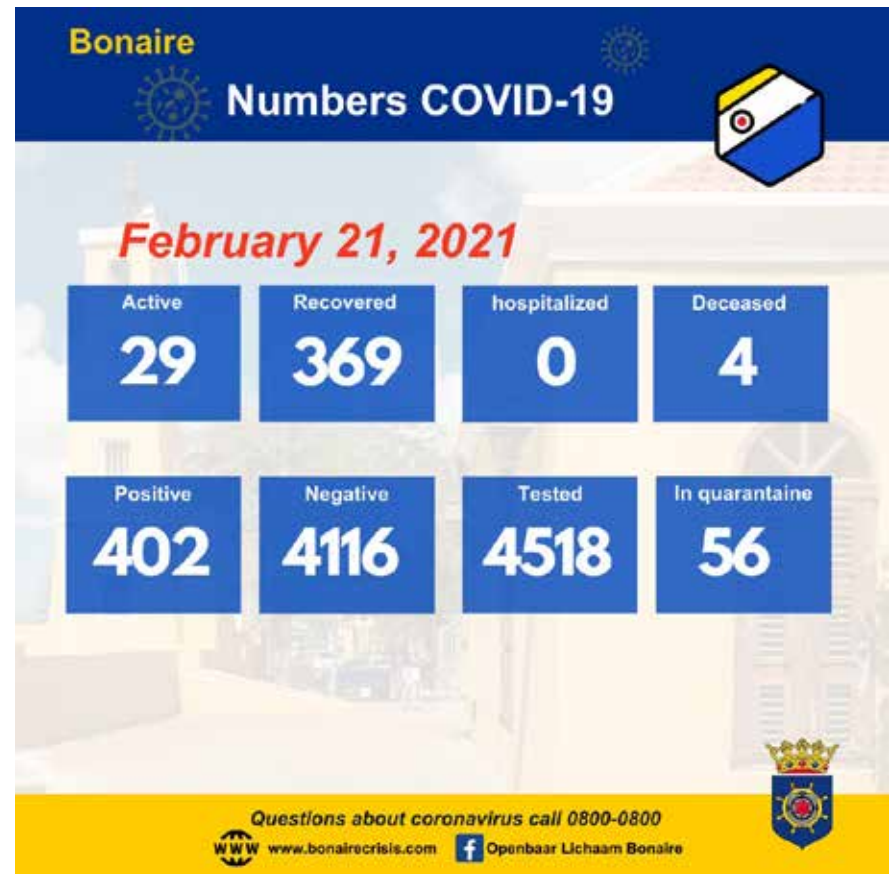
Numbers February 21, 2021

Important: In case of complaints, have a test, also with starting complaints such as a cold, and sore throat.

On February 21, 2021, there are 29 active cases of COVID-19 on Bonaire. One of the active cases concerns a visitor to the island. Yesterday 22 people were tested of which 4 turned out to be positive. The 4 people who tested positive are inhabitants of the island. 1 person has recovered. No one is currently hospitalized due to COVID-19.

Take a test if you feel sick. It can take a while before you get the result. It's important to wait the result in quarantine. Do not go outside before you get your result because you can infect other people. To bring these numbers down it's important to maintain the hygiene instructions, as keep 1.5 meter distance and wash your hands with water and soap regularly to prevent infection with the Coronavirus.

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.



January 29, 2021

Corona measures are valid for another week

Only travel to Aruba for urgent matters

The corona measures will remain valid for another week in any case. That is how Island Governor Edison Rijna stated. "On the one hand, infections are still falling. You would then think that the measures could become more flexible. But on the other hand, the number of infections is still high for Bonaire, and three people have been hospitalized. The pressure on healthcare is great. That is why I have decided that the measures will remain the same for the time being. If the number of infections continues to fall this week and next, we may be able to make the measures more flexible. But we still have to wait and see," said the Island Governor.

Rijna also stated that he is closely following the situation in Aruba. "As is known, there are five cases of the modified British corona virus in Aruba. After consultation with Public Health, PG, it was decided to advise travelers to only travel to Aruba for urgent matters. We do not know how the situation will develop on the sister island. That's why we have to be careful."

The public body Bonaire has received many questions about the antigen test in recent days. The antigen test is a quick test. It shows if virus proteins are in the mucus in someone's nose or throat. The antigen test must be taken four hours before departure. This rapid test, the PCR test, and the Public Health statement are now mandatory for travelers from high-risk countries. The high-risk countries include the United States, Canada, the Dominican Republic, and all passengers from South America. Travelers from the Netherlands who come to Bonaire are probably obliged to take the PCR test and the antigen test before departure from February 10. They must also complete the PG health statement at www.bonairepublichealth.org before departure



Solving the 32,000 goat problem

Bonaire has 32,000 goats, according to a Wageningen University study. Many of them roam wild, reproduce freely, and continuously degrade the island ecology. According to the study, goats contribute little to Bonaire's legitimate economy even while encouraging illegal activities. They are often stolen from kunukeros and end up on the menus of snack bars as uninspected, illegally butchered stew meat. With farming no longer profitable, kunukus have been abandoned and the traditional social cohesion in the rural areas has disappeared.

In order to create a new era for goat farming on Bonaire, and to help both the island economy and ecology, the OLB is creating a project to professionalize goat farming. The program will be implemented by LVV. It will promote good fencing, better feed production, breed improvement, kid production, and goat management and safety. Olaf Creutzberg is program manager, and Sherwin Pourier and Weero Koster are executive project leaders. *DMR*

Search on for yacht sewage solution



A mobile pump station is one of the options being considered to solve the problem of sewage from yachts entering directly into the sea.

The visiting yachts tied to moorings between the commercial piers and Harbour Village Marina discharge their sewage, untreated, directly into the water. They have no other alternative. Although they were constructed in countries that require built-in holding tanks, they also need access to pumpout facilities, which Bonaire (like most islands in the Caribbean) does not have.

STINAPA, WWF-NL, I&W, WEB, OLB, and the marinas are cooperating to try to eliminate that problem this year. They say the technology has been available for a long time and the costs are feasible. It's just a matter of getting together and answering some practical, organizational, legal, and cost-technical questions, then making good decisions.

Testing will be needed to determine whether the mixture of waste water collected from the holding tanks of various yachts will meet the intake requirements for the WEB Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Then the island must create a workable chain of facilities to collect, store, transport, and process the sewage, with methods of collection perhaps being the most challenging decision. Sewage can be collected from yachts at either stationary or mobile pumping installations. That is, a floating pump-out boat could go to the yachts, or the yachts could be required to tie up at one or more installations on shore.

The participating organisations are inviting input from anyone with relevant knowledge, experience, or suggestions. *DMR*

WEB is digging test holes in Hato

Prior to renewing the pipes that transport purified waste water back to hotels, the contractor Boneriaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij (BWM) will start digging test holes in Hato as of Wednesday January 20th.

As a project supervisor, Water -en Energie Bedrijf Bonaire (WEB) will work to keep the nuisance to a minimum. If you have any questions or comments, please contact WEB at info@webbonaire.com or 005997158244.

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 15

Covid round up

The most current Covid information from the government can be found at: <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/>

Help out the vaccination program People are being recruited to work during the vaccination program. Those with a non-medical background will be temporarily employed as hostess/host, medical support staff, traffic controllers, and administrative staff. People with a medical background will work as site managers, vaccination personnel, medical preparers, and first aiders. Candidates must be available at least one day a week. For information contact: <https://tempocaribbean.com>

Dutch being vaccinated, islands waiting Vaccinations are expected to begin on Bonaire in February and will last about three months. The freezers have arrived, but Bonaire and the other islands are waiting for a delegation from RIVM. RIVM is an independent research institute that works for the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. When the RIVM team arrives on Bonaire, it will inspect the island's vaccinations arrangements and equipment, train the local health authorities, and assure distribution points and registration procedures are in place. The first to be vaccinated will be approximately 600 people in healthcare and support services, then people over 70, then those over 60.

How to get tested

The testing requirements for travel seem to change faster than they can be announced and reported. If you intend to travel and do need to show a negative result from a PRC test administered within 72 hours of departure, here's how to get it.

If you are departing from Bonaire, the PRC test and the "rapid" antigen test are both available from Bonaire Lab near the hospital or Health Center Bon Bida for \$150. Contact either for a registration form. After you complete it and return it, they will email you to schedule a test. You can be tested at home or your hotel room if you wish. If you test negative, you will receive an official travel document in English. Positive tests must be reported to the Health Department. Test results are guaranteed within 24-48 hours. But don't wait until the last minute to book an appointment.

If you are departing from the U.S., Labcorp (\$119) and Empower (\$99) guarantee test results within 48 hours. You purchase the test kit online, and they overnight ship the kit to you along with a FedEx return envelope to overnight the kit back. *DMR, with thanks to Bob Bartikoski, RE/MAX Paradise Homes*

KLM crisis over the antigen test When the Netherlands announced it would soon start requiring everyone from overseas, including members of flight crews, to arrive with negative results from both a PRC test and an antigen, or "rapid," test, KLM responded by announcing it would be canceling all flights to the island, including freight. KLM said antigen testing prior to departure might force it to leave behind crew members who tested positive. Subsequently the Netherlands has reaffirmed that Bonaire is considered a low risk country. Therefore neither the quick antigen test nor the PRC is required. KLM is continuing to fly to Bonaire. Antigen testing, like PRC testing, is available from Bonaire Lab or Health Center Bon Bida.

Test plus quarantine required for US entry One of President Joe Biden's early actions was to sign an executive order that requires all passengers arriving in the US, including residents, to have a pre-departure negative test, then to quarantine for seven days after arrival.

Police challenged by Covid too The police, especially in the patrol service that provides the public with 24/7 protection and enforces the emergency regulations, face a high risk of Covid exposure. Recently three police officers tested positive and were put in isolation, and 13 colleagues who had been exposed to them needed to be quarantined. KPCN management is implementing various solutions to keeping the most critical police functions staffed and to best protect its officers as well

Tjin Asjoe recovers from Covid, says don't catch it After a three week battle with the Covid virus, MPB Party Leader Elvis Tjin Asjoe is recovering and has the doctor's permission to leave his house. He said he had all the symptoms, they were all bad, and everyone should conform to the preventative measures against the virus to avoid contracting it. *DMR*

This Week's Stories

Selibon really does recycle	1
Covid roundup	2
Conserve Bonaire opposes Hato port	3
Reef Reforestation	6
New Years baby	7
Fire Department 2020 statistics	7
Consumer prices Q4, 2020	9
US election Biden & Harris	8
Annual Lora roost count	8
Customs Day 2021	9
Sugar Thief Brewing	11
Dive Friends Valentine's therapy	12
Waterbird Caribbean census	12
BonDoet postponed	12
First quarterly clean up 2021	16

The Reporter online

Covid-19 breaking news

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam:	2
(32,000 goats; Yacht sewage; WEB digs in Hato; Food aid to Aruba, Curaçao & St Maarten; Grant for culture; Wendy Pelk Island Secretary; Ton Maan, Attorney General; MijncN; Queen Maxima viral visit)	
Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Ask Kate (Rental location)	4
Police Report	4
Letters (Bolivia & Breemharen; MCB; Hato port; Masks; Bonaire's roads)	5
Ask a Geek: (Spying)	7
Reef Glimpses: (Blennies)	8
Sky Park (Mars landing; new moon)	8
Did You Know (Crinoid, Feather star)	10
A Garden? (Zero waste)	10
What's Happening	12
Making Bonaire "Accessible" (Respect & Dignity)	12
Creating Optimal Health (Nourishment)	13
Live Inspired Today (Setting up for 2021)	13
Business Directory	14
Shelter News: (Flea market; Appointment)	15
Pet of the Week: Boy - dog	15

How to Find Us:

Read us online: <https://bonairereporter.com>
 ●: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>
 Available in 50 locations
 Printed every two weeks

Next edition: February 24, 2021

Contributors' Deadline: February 19, 2021

Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599)796 4055
 Email: info@bonairereporter.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher
Bonairereporter2019@gmail.com
 Production: Barbara Lockwood

Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Sky Watch: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini-Star Gazers website; Kate Butler, Jean Searce, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Jane Madden-Disko, Travis Sullins, Julianka Clarendia, Don M. Ricks, Malcolm Wilson, Alan Zale, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Dennis Martinus

Distribution: Marlène & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo

© 2021 The Bonaire Reporter

Covid-19 on Bonaire as of February 21, 2021

29 active / 4 new	0 hospitalized
369 recovered	4 deceased
402 positive	4518 tested
4116 negative	56 in quarantine

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

Conservebonaire.org opposes Hato port

ConserveBonaire.org has posted a petition to stop the possible construction of a container port at the site of the WEB water plant in Hato. The government has not formally announced a container port will be built at the WEB site but one government official confirmed this project was indeed going ahead.

According to Conserve Bonaire the port could decimate the coral reefs in Hato, which are home to Bonaire's numerous corals, sponges and marine animals. Incoming and outgoing container ships in concert with the oil barges at WEB would not only destroy the reefs but also have a major impact on dive tourism. Bonaire's most active dive resorts like Captain Don's Habitat, Buddy Dive and Sand Dollar could be directly affected.

Last July, *The Reporter* featured a story on the expansion of Boat Yard Bonaire that is positioned directly next to WEB. The Boat Yard owner had applied for permits and some were approved while others were held up including one for a 40-slip harbour. The government was undecided whether or not this particular bit of shoreline would be the site of a new container port and that was the reason for the delay. In a meeting with harbour master Gunther Flanegin and then deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe we discovered no decisions had been made at that time. But, in their opinion, Hato was the ideal site regardless of pressure on the reef, tourism and roads. When pressed on the road question as to routing, they were not forthcoming.

Several other sites were on the table including expanding the current container pier, a site across from Flamingo Airport and Bopec. The main argument for Hato or any other location was it would free up room for the many incoming cruise ships.

Since Covid 19, and a tourism plan that is moving away from the cruise ships or "monsters in the harbour,"



Photo - supplied by ConserveBonaire.org

Bonaire's present container port in downtown area.

so called by the Netherlands Princess Beatrix and Lt. Governor Edison Rijna, the Conserve Bonaire organizers question the decision based on cruise ships.

In October Conserve Bonaire organizers contacted Flanegin for an answer. Once again Flanegin sited he expected an increase in cruise ship traffic saying that the executive council and BC had designated the WEB/Hato site.

Flanegin wrote, "I expect that the preparation and the planning procedures can start in 2021 and after administrative decision-making and the completion of the spatial planning procedures, construction may start in 2022 or 2023."

Hato port, continued on page 9

FOR SALE El Pueblo 27 Ocean View Villa with Apartment



- Location : El Pueblo Villas
- Living area: 300 m2 / 3229 sq. ft.
- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / parking

- Roof terrace with great ocean views
- Separate 1 bedroom / 1 bathroom apartment
- Gated community

3D tour



Price \$875,000 US Dollar

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



Police Warning:

“CashFX” offers unlicensed services on Bonaire

An organization called “CashFX” is active on Bonaire. “CashFX” is not licensed by the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) for these activities.

“CashFX” persuades consumers to invest their money by promising a one percent monthly return. The organization is currently holding various meetings on Bonaire and is attracting a lot of people.

The Dutch Caribbean Police Force in consultation with the AFM and the Bonaire Bankers Association have decided to warn Bonaire’s residents of this organization in order to avoid possible financial setbacks and disappointments. They advise people to invest only with parties that are licensed. The AFM has posted a warning about CashFX on its website.

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

In the period between December 23, 2020 and January 6, 2021, two batteries, three water pumps and an auger were removed from the site of an organization at Kaminda Lagun. The case is under investigation.

During the night hours on Friday, January 22, two houses on Kaya Jean B.F. Vitte were broken into. From one of the houses a Hitachi Router, a hammer drill from the De-Wal brand and a jackhammer from the Power Plus brand were stolen. From the other house, thieves stole two LG televisions and a dark gray Hyundai Tucson, with license plate B-12721. We call on anyone who has seen, heard or has camera images to contact the police at 715 8000 or via the anonymous number 717 7251.

Between Tuesday, January 19 and Wednesday, January 20, a Soprano black bicycle with blue colored accents was stolen from the yard of an apartment on Kaya Krabe. The bike was unlocked.

Arrests

At around 12:45 am on Saturday, January 16, a woman, 46, was held for destroying the rear window of a car.

Early in the morning on Friday, January 22, a man, 27, was arrested in a house in Tera Kòrà. He is suspected of complicity in an ongoing case.

In the morning hours of Saturday, January 23, a 29-year-old woman was arrested for vandalism and assault. A little later on Saturday, a woman, 35, was arrested for threatening with a weapon.

In the morning hours on Sunday, January 24, a man, 31, was detained on Kaya Korona for burglary and theft.

In the early evening hours on Sunday, January 24, police received a report that someone had been threatened with death. A patrol on duty immediately went to a house on Kaminda Djabou. When the patrol arrived, the suspect had already left. After a search the suspect was found in the parking lot of a construction store on the Kaya Korona and a man, 21, was arrested for threats and violation of the BES firearms law. The suspect’s firearm and car were confiscated.

Traffic accidents and violations

On Friday, January 15, around 11:45 pm, the police station received a report about noise nuisance from a quad bike near Jato Bako. A patrol found the ATV with an 18-year-old boy as the driver and

a 16-year-old boy as a fellow passenger. The driver did not have a driver’s license. Neither boy could show any identification and neither wore helmets. The driver stated that he took the quad without permission to test it. Both boys were taken to the police station and the parents were notified. The 18-year-old boy was given a second police report for driving without a driver’s license.

In the evening of Friday, January 15, the driver of a motorcycle was stopped after a short chase. The driver received a police report for driving without a valid driver’s license, insurance documents, and a number plate. He was also cited for driving in a closed direction, danger and nuisance on public roads and for not obeying orders and directions from an official. The motorcycle was taken to the police station until the owner can prove that all his documents are in order.

In the early morning hours on Saturday, January 16, around 5 am, the police station received a report that a girl was lying unconscious on the road at Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot near the Hato roundabout. She had fallen off her scooter. The ambulance treated the driver on the spot.

At around 11:30 am on Saturday, January 16, a car and a cyclist collided on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The cyclist didn’t indicate a turn, so that the car behind the cyclist collided with the rear tire, causing the cyclist to fall. The cyclist was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

In the afternoon on Tuesday, January 19, the driver of a scooter hit a low hanging cable, causing him to fall. The driver was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance. The responsible telecommunications companies have been notified so that they can solve the problem with the cable.

On Thursday, January 21, two cars collided on Kaya Korona. When a car stopped to turn left, the following car could not stop due to its relatively high speed and collided with the left rear of the turning car. The driver and passenger of the stationary car complained of head pain. They were treated on the spot by the ambulance staff.

At around 4 pm on Sunday, January 24, a golf cart and a scooter collided near Sabadeco Courts. The driver of the golf cart drove too fast into the corner, causing the golf cart to tip over and the occupants to fly out and end up on the road. The



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question: We are thinking of retiring to Bonaire in a few years but want to rent out whatever we buy to tourists before we move. Should we be looking near downtown or out of town? Which area do vacation renters prefer? Jim

Hi Jim,
Since you will be living in whatever you buy eventually, I would choose the area that you like the best. There is no one best area for vacation rentals. Some renters like being walking distance to town, others prefer to be further out of town in more quiet neighborhoods. Each area has appeal to various renters. Focus on the amenities that appeal to many vacation renters, which may include view, access to a

pool, distance from the sea, condition of bathrooms and kitchen, etc. Then, price the rent amount to reflect the amenities and condition.

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.

ambulance personnel assisted all victims on the spot. One victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance for further medical treatment.

Traffic checks

The police are holding frequent traffic checks. In the past period, fines have been issued for driving without a helmet, valid insurance documents, a driver’s license or number plate; for driving in a direction that is indicated as prohibited and for not using the turn signal. A fine was also issued for leaving a car unattended that was obstructing traffic. Increasingly drivers are being fined for driving with a telephone in hand and driving without a seatbelt. The cost of driving without your seat belt is \$ 110 and holding a cell phone while driving is \$ 225.

Emergency ordinance

In the evening of Wednesday, January 13, the Dutch Caribbean Police Corps, in collaboration with the Supervision and Enforcement Service of the Public Entity, inspected 16 catering establishments including restaurants, bars and ice cream parlors. They all complied with the applicable rules of the emergency ordinance. In some cases the companies were instructed on certain points to make the locations even safer.

On Saturday, January 16, a check at various catering establishments was held to ensure compliance with the emergency ordinance. Two of the establishments were closed due to failure to comply with its rules.

The weekend of January 22 to 24, checks on compliance with the emergency ordinance were carried out at various catering companies. Two locations were warned. At a house the residents were warned and people sent home.

The police and employees of the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate of the Public Entity check, for example, for both “social distance” and the maximum number of persons allowed. With each report, the team looks at the kind of violation and what the best solution is, with mutual respect. Verbal abuse or aggression against our employees will not be tolerated. The calm cooperation of everyone in inspections and when violations are found leads

to a peaceful solution. Intensive inspections by the aforementioned authorities will take place regularly in the coming period. Again a call to everyone to abide by the rules of the emergency ordinance.

Public safety

In the morning hours of Saturday, January 16, a report was made that fireworks destroyed a mobile toilet cabin on a construction site in Sabadeco. This is the rental company’s second toilet cabin to be destroyed by fireworks in January.

Diver rescue

On Saturday, January 16, just before 6:30 pm, the police station was notified that a diver was in need on the north coast near Arawak. One of two divers had managed to climb up the rocks and sound the alarm. The other diver was unable to exit the water. In this area, the waves hit with force against razor-sharp rock formations that are almost impossible to climb. Three patrols, consisting of five police agents and two Kmar employees, responded. Stinapa and the Coast Guard were also notified as they have carried out more frequent rescues at sea and on the north coast. At the site, action had to be taken quickly because the second diver was getting tired in the heaving sea. Bringing the diver to shore in a short period of time became a priority. The diver was instructed to swim to the rock formations and told how to use the swell to climb the rocks to hold on there. Some officers climbed down to help the diver up. Both divers were checked on site by the ambulance staff. The diver who was the first to climb out of the water was found to have a broken ankle and was taken to hospital by ambulance. The second diver was able to go home unharmed. The patrols in question acted quickly and decisively, saving a human life.

Contact the police

911 (rush or red-handed)
717 8000 or 715 8000 (no emergency)
717 7251 (anonymous tip line)

Visit us!



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.



The pile of diabase at the Lagun side of the Breemharen site

Breemharen: Golden Boy? Loradó di man! René Roders

There are people on Bonaire, including commissioners and island council members who think they have won a Golden Boy with the Breemharen. After all, The Breemharen are going to revive the former plantation Bolivia. In doing so, they give new life to ten percent of the island's land area. A Golden Boy can be found. Right?

I'm afraid that anyone who believes this will conclude in a few years that they have bought a pig in a poke. The Breemharen are loradó di man, or hustlers. A loradó di man is someone who gets something done in a easy, not necessarily legal way. The Breemharen have elevated that to an art.

How I came to that conclusion? I will give you a number of examples.

Shortly after acquiring their new property, De Breemharen published a brochure in which they announced their intentions to the public with promotional texts and beautiful photos. It was immediately noticeable that they planned to equip a large area around the lighthouse of Spelonk with solar panels. Few people know that the ground around that lighthouse belongs to the Public Body Bonaire (so it belongs to you and me) and that the Breemharen have to stay away from it with their sticky fingers. The Breemharen probably hoped to get away with it. Or is it just a mistake?

In an even more colorful brochure that followed the first, in which the plans were once again presented to the public but looked very different, a photo of a large pond stood out. People who know the area like the back of their hand immediately saw that the pond does not belong to the Breemharen at all and that that place also did not belong to the former plantation. When asked how that photo ended up in the brochure, one of the Breemharen replied: "Well, a mistake."

Recently, neighbors of the Breemharen had suddenly lost their pile of diabase.

That pile had been there for a while and there were also some agaves on it. What turned out? The Breemharen had taken care of that pile of diabase and partly blocked the entrance to their site on the Lagun side with it. When one of the Breemharen was approached by a neighbor, it led to an aggressive reaction, while apologies and the shoving back of the diabase would have been more appropriate. Unfortunately, that turned out to be a pious hope. Again a mistake.

On the other side of Bolivia, behind Arawak, the Breemharen have put young people from the Bonaire School Community on "restoring the slave wall". According to De Breemharen and the SGB, this is an internship where youngsters can gain learning and working experience. What exactly are those young people doing there? They place heavy stones by hand (!) on the old remains of the slave wall. These are young people from the Special Teaching Places (SLP) department who receive a special education. What do those young people learn from that internship? Nothing, except how to place a heavy stone on top of another stone by hand (!). De Breemharen call this learning. I call this child labor. Or is that a mistake?

For the restoration of that slave wall, the Breemharen thought that they could use the stones they found on the coast. What they overlooked is that the stones on the first fifty meters from the coast were not theirs but from the OLB. So from you and me. When they were pointed out that these were not their stones, they shrugged. Another mistake.

It is also noticeable that the Breemharen hate to apply for permits for their activities. Of course it is also possible that they do not know they need permits for the work they do. You can decide for yourself what is worse. Two examples.

Houses are currently being built on the cliff above Arawak. The plots were put up for sale over 25 years ago. The road that runs there has been extended by almost

700 meters by the Breemharen without having applied for a permit. That road is therefore illegal.

A permit is also required for the rebuild of the slave wall behind Arawak. De Breemharen also forgot to apply for that permit. Mistakes?

How can this happen? The Breemharen are loradó di man, hustlers. Just do what you think you should and could do, and shrug when you are told that it is not allowed or possible. In some cases they just continue, in other cases they say sorry. And they just continue.

The Bolivia project is a development project, but the Breemharen are not developers. They are loradó di man who do as they see fit and finagle things in the hope that it will turn out well and nobody will notice. I regret to say in this context that the Supervision and Enforcement Service ('Toezicht en Handhaving') of the OLB is far too busy to supervise and enforce. That doesn't bode well for us, residents of Bonaire.

At the moment it is still about preparatory work. I am curious what the nature and extent of the rustle will be when the real work on Bolivia starts and whether they will get away with it on our beautiful Bonaire.

I hold my breath. I hope the commissioners and island councilors too.

René Roders

Roads Roger Hamilton

"If you look at the roads you really see progress" secretary of State Knops is reported to have said. He must be blind or else he wasn't given an effective tour when he was here. I've never seen the roads in as bad a state as they are after this rainy season. I'm wondering just where our road tax money is going? It's certainly not repairing the ever larger and deeper potholes that are found almost everywhere!

Roger Hamilton

Customer service? Pam Teitel

I am totally baffled why MCB has just invested a huge amount of money to renovate and enlarge their Hato branch including adding a large parking lot when now they have removed all of the tellers at that branch. I was intrigued with what they intended with a digital branch. All I see is terminals for people to do what I can do from my computer and/or a phone on internet banking, what use is this branch? In the old branch there was one computer and I do not think I had ever seen anyone using it. The only transactions I need to make inside the bank is getting change to give back to my customers. I was liv-

id when they began charging \$5 for this, even if I wanted to change \$5 for a roll of dimes, they wanted a \$5 fee to do it. If I was able on the ATM to say I want \$50 all in \$1 bills, I would accept to pay a penalty for taking the time of a teller to do it for me. But, I have no other option. This is a bank, this is their business. Now, by eliminating tellers at the Hato branch, they only increase the lines in town. I do not like to wait on the street under a small tent and to pay for the service a bank should provide. No idea the point of the huge renovations, but I certainly know where the money came from!

Pam Teitel

Letters to Governor (Hato container port) George Gauzza Phillip L. Potts

Your Excellency,

I would like to add my wife, Barbara, and myself to the thoughts below. I would just add that since we started coming to Bonaire in the 90's, the deterioration of the reefs is alarming. There is undoubtedly a correlation to the substantial increase in cruise ships, along with the other factors listed below.

Please protect these reefs.

Sincerely, George Gauzza

Your Excellency-

My wife and I have been to Bonaire many, many times. We shall continue to visit your Paradise.

Please do not permit the Hato Reef to be destroyed to build a container port. Warming seas, coral bleaching and pollution runoff already are stressors. Do not exacerbate the problem by destroying a living entity that takes eons to replicate. The reef system must be sacrosanct. Choose another option such as a floating offshore docking facility. It may be more expensive but the result is priceless.

Phillip L. Potts, Esquire

Wearing masks Dee Scarr

Dear Editor,

Two observations regarding the face-masks-vs-coronavirus debate:

1. Arguments against masks are identified by phrases such as, "It has been reported that ..." Arguments in favor of masks come from large, reputable, international and national health groups, such as the World Health Organization. Large and reputable is much more trustworthy than anecdotal results.

2. Arguments against masks relate to improper use or disposal of masks, "Masks not washed properly can lead to ..." and "Masks were found on the street at ..." These points are entirely unrelated to the value of masks used in recommended ways. Disposal doesn't have to be irresponsible, and reusable masks eliminate most disposal problems.

It's not surprising that many people choose to follow advice from qualified sources, and wear a mask.

Please wear a mask in public places indoors, such as grocery stores.

Thanks,

Dee Scarr

Dive shops join Bonaire's restoration project

At a time when responsible and sustainable tourism are greatly valued, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) is happy to welcome **Divi Dive Bonaire** and **VIP Diving** to their list of supporting dive shops.

These two new dive operators will educate visitors and residents who want to learn more about coral reefs and reef restoration. Through organizing events, giving presentations and training volunteer divers, they will serve an essential role in encouraging the public to become involved in the Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire's project.

"We, at VIP Diving, had the privilege to team up with Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and are proud and honored to be part of this endeavor. We are excited to participate in renewing the reef with our staff and dive guests. The corals give us so much joy, and now we have the opportunity to give some love back to the ocean. Together we can and will make a difference, and we will do our utmost to share our passion for ocean conservation, said Pascal Van Empelen, VIP Diving Operations Manager.

As part of RRFB first phase, two nurseries with three trees each were installed in the shallow waters at Calabas Reef, accessible from shore for divers and snorkelers. The nurseries will have an initial capacity of 600 corals. Both critically endangered staghorn and elkhorn coral species are being hosted and propagated in the nurseries. The coral nurseries will be maintained by Divi Dive Bonaire and VIP Diving. Once the staff complete their training, the dive shops will have the opportunity to attract visitors to participate in the coral restoration experience. This can shape a tourists relationship with the marine environment and foster global stewardship for coral reef ecosystem.

"Any action taken, whether it be large or small, can help", explains Celine Van Meer, General Manager, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino. "Our entire team is excited to take action now, to help ensure sustainability for the future, as climate change, among other fac-



tors, continues to have an impact on our oceans and marine life."

RRFB, which started with a small group of local individuals, confirms its grassroots approach. They focus on actively involving the community in the coral restoration program, that is key to protect and preserve Bonaire's marine ecosystems in a sustainable way.

Bonaire dive shops supporting RRFB for several years are Beyond the Corals, Buddy Dive Resort, Great Adventures Bonaire, Tropical Divers and Wannadive.

Through large-scale propagation, outplanting, and monitoring of genetically diverse corals, Reef Renewal Bonaire works to assist natural recovery of coral reefs. To learn more about how to get involved or lend support, visit reefnewalbonaire.org or email info@reefnewalbonaire.org.

Planting one of the trees are Divi Dive staff members Denise Glazer and Laurel Kjorlien with Guillermo Alcorta supervising for RRFB in background.



Trees are ready to be placed underwater: RRFB assistant coordinator Sanne Tuiten, VIP staff Pascal van Empelen and Christa Burger and RRFB coordinator Francesca Virdis



Tropical Nature is open Mon-Sat 10 to 6 nonstop in Lourdes Shopping Mall. Appointments: WhatsApp 7708911 or on the Tropical Nature Facebook page.



Annual Parrot Roost Count
January 30, 2021

Our thanks to Susan Davis of Infobonaire.com for the use of the chart, COVID-19 Measures, Phase 4, that we published last issue.



Divi staff assemble the trees: Denise Glazer, Ruud Janssen, Laurel Kjorlien and Malin Kaijser. Photos: Reef Restoration

Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen
Yes Virginia, Big Brother IS Spying on You!

If nothing else good came out of the last few months in the USA and world, we did all learn about the power and misuse of social media and messaging programs.

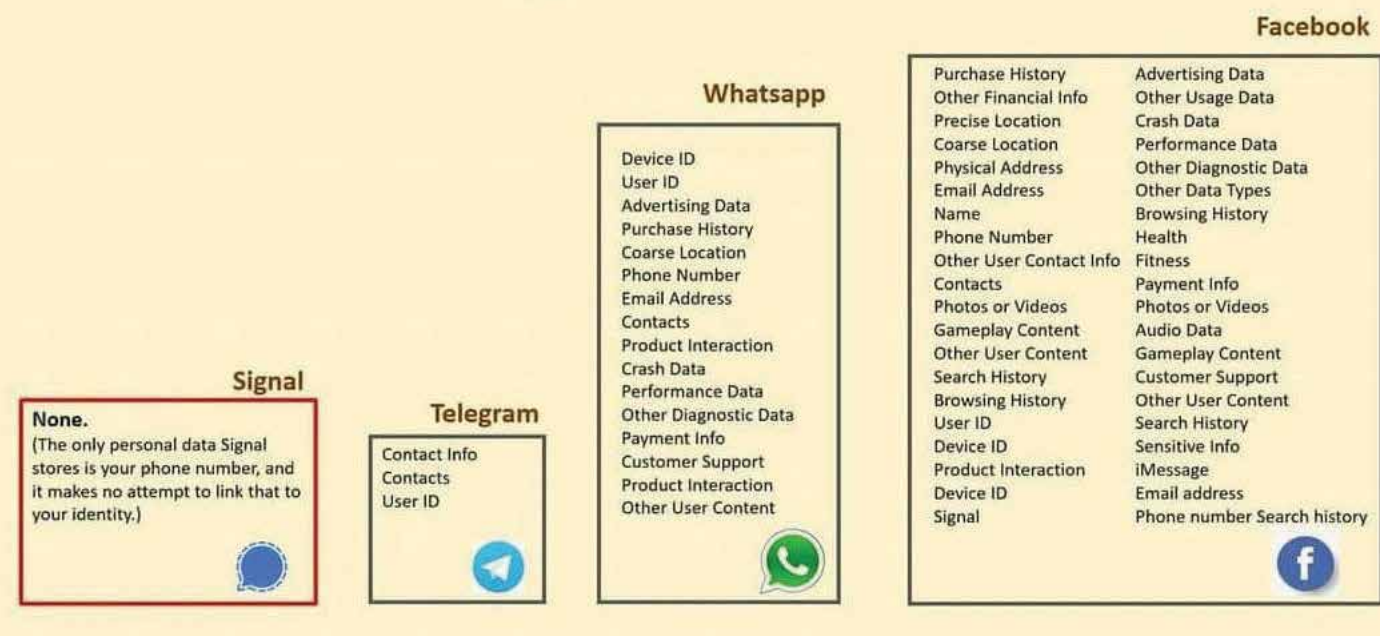
While those of us who have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear, but it sure makes it difficult to keep track of who is using which program as people move from program to program based upon reports from the news.

This chart shows supposedly what each of the programs collects from your phone.

I personally don't believe that is all they collect... I am sure that calls are recorded as they are routed through their servers by systems such as the US Government Echelon and subsequent systems. If you read the fine print, which is really tiny on a phone, the companies have the right to record, transcribe and store the data, as well as use it for voice recognition training, etc.

And I take issue with Signal's claim above, because as soon as I installed it, it told me, "Hey, I can invite all these people automatically" and showed me a

Signal Vs Telegram, WhatsApp Facebook Messenger: What Data Does Each App Collect from your phone?



list of everyone on Telegram, WhatsApp and Facebook messenger. In addition, I get constant updates that "Bob Smith is now using Signal". Telegram does the same, as does WhatsApp. Imagine the MATRIX of relationships these companies now have.

So, basically, get used to being recorded, transcribed, indexed, spindled and

mutilated if you want to use these free apps. While you think they are free, you are paying with your privacy and information.

Now, add to the fray Zoom, Skype, Parler, and all the other ones. My poor phone battery is down to about 20% of it's normal time because all of these programs are constantly running in the background.

Life used to be so simple when it was just Skype (which I still use) regularly and it works much better since everyone left to use the latest and greatest.

On a lighter note: Remember that if you contract Covid and end up in the hospital, your significant other will be holding onto your phone for at least two weeks. Think about it...

Recycling, continued from page 1

to make Panadero.

- Metal – currently stored. Selibon is trying to find a company that recycles.
- Precious metals – taken to other companies for recycling. This could prove profitable and pay for itself.
- Electronics – taken apart, separated and then recycled.
- Cans – crushed and exported to Netherlands.
- Cardboard and paper – crushed, cubed and sold to Asia.
- Glass – the new glass-crushing machine will allow the island to produce gravel to be used in roads.

Some people on the island don't recycle because they think it all just goes in

the landfill anyway... this is definitely not true. Last year Selibon processed 927.18 tons of glass, 125.92 tons of plastic, 15.46 tons of aluminum and an amazing 1,343 tons of paper/cardboard. Please do your part in recycling at the neighborhood drop off bins or at Selibon. Recycling reduces landfill waste and even creates jobs not to mention how it helps our environment.

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

Story and photos Julie Morgan



First baby of 2021

Shakur Coffie, Bonaire's first baby of the year 2021, has received a gift from the public body of Bonaire. The public body of Bonaire wishes the parents all the best with the newly born Shakur: "May Shakur grow up to be an exemplary boy who also makes his parents proud."

Fire Department releases 2020 statistics

The Fire Department Of Caribbean Netherlands (BKC�) employs 93 employees. Serving the three islands, it works from five posts for almost 26,000 residents.

In 2020, the BKC� responded to 210 incidents and conducted 397 drills such as fire alarms and rescue operations. It also performed 820 preventative activities.

Incident Response			Preventative Activities		
	2020	2019		2020	2019
Fire fighting (domestic, outdoor and car fires)	109	132	Information (providing information to businesses, schools, entrepreneurs)	37	40
Assistance (traffic accidents and animal distress)	69	61	Advice (to the public entities on fire safety)	484	366
Assistance with medical evacuations (by plane from Saba or St. Eustatius)	12	11	Prevention checks (e.g. at construction sites and childcare facilities)	299	360
Accident response hazardous substances (preventing leaks of oil or hazardous substances)	12	11	Prevention licenses issued (by assessing fire safety)	118	93

Consumer prices on Bonaire down by 5.2 percent

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reports that in Q4 2020, prices of consumer goods and services on Bonaire declined by 5.2 percent relative to the same quarter of the previous year. In Q3, consumer prices were 4.8 percent lower year-on-year also on the basis of the consumer price index (CPI).

On Bonaire, food prices rose in Q4 2020 relative to the previous quarter. Fresh vegetables were 1.1 percent, fresh fruit 2.0 percent and potatoes 8.3 percent more expensive. Meat prices were also up in Q4. On the other hand, the price development of furniture and toiletries had a downward effect on consumer

price levels.

Average price development 2020

In 2020, the annual average price level on Bonaire was 2.5 percent lower than in 2019. St Eustatius saw an annual year-on-year decrease of 1.5 percent and on Saba the average price level was down by 0.7 percent. The lower price level in 2020 is mainly attributable to the allowances for electricity, drinking water and internet provided by the government as of May 1, 2020. As a result of this, the fixed usage tariffs for electricity and drinking water amount to zero US dollars. *Statistics Netherlands*

Reef Glimpses

Adrenaline Rush, Snorkeling Style

or

Bewitchingly Bold Blennies



A few years ago I became involved with a group of blennies.

At the time I was regularly snorkel-swimming (mask and snorkel but no fins) past the Black Durgon Inn, which had a boat at mooring with a lush algae garden growing on its hull. Until this day, the boat had been simply something

I looked at as I swam past. On this day, I had begun my swim as usual. I didn't notice the current until I turned to head back, at which point I realized the current was really strong, and I had to swim against it to get to my exit.

As I struggled against the current, the conversation I was having with myself was repetitive and profane... Then I saw the algae boat! I could rest! I grabbed a trim tab and concentrated on catching my breath.

At first, I assumed the tickling on my hand was algae. As my breathing slowed, though, I realized the tickling wasn't related to the wave action. Finally, I had the energy to look at my hands – and was astonished to see little fish swimming around them, over them, even between my fingers!



Even the Nikonos camera and its close-up kit didn't discourage these blennies from exploring my hand.

I hung on to the algae-boat and watched the little fish for a long time, regaining strength and energy from their unexpected behavior.

Of course, I swam back out there as soon as I could, with a camera. The photos revealed the identity of the little fish as blennies, mostly Molly Miller blennies.

What were they doing on the algae-hull?

Blennies usually live in near-shore, shallow, rocky areas. As babies in the plankton, they identify a hospitable algae habitat, and settle down to the bottom. The algae-covered hull would be no different from an algae-covered shoreline, except that it was upside-down, and the baby blennies wouldn't even have to sink down to it; they just drifted right into it!

But why were the blennies so bold toward us?

Eventually we realized that the blennies weren't just exploring our hands, they were nibbling on them, and the reason was simple: they were hungry! The algae-hull would be appealing to baby blennies who were ready to settle, but the space was very limited compared to a continuous shoreline. We figured that the population of fish on the algae-hull had become greater than the habitat could support.

How long could the situation go on?

Eventually a wind reversal resolved things. The algae-hull's mooring line broke, and the boat ran aground. Once the hull hit shore the blennies could dart to safety in the rocks and have as good a chance with the storm as their shoreline-dwelling relatives.

The boat was hauled out of the water.

The bold blennies would bewitch us no more.

...

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.



Bonaire's sky park

February 2021 offers us two notable sky watching events, according to the Royal Museums Greenwich at <https://www.rmg.co.uk>.

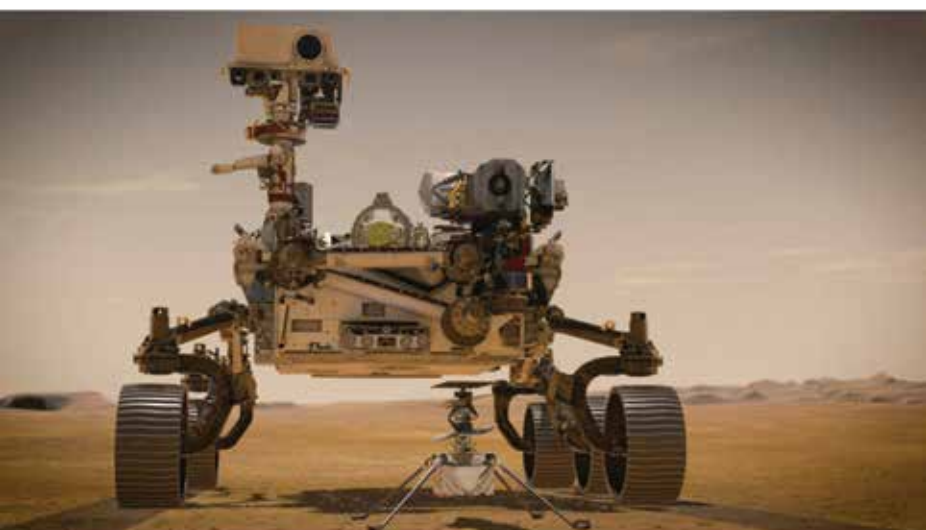
The deep sky in winter. On February 11, the New Moon will be invisible, so the resultant dark night sky will allow us to find deep-sky objects such as the Pleiades and the Andromeda Galaxy. The Pleiades, sometimes called the 'Seven Sisters' is a cluster of stars easily visible towards the South just after sunset. The Andromeda Galaxy can be seen towards the West just after sunset near the Andromeda constellations. If you are in a dark area away from city lights, this gal-

axy can actually be seen with the naked eye.

Perseverance landing. On February 18, NASA's latest Mars rover, Perseverance and helicopter, Ingenuity, touch down on Mars. A series of cameras on the rover will record the event so you can marvel at this real feat of engineering taking place on another planet. Perseverance will study Martian soil for past and present signs of life and test out new technology for future human missions.

Sources: Royal Museums Greenwich at <https://www.rmg.co.uk>

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mis-sion/overview/>



In February 2021, NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover and NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter (shown in an artist's concept) will be the agency's two newest explorers on Mars. Both were named by students as part of an essay contest.

Perseverance is the most sophisticated rover NASA has ever sent to Mars. Ingenuity, a technology experiment, will be the first aircraft to attempt controlled flight on another planet. Perseverance will arrive at Mars' Jezero Crater with Ingenuity attached to its belly. For more information about the Mars 2020 Perseverance mission, go to <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/timeline/landing/watch-online/>



The world watched as President Joseph Ronette Biden jr. was sworn in to become the 46th president of the United States on January 20 in Washington D.C. Minutes before we watched Kamala Devi Harris take the oath to become the first Black – Asian woman vice president.

Following the election, the team had a tumultuous start with lame duck president Donald Trump's calling for recounts in prime battleground states and refusal to concede. On January 6, Trump

supporters stormed the Capital building to take back the presidency.

President Biden got to work the day he took the oath by signing 15 executive orders including rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization to name a few.

The Executive team's main focus is to put an end to the spread of Covid 19, create unity in the United States and re-establish good relations with other countries in the world. *Julie Morgan*
Source: NPR.org

Annual parrot roost count ahead

EchoBonaire.org will hold their annual Roost Count on January 30. Julianka Clar-enda said they have pretty much reached their capacity with 84 volunteers and an unknown number of Stinapa's Junior Rangers. Although she has not posted the closed sign, they now have a sufficient number of parrot counters.

If you aren't familiar with the Roost Count, the volunteers are stationed at 41 different viewpoints spread over the island and count parrots from 6 to 8am as they fly up from their overnight roosts. Following the count the volunteers drop off their data sheets at Dos Pos and pick up a drive-through breakfast as a thank you for participating.

The Reporter will publish the numbers and information when received.

Hato port, continued from page 3

The Reporter has reached out to Lt. Governor Rijna for comments who answered saying he would respond. We also contacted harbour master Gunther Flanegin but at press time we have yet to receive their comments.

Conserve Bonaire organizers have mounted a campaign supported and backed up with information that makes sense to most everyone, and especially to those who care about Bonaire's reefs. They hope to stop the port before it has a chance to begin.

After a little more than a week, the website had received 4500 visitors and Facebook page has received over 7400 views, 4,899 post engagements and reached 25,643 people. And that's not all; videos on the sites featuring actual underwater footage of Hato's coral reef have drawn 10,200

views on one and 3,600 on the other. This overwhelming response and support has come from individuals from nine different countries. And that includes environmental group Stop Ecocide that fights crimes against the sea with a team of legal researchers and lawyers. Also on board is Sea First that tackles threats to nature.

Conserve Bonaire website gives you a breakdown of their arguments against construction of a port in Hato in a brief yet concise way. Visitors will find information regarding what reefs will be affected, cost, environmental impact and you can sign the petition.

For more information visit ConserveBonaire.org or visit their Facebook page ConserveBonaire.

Story Julie Morgan



The Hato reef, April 2020 Photo Julie Morgan

International Customs Day honors Customs officials



International Customs Day, a yearly celebration to honor Customs officials was held at San Bernardo Church on January 26. This year the World Customs Organization dedicated the day to the united efforts of Customs to emerge from the coronavirus crisis and support people and businesses. Through these efforts they have strengthened the global supply chain,

reinforced collaboration, harnessed technology and put people at the center of the transformation process. Bonaire's 45 Customs officials were blessed in the ceremony by Father Santiago of San Bernardo. Edward Thielman received a medal for outstanding achievement for his work as a Customs official. Photo & story Julie Morgan

DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE

WE ARE OPEN

DUSHI SHOES & ACCESSORIES
Kaya Grandi #6
Monday to Saturday
9 AM - 1 PM | 2 PM - 5 PM

DUSHI STYLE & SPORTSWEAR
Kaya Gobernador N. Debot Shopping Mall
Monday to Saturday
9 AM - 1 PM | 2 PM - 5 PM

INFO@DIVEFRIENDSBONAIRE.COM | WWW.DIVEFRIENDSBONAIRE.COM

For the Protection of Your Family or Business

Your Most Trusted Name in Security since 1983

717-8125

E-mail: info@sssbonaire.com

Website: www.sssbonaire.com

SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES

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

DE FREEWIELER

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

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

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

Did You Know *that there is an imposter on our reefs?*



The Black and white crinoid, *Nemaster grandis*, can commonly be found on Bonaire's reefs at depths between 10 and 40m. The feather star's forty black arms can reach up to 25cm with white tips. Here you can see the crinoid perched on a sea whip with arms extended for feeding.

Did you know that there is an imposter on our reefs? While this creature resembles an immobile soft coral, it's actually a free-swimming filter feeder.

On many of Bonaire's reefs you can see soft corals, such as gorgonians and black corals, swaying gently with the current. Soft corals grow in a variety of shapes and forms that include sea fans, branching colonies that vaguely resemble columnar cacti, and fern-like structures. While they share many similarities with plants, the soft corals, just like the hard corals, are actually animals belonging to a class called the Anthozoa. Relatives on the evolutionary tree of this class include the fire and lace corals, and the jellyfish. All of these groups together belong to a family of animals, also referred to as a phylum, called the Cnidarians. Cnidarians are mostly marine and are believed to be the second oldest group of animals, the oldest being the sponges. All the cnidarians share characteristics that include stinging cells called nematocysts and a very simple nervous system.

In contrast, the black and white feather star that can be seen on Bonaire's reefs, scientific name *Nemaster grandis*, belongs to a completely different group of animals known as the Echinoderms. The term echinoderm means spiky skin; a very fitting description when you think that this group also includes sea stars, brittle stars, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins. There are over 6,500 species of echinoderms and they are exclusively found in marine environments. Unlike the jellyfish and their cousins, echinoderms do not possess stinging cells, but they do have a more complex nervous system. Echinoderms also have incredible regenerative powers that would make most super heroes jealous. They can regrow almost any part of their body. As an example, sea cucumbers when threatened, will, expel their internal organs and then retreat to safety to regrow them.

Feather stars, and their closest relatives the sea lilies, belong to a group of echinoderms called the Crinoids. Currently there are about 600 species of crinoids, but the fossil record indicates that this group used to be much more numerous. The feather star's body plan resembles that of a feather duster. They have a stem, or stalk, with a holdfast they use to attach themselves to the bottom. At the other end they have a crown where the arms radiate from. When it's time to feed, the feather star will move to perch on corals, sponges, or any other spots where they can extend their arms into the current and capture their tiny prey. Their arms are always a multiple of five, for instance, the black and white crinoid has 40 arms.

Sea lilies, which look a lot like feather stars, but with a longer stalk, are completely immobile as adults. In contrast, most feather stars can not only move, but also swim by coordinating the movements of their arms. They usually only swim in short bursts and over short distances, but it is a sight to behold. As beautiful as these creatures are to see, if it is very important not to disturb them. Their arms are very fragile and can detach quite easily. While they can regrow their arms, this process costs time and energy that might leave them vulnerable to predation.

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



A Garden? Just Do It! *Zero Waste*

A few days ago I read an article about the subject ZERO WASTE. I found it so very interesting that I thought I would share it with you. Maybe you already heard about it, maybe some already work with it and that is great. But looking at climate change and all that we have to do to keep it under control, it's necessary to be aware of what we can do in our own private lives. Not what governments, institutions and organizations can do, but what we as users of this planet have to take responsibility for to make all life possible to continue. We don't have a choice. It is a MUST.

Anne Marie Bonneau said, "We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly."

You get it, if each one of us would start doing a little and keep on going there would be a big change in our waste. Try to live zero waste as a hobby, so it makes you feel glad. Whether you succeed or not, try it again, with no stress or feelings of failure and slowly you will become better in living a zero waste life. It does not cost more and it makes you see the value of things.

Zero waste is sustainable. When you use plastic containers, don't throw them

away. Use them for gardening or give them to someone who wants them so that person does not need to buy them again. Give it a try and think, you are not alone. Practice zero waste, do it step by step to a sustainable future.

You want to save our planet and you are aware of the climate change impact, so you make less waste. Zero waste may sound too far away or difficult, so where and how do you start?

Writer of the book, *The Zero Waste Project*, Nicky Kroon gives us tips.

1. Start with a challenge for a week, a month or a few days
2. Reuse waste. Start with your single use items. Products which one can use only one time are the cause of 50 percent of the plastic in the oceans. Look for sustainable alternative items, instead of using plastic cups during meetings, take your own glass cup with you.
3. Give zero waste gifts.
4. Reduce during shopping, buy in bulk or bigger amounts for less waste.
5. Look to waste potential; all the small things made of plastic. Take your own containers when you go to buy food in a box or take away. Choose second hand clothes, books, household items and more.



A lot of plants grow together and by each other in the shade of each other. Zero waste.

6. Buy what you can find in supermarkets, not what you had in mind and look for sustainable food and zero waste packaging.
7. Make a choice to re-use. Instead of plastic bags to store your bread, use a lunch container.
8. GO GREEN, go gardening, or buy

food locally grown. Always go a step further, use food that is as pure as possible, from the soil to your plate.

Your mission never stops if you have a vision of a zero waste lifestyle. So make as much as you can yourself. Ask for zero waste birthday gifts or a creative zero waste idea and be an example for zero waste behavior. Try to motivate others and do things together so it brings waste down.

Challenge yourself to a zero waste lifestyle for a week or a month. It's not easy and afterward you might want to return to live your old lifestyle again. It's tough when you plan to make it a lifetime thing. A zero waste lifestyle is not an easy and quickly achieved goal, but a process of awareness of a responsible way of using things. You grow into it and find in time more and more solutions to bring down waste in different ways. In gardening one can find a lot of ways to go zero waste by reusing pure stuff like manure, rotten leaves, old pots and pans, cans and rags.

Living zero waste and sustainable can be nice, comfortable or just cool. It does not mean that it should feel like punishment. One should enjoy the choice of this lifestyle. Go for it, just do it.

Angliet, Nature lover

Reach 1000s of customers • Advertise in The Bonaire Reporter

(+599)796 4055

info@bonairereporter.com

Sugar THIEF

If you don't know what Kombucha or honey wine are and the only beer you ever drink comes from a factory, it's time to go to Bonaire's newest taproom, Sugar Thief.

The cafe was developed when owners Aaron Martinez and wife Edite Esquivel found themselves without jobs due to Covid 19. Like most people, Aaron and Edite were affected by the lack of tourism.

Aaron says the original concept for Sugar Thief began last August and over time it evolved.

"We really enjoy brewing, but only brewing one thing, just didn't feel right. We seized the opportunity for experimentation, creativity, and variety.

Variety works best if people can taste, blend, and ultimately be a part of the process. We needed a space for people to discover what they wanted to buy--especially if they don't know what half of this stuff is! As a result, our little taproom was born," said Aaron.

The initial idea for brewing came before the coronavirus crisis when Aaron mentioned that he was running out of new beers to try in Bonaire. A friend told him to quit complaining, and start making some himself.

After making excuses like it is too hot here and I can't get the ingredients, one day, it all came together.

"I found some pumpkins on sale for 88 cents each and thought I'd try to make some pumpkin brew," said Aaron.

What they came up with was a pumpkin honey wine or mead, the oldest alcohol known to man dating from 1700-1100 BCE. Mead is created by fermenting honey with water, various fruits, and spices. They began experimenting by making small batches with different flavors and methods using only real food as the base.

After the pumpkin wine success an old hobby soon took over their home, and



Sugar Thief brewing tanks performing their magic for the natural beverages.

lives.

Wondering what to make next they hit on the drink Kombucha that they had made back in Houston. Kombucha is made of black tea and sugar or green tea and honey and fermented with SCO-BY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast). The result is a healthy probiotic drink full of B12, electrolytes and other 'good for you' stuff. Their Kombucha is non-alcoholic and comes in a variety of flavors like blueberry and passion fruit.

"If you want good tasting things you have to put good things in," said Aaron, "We can be a lot more flexible with ingredients that are grown locally and we want to support the local shops."

The little taproom is filled with reclaimed wood that Aaron and Edite have made new. And that includes the tables and seating. Even the 12 tap bar system has handles made from driftwood they collected on the east coast.

To reduce waste, the couple uses recycled bottles and encourages people to



Aaron and Edite constructed the reclaimed wood seating and table and everything else for that matter.

bring their own bottles that they will sterilize and then fill and cap or cork.

In addition to self learning, Aaron and Edite give a lot of credit to good friends who work in breweries back in the United States for the knowledge they've obtained in brewing.

But, the fact Aaron grew up in a family of cooks and chefs has made a difference too. He wants to eventually open a restaurant but recognizes the time and energy required. So for now the Sugar Thief is perfect.

Aaron and Edite believe in taking care of the community. They have found Bonaire to be a very welcoming and positive place and want to give back to the island.

The Sugar Thief has contacted three charities: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, The Bonaire Animal Shelter and Reef Renewal to do just that. For every purchase in the taproom, the customer will receive a vote as to which charity should receive a percentage of the Sugar Thief's profits for the month.

Sugar Thief will serve honey wine, beer, specialty coffees, teas, natural soda and kombucha.

Located on Kaya Inglaterra #8, Sugar Thief will open for business in mid February. For more information and updates visit <https://sugarthiefbonaire.com/> or SugarThiefBonaire on Facebook or call 599-770-3962.

Photo and story Julie Morgan



Edite and Aaron taking a break enjoying some music and a La Munchi flavored brew.

What's Happening

January 14 - February 3	12th Annual Caribbean Waterbird Census Help survey all the types of waterbirds on Bonaire. Visit https://www.birdscaribbean.org . See poster this page.
February 2	World Wetlands Day
January 29 - February 12	Dive Friends PADI Open Water Instructor Course. Are you interested in becoming a dive professional? Send an e-mail to Course Director Annie (coursedirector@divefriendsbonaire.com) to receive all the information.
Saturday, January 30	Annual Parrot Roost Count Join Echo volunteers to count Bonaire's loras.
Sunday, February 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6pm Piedra Pretu. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.

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 Wednesday to Sunday. Hours: 8 – 5 (entry up to 1pm) (Some days closed because of bad weather--check STINAPA's FB page.)

STINAPA HQ Monday to Friday 8am to 2pm.

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)

Clubs & meetings

Open Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa & Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All are welcome.

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

Making Bonaire Accessible

Respect and dignity

Last week I saw it again on Dutch tv. It was called: "The last move."

A documentary about a group of elderly persons with mental retardation who were Jewish. They had been rescued as children at the end of WW2 and had lived in old barracks. The war had ended and they had the luck not to have been killed by gas.

Transported back to Holland, they were placed in a home in Amersfoort. The Dutch Jewish community had searched all over Holland to find Jewish children that had been hidden with non-Jewish families. All the children without parents had been given a home. Those who had mental retardation found a home, where they were promised to stay forever and where they also could live a normal, Jewish and kosher life. Because that is what they wanted.

They lived there, protected and safe and they got the chance to develop in their own way.

They were joined in the years to come by more Jewish children with mental retardation. You could say: they were a tight knit group. They got to know each other very well over the years. The children learned to respect each other and they stuck together. And it was beautiful to see that the elderly were respected by the younger ones. It was also touching to see the elderly lead the old traditions and correcting the younger ones.

The staff was not completely Jewish. Over the years that had changed. When staff came to work for the community,

they were asked to always respect the age and the religion.

But the years went by and the group grew smaller and the elderly got older. The authorities could no longer guarantee them a kosher kitchen life.

That is when the search for another group-home was started. Every step of the way, the elderly were kept informed and their opinion was asked and as much as possible respected.

When a good home was found, the move was prepared. Trips to the home were organized, apartments were inspected, the neighborhood as well. Everything had to be safe and as much as possible approved by the elderly.

Everything was discussed in the weekly meetings. The family-members who were left (sisters and or brothers) were involved and also had the right to speak.

Every elderly person had one or more personal assistant to help him or her move. Every item that was to get packed was approved of. And at the end they lived in another house and again they were assured that this would be the house they could live until the end. Their kitchen would stay kosher and that made them very happy.

And it had me moved to tears. Because that is the way I feel one should do with people that depend on us, because we work with them. We should work for them. Religion should be respected, mental illness and age should be respected and we should treat them as the adults they are.

Ria Evers-Dokter

Get yourself some retail therapy this Valentine's Day

No date this valentine's? Did you know shopping gives the same chemical response in the body as feeling love or kissing somebody?

From January 25th until February 13th take part in the Valentine's Raffle spectacular. Spend \$50 or more in any of our retail stores and receive entry into one of our three awesome prize draws.

The raffle draw will take place on Sunday 14th February and winners will be contacted.

DUSHI Shoes

1st Prize: 1 Guess Bag;
2nd Prize: 1 Polo Shoes For Men;
3rd Prize: 1 SunCloud Sunglasses

DUSHI STYLE

1st Prize: 1 Camelback bag;
2nd Prize: 1 Camelback bottle
3rd Prize: 1 Camelback kid's bottle

REEF

1st Prize: 1 Men's or Women Sandals;
2nd Prize: 1 Reef Tee
3rd Prize: 1 Kids Sandals





Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Nourishing your way to optimal health

What is healthy varies from person to person. A healthy life, for example, varies according to a person's stage in life. Each person has individual needs, so there is no universal recipe, although there are some general basic guidelines.

How you nourish yourself is the foundation of your health. 'Let thy food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food', is often ascribed to Hippocrates (400 BC). This truism emphasizes the importance of nutrition to prevent or cure disease. I like to talk about nutrition in the broadest sense, encompassing not only the food you eat, but the air you breathe, affections that surround you and routines you follow. It includes your inner dialogues, your daily activities, the environment you inhabit and what gives meaning to your life. Everything you put into your mind, body or spirit are nutrients. Each person needs to make a personal journey of self-knowledge and exploration to discover which are the nutrients that generate health and which are not.

Even though daily life and its emergencies leave little time for cultivating health, one cannot ignore that without health everything gets more complicated. So it's time to stop procrastinating and willingly pay attention to what's important before disease forces you to do so. It is never too late for a positive change, but the longer you delay, the harder it will be to improve your condition.

In general terms, the more diverse your inputs, let's

say diet, interests and activities, the greater will be your healing resources. As in Nature, biodiversity is an indicator of a healthy environment.

As for food, if there are no specific health problems or philosophical restrictions, it is good to follow a varied diet, including foods from plants, animals and also mushrooms. The ingredients of your diet should be close to their natural state, with the least degree of processing. When possible, ingredients should be locally produced and in season.

Weston Price (1870-1948) studied the feeding habits of more than 14 different groups in nine different geographic regions. He was a dentist, and together with his wife, traveled around the world for about 10 years. They studied the diets of isolated human groups and their connection to tooth decay and immunity to tuberculosis. All of the groups' diets were based on locally produced foods and differed greatly from one area to another. Their results debunked myths about "the unique perfect diet" or a single "super food." There are some basic elements that should not be lacking in the diet, such as vitamin C and iodine. Iodine is all around us in Bonaire, as it comes in the air we breathe brought by the ocean breeze. Invariably all these diets Price studied lacked refined sugar, white flour, processed foods, polyunsaturated vegetable oils, food additives, preservatives and colorings. According to his findings, every time an individual from these isolated populations began to consume westernized diets, cavities and other signs of physical degeneration

appeared.

Some foods are great for some people and bad for others. The most obvious are the foods that cause allergies in certain individuals. But without reaching the extreme of an obvious allergic reaction, there are foods that cause intolerances. Identifying what is harmful is a personal task. Check how you feel after eating. And, if you feel bloated, gassy, take too long to digest, or have heartburn, these signs may help you identify your food intolerances. Sometimes the discomfort is more subtle and you might feel lethargic, heavy, lacking energy, or you may have a greater production of mucus. If you don't pay attention to these signs and you continue to consume that food or take a medicine to minimize those effects, then you are neglecting the message your body sends. You also need to watch out for food addictions. These are the foods that are detrimental for your health but nonetheless you crave them. As you might guess, the number one addictive food is refined sugar in all its many forms and presentations.

If it is hard for you to identify the effect of different foods, you can keep a food record, like a diary or a log. Write down what you ate and how you felt afterwards and thus draw your own conclusions. In some cases it will be necessary to eliminate these foods from your diet. In other cases just try to change the way you cook them. In some cases you might still want to consume them but only in special circumstances and in small quantities. Your goal should be to keep a varied diet. You want to be able to include healthy foods that repair and give the body a rest while maintaining a fun and colorful diet.

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.



Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

Ignite your daily success with a *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

Set Up Your 2021 For Success!

Reflection For Today

"Set yourself up for success from the very beginning and then focus on maintaining that success." - Cat Cora

Tip For Today

"Look at how the rising sun is bringing our precious island to light, Swinda. What a way to start our day!"

Our dynamic duo was enjoying the beautiful sunrise at one of their favorite lookout points...the monumental cross at Seru Largu! Seru Largu provides a harmonious combination of nature, tranquility, and a panoramic view of Paradise (also known as Bonaire). This has become Chichi's and Swinda's go-to location for reflecting on the previous year, ringing in the new year, and setting it up for success.

To set up their 2021 for success, the ladies are armed with a plan. They are using the Tips For Today from our previous columns to empower their goals (Clarify Your What), their driving force (Clarify Your Why), and their strategies (Clarify Your How). And to take it to the next level, here's what they are adding to the mix (and so can you)...

1. Create a theme for your new year. This simple and creative tool will set the tone for your 2021. It also serves as a helpful reminder to keep you on track and

focus on your priorities.

2. Let it resonate with you Choose one word (e.g. Love), a sentence (e.g. My journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step), or a quote (e.g. *Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you know. - Winnie the Pooh*) to guide you throughout the year.

3. Keep it simple and relevant. Don't overthink, over-analyze, or overcomplicate it. Focus on e.g. what you want 2021 to be about or how you want to feel during this year.

Remember...

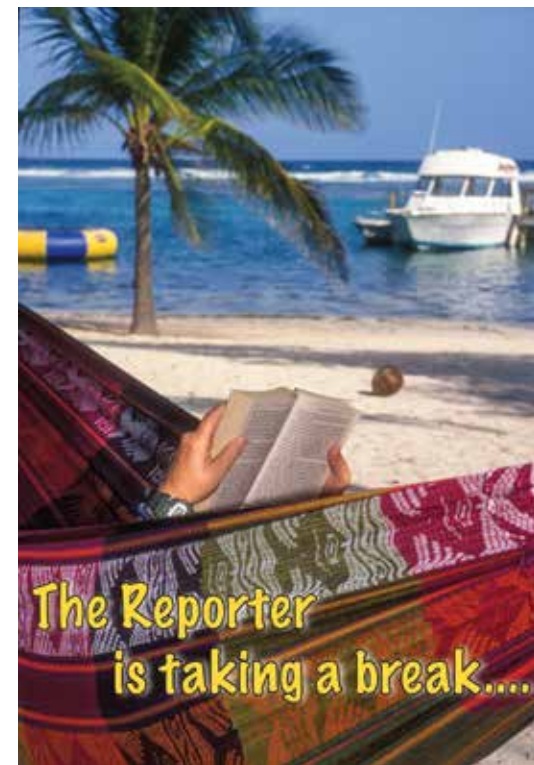
Formulating a personal motto to go along with creating crystal clarity for your new year will set you up for success!

Affirmation For Today

Today I am using my personal motto to guide my 2021 towards success.

So...Think, be equipped, feel 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. Success is a journey and Malcolm defines success as "Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people."



But, we will be back with our next issue on February 24. Please check our online Reporter and Facebook page for the latest news and for updates. And you can still send your news and ads by contacting us through our emails: info@BonaireReporter.com and BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

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
SHOP OPEN
M-W-F
9am-12pm
CALL FOR REPAIRS
SHEARWATER
JA Abraham Blvd 46
770-7879/caribinnpr@gmail.com



Yoga Sensibile
Eden Beach Resort
Mon. 8am & 5.30pm; Tue. Wed. Thu. 8am
Fri. & Sat. 8.30am; Private class on request
Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de
www.elisabettamaccari.com




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



WAMA
Experienced Maintenance Co.
Best Choice for all your painting needs
Kaya Castor #19- 599-700-7446
w.selfhout@gmail.com
www.wamabonaire.com



In 2 Balance Bonaire
Reflexology
Karin Louwers
Treatment at your location
f In2BalanceBonaire-Reflexology
Tel: +599 785 5907



MULTISHOP
Local Arts and Crafts - Souvenirs
Handmade One of a Kind Items
Unique and Locally Made
paintings, drawings, photography, jewelry,
cards, clothing and so much more...
Located at Hato roundabout
Open from 2-6pm. Sun closed.
599-785-6029



island time
vacation rentals bonaire
indulgent ocean view vacation rentals
+599 700 1660
info@islandtimebonaire.com
www.islandtimebonaire.com
www.facebook.com/islandtimerentals



Speak Papiamentu
With Me
(Papia Papiamentu Ku Mi)
Classes with author
Xiomara Frans
papiapapiamentukumi@hotmail.com
00599-782-2166



Denture Prosthetist
Full or Partial Dentures
New and Repairs
Call for an Appointment - 717-2248
E.M. Rijswijk - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
dauqboujepeaks bawijj



For all your **MARINE & residential SEWING**
www.phishphactory.com
CUSTOM CANVAS
cushions - covers - roofs - shades
SAIL & KITE REPAIR
repairs - alterations
and much more...
780 9124 / located at kaya Beni 6A
near the vdt supermarket / project pickup and dropoff available



ezone
Easy, Affordable, Fast
Shop on-line & we will ship to you
https://www.getezone.com



Bobbejan's
717-4783
BBQ
WEEKENDS & TAKE AWAY ONLY
Friday Saturday Sunday 6-10 PM



This space available
3 months for \$22 a month

EVERYTHING
for your home
www.BonaireCoastalLiving.com
South Beach Plaza
Kaya Industria #17
Closed Sunday & Wednesday



OUTDOOR BONAIRE
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPELLING
ABSEIL • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING
+(599) 785-6272
hansoutdoor@hotmail.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com



THE STOREHOUSE MANGASINA
STORING EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN
Call 700-1753
www.bonaireselfstorage.com
info@bonaireselfstorage.com



HISTORIC
Stop catching our Donkeys
Bonaire
Donkey Protection League
BDPLF@hotmail.com/785-2205




HORECA
Stay Strong
WE NEED YOU!
(Hotels-Restaurants-Cafes)



BonaireForSale.com
Consignment Furniture and Home Decor



Frequent Daily Flights
Between Bonaire, Curaçao & Aruba
Divi Divi Air
Reservations
24 hours a day
Call (+5999 839-1515)
Or (+5999 563-1913)
Now Non-stop to AUA



DIVI DIVI AIR



This space available
3 months for \$22 a month

\$45
unlimited fitness
lowest prices on Bonaire
FLAMINGO FITNESS
STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING BONAIRE
f Flamingo Fitness Bonaire
info@crossfitflamingobonaire



Flotsam & Jetsam, continued from page 2

Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten to get €15 million in food aid

Acknowledging that Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten have been hit hard by the corona crisis, the Dutch cabinet voted to gift the three islands 14.9 million euros in food aid. The aid is guaranteed at least until April. In March the cabinet will decide whether a further extension is needed. The humanitarian aid will be administered by the Red Cross. The longer term goal is for the three local governments to assume responsibility for delivering social services on their islands.

About 15 percent of the population of Curaçao is currently dependent on food aid from the Netherlands, and about 20 percent of the population on Aruba and St. Maarten. According to State Secretary Knops, "The cabinet has always indicated that it will not leave these most vulnerable people in the three countries to their own devices." *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

Money coming for Bonaire's cultural sector

From the beginning, The Hague helped alleviate the economic and social consequences of the Covid crisis on Bonaire. Now the government is making \$194,700 available to support the island's cultural organizations, as it does for cultural organizations in the European Netherlands. The island was hit hard when the border was closed to tourists, cultural activities came to a standstill, and income declined.

Deputy Nina den Heyer approached Minister Ingrid van Engelshoven of Education, Culture and Science, who

agreed to make the money available. The \$ 194,700 will be transferred this month for distribution by the public entity.

According to Deputy Den Heyer, "Culture has traditionally occupied an important place in the Bonairean community. It partly determines our identity. That must not be lost." She also hopes the island will "invest in innovation, for example in the field of digital audiovisual resources. . . [and] new forms of cultural participation. . . I want to stimulate the sector to prepare for the moment when the vaccine will do its job and we will jointly put our shoulders to the recovery, both economically and socially and mentally."

Arie Slob, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media, said, "It is important that the cultural sector remains afloat during the crisis, but also to create plans for the future again. Culture is an indispensable link in society because it certainly contributes to providing of support, safety, comfort and can serve as an outlet. If desired, my employees on Bonaire and in The Hague can offer support in further shaping the extra support for the cultural sector and possible further steps in the field of culture on Bonaire." *DMR*



Wendy Pelk to be new island secretary

On March 1 Wendy Pelk will become the Island Secretary, a position that has been vacant since November 1, 2019. Pelk has broad experience in municipal management. She will work with

a change manager and a group controller, both yet to be appointed, to develop the new and professionalized administrative program for Bonaire envisioned in the Administrative Agreement.

Pelk has worked for the municipalities of Boskoop and Alphen aan de Rijn, and since 2013 has been director of the municipality of Alkmaar, where she has also been acting municipal secretary since 2016.



Ton Maan to be new Attorney General

Ton Maan will be the new Attorney General of the Public Prosecution Service (OM) of Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (BES) as of April 1, 2021.

Maan has worked for the Public Prosecution Service in the Netherlands since 1989. He was Chief Public Prosecutor of the Sint Maarten Public Prosecutor's Office between 2015 and 2018. From 2018 to 2020, he was a senior team leader in tackling subversive crime at the Amsterdam District Prosecutor's Office. He currently works for the Functional Public Prosecutor's Office in Amsterdam.

Maan will succeed Roger Bos whose term as attorney general of Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the BES islands has expired after a period of reappointment.

Source: Curaçao Chronicle

MijnCN is now online

As of January 19th, 2021 MijnCN is the online platform for public services in the Caribbean Netherlands. Residents

and businesses can use it to easily, safely and quickly manage their business online.

Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland (BCN) is the first service on the platform. IB (income tax), ABB (General Expenditure Tax) and LH (Wage Tax) tax returns can be submitted through MijnCN. In time the portal will be extended with more services of the central and local government. This way, residents of the Caribbean Netherlands will have a one-stop portal for all their government-related matters

Queen Máxima speaks with ABC social projects

Her Majesty Queen Máxima made a virtual visit to three social initiatives in Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire on Thursday, January 14. Máxima spoke with employees and volunteers of the Food Bank in Aruba, the Curaçao Child Protection Foundation and the Youth Work Foundation Jong Bonaire.

Queen Máxima spoke with the initiatives about the impact coronavirus has on their projects, volunteers, target groups and plans for the future.

The Cooperative Funds Caribbean, which also includes the Orange Fund, provides financial support to local initiatives for social projects in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The Orange Fund was founded in 2002 as the National Wedding Gift from the people of the Netherlands to the Prince of Orange and Princess Máxima. As its patrons, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima are closely involved with the Fund.

Shelter News

Pakus di Pruga (the Shelter's flea market store) is open once again.

Due to precautions for Covid-19 there are some limitations to protect you and our volunteer staff. Please follow directions of our staff when visiting the store. Shop smart and shop safe. The Pakus is located on Kaya Simon Bolivar, across the street from Brandaris Café. Open Saturdays from 8 am-5 pm The Pakus also always welcomes donations of items. You can drop off your unwanted items, large or small, at the store on Saturdays during its open hours.

Animal Shelter Bonaire is also open to visitors but BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

Whether you are looking to adopt one of our animals or just interested in visiting, you are welcome to come see us. However, due to Covid-19 precautions, we require all visitors to schedule an appointment in advance by calling us

at 717-4989, or call or WhatsApp 701-4989, or send a message via our Facebook page, Animal Shelter Bonaire or email us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

While visiting our property a staff member will greet you at the gate, wearing a mask. Masks are required for everyone when inside our office and we request that you also wear them on the property. We have disposable masks available for you if you do not have your own. *Jane Disko*



Pet of the Week: Boy

Hi! My name is Boy.

I'm a two year old, mixed breed and medium sized male dog. I'm well behaved and I know the basic commands. I can sit, come and stay. I love human attention and I have a lot of love to share. I also get along well with other dogs, especially with females. I love to play and especially with a treat ball, this can keep me busy for hours. I've been in the shelter for 20 weeks now and I'm looking for my forever home. I really hope I find it soon. Interested in meeting me? Don't wait any longer to make an appointment! See you in a bit!

Call or Whatsapp the Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989 or message us on our Facebook page for a meet and greet with Boy.

Story and Photo: Edseyenne "Zaza" Pietersz



L-R: Jane Disko
Sanne Attevelt
Travis Sullins
"Zaza" Pietersz



Dive Friends holds first quarterly clean up 2021



Dive Friends staff masked-up at the sign-in table

Dive Friends kicked off their first quarterly clean-up dive of 2021 on January 23 with a dive at Karel's Beach Bar. Following all Covid 19 restrictions, divers signed up with the masked staff and entered the water at different appointed times. Gone were the days of a large group photo with piles of recovered trash from the ocean floor. The traditional evening celebratory barbecue was cancelled but the raffle with great gifts was kept alive.

Team leader Pieter de Groot said, "Since Covid we had to trim things down a bit to make these events safe for everyone. We are now back on track with a 'smaller' and thus 'safer' from a COVID point of view, clean up dive; so at least we can continue protecting our ocean planet as we did before."

Although there were only 24 participants, the underwater trash collectors gathered 65 kg of trash diving in a 250 square meter area around Karels.

One diver remarked that they expected to see a lot more trash, especially bottles, given the area surveyed, but it just wasn't there this time.

Winners of the raffle were: Henk Diters, Angela Diters, Adam Ward, Tadzio Bervoets, Maaïke Kosmis, Vicky Hoflack, Virginia Knight, Anita van der Wal and Marlies Wolters

They received great prizes donated by:

- Dee Scarr-Touch the Sea books;
- Bonaire Automation – USB stick;
- Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire - jewelry
- Tropical Nature-gift vouchers for their products.

Karel's Beach Bar provided an after dive refreshment and Selibon provided the wastebins.

Mark your calendar for the quarterly cleanups: April 24, August 24 and October 23. *Story & photos Julie Morgan.*



Divers return from the clean-up dive.



A diver collects trash on the reef by Karels Beach Bar



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

- For any inquiries of your Cargo(arrival / invoices / payments), please call or e-mail us at 717-8922 / info@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com and avoid visiting our offices unnecessarily.
- Kindly pay your invoices through online banking and please e-mail proof of remittance to frontdesk@rocargo.com
- Pickup & Deliveries are on appointment, for arrangements please call or e-mail us at warehouse@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com (use both e-mails)

