



Photo: Julie Morgan

Covid-19 and diving don't mix

Bonaire welcomes countless divers every year and many live and work here. So if you don't dive yourself, you probably know someone who does. We hope you will pass along this important information about Covid 19 and diving.

Most of our thoughts about COVID-19 are about avoiding and surviving it. Many young and healthy people feel quite invincible. They say even if I get it, it won't be so bad. We know it is a bit of a roulette spin to see if this is true or not, and if you do get it, it's uncertain how long the effects will linger.

Remember the last time you took (or taught) a dive course and a box was ticked on the medical form? Ugh, off to the doctor. Well, now we have a new box to tick, and we do not have to wait to take a course to see if we are fit to dive. Covid affects many organs in the body, and it seems to affect each person differently. If you have had Covid, do not expect someone else to tell you to get clearance before diving; it is your responsibility to do so.

If you contracted Covid, there is a chance it affected not only your lungs but also your heart and other organs. They may take longer to heal than the day you got out of bed determined to get back to

your life! And if you're still feeling a bit out of breath, it's definitely not yet time to be thinking about getting back to diving.

When we go diving, we experience changes in pressure, so when there have been changes in our lungs or circulation, there may be an elevated risk of lung over-pressurization injuries (such as air embolisms) or changes to our susceptibility to decompression sickness. This does

not mean diving is impossible, it means you need medical clearance and to be more cautious. Here on Bonaire, many of you may say, well too bad — I make my living from diving, so I just have to do it. Just remember, you can also die from diving. If you had Covid, or know someone who had it, review these recommendations carefully before diving and save them in case you need them later.

As Covid is new and most people in lockdown are not diving, continue to look for changing recommendations in the future.

I found it hard to find clear, reliable recommendations on the internet. Dr. van der Vaart helped me out with the European Underwater and Baromedical Society recommendations, which include:

(Steps 1 - 4 were preventative steps)

5. that divers who have tested positive for COVID-19 but have remained completely asymptomatic should wait at least one month before resuming diving

6. that divers who have had symptomatic COVID-19, but not requiring hospitalization, should wait at least three months before applying for fit-to-dive clearance conducted by a diving medicine specialist

7. that divers who have been hospitalized with or because of pulmonary symptoms in relation to COVID-19, should wait at least three months before applying for fit-to-dive clearance conducted or coordinated by a diving medicine specialist, with complete pulmonary function testing (at least FVC, FEV1, PEF25-50-75, RV and FEV1/FVC, and an exercise test with peripheral oxygen saturation measurement) as well as a high-resolution CT



Bonaire Hyperbaric Chamber is available for diving accidents, whether Covid related or not.

Diving and Covid
continued on page 7

The BONAIRE REPORTER online

news that has broken since the printed issue



Bonaire is in level five

Increased measures against spread of coronavirus

Vaccinations will continue

The corona measures will be tightened from March 5, 2021 at 6: pm to Friday March 19, 2021 at 11:59 pm. The reason is the rapid increase in the number of people with a COVID-19 infection in a short period of time. Public Health registered fifty-five active infections on Thursday, March 4, 2021. The infections lead, among other things, to great pressure on public health care.

In order to contain the spread, it was decided to scale up from level 3 to level 5 of the plan of risk levels. This is in line with the earlier announcement by Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna that a

large increase in the number of infections requires upscaling. The vaccinations against the corona virus will continue as usual.

This is an overview of the most important measures that apply.

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See the next page two pages for an overview of the most important measures that apply.

Numbers March 7, 2021

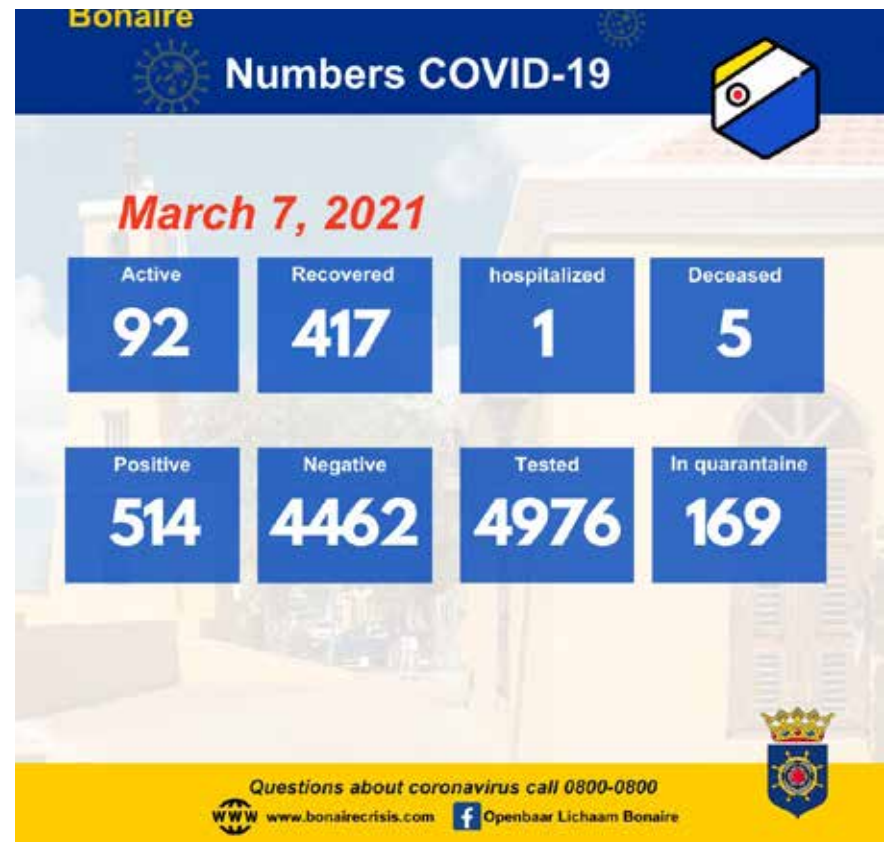
Important: If you have symptoms such as a cold, sore throat or fever, you can get tested to see if you are infected with Covid -19.

On March 7, 2021 there are 92 active cases of Covid-19 on Bonaire. One of the active cases is a visitor on the island. The other active cases are habitants of the island. Yesterday 114 people were tested and the results of 22 people are positive. There is 1 hospital admission due to Covid-19.

To bring these numbers down it's important to maintain the hygiene instructions, to keep 1.5 meter distance and wash your hands with water and soap regularly to prevent infection with the Coronavirus. 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.

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.



COVID-19 measures per risk level



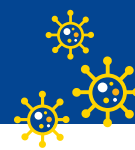
This overview indicates which measures (at least) apply per risk level on Bonaire. In each subsequent risk level, the other measures of the previous levels remain in effect. Depending on the situation, it can be decided to deviate.

More information: www.bonairecrisis.com

	Risk level 1 Alert	Risk level 2 Worrisome	Risk level 3 Menacing	Risk level 4 Serious	Risk level 5 Very Serious	Risk level 6 Lockdown
Private meetings (e.g. home, beach or park)	Basic rules	Max: 25 pers	Max: 10 pers. (excl. kids <13 years) <i>Advice: stay home for vulnerable groups</i>	Max: 2 households with max 10 pers (> 13 year). <i>Advice: stay home for vulnerable groups</i>	Max: 1 pers. from outside the household	Stay home as much as possible. Only go out with roommates
Prof. organized events (See 'clarification sports' for sports events)	Basic rules	Max: 50% capacity and 50 pers. Registration obligation. No singing/dancing	Max: 50% capacity. Inside: max 25 pers. Outside: max 50 pers. Registration obligation. No singing/dancing	Inside not allowed. Outside: max. 50% capacity and 25 pers. Registration obligation. No singing/dancing.	No grouping together	No grouping together
Funeral service and wedding ceremony	Basic rules	Max. 100 pers	Max. 100 pers	Max. 50 pers	Max. 30 pers	Max. 10 pers
Restaurants en cafes (incl. watertours/ - restaurants)	Basic rules	Registration obligation and health check. No singing/dancing	Max: 50% capacity. Fixed seats. Closing time 00:00	Max: 4 pers. per group (excl. kids <13 years). Closing time 22:00	Take-out only	Closed
Hotels	Basic rules. 1,5m distance from other guests	Basic rules. 1,5m distance from other guests	Basic rules. 1,5m distance from other guests	Bar/restaurant for hotel guests: open regularly. Non-guests: level 4 Restaurants and cafes	Bar/restaurant for hotel guests: open regularly. Non-guests: take-out only	Bar/restaurant only open for hotel guests
Essential shops	Basic rules	Max: 2 pers. per group (excl. kids <13 years). Mandatory cart/basket	Max: 2 pers. per group (excl. kids <13 years). Mandatory cart/basket	Max: 2 pers. per group (excl. kids <13 years). Mandatory cart/basket	Max: 1 pers. per household (excl. kids <13 years). Mandatory cart/basket	Max: 1 pers. per household. Mandatory cart/basket
Non-essential shops	Basic rules	Basic rules	Max: 2 pers. per group (excl. kids <13 years)	Max: 2 pers. per group (excl. kids <13 years)	Closed	Closed
Churches	Basic rules	Registration obligation and health check	Max: 50% of the capacity. Go home directly after service. Sing softly with windows open	Max: 50% of the capacity. Go home directly after service. No singing	No physical services	No physical services
Sports activities (also see 'clarification sports')	Basic rules	Registration obligation, health check and no audience	Max: 50% capacity inside, 100% outside (for >18 years). Go home immediately after exercise	Max: 50% capacity inside, 100% outside (for >18 years). Go home immediately after exercise	Facilities closed. Limited sports allowed. See 'clarification sports'	Facilities closed. See 'clarification sports'
Work	Basic rules	Basic rules	Work from home as much as possible	Work from home as much as possible	Work from home is mandatory where possible	Work from home is mandatory where possible
Contact professions	Basic rules	Basic rules	Face mask	Face mask	Closed, unless medical indication	Closed, unless medical indication
Nightclubs	Basic rules	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Adult Entertainment	Basic rules	Basic rules	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Gambling halls, casinos and cinemas	Basic rules	Registration obligation and health check	Max: 50% of the capacity. Closing time 02:00	Max: 50% of the capacity. Closing time 00:00	Closed	Closed
Saunas	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Registration obligation and health check	Max: 50% of the capacity. Closing time 02:00	Max: 50% of the capacity	Closed	Closed
Daytime activities elderly	Basic rules	Basic rules and 50% capacity	Basic rules and 50% capacity	25% capacity	Only emergency shelter	Only emergency shelter
Primary education and after-school care	Basic rules. Adults to maintain 1,5m distance from each other and students	Basic rules. Adults to maintain 1,5m distance from each other and students	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Only emergency shelter
Secondary education and after-school care	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. Adults to maintain 1,5m distance from each other and students	Basic rules. Adults to maintain 1,5m distance from each other and students	Reduce number of students per day	Only emergency shelter
Child care	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adult	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Basic rules. 1,5m distance between adults	Only emergency child care
Complaints Stay at home and call 0800-0800	1,5 meters Keep at least 1,5 meters away from others	Avoid crowds Avoid forming large groups with other people	Always comply with the basic rules			Cleaning Frequent cleaning of premises
			Wash hands Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds	Do not touch Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth	Cover Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a handkerchief	Ventilation Provide good ventilation indoors

Clarification Sports

COVID-19 measures by risk level



Sports activities

Sports activities are understood to mean engaging in a sport. In the list below you can see which sports may be practiced at each risk level, provided the general risk-level measures are adhered to. Children under the age of 18 may continue to play sports regardless of the level. From level five onwards they are no longer allowed to exercise indoors.

	Risk level 1 Alert	Risk level 2 Worrisome	Risk level 3 Menacing	Risk level 4 Serious	Risk level 5 Very Serious	Risk level 6 Lockdown
Athletics	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually	✓ yes, individually
Baseball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Basketball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Beach tennis	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Beach volleyball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Billiards	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no
Bodybuilding	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Bolas	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Boxing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no	✗ no
Checkers	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Chess	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Cycling	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Dominoes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Fitness	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Free diving	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Indoor soccer	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Judo	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Karate	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Kayaking	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✓ yes, individually	✗ no
Kickboxing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Kite surfing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
MMA	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no	✗ no
Optimist	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✓ yes, individually	✗ no
Scuba diving	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Shooting	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Soccer	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Softball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Sunfish	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✓ yes, individually	✗ no
Swimming	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually
Table tennis	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Tennis	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	👤 max 2 pers.	✗ no
Volleyball	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	🏠 yes, if outdoors	🏠 yes, if outdoors	✗ no
Water polo	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Windsurfing	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, individually

YOU MUST REGISTER FOR VACCINATION

Online: <https://bonairepublichealth.org/en/register>

By phone: 0800 - 0800 from Monday to Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm

You will be asked for contact information, the vaccination site you prefer (two in Playa and one in Rincon) and health questions. Then you will be notified of the date and time of your first and second inoculations. Bonaire is using the Pfizer vaccine.

From February 22, 2021: all healthcare workers. From March 1, 2021: all residents aged 60 and older. From the beginning of May 2021: all other persons between 18 and 60 years old.

Visitors to the island are eligible of vaccination if they stay longer than four weeks. The Public Health office says that would cover the period required for both injections. *DMR*



Mrs. Winklaar, a care worker at Fundashon Mariadal, receives the first vaccination against Covid-19 on Bonaire.

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

Flights postponed, antigen testing blamed Delta, United, and American Airlines have discontinued flights until March, at least. The Bonaire government now requires those arriving on Bonaire from the US to have proof of a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival and proof of an antigen test taken no more than four hours prior to departure. Few US airports can provide antigen testing yet. US travelers can still reach the island via Curacao or Aruba. Both offer onsite antigen testing. *DMR (Bob Bartikoski, RE/MAX)*

Antigen testing available at Curaçao airport Curaçao 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 they can find the service. The test results take approximately 50 minutes and can be emailed to you or you wait in the testing area. Cost for the test is \$20. If you need more information call 599 9 839 1350. If you are traveling in a large group you can email to let them know, as there are no appointments - charlesderoo@gmail.com. *Thank you to Howard Harrison and Ruth van Tilburg.*

British covid variant may be here already

Public Health Doctor Marianne Luinstra-Paschier has warned that the Covid-19 mutation known as the 'British variant' is likely on Bonaire already. She says the recent increase in reported infections suggests that Bonaireans are letting their guard down, especially when interacting with people who have arrived from other countries recently. *DMR*

Islanders hit hardest by childcare benefits scandal

People from the Caribbean Netherlands may be disproportionately represented among the victims of the childcare benefits scandal that caused the January resignation of Prime Minister Mark Rutte's cabinet. Authorities in the Tax and Customs Administration acted excessively in accusing some parents of fraudulently claiming childcare benefits, then took action to claw-back all the money the family had received. Of the estimated 30,000 parents accused of making fraudulent benefit claims, one in four came from the Netherlands Caribbean and was dark skinned.

"The government was not up to standard throughout this whole affair," Rutte told a press conference. "Mistakes were made at every level of the state, with the result that terrible injustice was done to thousands of parents." The actions taken by the Tax and Customs Administration suddenly reduced the income of the accused families while ballooning their indebtedness. People have been reported to be working two and three jobs trying to recover financially.

In addition to admitting the wrong and resigning, the cabinet promised to pay the victims 30,000 euros and cancelled their debt to the government. Rutte's cabinet has stayed on in a caretaker capacity pending the coming March 17 elections.

Reports have emerged that some Tax and Customs Administration officials routinely use words that associate dark skin with fraudulent dependence on government benefits. However, taints of racism are only part of the story.

In 2013 the \$120 million "Bulgarian migrant fraud" was exposed. A group of Bulgarians entered the country, applied for and were paid government benefits, then fled before investigators determined they were not eligible. Widespread public anger forced Parliament to pass more restrictive legislations and pressured the Tax and Customs Administration to be more proactive in enforcement.

Subsequently so called "fraudulent practices" turned up in the child care benefits program. Some were only minor failures to adhere to strict administrative policies, such as a missing signature or an undeclared change in income. Others were egregious, especially those involving collusion between parents and child care providers. For instance, If grandma stayed home and took care of the children, the child care provider might put her on their payroll, bill the benefits program, and split the proceeds with the parent. No matter how minor the offense, the Tax and Customs Administration often issued the harshest ruling and imposed the strongest penalties. *DMR*

BOPEC workers not paid, demonstrate

BOPEC has not paid its workers since January because it has gone broke. The workers are demonstrating, not against BOPEC but against the OLB, for not allowing the sale of the oil in the BOPEC tanks to raise funds. The workers say the oil is now safely stored in newly refurbished tanks and should be loaded into tankers and shipped to market. Last year the Rijkswaterstaat and the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) ruled that oil cannot be safely transferred from the storage tanks to ships because of deficiencies resulting from poor maintenance. The ILT has refused to revoke the ruling, claiming those problems have not been corrected. The Rijkswaterstaat will respond to BOPEC's appeal on March 1. *DMR*

Heavy lifting at south pier

As the Executive Council watched in awe, 20 ton beams were lifted into place during the extension of the South Pier. The crane on the ship delivering the precast concrete components had to be used. No crane on Bonaire had the capacity to perform the job. "It is the first time that the ship has been used

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Covid-19 on Bonaire as of March 7, 2021

92 active / 20 new	1 hospitalized
417 recovered	5 deceased
514 positive	4976 tested
4462 negative	169 in quarantine

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

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7

WEB is working on Kaya Grandi

Different sections of Kaya Grandi will be closed to traffic as Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB) renews its pipelines for irrigation and drinking water.

The work will extend from February 15th - April 1st. WEB's construction hours are from 6:30 am to 3 pm.

Kaya Grandi will be closed to traffic in phases, but the side streets will remain accessible to local traffic. Cars and truck traffic will be diverted. The sidewalks in the Kaya Grandi will remain accessible to pedestrians and access to all buildings and businesses will be maintained.

At the beginning of July 2020, WEB

started to renew the pipeline that is to transport purified waste water back to hotels. These activities are 65 percent complete. During the work on Kaya Grandi, WEB's Business Unit will replace an old cast iron water pipe from Banco di Caribe to Kaya L.D. Gerharts with a new pipe for drinking water.

WEB requests your cooperation in the following:

- Keep the parking spaces in the Kaya Grandi as free as possible.
- Move your car or company vehicle in good time during excavation work
- Take into account extra time for transport, loading and unloading.



Photo: Julie Morgan



Selibon NV has a new truck with a completely automated system for the collection of bulky waste. The truck will be driven by Rhoderick Djaoen, who says, "I have been waiting for a new truck for quite some time and now it has finally arrived. I am very happy with this truck."

Allyson Pourier Beukenboom is retiring after 33 years of service to Bonaire. During her career she has worked on projects involving education, the family and youth. In 2012, she was appointed head of the Education and Welfare department of the Directorate of Society and Care.



Deputy Hennyson Thielman available for consultations. The deputy of economic development, will be available between 2-5 pm every Thursday for consultation with Bonaireans regarding any matters concerning their dealings with the government. For an appointment, call 7175330 ext. 5369 or email gedeputeerde.thielman@bonairegov.com.

FOR SALE J.A. Abraham Boulevard 116 Waterfront Home with Dock!



- Location : Playa Pariba
- Lot size : 366 m2 / 3940 sq. ft
- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / open floorplan

- Centrally located within walking distance to town
- Large covered porch with Jacuzzi
- Private boat dock

3D tour



Price \$535,000 US Dollar

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



POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Between Jan. 24 – 25. A locked scooter was stolen. It was parked along the road because it ran out of gas.

Jan. 25. An iPhone was stolen at Oil Slick Leap dive site from a locked dashboard.

Feb. 6. Four wheel covers (hub caps) were stolen from a car parked in front of a house on Kaminda Lagun.

Between Feb. 10 – 11. A scooter was stolen.

Feb. 14. A burglary was reported at a house on Kaya Mendelsson.

Between Feb. 13 – 14. Thieves forced a window at a snack at Kaya Korona and took food.

Feb. 13. Four men robbed and assaulted the victim in the central area. He was taken to hospital for medical treatment. Three men aged 18, 33 and 22 were held. Police are looking for the fourth suspect.

Feb. 16. Thieves smashed windows to steal two Samsung flat screens at MBO (high school).

Feb. 19. Thieves stole a laptop, electronic games and cash from a house on Kaya Papa Cornes.

Feb. 19. Two masked persons with a firearm forced a woman to donate a sum of money. The case is under investigation. The police ask any witnesses to contact them at 715-8000 or anonymously at 717 7251.

Arrested/held in custody.

Jan. 28. A young man of 16 years was held for failure to meet suspension conditions.

Feb. 1. A man who was on the island illegally was handed over to the JICN pending his departure to Colombia.

Feb. 6. Two ladies were arrested following a fight at a nightlife venue on Kaya Nikiboko Noord.

Feb. 6. A driver of a car that police stopped had no driver's license, no insurance and could not identify himself. The driver had already received a ticket three times before for driving without a driver's license, so he received a police report and the car was impounded. Two passengers under the influence of alcohol began to threaten and insult the police officers and were arrested.

Night of Feb 5-6. A driver of a motorcycle, 17, was arrested after a short chase. He received a police report for not obeying orders from the police, for driving without a helmet and without a driver's license, for not having a license plate, for endangering traffic, for exceeding the maximum permitted speed, and for not indicating direction when turning. The motorcycle was impounded.

Feb. 15. A man, 36, was arrested for hitting a woman in a bar fight.

Feb. 20. A man, 24, was arrested for insulting police during emergency ordinance check at a beach party.

Feb. 20. A man, 18, has now been arrested in connection with brawl in the central area the night of Feb. 12-13. Multiple arrests are not excluded.

Traffic accidents

Jan. 25. Police stopped an under-aged driver. He was charged with several violations. The car was taken to the police station until the owner could collect it with the valid documents.

Jan. 27. A driver fell off his scooter.

Jan. 30. A pick-up, and a car collided head-on, after which the pick-up overturned.

Feb. 2. A scooter and bicycle collided.

Feb. 3. A moped was confiscated after a short chase. The driver received a police report for not obeying orders from the police, for driving without a helmet and driver's license, for not having a number plate, for endangering the vehicle traffic, for exceeding the maximum permitted speed, and for not indicating direction when turning.

Feb. 6. A car and scooter collided on the Kaya Caribe.

Feb. 6. Two cars collided and one car subsequently became trapped with a lamp post.

Feb. 12. A car crashed into a lamp post, and then the wall of a restaurant. Given a breath analysis, the driver tested 820 Ugl. (Alcohol content should not exceed 220 Ugl = micrograms per liter). The driver was banned from driving until Feb 13 and given a police report for not having a valid driver's license.

Feb. 20. A car collided with a lamp post on Kaminda Lagun. The fire brigade helped get the driver out of the car. She was then taken to the hospital.

Traffic checks

Jan. 26. In Rincon 23 vehicles were checked. Two were warned for having no license plate. Four police reports issued for not having valid insurance documents. In the center 15 vehicles were given a police report for not wearing a seatbelt.

Jan. 28. On Kaya Amsterdam 40 motor vehicles were checked. 16 drivers received an official report.

Jan. 30. On Kaya Korona 24 vehicles were checked. Six drivers received police reports.

Feb. 2. In Rincon 18 vehicles were checked. Two drivers received police reports.

Feb. 10. On Kaya Internashonal 37 motor vehicles were checked. 23 drivers received an official report.

Feb. 12. In Rincon ten vehicles were checked. One police report was issued for not having a valid driver's license.

Feb. 15. A multidisciplinary action was carried out by the Dutch Caribbean Police Force, KMar and Customs on Kaya Ir. R. Statius van Eps. The team checked for a valid driver's license, insurance, number plate, narcotics and firearms. 10 police reports were issued. A quantity of drugs were seized. A scooter was seized when the driver of the scooter tried to hide it in a bush. Also seized was a motorcycle hidden in the bushes to avoid the check.

Feb. 19. On Kaya Hermandad 25 vehicles were checked. Five drivers re-



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question:

How do listing prices and selling prices for real estate compare? Can I make a lower offer? Liz

Hi Liz,

Since Bonaire is a very desirable location with limited properties, real estate sales tend to be close to or at the asking price. This also depends on the list price. For instance, in the below \$300,000 market where there are more buyers than available properties, houses frequently sell at asking price. In the million plus category, where there are not as many qualified buyers, there may be more room to negotiate. There are some listings that indicate "fixed price," which means that is the price the owner will sell at, and is not open to a lower offer. You are welcome to put in a lower offer, but I would not

recommend looking at homes priced over your budget thinking a low offer will be accepted. My husband and I bought our home here in 2015 at full asking price, and my real estate partner Jean paid full price for hers. Like now, we were in a competitive market, and did not want to lose the sale over a few thousand dollars.

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.



The KPCN and KMar employees who rescued a diver from the rough seas on the north side of the island on January 16, received a certificate in appreciation for their efforts during this action. They acted quickly and decisively, saving a human life. On behalf of the Chief of Police, a word of thanks goes to all other employees who have contributed in one way or another to make this rescue a success.

ceived a police report for driving without a seat belt. The fine for driving without your seat belt is \$ 110.

Fires.

Feb. 6. Arson may be responsible for a pick-up fire during the night.

Feb. 7. Residents extinguished a fire in their house. The fire brigade then carried out an inspection.

Feb. 13. The fire brigade extinguished a car fire. The owner stated that she was taking the car to the garage when suddenly fire came from the hood.

Feb. 15. Police are investigating a car fire in the area of Morotin.

Emergency ordinance

During the regular checks for compliance with the emergency ordinance, a few catering establishments have received warnings because they were too crowded.

Feb. 18. Police told a gathering of about 100 people at Sorobon Beach to leave. Most of the group were interns.

Drugs

Feb. 16. Two men received a police report for violating the Opium Act BES. Narcotics were found and seized when their vehicle was checked

Contact the police

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

Heavy equipment now needs a license

A 'self-driving vehicle' is a large, heavy vehicle that moves on its own like a backhoe, forklift, loader, etc.

In the past, drivers were not legally required to have a special driver's license for these heavy vehicles, but now they must. The driver must also have a valid driver's license and valid insurance. The vehicle must have a license plate.

OLB issues two-year report card on admin agreement



The four-year Administrative Agreement between the Public Entity of Bonaire and the State of the Netherlands has now been in operation for two years. At the end of 2018, the partners signed the agreement to establish a long-term vision for Bonaire and to strengthen co-operation with the government.

This week the OLB issued an evaluation of the progress to date. The three primary conclusions are: A number of early goals have been met, many of them behind the scenes creation of new mechanisms of governance. The public will start seeing more visible signs of progress because the new procedures and capabilities are starting to function. And financial management is still a major headache, but they're working on it.

A major goal now is to permanently embed and monitor, in the official apparatus of the OLB and of the civil service, the new governmental expertise the island has been developing. New protocols of governance have been developed, needed legislation has been written, and training and development programs have been designed.

For instance, an integrity program, "Reliable Public Administration Bonaire" (BOBB), has been running for the past two years. Training has been provided for the Island Council, a code of conduct and enforcement protocol has been drawn up in collaboration with the Island Council, and two integrity coordinators have been appointed.

A number of municipalities in the European Netherlands, including Rotterdam, Alphen aan de Rijn and Leiden, have helped Bonaire build expertise, especially in project management and the renovation of roads. Men and equipment are seen upgrading roads, a conspicuous sign of the Administration Agreement being implemented.

Some of the most concrete developments have been in social work. A new job center just opened that will help people find jobs and will build better incomes on Bonaire. The center will create job opportunities, advise on career

opportunities, and offer education and training. It will also advise employers and help them fill vacancies.

Thanks to a new subsidy, the costs for daycare and after-school facilities have now fallen significantly. At the same time, efforts are being made to further professionalize childcare centers through education and training, among other things. A law is being drafted which will further reduce the costs for parents and ensure the increased quality of childcare.

In order to strengthen and diversify the local economy, the OLB, with the support of expertise and resources provided under the Administrative Agreement, is working to restore the island's agricultural sector. An action plan has been drawn up and a transition manager has been appointed to professionalize the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV) service. The slaughterhouse is being renovated. The transition manager has energetically taken up the development and design of the LVV site and the reinforcement of the civil service working there. Crops are being harvested on newly cleared plots, and LVV has made 12 lots available for kunukero's to grow vegetables and crops. The first lot was recently released to its user.

Among the major challenges remaining is the implementation of new, more transparent land policies. The island's road building expertise needs to develop further. The implementation of rent compensation has been delayed.

And finally, Bonaire has yet to reach its holy grail of financial management: the submission at year end of an auditor's report that can be approved, one without exceptions. A change team is collaborating with the OLB on the problem, the new head of finance will arrive shortly, and a new structure of fairness and legality is being prepared. According to the OLB, "monitoring will be crucial to ensure that all changes and improvements are structurally implemented and enforced." *DMR*

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.

Letter to the editor:

The physics, yes physics, of a mask Pam Teitel

There have been a lot of varying opinions on masks, so here is one more opinion, including some physics!

If you were to enter the operating room for even a small surgery and the doctors and nurses were not wearing masks, you would likely be shocked and concerned. Masks are not something new. They have been used by doctors for a really long time and nobody debated their effectiveness.

I agree, that masks may be a great place to accumulate bacteria and other scary things, but most of those things are not as deadly as Covid.

But before I go further, let's look at how we wear masks. Disposable masks are supposed to be just that. Do you want the surgeon to operate on you with the same mask he wore yesterday? No, they are intended to be used and thrown away. (BTW please cut the ear straps so animals don't get caught in them if they blow away) Re-usable masks are intended to be washed regularly. If you wear the same mask for weeks on end, I agree, you are at risk for breathing in all kinds of nasty stuff.

For those of you who believe the youtube videos showing that you can blow smoke through a mask, so what good is it, need to find the right youtube videos to explain how a mask actually works. Particularly an N95 mask is not a simple strainer. A big part of the filtration is caused by electromagnetic attraction of particles to the fibers in the mask. The particles basically have to navi-

gate their way through a field of sticky fibers trapping the particles, not straining them out. Another misconception of an N95 mask is that it only filters out 95% of particles and viruses are tiny, so they must be in that 5% of those that get through. Oddly, tiny particles and large ones are best filtered. It is the middle size ones that are most likely to get through and it is these that are measured to 95%. Physics of motion of particles will explain why 100% of tiny and large can be filtered. Curious why, it is clearly and cutely explained on youtube, look for minutephysics, who have made a great video: The Astounding Physics of N95 Masks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAdanPfQdCA>. They have many other great videos explaining very simply how things work and some of the mathematics behind the statistics that are often misinterpreted and misunderstood and much more.

The internet can give you great information, but sadly it tends to always feed you more of the same. If you look at things that tell you something is bad, it will feed you more and more of those. If you look at the ones that say good, you will get fed those. Be curious, look further and research things yourself.

We are all feeling that we are quite done with this and getting sick and tired of taking precautions, but it is not done with us. We cannot give up now.

Pam Teitel



Job center now open

Deputy Nina den Heyer cut the symbolic ribbon and opened the Plenchi di Trabou job center on Wednesday, February 10. Plenchi di Trabou will help job seekers on Bonaire find work or get information on subjects such as training and work permits. Employers seeking workers can post a vacancies with the center.

Plenchi di Trabou is located at 12 Kaya L. D. Gerharts, in the former Girobank building. The job center is open every working day between 8 am and 12 noon and 1 pm and 5 pm. Interested parties can walk in or make an appointment via info@plenchidi-trabou.com or (599) 715-8346. *DMR*

“I’m not an artist, if I’m not painting” de Laat

“Unknown Makes Unloved” are pretty much the words Tymon de Laat lives by and those words speak loudly in his work.

Tymon is the first Street Colors Bonaire visiting artist for 2021. Through his huge colorful murals, he shares the cultures and ideas that he loves with Bonaire. His experience of different cultures grew from his travels after graduating from the Academie of Art in Rotterdam in 2001. Tymon set a course for South America with a tent, a few clothes and 3000 bucks to last for a year.

Tymon said, “I didn’t have a lot of money but I did have a lot of time, so I got to talk to a lot of people.”

Even with the language difference, he was amazed in the hospitality of the people. Through these travel encounters, he realized you don’t need a lot to be happy; it’s more about the quality of your life.

But how could he keep this feeling going when he returned to the Netherlands? He decided he would give the art thing a try as he had done several murals to make a little money during his travels. For the next 10 years, Tymon lived with the concept of not having a concept, and just go and try different things.

Tymon said this decade was the most valuable time for him in growing as an artist.

He tried seven different styles and after 10 years the work felt right. He said it was colorful and it was coming from his travels; the indigenous people, the food and locations in South America.

“I think if I paint something it needs to tell a story, because I’m passionate about it,” said Tymon, “It’s as if they never left and I can bring that story of them. My hopes are to encourage people to have a curious nature.”

Tymon explained that everywhere he goes, he tries to paint a different culture from the place he is in, as with the Polynesian girl on the new Tiki bar in Bonaire. During his travels he takes photos and then paints them in a totally different place or country.

He has been working as a full time artist since 2007. In the winter he paints on canvas in his studio and spends summers traveling painting murals. Tymon says that



Tymon said transitioning to spray cans was a challenge in the first 10 years but his work is evidence he has it well under control now. He also uses acrylics and inks in his work.

canvas work offers different types of opportunity and it is more personal for the person that owns the painting.

“The great thing about walls is they are open for everybody. It catches you in the moment,” said Tymon, “I like to leave that up to everyone’s interpretation. And, once I leave, hopefully she [portrait mural] will just be there and mean something different to everyone that sees her,”

To see and learn more about Tymon de Laat visit www.melikepainting.com

Through the Street Colors project a whole new world of art has opened up for Bonaire. The project brings



Big Blue Wall art jam project by Street Colors Bonaire.

different artists to teach and share their work with local artists and anyone interested in learning to make art. Each visiting artist is on Bonaire for six weeks. In the March 10th Reporter we will feature some of the work produced by students and local artist during Tymon’s visit.

The project is led by Karine de Wit of Platforma Kultural, Hofi Kultural and Rewriters of Rotterdam
Story and photos by Julie Morgan



Atop a scaffold the artist uses Polynesian culture images for the murals on the new Tiki bar.

scanning of the lungs.

8. **that divers who have been hospitalized with or because of cardiac problems in relation to COVID-19**, should wait at least three months before applying for fit-to-dive clearance conducted or coordinated by a diving medicine specialist with cardiac evaluation, including echocardiography and exercise test (exercise electrocardiography).

Most people these days are saying, “I am so done with this,” but it is not done with us. Please continue to be careful. Getting Covid may force you to change your career path. If you have any questions, please contact your personal physician. I hope that you do not get Covid

and if you do you recover quickly and fully. In the meantime, remember here on Bonaire, you are no more than one degree of separation from a diver, so understanding how Covid can affect divers will be important for you, your colleagues, your clients or your friends. Take care! *Pam Teitel*

Pam Teitel moved to Bonaire in 1984 as a dive instructor. She continued on to manage a large dive shop and become the first PADI Course Director in the region. She has worked alongside Dr. van der Vaart as the Chief supervisor of diving operations at Bonaire’s hyperbaric chamber for over 35 years.

Divers Alert Network (DAN) recommends

I contacted Divers Alert Network (DAN), and they quickly responded with this message:

Thank you for reaching out to DAN for information regarding COVID-19.

Medical fitness to dive after a COVID-19 infection is undoubtedly a hot topic. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for a medical assessment for returning to diving after this infection; each case must be addressed individually. While most people are concerned about the potential lung damage after a COVID-19 infection, it is important to emphasize that COVID-19 is not just a respiratory disease. Please do talk to your doctor regardless; do not assume you are medically fit.

DAN recommends divers starting with your primary care physician (PCP); knowledge of diving medicine is not crucial at this point.

- If you had an asymptomatic infection, or you had a very mild infection with no respiratory compromise, your doctor might not need to do much to clear you to dive. He/she might still want to give your body some time before seeing you, as this time might allow for any subtle sequelae to manifest or stabilize. Your doctor might order some simple tests to make sure he/she is not missing anything subtle; this is always prudent.
- If you had a symptomatic COVID-19 infection with any degree of respiratory compromise (coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing, etc.), you would likely need a more thorough evaluation. The first thing that needs to be determined is whether there is evidence of a significant residual compromise to the lungs, structural or functional. It is important to emphasize that you will likely not get any answers right after coming out of it. Your lungs will likely continue to heal for weeks or months, and pulmonary function can only be assessed once healing has reached a plateau. If you fall

into this category, time and patience are crucial for a thorough, conscious assessment.

Different people have different types of COVID-19 infections; some are asymptomatic, some are mild, and some are very serious. These variations are due to a number of reasons, not all well understood or determined. There is currently limited data and information about the impact of many underlying medical conditions on the risk of severe illness from COVID-19; this is still a new disease.

As we mentioned before, your primary care doctor may not be familiar with dive medicine, but that should not discourage you from consulting them. Below you will find some resources available your doctor might find useful when assessing your medical fitness to dive.

Once you have recovered, your doctor will likely release you to resume normal activities, and you will gradually work your way to getting your life back. But beware, as normal as it might feel to you, diving should not be considered a “normal” activity. Remember, diving it involves breathing from a compressed gas source using life-support equipment to survive in a hostile environment. Several unusual conditions will trigger several unique physiological changes that rarely happen elsewhere. This is when dive medicine expertise might help.

We would be happy to share the resources that we have collected on guidance for returning to diving post-COVID-19.

Please share these resources with your doctor. If your physician is unfamiliar with diving medicine, these resources will offer guidance to understand why certain conditions that would not necessarily have much impact on the general population might be worth a special consideration on someone wishing to engage or reengage in diving.

as a construction crane,” said the proud first mate of the Eurogracht, the ship that transported the components from Akkrum, Friesland, where they were cast.

The extension of the South Pier is part of a long term plan to improve Bonaire’s port infrastructure. Under a Steering Group, the Ports and Pilotage Service has been improved, the privatization of the port is being planned, and the possibility of constructing a new cargo port is being considered. The knowledge and experience of the Amsterdam Port Authority is contributing to the project. *DMR*

Misuse of corona relief funds investigated.

Seven companies in the BES may be prosecuted for misuse of the corona support for wage costs and fixed costs they received from the Social Affairs and Employment Department (SZW). The Public Prosecutor’s Office (OM) is investigating the companies, which are located on all three islands, and is considering criminal prosecution. About 700 companies make use of the emergency funds provided by SZW.

Companies found to have received excess payments will have an opportunity to repay the funds or negotiate a settlement. If a company has deliberately provided incorrect information or withheld information, they will be subject to criminal law. The first sessions are expected to take place in May 2021.

The Public Prosecutor’s Office also intervenes in cases where turnover figures have been reported that are far too high. From the beginning SZW realized that depending solely on applicant supplied information might pose a risk of misuse, but their first priority was to provide support as quickly as possible. *DMR*

Second Chamber election coming in March

Election for the Second Chamber is scheduled for March 17th, 2021. Residents of the Caribbean Netherlands with a Dutch nationality can vote, provided they are at least 18 and have not lost their right to vote. The Second Chamber consists of 150 members who represent the Dutch population, including the residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The role of the Second Chamber is to oversee the work of the prime minister and cabinet and to make new laws together with them. The members decide on issues such as education, health, environment, economy and more. *DMR*

OLB to tackle animal rights and animal control

The Island Council has passed a motion that gives the Executive Council a mandate to draft “a total package” of animal legislation for its consideration within six to eight weeks. Key points in the motion are the relationship between animal cruelty and domestic violence, current legislation that is outdated, the role that pets play in providing psychological support, and the importance of education and awareness. The motion commits the Executive Council to submit a policy framework regarding the health and welfare of animals in general, and more specifically pets. The Executive Council said it would take into account all concerns regarding animals, such the problems created by free running dogs and the goats and donkeys in Washington Park. *DMR*.

Photo ID helps the serious turtle spotter

Kevin Pursley, a frequent visitor to Bonaire, has published a paper in Marine Turtle Newsletter that is available online at <http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/archives/mtn161/mtn161-1.shtml>. The paper helps Photo-ID spotters identify juvenile green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) using flipper scales.

For his research, Pursley took photos of juvenile green sea turtles while snorkeling and SCUBA diving during his annual summer trips to Bonaire from 2012 to 2016. He collected a set of 64 images of left flippers of 30 individual green turtles selected from the dive sites Karpata, Andrea I, Cliff, and Salt Pier. Included in his dataset are 11 turtles encountered only once, 11 photographed during the year and eight in multiple years.

Computer-aided Photo ID photos of turtle flipper scale patterns can be used as a low cost, non-invasive matching technique, says Pursley. Pursley encourages vacationing and resident snorkelers and divers to contribute their own turtle photos to the Photo ID’s database. Photographers can take photos of turtles actively swimming, resting or foraging.

A nearly ideal image clearly shows one or both flippers. If it also includes the carapace and the top of the head, that can also be useful in identification. Photos used in Photo-ID can be taken from a distance to minimize barrel, perspective and other possible distortions in the image.

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Rajan Benimadho benimadho44@hotmail.com



Proposed site for Hato/WEB port
Photo Julie Morgan

Rijna and Flanegin talk about Hato port

More than 10 years ago, Bonaire's island government began looking at new container port locations in regard to the growing population. The options were Salt Pier, Punt Verkant, Te amo (airport), Lagoen, Bopec and Hato (WEB) or expand the city center port. The majority of the sites were eliminated via a list of pros and cons. Hato had the least amount of cons yet Cargill or Bopec could still be considered.

In the Reporter's January 27-February 24 issue we profiled ConserveBonaire.org and their quest to stop the possible construction of a container port in Hato. We reached out to Lt. Governor Edison Rijna and harbour master Gunther Flanegin for a response and were invited for a conversation on February 11.

During the chat, the Lt. Governor said no decision has been made.

"We are going to do this [container port in Hato] if the research tells us this is what we should do. We are still doing preliminary research," said Rijna.

The final decision will be made by the Bonaire government's executive council based on the financial report, business plan, social impact and environmental assessment. This information and expertise is brought forward by the steering committee made up of the harbour master, commissioner of finance and economic affairs, ministry of infrastructure of Holland, internal affairs of Holland, director of R&O and T&H (OLB) the governor is committee chairman.

In regard to an environmental report, the government has not selected a team to do the research for the study. The preliminary research is being performed as we speak.

Reporter: Bonaire has been a leader in conservation since the arrival of Captain Don Stewart.

"We still are and we still want that and we will still do the utmost to keep this," Rijna said, "We have been doing this for the last 50 years by consulting about any

research for...conservation of the reef, marine biology; we don't do anything without always consulting STINAPA."

With pre-assessment only beginning, they want to talk to the stakeholders, resorts, residents, researchers, construction people and groups like ConserveBonaire.org.

"Saying we are going to destroy the reef is 10 steps before we have even done what we are going to do. From the pre-research beginning to advice, we need to combine nature and commerce together," said Rijna.

Reporter: What is the argument for Hato / WEB?

Flanegin said, "At the end of the day, we want deep water. We don't want to put tons of concrete in the water. We aren't changing much to what is already there..."

According to Rijna and Flanegin, there will be little change in regard to everyday activity. The plans include moving the Curoil tank farm across from WEB, to a location within the confines of the airport. This will open up storage for offloaded containers.

The port will be a combination of cargo and WEB ship traffic. Ships will come everyday or every other day. Daily traffic will be the Don Andres NV vessels and once a week a container vessel measuring 120 meters.

Flanegin said, "We need to purchase a crane to offload the containers."

The old pier was built 40 years ago and was not built to accommodate a crane. Currently the Don Andres has to load the truck chassis on the ship so it can drive away so there is only one level of containers. A crane will allow us to stack the containers thus bringing down the shipping fees.

Reporter: How about the traffic in the Hato neighborhood?

Trucks will be diverted to the new road west of Gobernador N Debrot and

then head south to Kaya Amsterdam and on from there. This road passes by the planned 12 hectare, \$18.6 million residential development in the works. Flanegin said zoning for the area was a plan consideration.

If the Hato plan is approved, they hope to see Don Andres and Rocargo move to Hato which would end the need for trucks to travel across the city. In addition, storage facilities for importers will be built that will be a quick unload of the containers. According to Flanegin, if the entire concept is realized from the beginning, there will be limited container truck traffic.

Reporter: What's the influence on dive tourism and resorts?

In regard to disruption of the Hato waterfront resorts: Captain Don's Habitat, Buddy Dive, Sand Dollar and the Hamlet, no answers were provided. The governor did say he hadn't spoke to the resorts but wants them to be a part of the conversation so concerns can be addressed.

Reporter: What about Blue Destination and moving away from cruise ships?

"Two things, development for the extension of the present pier was planned before the idea of the master plan and before we experienced what the cruise ships were doing. These ships can get in easier and more safely in case of emergency," said Rijna, "On the other hand, now we know we want another kind of cruise ships, that are clean and green."

Rijna explained the type of ships we want have to comply with green rules. They must run on green energy, EGCS (emissions) compliant and adhere to a type of green cruise ship report card. They hope to attract luxury private yachts to Bonaire through this pier.

Reporter: If there aren't as many cruise ships, then why can't the container port stay where it is?

The containers are noisy and dangerous.

It isn't attractive in front of the restaurants and residential area but primarily because we can't employ a crane. Furthermore, the port in the city center doesn't have land to have a container depot. A depot will decrease the need to move the container as soon as they arrive. A depot by WEB allows the ship to unload the containers or cargo at the location. The logistic provider can then have the whole week to move containers during normal business hours.

Reporter: Is it cost effective?

According to Flanegin, the 2017 economic report quoted by ConserveBonaire.org, stating only a dollar saving on \$100 of goods imported, was not focused on Bonaire but all the area islands. He said we don't have the financial data. Our researchers will indicate that information.

Reporter: Is there a cap on a certain percentage of reef destruction that is acceptable for the port?

Flanegin said, "We want to be as little intrusive as possible. If we can build in the deep blue water then it will be less intrusive."

Reporter: What does the Pier Committee Harbour Development do?

- Development of harbour management
- Organization and the building of the new port
- New laws: some of the laws are over 50 years old that were set up for environmental protection. The old laws didn't have the information we do today and that information has to be input into the new laws.
- These things will be a part of the development of the new harbour. With the new yachts coming in, we don't know what they are doing and how they are operating.
- The new laws will be sent to the island council soon.
- Moving of freight cargo

Photo and interview, Julie Morgan



Governor Rijna speaks . . .

I've been in office as Lieutenant Governor for six years

My feelings for my island are still the same and haven't changed. I'm very, very, proud of the reef and conservation of the reef.

I admire the work of people like Don Stewart and others. And when I speak to people I tell them proudly about the nature conservation of our island.

I will be the last one to give permission for breaking reefs in our harbour or wherever in our waters.

I'm here for almost another six years. If they destroy our marine park for whatever construction, it won't happen under my command.

It's not worth it in money because it has more value when I can show it to my (grand)kids.

I remember way back during the early days of Divi Flamingo and the damage they did to the corals so people could swim from the beach to a platform behind the reefs. I saw it when we use to swim there as a child. The people had to chop off coral so people could swim freely to the platform.

I grew up here and swam, snorkeled and dove all over these reefs before I even had a license to dive. Back then I did illegal swimfishing, spearfishing and I saw everything that was living on these reefs. Many of those things [corals and fish] aren't there anymore. And, I grew to know how important the reef is. At Te amo Beach there were big schools of huge parrotfish everywhere between the reefs and corals. These were destroyed after a storm in the 90's and aren't there anymore. In that sense, if we have to move reefs and corals for a harbour then I don't think it is worth it.

But, I do understand we have to balance the growth of

our island by doing research, talking to every stakeholder and all those involved and then we make a decision.

I understand that groups like Conserve Bonaire are concerned. And we want to talk to everyone: hotels, resorts, neighbors, Conserve Bonaire and STINAPA, to name a few. This is not something that we as government are just going to make a decision about without consulting the stakeholders.

I almost feel like this is an ill-considered attack on the government, the thought that they would think that the Government would allow something like this is erroneous. That is why we invited you to hear what we had to say.

Besides this I understand that people are sometimes skeptical of the government actions. They may think politicians are inconsiderate and that they will sell their soul for development of the island. It is their right to think that. This is not only about the harbour. There is also the land development at Bolivia. This is a private deal. The company sold their shares to a buyer and he plans to develop this newly acquired property as he dreamt of. I say, okay, you can dream that. However, you cannot let someone else's dream be your reality and if so then you are judging the government. You have to be realistic. We [the government] are not entitled to do anything outside the current development plans and regulations. The new owner needs to remember he has to come to the government and discuss the possibilities according to current plans and regulations for the development of his property, e.g. to build certain amount of houses. People say you guys (government) are going to permit this without considering the regulations. I disagree with these groups. They think it will happen because it may have happened in the past. Not on my term in office! You can't judge me



Photo Julie Morgan

Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna

for what someone else may have done in the past. That's politics and I'm not in politics.

I was appointed to take care of good government in Bonaire. This includes protecting our reefs and land. I will protect Bonaire's nature that I am so proud of. So this is what I can assure you of. And, I hope that people will calm down and understand that we as Government will not take hasty decisions on important matters like this. I hope the members of the Dutch parliament will understand this as well. *Edison Rijna*

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Did You Know?



My name is Kelly, and I'm a 23-year-old biology student at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, currently doing an internship with STINAPA.

I remember when I was a kid, I sometimes forgot to clean out my school bag and left some fruit or bread in the bag during the weekend or holidays. Of course, it started to rot and get all moldy with yeast all over it. When my parents would find out they weren't mad at me but they were somewhat disappointed. I think this phenomenon sounds familiar to a lot of us. Well, I believe this is enough about my dirty school bag, but let's get into yeast a bit more.

A recent study found a species of yeast, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, in environmental samples from Bonaire. This yeast occurs in environments throughout the world and sometimes causes infections in humans. However, with a fully functioning immune system, even if you get an infection from this yeast, you should be totally fine. Also, the infection cannot spread between people or between humans and animals. Animals can get infected too, but this is very rare and if it happens basic treatment is enough to cure them.

However, since this yeast may cause

health problems in some cases, it's important to know that it's here and to inform people and health care providers.

The researchers, two from a Dutch medical institution, one a professor of medicine from Anguilla and one a doctor from India, found the yeast in three of the 40 samples of old pigeon droppings that they took in Bonaire. I can imagine that they found a lot of possible samples, since pigeons poop quite a lot due to their high metabolic rates. Pigeons are constantly eating! Sometimes I think some of my roommates believe they are pigeons too (because they also eat a lot).

Take home message: Even though *C. neoformans* wasn't found in that many areas and it isn't very dangerous, it's worth knowing that you should never stir in fermenting pigeon feces.

For more information on this topic visit the CDC website or read the following research paper: Gugnani, H. C., Hagen, F., Meis, J. F., & Chakrabarti, A. (2020). Occurrence of *Cryptococcus neoformans*

STINAPA. Connecting People With Nature.



Kickstart offers cultural funds

The Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribbeaan ('PBCCG'), in collaboration with the Kickstart Cultuurfonds ('KSCF') Netherlands, is launching the:

Kickstart Scheme!

The PBCCG and the KSCF are joining forces to help the Performing Arts sector of the Dutch Caribbean Islands to adapt to the changing circumstances that have arisen as a result of the corona measures. Together they will make NAF 500,000 available for the goals of the Kickstart Scheme - an addition to the existing Tailor-Made Subsidy Policy of the PBC-CG.

What is the Kickstart Scheme:

The scheme temporarily provides additional financial support to the Performing Arts sector in order to be able to organize their performances and exhibitions corona-proof during the corona period and to receive their audience safely. Groups can apply for subsidy under this scheme for items that deviate from the normal criteria. You can request a maximum of NAF 25,000 for a demonstrable shortage as a result of corona restrictions and one-off purchase and / or adjustment costs.

Who is the Kickstart Scheme for:

This scheme applies to producers / foundations and establishments (theaters / halls) and museums that make productions for the public, for example: dance and theater performances, music perfor-

mances, concerts, expositions and exhibitions.

Duration of the Kickstart Scheme:

From February 22, 2021, Kickstart applications can be submitted via the digital application portal of the PBCCG. The requests are processed monthly in the scheduled DB meetings.

The closing date of the Kickstart Scheme is September 1, 2021. The last application can be submitted until August 31, 2021.

Information desk:

We are happy to help you!

The telephone consultation hour starts on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and takes place weekly on:

Monday from 2 pm to 5 pm and Wednesday from 9 am to 12 noon - telephone number: 5999- 7671584.

To prevent you from finding the line busy, we recommend that you schedule your appointment via a time slot on our Facebook Page. You can also email your questions to: subsidieopmaat@pbccaribbean.com

For more information about the criteria of the Kickstart Scheme and the other Grants Policy Tailored, please visit our website www.pbccaribbean.com/nieuws/subsidiebeleid-op-maat



A Garden? Just Do It! Surviving the drought

It's clear that the weather has changed and that is exactly as it should be. At the end of January, we began receiving less rain, more daylight and full sun. Now it's just some raindrops a week and strong wind. And as you noticed our plants are suffering in this kind of weather. The tough wind dries the leaves, even when they get watered many times a day. Topsoil gets dry as cork and all liquid evaporates. Sad to see our nice looking gardens change in a plant battlefield. Some hints might help certain plants and trees survive.

1- Trim your trees. Cut back when you have too many old stems and rotten parts. On banana trees that have borne fruit cut the dead parts. Banana trees produce only one cluster of bananas at a time and then it's done, but they still need a lot of energy, food and water to survive. Meanwhile, the young banana trees cannot get enough food to produce. It's better to split the cluster and plant each young tree apart so they can live on their own and manage their own growing. This is also good for other plants that are too close to each other and have less space to grow.

2- When planting young trees in the ground, make the hole deeper and wider.

Make a mix of goat manure with rotten leaves, dry grass, black dirt and add this to the hole. Don't fill the hole totally but let it look like the plant is in a gully so water will stay there and penetrate slowly to the roots. This will keep the soil moist. You can lose water if it runs down from soil heaped too high around the plant. Add some dry leaves or wood dust on top of the gully to keep the soil moist and cool and to protect the mixed soil so it isn't blown away by the strong wind.

3- Rain is the best water for plants. It has minerals which plants need to grow nice and strong and to survive the extreme, dry climate here. What I do, is catch rain water and save it in a big container. But now there is less rain and I only have a small amount for the coming dry season. So I mix the rainwater with WEB water and water the plants with a can. Not all plants need the same amount of water and also not everyday. So plants need special care to survive. If you want to save your plants, it takes some effort and patience.

4- Sometimes certain plants can go together in one hole or together in one big container. The profit is that more plants enjoy the water and plant food at the same time. They need less space and they pro-



Plant each young banana tree on its own.

tect each other against too much sunlight, hard wind and even against fungi and bugs.

5-Talking about fungi and bugs, they will appear now too. I notice the white fly (local name piespies) already in my tomato and pepper plants. So time to make a tea from the leaves of the neem tree and spray two times a week on the plants.

Don't boil the leaves, just pour hot water over the neem leaves like making tea and when cold, spray the tea over the plants. White fly live UNDER the leaves of a plant. So you might not see anything

until your plants are dying because the white fly leaves a white powder there. When there is too much, just trim the plants. Sometimes they will grow even better.

6- Keep sensitive plants out of the wind and out of the hard sunlight. Keep them behind walls, hang plant containers in trees, on your porch or make palm leave fences around and above the plants like a roof against the sun and wind.

7- With little rain, the animals will have hard times too: iguanas, Loras, lizards and ants will show up in your garden so, protect your plants.

8- It makes no sense to plant too much now. Yes, things that grow fast like certain veggies or easy growing trees are okay. But sensitive plants which need a lot of water or vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, watermelons or pumpkins will not do well in the drought. As local farmers say, it's time to harvest and let the soil have a rest until the next rainy season. Meanwhile there is work to do preparing the soil with manure, making beds for the next season, drying and collecting seeds from the harvest, repairing garden tools, cleaning the garden and more.

9- Enjoy your harvest and share with each other.

10- Reuse, recycle, go green and sustainable.

Just do it. *Angliet, Nature lover*

Parrots and People!

by Julianka Clarendia



Shanty and Roland van Reenen at Echo's syntropic workshop.

Echo, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to preserving the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot or lora, as it is locally known. The lora is often mistaken on the island for the smaller, more abundant, Brown-throated Parakeet (Prikichi). Unfortunately, unlike the Prikichi, the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot is vulnerable to the threat of extinction and can only be found in small fragmented populations in Venezuela and here, on Bonaire. Echo's dedicated conservation programs are preserving these parrots through habitat restoration, community engagement, outreach and monitoring programs.

Echo has started their year, as they mean to go on, passionate, dedicated and positively.

At the start of January, Echo hosted a syntropic workshop; over the two-day event, Roland van Reenen, an experienced syntropic farmer from Curacao, showed Echo and island stakeholders how to combine syntropic farming with reforestation, to create food forests. Echo is hoping to continue using the syntropic technique to engage the community to farm sustainably and use the land more effectively. Echo believes that to safeguard the parrots, they must help to build a system that not only benefits them, but also the people of the island.

At the end of every January, Echo hosts its Annual Roost Count, a day when the community comes together to help count the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot. This year, 93 volunteers joined Echo to count the loras simultaneously across 36 roost sites, The data collected will be used to help Echo understand the minimum population of parrots on the island. This year, the total number counted was tallied at 955. Although less than in previous years, it does not mean a population decrease. It could just be an indicator of other environmental



factors such as low visibility due to increased rain and foliage on the island. Echo uses the data to detect trends and the effects of environmental factors on the population and then use it to implement effective conservation action.

These are just two examples of the work Echo is doing to engage the local community in nature and parrot conservation. Over the past ten years, Echo has been working towards a future where parrots and people can live in nature together.

To learn more about Echo's other programs book a private tour through tours@echobonaire.org. If you are not on the island, head over to their website www.echobonaire.org, or for updates about Echo's community outreach successes, follow them on Facebook @echobonaire.



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Picture Yourself as winners of Picture Yourself



L-R: Howard Harrison, La Terrazza manager Manouk Calkhoven and Kim Harrison.

The Bonaire Reporter's 2019 Picture Yourself winners, Howard and Kim Harrison, finally made it back to Bonaire to pick up their prize. The Harrison's enjoyed dinner for two at La Terrazza Italian kitchen. Due to Covid 19 closures and restrictions, their return to Bonaire was delayed just a bit and they are glad to be back.

The Harrisons hail from Kentucky, but have been Sand Dollar owners for 15 years. They came to dive back in February 2005 and returned in May that same year to purchase a condo at Sand Dollar. Howard and Kim usually enjoy their home away from home in Bonaire a couple of times a year for four or five months at a time now that they have retired.

Howard said, "We love the Reporter and we take a Reporter with us almost everywhere we go."

Their winning photo was a shot of the couple with the Reporter, astride a camel in Dubai.

They enjoyed the Dubai trip with friends Jim and Judy Kewley who are mounted on a camel just out of the frame of the photo. The Kewleys were also on hand for the La Terrazza dinner and just out of frame for the above photo.

La Terrazza Italian kitchen is a bit different from other restaurants because there is no menu. The wait staff will ask you if there is anything you don't like or cannot have to eat and the chef takes it from there. The food courses are small appetizers, entrees and desserts for \$8 each. Diners can enjoy as many or as few as they like and stop anytime. Wine pairing is possible at only \$5 per glass. All ingredients are fresh everyday.

Thursday night is pasta night with 10 different types of pasta for \$15.

La Terrazza is open Monday through Friday 6 – 10pm.

What's Happening

February 25	Papiamentu Quiz Online See details below.
March 16 - April 6	History & Culture of Bonaire Tuesday & Thursday evenings. See details this page.
Sunday, March 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6pm Te Amo Beach. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.

Open

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

Washington Slagbaai Park Monday to Sunday Hours: 8 – 5 (entry up to 2:30) (Some days closed because of bad weather--check STINAPA's FB page.)

Animal Shelter is open to the public by appointment Please call or Whatsapp 701-4989

Clubs and 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

Let's go back into Bonaire's History and Culture.



Foundation History and Culture of Bonaire (FuHiKuBo) is offering a fascinating, not to be missed 'journey' into the History and Culture of Bonaire. The presentations will be taught in English by André Nahr and Boi Antoin over six days beginning March 16 through April 6.

Nahr and Antoin will explore Bonaire's history from the arrival of the first inhabitants 3600 years ago to the arrival of the first Europeans, like the Spanish in 1499 and then 100 years later the Dutch. The history presentation will include the arrival of African slaves in 1640, abolition of slavery in 1863, the British period in the early 1800's up to the post WWII period and the start of Bonaire's Modern Times.

For thousands of years, the Caribbean Sea has connected the different people

and their cultures from the mainland countries of the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean islands. This international historical melting pot eventually formed the Bonairean culture that still lives on today.

The class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings: March 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 and April 1 and 6 from 7 – 9pm.

This historical and cultural exploration of Bonaire will be held at FuHiKuBo, Kaya Ierlandia 12, next to the Extra newspaper office.

To sign up for this fascinating event, call 717-8482 (Extra) between 11am and 4pm or email: shirleymartins2001@hotmail.com.

Price is \$ 95. per person. Only 14 spots available for the class, so sign up early.

Test your Papiamentu

SKAL (Art, Culture & Literature department), together with Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu, will celebrate International Mother Tongue Day on February 25. For the general public, they have designed an online quiz at <https://akademiapapiamentu.com/quiz/story.html>, which challenges participants' knowledge of Papiamentu spelling. They have also organized a dictation for primary schools in the afternoon hours in Hôfi Kultural.

Papiamentu is a language used in all groups within Bonaire's community and spoken by a large majority, whether born here or not. Papiamentu is one of Bonaire's official languages. Papiamentu has managed to overcome all strife and colonialism. The island government uses Papiamentu as an official language in correspondence with the population. It is used at board level in the local government, in the press and in the courtroom. *OLB press release*



Dia di Rincon is cancelled for the second year. The annual cultural event is normally held each year at the end of April.

Bonaire's sky park Mercury Helicopter on Mars

Mercury Spotters rejoice! Our tiniest planet is at the Great Western Elongation on March 6!

Because Mercury orbits closer to the sun than us, it can be tough to spot -- zipping back and forth around our nearest star, but we're Star Gazers -- we're here to help!

First: on February 26th, Mercury is going to hit the highest point in the sky but it's still low at about 12-degrees (one fist-high is about 10-degrees). Head out before sunrise and find a spot without obstruction of the horizon.

Just before sunrise, keep a sharp eye

out for a tiny speck of light — that speck is lil' sun-soaked Mercury!

On March 6, Merc hits its Western Elongation -- the edge of its orbit from our perspective! If you watch Mercury all week, you'll ALSO see Jupiter and Saturn clustered together!

Keep lookin' up -- er, sideways. Both! *Trace Dominguez www.stargazersonline*

"The first helicopter ever sent to another world is doing just fine on Mars after surviving a "seven minutes of terror" landing aboard NASA's Perseverance, according to www.space.com. The Ingenuity helicopter, which landed on Mars with Perseverance on Thursday (Feb. 18), is awake and communicating with controllers on Earth."



Making Bonaire Accessible

The old fashioned taste.

For a couple of years my husband and I lived in Holland with my mother who was 74 years old.

Her home was cozy, but we thought a bit old fashioned,. So we decided to help her redecorate . She was a bit reluctant, but after a while she would let us help her.

We wanted to go slow, and not fix the place in one or two days. She would not be able to handle that. So we planned to change one item per week. Mom got very restless when we started, so I proposed she would go take her bicycle and spend

a few hours out. Since she loved to ride her bike, it seemed a good idea.

Mom left, we changed the window-dressing and applied shades. When Mom came home she loved it and we asked her what would she like to change next. She picked the floors and so we did that and layed laminate and she was happy again. Then came the furniture. We decided to use a catalog. She could look up nice items and show us what she would like to see in her living area.

And every time she came home after a bike ride she loved the changes.

Then came the day that she came home

later then than normal. When she finally did she was clearly very upset. She told us that she was very angry at the bus driver. This puzzled us. It seemed that she had been driving in the middle of the road and when a bus came along, she did not want to move to the right side. She cussed and was very upset. She could not understand that this " idiot" behaved like this.

It was clear to us that it was no longer safe for her to ride her bicycle by herself and I decided to ride along with her. And now I could see that it was better that she not ride the bicycle any more.

Mom had always been an excellent cook. She cooked anything: Dutch, German, Indonesian, etc. She started to complain that the food did not taste as good as it used to and there were a lot of items

the stores no longer carried. Cooking was no fun anymore for her , so I took over.

We lived on an island, and for many things we had to take the ferry to the mainland. I got a job on the mainland and could no longer take care of Mom. So she went to live in a " home". She was so unhappy. This would be her last home, she cried.

We had come to Holland and had taken everything away from her. That was how it felt.

I came to visit her very day and we sang old songs, I brought her old fashioned snacks and we talked about the good old times We went for walks through the village where she recognized every house . I still miss her.

Ria Evers-Dokter



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Creating the habit of being grateful

Many times I read: “the essence of suffering is desire,” “happiness can occur only at the moment that desire ceases.” I’ve read this in ancient eastern philosophy, self help books, self-knowledge and development workshops, health and spiritual websites, social media, etc, creating in me the idea that having desires is wrong.

After being 55 years on this planet, surrounded by other humans like me, I have never met anyone who could cease desire, except for a dead person. Can a living creature survive without desires or drives? Would it be adaptive? Is that what evolution has for us: only become happy when all desires, all drives are zeroed? Is that how we evolved?

A few weeks ago walking down Seru Largu, I had what I call “an epiphany moment.”

“Desires and needs are essential to our survival, this might come along with some pain, but it is necessary pain, like growing pains.” Drives and desires make us look for food, love, reproduction and that is how species

survive and evolve. They are an essential part of life, they are in the definition of life itself as they keep us moving. We need desires. We need to feel a bit or a lot uncomfortable from time to time to change, to flow, to grow. Should happiness mean going against this?

But then, is it possible to be happy always having some kind of unfulfilled desire? Or is it an impossible achievement? I found this hard to believe as I consider myself a happy person in spite of the fact that I have desires yet to be fulfilled. So I searched deep inside of me and this is what I found: GRATITUDE. When a desire is fulfilled, GRATITUDE should follow. AWARENESS OF GRATITUDE should inoculate almost every moment of our lives. This will not annihilate desires or drives, in fact it will fuel them with the right energy.

Balance desires by remembering to be grateful, remember “the poison is in the dose.” If we constantly focus on our shortcomings and we are not grateful for what we already have, then the pain created by those unfulfilled desires becomes suffering. Sustained suffering equals chronic stress that wreaks havoc on our immune system. Nowadays, thanks to neuroscience, we know that when we express gratitude, our brain releases dopamine and serotonin, both enhance our mood immediately, making us feel happy from inside.

Gratitude impacts our mental and physical well-being. Some of the psychological benefits are positive emotions and thoughts, awareness, enhanced mood and increased

self-satisfaction. Among the physical benefits are a stronger immune system, fewer pains and aches, optimum blood pressure and better sleep-wake cycles. Gratitude also benefits social interactions with better communication, more empathy, stronger bonds and more involvement as a team member.

Some tips to become more grateful

- Start a daily gratitude journal.
- Make a list of all the things you take for granted but if you lost them you would experience it as a tragedy (including physiological functions and body parts). Be thorough.
- Even facing loss or tragedy, you should be able to find something to be grateful for. It is a fact that things can always get worse.
- Creativity and sense of humor are excellent resources. Don’t take life too seriously, you won’t get out of it alive anyway.
- Use meditation to practice gratitude.
- Use gratitude cues, like notes or pictures around your house and workplace.

When gratitude becomes a habit, it boosts your immune system. Be creative to invent your own path to gratitude and remember to share.

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.

What is the right BCD for you?

Finding the right BCD starts with knowing a little bit about the different options available to you. There are many different models of BCD on the market, which can be split into three main categories: Jacket-style, Backplate + Wing and Hybrid (aka Semi-Wing).

Jacket-style BCD:

This is the most common type of BCD in recreational diving and preferred by dive schools as they are easy to use and fit different body types. We can recognize the Jacket-style BCD by the airbladder which fills at the back as well as the sides (like a jacket). This feature allows Jackets to be comfortable as well as easy to handle on the surface.

Being such a common style, we can find many different models with different characteristics; light and minimalistic specifically designed for traveling, simple and economical for rental or beginner divers. As they increase in price, we find characteristics such as extra padding, additional stainless-steel D-rings and a tougher outer shell which makes them more comfortable and suitable for more frequent divers. BCDs in the higher price

range are the kind used every day by dive professionals.

Backplate + Wing setup:

This type of BCD is back-inflated. When inflated the air is directed only to the back part of the BCD (also known as “the wing”), making it very comfortable under water and perfect for maintaining a good position while diving. However, for some people, they are not as comfortable on the surface since, when inflated fully, they tend to push the body forward. However, with a little practice the forward tilt can be controlled by not fully inflating the wing, a correct body position, and being properly weighted.

This kind of BCD is the most customizable as they are made up of three separate modules: The Harness, the Backplate and the Wing. They are customizable, not only in regard to size, volume of bladder and comfort level of harness, but also in its appearance and function. It can be as streamlined and as minimalistic as necessary, adding or removing parts like pockets, D-rings, a crotch strap, etc. to really make it your own. This modular approach will also make it easier to replace parts if and when need-

ed. All of this makes them ideal for any type of diving, especially technical diving.

Hybrid BCDs or Semi-wings:

As the name implies, the hybrid BCD shares features of both the Backplate + Wing and the Jacket-style BCD. These are back-inflate BCDs that come as a complete pre-assembled package. Most commonly they will have an integrated weight system with adjustable straps and comfortable padding similar to the Jacket-style however they have the streamlined feeling of freedom that is associated with a Backplate + Wing setup.

This kind of BCD has a good balance between the two previous styles, making them the number one choice for experienced divers and dive professionals who want comfort, good performance and streamlining, but don’t need the full customization of the Backplate + Wing.

When it is time for you to choose your next BCD, remember to talk to your sales person about what is important for you. At the Dive Friends Retail store, we have a crew of experienced instructors and highly trained service technicians who can help guide you in your search. We also have a large selection of styles and sizes so we are sure to have something you like. *By Daniel Guerra*



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.

Whether it’s work, the gym or your laundry...the thought alone can drain your energy. Sounds familiar?

Swinda told Chichi that she’s taking a short break from their Malecon Power Walk. That was four weeks ago! Swinda creatively stretched one week into four. But now she’s fresh out of believable excuses and Chichi is running out of patience...it’s time to get back on track.

Here’s how Swinda can do it (and so can you)...

- 1. Find your motivation.** Get excited about your re-start. Besides building up her stamina, Swinda is looking forward to enjoying the beautiful sunset again.
- 2. Ease into it.** Start with something that requires less time and energy. Instead of their usual intense Malecon Power Walk, Swinda prefers a short Malecon stroll. Knowing Chichi, I think she’ll sarcastically dismiss this idea.
- 3. Focus on one thing at a time.** Taking on too much in the beginning might feel overwhelming. Our dynamic duo usually incorporates several exercises during their walk. Swinda wants to start with just one this time.

Remember:

Returning to your routine requires a transition period. It may take a while (depending on what you’re getting back to) for you to readjust. And that’s okay. Get motivated, ease into it, and stay focused. That’s how successful people do it!

Affirmation For Today

Today I am easily getting back on track, one step at a time.

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.”

Getting Back On Track!

Reflection For Today

“Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect.” - Alan Cohen

Tip For Today

We’re baaack!

After a well deserved short break from publishing, *The Bonaire Reporter* is back. We missed you. Did you miss us too?

It’s not always easy to get back on track after taking a (long) break.

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What do a Mac and a Mercedes have in common?



Both are well built. Both are expensive to repair. And when something goes wrong, it goes really wrong. And of course, you have no clue what happens under the hood and are chastised if you stick your fingers where they don't belong.

Case 1: In early January, a client's MacBook stopped working properly, with

some of its programs crashing and not being able to print anymore. So I did the recommended system upgrade to the "Big Sur" operating system and all worked well. The reason for the breakdown was that the programs upgraded themselves, but expected the latest version of the operating system.

So all was well until the end of January when he tried to run his Quickbooks for January accounting and some uninformative error messages popped up with about five pages of geekspeak basically saying "It's not working, I quit."

He dropped off the MacBook to me and I started digging... finally finding out from the QuickBooks company Intuit, that "Older Quickbooks programs will not work with Big Sur. The ONLY solution is to pay \$399 to upgrade QuickBooks to 2021 version." (Kind of like that \$400 headlight for your Benz, right?) And Intuit can blame it 100% on Apple as millions of Quickbooks users fork out the extra cash to keep their businesses running. Remember, you don't own the software - you are only licensing it and if the company wants to make it stop working, or charge you more to keep using it, they can.

Case 2: Another client had a MacBook that would not accept his password anymore. A case of "It worked yesterday, but not today." I tried it also, and it didn't accept the password. I tried all

of the "Apple Recommended" solutions - none of them worked as they were supposed to. But one of the weirder things is that his newly replaced battery was not charging. I recommended that he take it back to the technician who replaced the battery and see if it was a hardware problem. They told him "Your MacBook is fubar, you need a new one." (Fubar, for those who aren't military... Just Google It).

He told me that, so I recommended he get a MacMini, since he only uses the MacBook as a desktop computer with a keyboard, mouse and monitor. He immediately purchased one here on Bonaire, and brought it to me to copy all his files and install the programs from his Time-Machine backup.

First thing I did when booting up the MacMini was check the version of the operating system and it was ancient. So I entered the serial number on the Apple warranty website to see how old it was. It was manufactured in 2014 but sold here on Bonaire as new in 2021, for higher than retail price of a brand new one. We should have realized since the packaging was open, and the case was dirty and scratched.

He returned the MacMini the next day for "Store Credit - Use it in one year or lose it." (Another Paradise Tax!) Regardless, I asked him to bring back the MacBook to me as I wanted to try something.

I contacted three Mac technicians I know, and two out of three said it was pretty much a waste of time. They both

suggested that "Maybe a new hard disk would solve the problem." (Sound like that Mercedes mechanic again?) Alas, technical buddy number three said, "Bring it over, I'll take a look - nothing to lose, right?" and I did. A few hours later he messaged me, "OK, fixed, come and get it." Of course, I was flabbergasted and when I picked it up, I asked "What was it?" and he replied with a big smile "Only a virus."

So, the MacBook is happily purring away now for a couple weeks, and I have put virus checkers and automatic cloud backup systems on both Macs in this story, and I recommend them for all MacBook users. The biggest lie in the industry is that "Macs cannot get viruses". The second biggest lie is "It can't be fixed."

Latest news tidbit - Apple and KIA may join forces to make an Apple car. Imagine, driving down the highway and it stops. You have to get out, reboot it, wait three minutes for it to restart, get back in and drive away. And every time they make an update, you have to learn how to drive it again because nothing works the same anymore. Makes you really appreciate donkeys! Anyway, happy computing and if your Mac isn't behaving properly, let me know.

Update to last issue's article about being spied on by software. I signed up for AnyTask.com and within two minutes, received an email from their competitor, Guru, where I was already signed up, offering me something to stay with them. "Google knows all."

EZK asks BES islanders to rate post office

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) is investigating the quality of the postal service on the BES islands. All residents of the BES islands are asked to help.

There are two ways to participate in the study.

1. You can complete a questionnaire to share your experiences with FXDC's services. This questionnaire is available in Dutch, Papiamentu, English and Spanish and can be found at the following link: BESpost.com.
2. To measure the delivery time of letters and parcels, more than 2000 randomly selected citizens and companies / organizations will receive a letter or parcel by post. People who receive a test letter or package are asked to scan the QR code in the letter and answer two questions.

As a token of appreciation for participating in this study, 10 vouchers worth \$ 100 will be raffled among the participants.

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Shelter News Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers needed

Calling all animal lovers!!! Animal Shelter Bonaire's resident cats and dogs could use your help on Saturday or Sunday mornings!! If you have a couple hours to spare around 8/8:30am, we would love to have your helping hands with cleaning, feeding, and most importantly...love giving!

Choose your favorite species to work with (cat or dog)...if you are "non-denominational," you can work with both! Providing care to our fur residents is fun and rewarding. Spending time snuggling and cuddling with the animals is arguably the most rewarding part of helping the shelter! Shelter staff will accompany you on your first day to show you the ropes.

If you can help us, please contact the Shelter via email at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com. We'd love to have you! *Story: Elizabeth Godsey*

Pet of the Week: Uma



Meet Uma!

Uma is a sweet, loving, and rotund tabby that we guess to be about three years old. She has been at the shelter for almost two years now, and is ready to find her forever home.

Uma is a very chill cat. She gets along with other kitties, and loves to get pets and be brushed. You'll often find Uma in a relaxed position, belly up, snoozing in the sun. When not snoozing and relaxing, she likes to be by the food bowl. She has been encouraged to exercise more, but could use some more consistent encouragement. A stuffed toy is a favorite activity generator for her.

If you've been looking for a chill and loving kitty, Uma is the cat for you. Will you be Uma's new forever guardian? Call or WhatsApp the animal shelter today 701-4989 or via our Facebook page to make an appointment to meet her! *Story: Elizabeth Godsey*

Photo: Jane Disko



Reef Glimpses

Comb jellies

The comb jellies are back! Or, anyway, they were back. Everywhere on Wednesday, none to be found by Saturday, much to my disappointment.

My first reaction to seeing a jelly bloom is usually, "Curses! A jelly bloom! Now we're going to get stung." Then, if they're comb jellies, "Hooray, they're comb jellies. We won't get stung!" And that's about it.

But once, during a comb jelly bloom, I had problems equalizing. I couldn't get deeper than 20' (around 6m) but I didn't want to quit the dive, so I started watching rather than just looking at the jellies – something I'd never done before. Have you already noticed how beautiful they are? And how graceful? And how powerfully they move through the water?

"Powerfully"?

I reached out slowly toward one of the most common of the jellies, identified as a spot-winged comb jelly in the REEF I.D. book; since I didn't have the book with me I named it the Star Wars comb jelly. When I tried to touch the Star Wars jelly it contracted what turned out to be two flexible "wings" and moved away from me at warp speed. Okay, maybe not warp speed but astonishingly quickly; much more powerfully than I had expected.

Leading to another question: why did the Star Wars jelly bolt when it was

touched? Even more basic, how did the Star Wars jelly bolt? Comb jellies are named for their rows of tiny hairlike cilia, arranged like hundreds of combs, beating in unison. The combs propel the jelly through the water, but it sure wasn't the combs that enabled the Star Wars jelly to bolt like that!

It turns out that comb jellies have smooth muscle cells in their jelly; that's what could create the warp speed of the Star Wars jelly.

But the other question still remains: why would a creature who lives among thousands of others, feeding on stuff it drifts into, be so well-equipped for flight? Comb jellies don't seem to have any predators: a few surgeonfish nibble at them in mid-water, an angelfish or two check out damaged comb jellies on the reef, but even those nibblers weren't especially enthusiastic.

I watched the Star Wars jellies drift around, and eventually noticed another kind of jelly that looked like a flattened sock. The sock jellies were very active, swirling and circling between the other jellies. I watched the crowd of jellies, thinking they reminded me of fish in a school, coming so close to each other without touching.

And then I saw a sock jelly bump into a Star Wars jelly who for some reason did



Joi Jenkins could safely snorkel among comb jellies, who don't sting.

not zoom away, and the value of warp speed ability became clear: the sock jelly leading edge opened -- like a sock -- and in about three seconds it completely engulfed its Star Wars cousin! (Remember this: having warp speed only helps if you use it...)

Comb jellies provide more than their non-stinging presence. They give us -- regardless of whether we're snorkelers or scuba divers -- a great opportunity to observe predatory drama. Enjoy them the next time you see them. *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 Glimps-

es" 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.



This is the view that inspired the name Star Wars jelly; REEF calls it spot-wing jelly.



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