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BONAIRE **The REPORTER**



Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone (599) 796-4055, www.bonairereporter.com email: info@bonairereporter.com



Photo: Frank Bohm

Cyclists are back in the race

"I was a little nervous that everything would go alright," said Frank Bohm owner of De Freewieler, Bonaire's premier bicycle shop, "It's the first time in almost one and a half years and I was afraid that I would forget something important."

But Frank didn't forget anything and everything went great on the morning of June 28th with a record breaking number of 52 riders competing in the first Timbo mountain bike fun race since February 2020. Like every other sport or group activity Covid -19 restrictions had put the brakes on bike races and this was a sign things were returning to a new normal.

Frank excitedly said, "We have never had so many riders at the start and there were real racers and a lot of funriders. We also had a lot of local Bonaireans."

Everyone was full of smiles as they set up to maneuver the challenging terrain of Jatu Bacu in the two level cycling competition of Elite class or Funrace.

The 26 Elite riders rode a challenging three-lap course from 11 km to 33 km total full of small steep hills, down hills and single trails. Ten cyclists joined the Funrace and they braved a total of five laps over 30 km with one really difficult climb. Another 14 riders did a mixture of both Elite and Funrace.

With 52 riders a few crashes and bike malfunctions might be expected but there was only one fall and one flat tire and they were back on the road quickly.

There are no prizes in these races other than the joy

of riding, challenging yourself and riding with other cyclists.

The winner of the Elite race was 30 year old Virgillio Batista with a time of one hour, 13 minutes and two seconds. Although he rides almost everyday, he said it took a lot of training to get back in condition for this race after being away from it for almost a year and a half.

Virgillia said, "It was good to see new faces in the race and a lot of people that take it seriously for competition."

There are no real requirements to join the Funrace

other than having a bike, paying \$10 bucks for incidentals to Freewieler to run the race and wearing a helmet.

Frank believes every cyclist needs to wear a helmet whether they are out for a simple ride in the neighborhood, training or competing in a race.

The Funrace is open to anyone and that includes kids. Frank hopes to get more kids involved in the sport to keep it going on island. He would like to do funraces for kids on the weekend like Curaçao and Aruba do.

To further encourage cycling, not just with kids, but for everyone, Frank, like many others, would like to see bike lanes on the roads.

Frank said, "We have been trying to get the government to build simple bike lanes along the roads for safety. It would not only be safe for the bikers but for the cars and even pedestrians."

A former engineer in the Netherlands, Frank Bohm moved to Bonaire 22 years ago and turned his hobby of cycling into his job. His De Freewieler bike shop usually holds the Funraces six times a year. The grueling 70km Duo Xtreme held in late September attracts riders from the Netherlands, U.S., Curaçao, Aruba and St Maartin. The next Funrace is scheduled for late August.
By Julie Morgan



Winner of the Elite Timbo Funrace Virgillio Batista helps Frank Bohm with a bike repair.

Photo: Julie Morgan

All stats for the race can be viewed in the online Reporter, page 13. You can also visit.

www.defreewielerbonaire.com

Islands get Knops' report cards, not good

The Hague's effort to help the Dutch islands in the Caribbean achieve solvency and financially responsible governance continues, though unevenly and despite pockets of entrenched resistance. According to State Secretary Raymond Knops, Aruba, Curacao, and St. Maarten are approaching critical debt mass. Unless they get liquidity support loans almost immediately, their governments will have to turn off the lights and lock the doors. Knops is trying to negotiate last minute deals and Parliament is prepared to take legislative shortcuts to put revised arrangements in place in time. Here's a rundown of how Knops described the situation to the House of Representatives as mid-year 2020 approaches.

Aruba

Knops said Aruba's situation is dire. It has made the best progress of the three islands, however. The country is honoring the agreements in the Implementation Agendas and has met almost all deadlines, with good cooperation between the Aruban and Dutch experts. So Aruba has met the requirements for the sixth tranche.

Aruba needs the seventh tranche as well, Knops said. To qualify Aruba will have to meet further requirements in the implementation agenda and additional conditions as well. For instance, Aruba has yet to submit required reports on its progress in complying with the Kingdom Act on the Caribbean Body for Reform and Development, including the government's efforts to reduce expenditures related to General Health Insurance.

Curaçao

The Curaçao situation is complicated, according to Knops. Curaçao never received the second and third tranches because it did not meet all the conditions. It was not paid the fourth and fifth tranches of liquidity support because at the time its liquidity was assessed as sufficient. The seven-week covid lockdown in the second quarter, and the lack of clarity regarding the newly elected Pisas government's position regarding the COHO Kingdom Act, further disrupted progress.

Now Curaçao will be granted 168 million guilders as a sixth tranche in liquidity support. The tranche will be split into two sub-tranches, each being subject to conditions. The first partial tranche will require reconfirmation by Curaçao's new government of the mutual arrangement between it and the Netherlands. Curaçao must also adopt national ordinances that will reduce the total package of employment benefits for Members of Parliament and Ministers by 25%. And it must comply with other agreements from the Implementation Agenda, such as sharing information regarding its tax system with the Netherlands.

To receive the second sub-tranche, the Pisas government must adopt action plans for complying with additional provisions of the Implementation Agenda, including making social security (SVB swing fund) affordable, controlling the costs at the Curacao Medical Center, and reforming the tax system and tax administration.

St Maarten

Sint Maarten, having resisted financial reform until recently, came to the table late. The country is also, according to Knops, less able to engage the requirements laid down in the implementation agenda. Its starting situation is more dire than anticipated, it has less capacity for reform than the other islands, and some of the agreed deadlines for the second quarter were unrealistic.

The Hague has decided to allocate St Maarten 48 million guilders as a sixth tranche of liquidity support, subject to conditions.

St Maarten must create action plans for meeting certain terms of the implementation agenda, including restoration of good governance at the airport, measures relating to healthcare costs, and the submission of information to the Cft. The Cft. has also declared further conditions the island will have to accept in order to receive a seventh tranche for the fourth quarter.

Knops says the Kingdom Council of Ministers has pre-authorized him to assess, in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

One-per-day cruise ship limit coming

The Public Entity Bonaire has decided to allow only one cruise ship per day when the port reopens to cruise ships, tentatively in September. The tourist tax will also be increased and replace the "head tax" cruise ship passengers previously paid. The goal is to limit congestion in the inner city and provide space to attract tourists who have a more generous budget and spend more on our island.

A Bonaire delegation announced these changes last week at the "Return to Sail" summit of Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) in Miami that brought together representatives of the cruise lines and of the cruise destinations. Bonaire participated in the conference to share the island's vision of future cruise ship visits. The delegation presented several options for restructuring and introducing a more balanced policy. "We believe that the industry should be more in line with our environmental goals, be better organized, employ better crowd management and make better use of the cruise market," the government news release said. *DMR*

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Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:
 Phone (+599)796 4055
 Email: info@bonairereporter.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher
BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com
 Production: Barbara Lockwood
Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Star Gazers: Trace Dominguez, Kate Butler, Jean Searce, Brian Niessen, Elizabeth Godsey, Jane Madden-Disko, Julianka Clarendon, Don M. Ricks, Malcolm Wilson, Ann Joesph, Alan Zale, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Dennis Martinus, Pam Teitel, Robert van Bennekon

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of June 29, 2021

14 active	0 hospitalized
17 deceased	
78% have had 1st vaccination	
(14, 810 persons of 18,944 eligible)	

For up to date covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> or FB Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

Covid-19

It ain't over till it's over—and it ain't over yet

We're down to risk level one. That's risk level one, not zero. The covid-19 virus is still active on the island and the Delta variant, reportedly nasty stuff and highly contagious, is on its way. As more people arrive on Bonaire from other countries, and more activities open up on the island, the likelihood of infectious contacts will multiply. People are still going to get sick. Some of them will not survive.

Let's all be smart. Dr. Marian Luinstra-Passchier says it is a certainty that every now and then there will be a small outbreak. So get vaccinated, if you haven't already. Don't crowd together in enclosed spaces. Continue to wash your hands regularly and make sure you cover when coughing or sneezing. If you have symptoms, stay at home, even if they are only minor symptoms. Call

0800 0800 and make an appointment to be tested. "We will have to learn to live with it," said Luinstra-Passchier.

The testing requirement will soon be lifted for fully vaccinated travelers from the U.S. and the Netherlands. Those who are not vaccinated or only partially vaccinated will need a negative PCR test before departure.

The government's emergency support and recovery package for businesses will continue unchanged for the third quarter, extended from July 13 to October 12th. It then will begin to be gradually phased out in both the Caribbean and European Netherlands. Anticipating gradual restoration of economic activity, the government expects to reduce the wage subsidy to 60% from 80% during the fourth quarter. *DMR*

Stepping into the fins of a legend

When Bonaire dive legend, Bruce Bowker, unexpectedly died in May 2020, many people wondered what would happen to his iconic Carib Inn. The hotel and dive operation has been open since 1980 and the hotel and Bruce are a piece of Bonaire's history. Who would take over, or would it be sold? The people who knew Bruce best knew that only his sister Sally's daughter, Lynne Culbreth, could

step into his very large fins.

In 1979 at age 11 Lynne first visited her uncle in Bonaire along with her brother and sister. After that she would spend a few weeks every summer with her Uncle Bruce, occasionally accompanied by her sister Sandy.

But Lynne was the one who adored the Bonaire visits and loved the time with her Uncle Bruce.

"He was the father I never had... He even gave me away at my wedding," said Lynne, "He was always the father figure."

Once a year Bruce would visit the family in New Jersey. The kids loved him and thought he was hilarious and always fun.

In the early years of Carib Inn, Bruce did all the teaching. On his niece's summer visits he allowed her to share his regulator on occasion. At 15 she knew how to dive though not officially and Bruce told her, 'I guess we need to get you certified.'

Lynne attended the University of North Carolina and later lived in Raleigh, NC, where she had a gymnastics and swimming business. After she sold the business in 2000 she taught privately making it easy for trips to Bonaire two or three times a year.

After Bruce's wife Elizabeth died in 2019, he decided it was time to make a

will. Bruce left the Carib Inn to his two nieces and nephew but never asked them to run it and they never asked him if that was what he wanted.

"I always felt like I would come down and help him when he got older because I knew he would never sell it or give it up. He wouldn't be able to stand seeing what someone might do to the property," said Lynne.

She knew how much he put into the Carib Inn and she wanted to keep it running to honor Bruce.

Lynne said, "The one thing that was good was I was in a position to come down. So I actually could, would and knew the most about it."

Lynne knows Bruce's concept of keeping it small, special, and unique. He made everyone feel part of the Carib Inn family He went the extra mile to help.

She said we are all on board with how Bruce felt about the environment, preserving Bonaire and his outspoken opposition to cruise ships and mass tourism.

"What would Bruce do is what I think with every decision. I want to keep the high standard that Bruce had," said Lynne.

The Carib Inn is modernizing a few things behind the scenes including the reservation system, the website and updating a few of the rooms but not changing the feel of the inn.

The Carib Inn staff seems to be one of the most enduring and dedicated of all Bonaire's dive shops. Most every



Lynne Culbreth Photo Julie Morgan

employee has worked for 10 to 30 plus years at the Carib Inn, from the dive staff to maintenance to the maids.

Bruce's idea of treating everyone like family has created a loyalty among guests, staff and clients. We wish Lynne success in continuing Bruce's legacy.

Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn will return to full operation beginning July 3. (see related ad)

By Julie Morgan



Bruce's First Place 1986 Nikonos Shootout win featured niece Lynne as the model.

FOR SALE Bon Bida Apartment 11 Spacious Corner Condo



- Location : Hato
- Living area: 120 m2 / 1292 sq. ft.
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage



- Communal pool with large sundeck
- Gated, private parking, elevator
- Fully furnished

3D tour



Asking price \$344,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
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POLICE REPORT

Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice



I have a house I want to sell before I buy a home in Bonaire, can I put a contingency on the offer that my home needs to sell first? Everything is selling so fast on the island that I want to make an offer but I don't have the cash till I sell my house. Joel

Hi Joel,

We have never seen a seller on Bonaire accept this contingency, since it would result in taking their house off the market without a guarantee that the buyer will be able to sell their house and purchase the Seller's house. Contingencies that are usually accepted are a technical inspection contingency and a financing contingency for a buyer who applies for a Bonaire mortgage. Can you afford a down payment of 30% without selling your home? If so, you can apply for a

Bonaire mortgage. Obtaining a mortgage and closing on the property will take about 90 days, during which time your house may sell. Best of luck!

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.

June 24. Around 12:15 pm, two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Kanari and Kaya Pos di Amor. The driver of one car was treated at the scene by paramedics. The driver of the other car received a police report for not being able to show a valid driver's license and valid insurance documents.

June 24. At about 3:45 am the police station received a report about a fight at a house on Kaminda Nieuw Amsterdam. When the patrol arrived, the cause of the problem was already gone. A little later, the patrol found him in his car on Kaya Mewchi. He had bloodshot eyes and spoke with a double tongue. After a high breath test result, he was taken to the police station for a breath analysis. He was given a driving ban that was valid until the next day.

Traffic control

June 11. A check was carried out on the Kaya J. N. E. Craane, Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund and Kaya Grandi for overly noisy motorcycles and cars playing too loud music. Checks were also made for traffic violations. During the inspection, several official reports were issued: rid-

ing without a helmet (4); calling while driving (1); driving without a driver's license (1); driving without a seat belt (2); driving under the influence of alcohol (1); and for unnecessary noise nuisance from a motor (1). A bicycle and motorcycle were also seized.

June 16-18. Fines have been issued for driving without insurance papers, without a valid driver's license, for holding a phone while driving and for driving without proper lighting.

The fine for the above violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.

Fires

Reported June 21/23. The fire brigade extinguished a bicycle that was on fire on Kaya Essequibo near a football field. No one was injured.

June 23. The fire brigade extinguished a fuse box that was on fire at Kaya Diamanta. WEB representatives also came on site to explore a few things. No one was injured.

You can walk your dog between Punt Vierkant and the Zoutpier or between the Willemstoren and Sorobon. Dogs are prohibited on the following beaches (coastal areas):

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach);
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard);
- Playa Chachacha;
- Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach);
- Forn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach);
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren);
- Sorobon and Cai;
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps);
- Tolo;
- Nukove;
- Klein Bonaire.

It is prohibited to enter the Cargill Salt Company area without permission.

Dogs not allowed on most beaches

In February 24, 2012, the public body Bonaire issued a ban on walking dogs on certain beaches (coastal areas) of Bonaire. No one is allowed on these beaches with dogs with or without a leash.

The ban prevents dogs from digging turtle nests, or escaping and entering a nature reserve such as the brine lake.

Arrested/held in custody.

June 11. A man was injured in a stabbing at a snack bar on the Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez. A man with initials Y.V.N. was arrested for attempted murder and assault.

June 13. A boy, 15, was arrested for theft. He was with a group of six young men who took two bags from the victim. One of the bags was returned.

June 15. A woman, 25, was arrested for theft committed at a tourist accommodation on June 6, 2021.

June 15. A man, 26, was arrested for assault with a weapon. He hit a boy on the head with a chair. The victim lost consciousness and suffered wounds to his head, arms and legs.

June 19. A man, 20, was arrested at the Fisherman's Wharf ('Waf di Piskado') on the Kaya J.N.E. Crane for public intoxication. The man was aggressive and harassed bystanders.

Traffic accidents/violations

June 13. At about 10:15 pm a car flipped over on Kaya Ir. R. Statius van Eps. Four people were slightly injured, two of whom were taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

June 14. Police received a report about a woman who fell from a scooter. She was checked on the spot by paramedics and did not need to be taken to hospital.

June 19. Around 4 am, on a car was driving on Kaya Grandi towards Hato at Kaya Playa Lechi when suddenly two scooters crossed in front of her car. To avoid bumping into the scooters she tried to turn away and lost control. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

June 20. Just before 11 pm a collision occurred on the Kaminda Sabana Piedra Krus. A motorcycle drove into the mondi (bush) for unknown reasons. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

from the first boat. Of the three persons on board, two were Dominican one Colombian. The second boat stopped carried 585 kilograms of cocaine. The three people on board were Venezuelan.

Container spills propane bottles on south pier

Around 8:45 pm on Wednesday, June 23 the police station received a report that a container with propane gas bottles had fallen over on the south pier. A propane cloud was released.

The accident happened when the loader pulling the container was driving off the ship onto the pier.

Firefighters evacuated all restaurants on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund near the south pier. The street was closed off by the KMar and KPCN between Kaya C.E.B.

Hellmund and J.A. Abraham Bulevar and also between De Kaya C.E.B Hellmund and Plaza Wilhelmina. On Thursday the area was still blocked off while workers removed the cylinders.

Representatives from the Labor Inspectorate, the Port Office, the Don Andres and Curoil's emergency team were also on site.

Property crime

June 13. A white Toyota pick-up, model Hilux with registration number V-5954 was stolen from the yard of a property on Kaya Mandolin. It was unlocked and the keys were left in the car. Also in the pickup was a red Samsung Brand phone, model A20, ID, driver's license, insurance papers and vaccination card.

June 13. Between 3 and 8:30 pm a BMX green bicycle was stolen from a residence on Kaya Trupial.

June 15. Two black bags containing, among other things, a Fuji camera and parts were stolen from an unlocked car between 8:30 - 10 am.

June 16. A theft was reported from a boat docked in the marina opposite a tourist accommodation on the J.A. Abraham Boulevard. Between 3:30 and 4 am, thieves stole a control VDO meter from two motorcycles.

June 23. Between 6:30 am and noon thieves stole, among other things, an orange generator, a Yamaha outboard motor and three Gazelle bicycles (one black, one green and one gray) from the workshop of a company at Hanchi Amboina. The items were in a caravan whose door was forced.

Theft at dive sites and beaches

June 11. A beach bag with contents was stolen from a beach between 12 and 12:30 pm while the owners were snorkeling.

June 18. Two bags were stolen at the dive site '1000 Steps.' Between 12:10 and 12:15, a black bag was stolen from the beach. It contained a Nikon camera, a Huwai telephone and cash. Between 11:20 and 11:40 am, another bag with contents was also stolen from the beach.

June 20. Between 12 and 12:30 pm a bag and its contents was stolen from a car parked on the E.E.G. Bulevar. The bag contained a white iPhone 7, a blue bluetooth speaker, a red iPod, two driver's licenses, three credit cards and cash.

Poison at Lagun

Recently, several reports have been received about dogs that may have been poisoned on the beach in Lagun. KPCN asks for extra attention when walking dogs or when visiting the beach with small children. Be careful that nothing is picked up or eaten from the ground.

If you are a witness or have information about placing poison at this location, contact the police at 717 8000 or anonymously at 717 7251.

Navy seizes drugs

In the night of June 10, the Dutch naval ship Zr.Ms. Holland intercepted two large drug transports on the Caribbean Sea.

More than 700 kilograms of cocaine and a semi-automatic firearm was seized

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.

Back on Bonaire

My daughter and I have been back on Bonaire since June 12, what a joy! This is our 8th visit to your wonderful island and we are so happy that flights from the US are finally allowed in. We love the island, but more, we love the people.

We were told that the island was at stage 2 Covid and all stores and restaurants were open. What we did not realize was the devastation that Covid had wreaked on the economy. Seeing so many businesses shuttered has broken our hearts. So many hard working entrepreneurs put out of business by this insidious disease. I wish I could help you all.

My ask of my fellow travelers is to not put off your plans and come to Bonaire now. Support the local businesses. Tip extra in the restaurants. Don't haggle prices in the stores. We all need to pitch in and help get this economy back on its feet. Show the people of Bonaire the those of us in America and in Holland care and want to bring this jewel back to life.

The reef is the healthiest I have seen it in years. The people here have been excellent stewards of the natural resources. Now come and visit and bring your tourist dollars with you. Show them that we love them. They are surely showing that they love us.

Thank you Bonaire, I have booked my return trip next year. *Rob and Sarah Rains, Salt Lake City, Utah.*

Traveling to Bonaire from the U.S.

We made our trip to Bonaire on June 19th 2021 and were among the first travelers from the US. I thought your readers might be interested in our experience.

The Bonaire website <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en> gives you two options for testing to enter Bonaire. You can get a NAAT(PCR) test 24 hours prior to Departure or a NAAT(PCR) test 72 hours prior to Arrival, followed by an Antigen

test when you land. Do both. If you're lucky and the 24 hour test results come back in time it will greatly expedite your entry into Bonaire. If it doesn't come back in time then the 72 hour test will get you into Bonaire and you'll still be able to leave the US on time. You'll also need to complete and submit the Health Declaration form. Have a printed copy of the form and your test results with you.

Right now it is hard to get results from a NAAT test in less than 12 hours which is what it would take to have the results comfortably in hand in the 24 hour window before you leave. Testing will hopefully become more routine as time passes, but it's not today. I sent an email to Bonaire public health specifically asking about the IDNow test. They responded promptly that they would accept that test as a valid NAAT test and they did.

I asked about the Abbott ID NOW test because it can easily produce results in under an hour and it is widely available. However, there are many administrative barriers that might preclude getting the results in time. In the end we got our results in the 24 hour window from Walgreens with the help of some understanding pharmacy employees and their lab (PWN Health) who also deserves a shout out.

If you don't have results in hand at the departing airport ticket counter, you're not departing. Print outs are best at the ticket counter.

On arrival at Bonaire everyone was screened for their test results and those not in the 24 window were shuffled off to a new temporary building at the airport for the additional test on arrival. The links to set up that testing, answer the obligatory questions, and pre-pay before arrival are also on the above web page. I would estimate that 2/3 of the people on our plane were sent to do the additional test site. Those of us with NAAT test results within the 24hour window moved quickly through immigration. We were out of the airport in under 40 min. We were the first of 4 aircraft arriving in short succession. I spoke to some people

who were on the later flights and they recounted a long unpleasant experience. The Bonaire officials at the airport did a good job and maintained remarkably good attitudes throughout, but testing 4 aircraft worth of passengers takes a lot of time.

The US requires a test within 72 hours before departing Bonaire to reenter the US. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-3/coronavirus-bonaire>

There are 1 or 2 more details that I'm not mentioning that may or may not apply to you, so read the link. You can set up your return testing appointment at the same Bonaire web site where you fill out the Health Declaration and set up an arrival test. We found it to be straight forward and we had the results from their website within a few hours after taking the test.

We are leaving tomorrow and hopeful that the trip home will be uneventful, but its early days for post-pandemic travel. We shall see.

Roy O'Kelly

Delta Virus has arrived

To the Editor:

Don't discard your masks just yet as the new Delta virus is on Bonaire and is more contagious than the original virus. In addition it has been shown that in some cases the Pfizer vaccine does not protect against Delta. With tourists from the US, Holland, and other countries coming to Bonaire we are going to have to be very careful to avoid a new outbreak. Here is

some information from The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) and the NL Times about the Delta virus.

The highly transmissible Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus is spreading so rapidly in the U.S. that it could become the dominant strain in the next two to three weeks according to the WSJ.

Wall Street Journal: About half of adults infected in an outbreak of the Delta variant of Covid-19 in Israel were fully inoculated with the Pfizer vaccine, according to a clarification by Prof. Balicer of an earlier statement.

Netherlands News in English:

Fourth wave feared: RIVM finds several Delta coronavirus variant clusters in Netherlands. Just days before the Netherlands is set to relax coronavirus restrictions in the Netherlands, the country's top public health organization is sounding the alarm bell over the delta coronavirus variant. New research from England determined the variant is about 64 percent more contagious than the alpha variant common to the Netherlands.

CNN:

The threat of the Delta variant has some health officials rethinking Covid-19 measures, even among vaccinated people. Experts have said vaccines like those from Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech provide high amounts of protection against the variant, but some warn breakthroughs could become more likely if the virus becomes more prevalent.

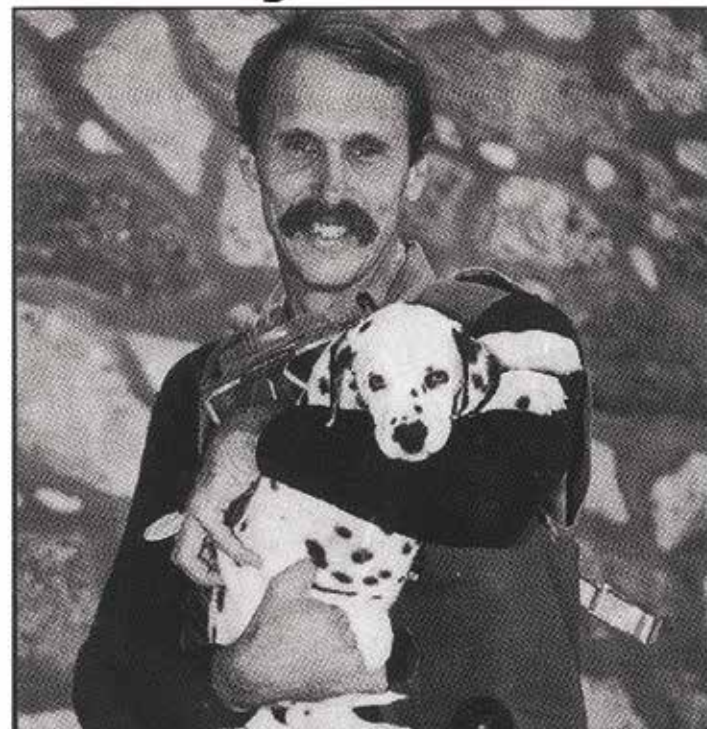
Have your masks ready, keep your distance, and stay safe. *Dabney Lassiter*

The Hague wants better special grants reporting

A Netherlands Court of Audit reports that the island councils of Bonaire and St. Eustatius fail to account for their spending of special purpose grants. Special purpose grants, which between 2011 and 2019 totaled more than €176 million in the BES, are one-time payments made to help a municipality achieve a specific goal, such as building a recreation center or hiring community support staff. Because of poor reporting, Parliament cannot determine later whether a grant was spent properly, or whether a project's goals were achieved and at what cost.

The Court of Audit also pointed out that both applicants and granting authorities often fail to take into account the follow up costs created by special grants. Once new facilities have been built, they become expense items for the municipality. They need to be staffed and incur operating costs. Saba, for instance, received \$1.5 million in 2014 to build a waste separation plant. The operating costs have since grown to about \$1.3 million a year. Incidentally, the audit report praised Saba for being the only BES entity to properly account for the grants it has received. *DMR (BES-reporter)*

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Meet the people in charge

by Ann Joesph

Jair Tromp smiles and laughs easily. He needs to.

As Director of Toezicht en Handhaving (Maintenance and Supervision “T and H”), a department of the Open Lichaam Bonaire (“local government”), Tromp oversees and administers 25 BES and local ordinances which cover a wide range of subjects including, among other things, Bonaire’s harbor, its health and its environment.

The T and H Department is divided into four smaller sections to handle the diverse nature of the matters more efficiently within its authority. They are 1. Harbor, 2. Community and Care, 3. Enforcement-Urban Planning Environmental Resources and Infrastructure, and 4. Projects and Taskforces. Enforcement of Covid Protocols and Regulations is an example of what falls into this 4th category.

Tromp, who reports directly to the Island Governor, has a staff of 55, 30 of whom are inspectors. These employees are responsible for investigating complaints regarding the matters for which the Department is responsible. The procedures for processing complaints are as-



Jair Tromp, Director of Maintenance and Supervision.

straightforward. Investigators report their findings to a committee which decides what action, if any, is appropriate. If the committee cannot reach consensus, the

issue goes to Tromp. His review often requires consulting with other governmental departments. If, for example, Tromp were reviewing a complaint that land was being cleared without a permit, he would contact Ruimte and Ontwikkeling (Space and Development “R and O”) since it is responsible, among other things, for issuing building permits. As a matter of policy, Tromp prefers cooperation over confrontation. So, if he were to learn from R and O that a permit was to be issued for the activity in question, he would not recommend that the complained of activity be sanctioned.

There are circumstances, however, when the Department determines that it must act.

Whether the Department acts or not, its regulations require that it notify the person(s) who has complained. The method of notification varies and is dependent on the way the complaint was made. Some complaints are informal while others are made pursuant to a “right to know” law. Regardless, the Department has no more than six weeks to respond. If the person (or organization) who has made the complaint is displeased with the Department’s response or does not receive a timely response, the complaining party can appeal the matter to the Island Governor. If the complaining party remains

dissatisfied, he can always seek a judicial remedy.

Only the Department’s response to the complaining party is in writing. None of the Department’s deliberations regarding the complaint is. There is no written report of the inspectors’ investigations, there are no minutes of the committee’s deliberations and there is no document setting forth the Director’s reasons for his determinations. Thus, short of a formal request for information, it is impossible for anyone who has filed a complaint to know why the Department did or did not act. Presently, the Department has no plan to put its deliberations about complaints in writing. It is, however, reviewing and codifying its existing regulations and policies. Once this effort is completed, the regulations and policies could be more easily shared with the public.

Given the voluminous number of complaints about current construction, may Mr. Tromp keep his good humor.

Ann Joseph, a former Philadelphia lawyer, has been a Bonaire resident for over 25 years. During that time she started a smoked fish and chicken business, managed Harborside Shopping Mall and was a tour guide. Now she engages in various “projects” and this column is one of them.

Did You Know? *that Bonaire’s Caribbean shark is now on the endangered list?*



Photo Roxanne-Liana Francisca.

Did you know that the Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharinus perezii*), one of the most commonly sighted sharks on Bonaire’s reefs, was recently “up-listed” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from vulnerable to endangered? This means that the threats to the species survival and habitat have become so great that the species is now at risk of going extinct.

Think back to the last movie about sharks you saw. It might be “Jaws”, “47 Meters Down”, “Sharknado”, or any one of the long list of shark movies produced. Sharks are overwhelmingly portrayed as vicious, blood thirsty predators hiding in the shadows and waiting to chomp down on the first exposed limb they can! If any group of animals is in need of a PR campaign to re-brand themselves, it would be sharks. Curiously most people are incredibly fond of their not so distant cousins the rays, but will run screaming for the hills if

they see a shark. To be honest a mostly understandable reaction; a mouth full of razor sharp teeth coupled with millions of years of evolution shaping them to be ferocious top predators does not exactly make sharks look cuddly. But sharks are incredibly important if we want to have healthy coral reefs and productive fisheries. They play an important role in maintaining the balance of different fish species by eliminating old and sick animals which keeps fish populations healthy. Think of sharks as the toothsome conductors in an orchestra. They help to make sure that everyone stays on beat and plays their part.

If we were to flip the script and look at things from the shark’s perspective, we would be the ones classified as blood-thirsty menaces lurking and waiting to take them out. By some estimates humans kill over 11,000 sharks every hour. This means that in a year more than a hundred million sharks are killed to satisfy our appetites for seafood. Some sharks are killed in targeted fisheries, like the shark fin industry, but many more are unintentional by-catch of large scale commercial fisheries. Caribbean reef sharks, one of the most important large predators on our reefs, are no exception. By conservative estimates their populations have declined by over 50% in the last 30 years! While habitat loss also plays a role, the majority of this loss is from fishing pressure in the form of unmanaged commercial long line fisheries, artisanal fisheries and commercial gillnets. But, there is also good news, in areas where sharks are protected the populations have remained stable.

The Caribbean reef shark, just like the tiger shark and bull shark, has a very long pregnancy and will usually only give birth to a small number of live pups. They can grow to 3m long and are usually found near reef slopes or at the edge of the reef. While they are usually found in waters shallower than 30m, we suspect that Bonaire’s reef sharks prefer the deeper waters around our island. Unfortunately we do not have a very good grasp on what is happening with shark populations around our island, but if global trends are any indicator, then it’s not looking good. Despite their fearsome appearance, shark populations are incredibly vulnerable. They need us to care more about them and be more proactive in protecting them. If we want healthy oceans, then we need healthy shark populations doing their job and keeping reefs full of diversity and life. To have healthy shark populations we need to make sure we have large areas where sharks are protected, fishing regulations are informed, and make more sustainable choices when it comes to what we put on our plates.

#

Last weekend the remains of a small shark, with eight tiny pups, were found

by Dee Scarr. This small shark, clearly a member of the dogshark family, was later identified as a shortspine spurdog (*Squalus mitsukurii*). This shark species reaches just a little over 1m in length. Their diet mostly consists of squids, octopus, crabs, and other crustaceans that can be found on or near the ocean floor. They have long pregnancies of up to two years and will generally give birth to between four to nine live babies.

The species is very widely distributed, from Japan to Brazil and many places in between, usually on the continental shelf, but unfortunately not much is known about them. As with most deep water organisms they’ve been studied very little; we don’t even know for sure if the global population is truly one species or might consist of various similar looking species.

It’s unfortunate this momma shark never got to meet her babies, but it’s important to note that these occurrences on Bonaire are relatively rare. While targeted fishing of sharks is prohibited, luckily we have very few incidences of this happening. Sometimes sharks will get caught on the lines of people fishing and they aren’t always able to release them.

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



Eight baby sharks, one of them upside down
Photo Dee Scarr.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Babies of Summer

If spring is the time when a young fish's thoughts turn to love, summer is the time when we meet the results of his actions: baby fish! Okay, more accurately: juvenile fish! Anyway, little fish!

On a recent dive my eye was caught by a swimming die (a single of the plural "dice"). It was about the size of gambling dice, but dark-colored with bright spots. It stayed in an area the size of a dive mask, and buzzed around so busily it took me a while to find its pectoral and tail fins -- because they're transparent, and also because the little critter holds its tail fin against its body and maneuvers with its pectoral fins. Watching them is a challenge to one's buoyancy control, but once control is mastered, they're so much fun to watch! This little creature is one of the cutest* of all of our young fishes: a juvenile trunkfish.

(* Note that "cutest" and other such value judgments are not biological terms, so use them around biologists at your peril.)

Other adorable youngsters I've seen over the last month or so include queen triggerfish, French angelfish, and one butterflyfish who was smaller than my thumbnail! When I see them the first thought that flashes across my mind is, "Oh, it's so cute! And it's all alone, with no parent to protect it. How will it ever grow up?"

Then I remember that every little one we see has survived much just to get here.

Many reef fishes spawn in pairs, often beginning with a courtship "dance" and



A baby trunkfish checks out the camera.
Photo Julie Morgan

culminating with a quick swim upward and the simultaneous release of sperm and eggs. Others spawn in groups where dozens or more release sperm and eggs into the same area at the same time. In all those cases, hundreds, thousands, or even more eggs are released. Depending on the species of fish, the eggs drift with other plankton for a week to a month or more, after which the fertilized, healthy eggs hatch larval fish who may grow through several larval stages while still drifting in the plankton. Even fishes who protect their eggs, like sergeant-majors or jawfish, end their care when the eggs hatch. Their babies, too, are released into the plankton to fend for themselves.

Some of those planktonic creatures are older, and some are predators, and many other sea creatures eat plankton. The baby fishes who survive them settle to the reef as juveniles.

So for every baby fish we see, hundreds of its siblings have already been eaten.

And the baby fish, although tiny, aren't exactly helpless. The trunkfish zips around like a little drone, unexpectedly changing speed and able to turn in any direction. The French angelfish, with exaggerated movements, advertises its cleaning services -- a profession which drastically decreases a fish's chances to be eaten. And the queen triggerfish simply darts into a pipe and out of sight.

In addition to their being fun to find and to watch, there's another great thing



This baby queen trigger hovers very close to its sanctuary, ready to dart inside at a moment's notice. Photo Julie Morgan

about baby fish: they often hang out in very shallow water. We can see them easily while snorkeling, or, on scuba, we can watch them while we're on our safety stop. Once you're inside the reef on your way to shore, any coral head, rock, even piece of debris provides an excellent protective sanctuary for a young reef resident. How many can you find?

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



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Understanding Bonaire's geology



All participants received a certificate of completion on the field trip at the geologic example of Gotomeer: L-R Rosann Jansen, Felipe Chapparo, Betty Wills, Rolf Krauze, Konstanze Staud, Phil Shelton, Francey Alle, Malin Kaijser, Chip Ray, Alex Kent and instructor Andre and Kathleen Nahr.

Andre Nahr's first Geology of Bonaire course was held June 15. The 13 people who attended the class varied in their geological knowledge. Some students had studied geology, some had worked in a job implementing geology, while others just wanted to learn more about Bonaire. With this mix of students, the class questions and comments provided an interesting and fun experience.

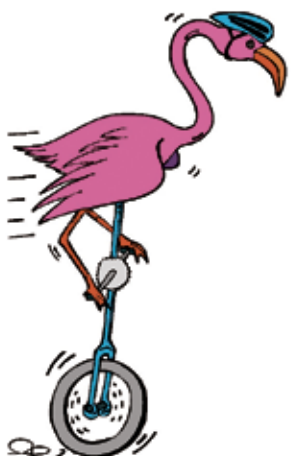
Andre's visual aids showed students how and when the ABC islands were formed. The three class course includ-

ed two classroom sessions and a field trip that gave the students a chance to see examples of Bonaire's geology.

Assisting with the class was Andre's wife Kathleen.

Due to the popularity of the first class, Andre is currently holding a second geology class. We are unsure if there will be third course or a part II that delves deeper into Bonaire's geology. The Reporter will inform readers as soon as we know. *Story and photo Julie Morgan*

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What's Happening

Washington Slagbaai: Wed-Sun. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)
STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-2. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10-1; 2-3:30. Sat. 10-2:30. phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market store): Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

July 2	DCNA Nature Quiz Friday, July 2, 6 pm See this page.
July 11	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6pm Boka Onima. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.

Open meeting Alcoholics Anonymous
 Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments) All welcome, regardless of primary addition or no addition at all.

Road upgrades promised

Bonaire's potholed roads took years of neglect to get as bad as they are. Tired of waiting, critics seem to demand they should be upgraded overnight, or in a month or two anyway. The work has been slow to get started, and the poorly planned roundabout at Kaya Amsterdam did result in a serious delay. But the Public Body (OLB) tells us that Bonaire's roads are now getting upgraded at an accelerating rate, and that familiar and persistent broken edge to the asphalt is being replaced by curbing and sidewalks as well.

The Public Body's road plan for the remainder of this year follows. All these roads are scheduled to get a new asphalt layer and a sidewalk. A plan for 2022-2023 is ready too. *DMR/ BLL*

Start	District	Street
April 2021	Rincon	Kaya Commerce
June 2021	Antriol	Kaya Gramel
June 2021	Playa	Kaya Hermandad
July 2021	Playa	Kaya Neerlandia
July 2021	Nikiboko	Kaya Roma
July 2021	Noord Salina	Kaya Platina
July 2021	Republiek	Kaya Piedra Precioso deel 1
July 2021	Nikiboko	Kaya Bruselas
August 2021	Belnem	Kaya Saturno
August 2021	Rincon	Kaya Cornelis D Crestian
Sept. 2021	Nikiboko	Kaya Berlin
2022-2023	Rincon	Boulevard Miguel Pouriër
2022-2023	Playa	Kaya Korona deel 1 (fase 3)
2022-2023	Rincon	Kaya E.B. Sint Jago
2022-2023	Nikiboko	Kaya Nikiboko Zuid
2022-2023	Playa	Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas de-brot (1)
2022-2023	Noord Salina	Kaya Amsterdam

Join DCNA's Big Live Nature Quiz

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) invites all residents, 18 and older, on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten, and Sint Eustatius to participate in the first Big Live Nature Quiz for adults on Friday, July 2, 6 pm. It's free, online, live, interactive and includes questions about Dutch Caribbean animals. This fun quiz is in English but questions will also have Dutch and Papiamentu subtitles.

The winning team will win a sailing/snorkel trip around their island. Second and third place teams will receive t-shirts and hats. Make sure to register at biglivenaturequiz.org.

You can take part alone or as a team of up to four friends, family or co-workers. The team can play from work or home or go to the designated bar or restaurant for your island where the quiz will be broadcast live. Teams must pre-register at biglivenaturequiz.org or participate. Once you've signed up you can reserve a table at the participating bar/restaurant. In Bonaire it's Hillside.

The theme is Dutch Caribbean animals. There will be a total of 35 multiple choice trivia questions with five categories: marine animals, terrestrial animals, sounds in nature, special species and people and nature.

The DCNA supports STINAPA Bonaire, CARMA-BI on Curaçao, Aruba National Park Foundation, Saba Conservation Foundation, STENAPA on St Eustatius and Nature Foundation Sint Maarten amongst others with their nature education programs. The online Big Live Nature Quiz is a yearly event for adults and kids. The Kids edition is planned for the beginning of October.

Big Live Nature Quiz Dutch Caribbean

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The Big Live Nature Quiz is generously funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and DCNA's activities are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

Follow the Big Live Nature Quiz

Check out DCNA's Facebook (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), Instagram (DCNAnature) or biglivenaturequiz.org. If you have any questions, send an email to research@DCNAnature.org or projects@DCNAnature.org or call us at +599-717-5010.

Abolition day commemorated



National Museum for World Cultures, the Netherlands – photo of slaves mining salt

In commemoration of the abolition of Dutch slavery and beginning of emancipation on July 1, 1863, a national event is underway throughout the islands.

A task force for emancipation was formed with the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and a few of the island's creatives to bring awareness of the history of slavery on Bonaire.

On June 26, Boi Antoin led a historical tour to Yato Baco with 43 people of different ages, culture and background. A question and answer period was held and local poet Jeniro Dorothat from Arte di Palabra read a poem about abolition and forgiveness.

Eighth grade children were enlisted in a poetry competition with a theme of slavery and freedom on June 3

and winners will receive trophies in a ceremony July 30.

The commemoration culminates with a film presentation of *Sombra di kolo'* by filmmaker Angela Roe with live music from Grupo Ashe' on July 1 at the tennis court in Tera Cora. The film is in Papiamentu with Dutch subtitles and moderators will be available for questions. For those who can't make the event, the film can be viewed on YouTube without subtitles. Tickets are limited due to a minimum amount of seating available.

A short second film regarding slavery and emancipation with Elsmarie Beukenbohm and four children is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/axiZLXjaIf4>.
By Julie Morgan



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

You got to move it, move it!.

A big problem nowadays is that people do not move enough. That is what most doctors, physiotherapists and others state.

And it is mostly true. Covid 19 had us all stay inside and that is where the problem started for many of us. You sit on the couch, or in that comfy chair and take a few chips. Maybe you have a bit more than you usually do and then your “brake” is loose.

Eating in was also a dangerous thing to do, or ... better yet, ordering in!

And because you could go nowhere, you stayed in the living room, the kitchen and the bathroom. The couch was soooo

comfy, the bed was there waiting for you. And when you grew a few pounds you promised yourself that within a month or so you would lose them.

But there is also a large group of elderly people who are all alone and don’t snack that much. Their bodies have grown older and they take things easier.

Now that things look better, we have to address this problem because we need to stay as healthy as possible.

On Dutch TV there are programs with well-known athletes exercising and showing us how and why it is done. They are very popular. It would be a good idea to have a regular program on TV here,

where we could be at home and still exercise in a responsible fashion.

This could be combined with a cooking show, where healthy food and easy recipes are demonstrated and cooked.

INDEBON (Sports Institute of Bonaire) could play an important role here.

The programs could be offered to the elderly and coaches could come and exercise with them. Hofi Kultural could make this possible pretty easily as a lot of elderly come there already to sing, play an instrument, etc. And, they run a “buddy-program,” where the elderly get a buddy who visits them and brings healthy fruits and vegetables. This program helps keep them from being too lonely for too long.

Even the ZVK (Health Insurance Services) could help and offer extra exercise programs for the elderly. It would be so good for them to go somewhere, have fun, exercise and stay healthy.

For those who like to swim, INDEBON could also offer regular swimming and water-fun programs. Assistance could be provided by extra staff interns from the nursing schools and their participation count as a part of their curriculum. Diving schools could jump in here to help too.

People who walk for fun, could invite elderly people or persons with physical challenges to join them. They also need this kind of attention and would love it.

Organizations could dedicate some meetings around this topic and look into how they can be of help and assistance. We have a lot of expertise on Bonaire and what is better for the spirit than working together.

After all, we are in this together and together we have to move forward. And every citizen counts. Accessibility and inclusiveness stay on top of the list.

Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

What can I do with my old computer?

Q: Dear Geek, I have some old laptops and I thought I would donate them to the local school. How can I do this?

A: While it sounds like a good plan, most schools won’t take them because their IT people don’t want to deal with old stuff.

A better solution is to donate them to a technical person who has time to muck with them. When someone donates old computers to me, this is what I do:

- 1) Wipe all the existing data and test/fix any problems.
- 2) Set up an operating system (Windows, Mac or Linux)
- 3) Find somewhere that needs one - ie: Our new vets needed a new monitor/

keyboard and I was able to provide the used parts for them. Senior centers are a possibility, but then we have to look after the machines when they screw them up - and then it usually has to be in Papiamentu or Dutch. Same with organizations to help the less fortunate.

4) If not a place (school, company, non-profit), then see if any individual wants/needs a computer. Again though, if it’s for kids, they want the latest/greatest game playing machine.

5) Last but not least - put them for sale at the Animal Shelter Pakus or online for the Kitten Rescue.

6) Any non-functioning machines are disassembled for parts to keep others working.

7) Any totally unusable stuff goes to the Selibon electronics recycling depot.

If you have anything you’d like to recycle/donate, please contact me at info@bonairetechsupport.com



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Gut feeling or thinking brain?

Although the general opinion is that emotionality is opposed to rationality and therefore to efficiency, modern neurobiological and cognitive theories hold exactly the opposite: it is impossible to be rational without being emotional.

Emotions result from the integration of sensations from the outer and inner world, generating changes at somatic and cognitive levels. In previous editions I have raised the importance of emotions due to their evolutionary role and also as sources of information on internal and external processes. But there is more.

Evolutionarily emotion precedes reasoning. And recent discoveries confirm that emotion is involved in the decision-making process aimed at preserving the integrity of the individual and the species. The most fascinating thing about all of this is that the responsible brain area has been located. For sure emotions can disrupt our rationality, but without emotions there is not even the possibility of being rational. We are emotional be-

ings that reason.

When deciding, it is important to take into account the data we have from reality, but it is very unlikely that we will have access to absolutely all the data, variables and factors involved. Think about the most important decisions you took in your life. Did you really have ALL the possible information? When we make decisions, even if we are not aware, there are other factors that tip the scale. This is what the neurobiologist Antonio Damasio called “somatic markers”. He states that when you’re thinking about a course of action, you imagine your body to be in the potential situation, and you get, in layman’s terms, a good or bad gut feeling about it. It’s not that right decisions come solely from that sort of feeling, but, Damasio argues that those “somatic markers” filter away lots of alternatives; they’re a shortcut to decision-making.

Damasio based his findings in the study of his own patients and the famous case of Phineas Gage. In 1848, Phineas Gage

was a railway construction worker and had an accident. He miraculously preserved his life and almost all cognitive and motor functions. He lost his left eye, but he could walk and move his hands without difficulty and express himself normally. The change occurred in his personality, he began to be rude and informal, losing the ability to do simple projects and fit in a social environment. He could not make the right decisions, despite retaining his cognitive faculties.

Another example is Elliot, Damasio’s patient, who after the removal of a brain tumor near the area above the nasal cavities, his life was characterized by faulty decision-making and emotional and affective flatness. Although he did not lose any of his intellectual faculties, Damasio confirmed his suspicion when he asked Elliot to tell him when he wanted his next office visit to be; the patient talked about all the possible dates and times, evaluated the pros and cons of each one, but he could not make a decision since he did not feel a preference for any.

Emotions generate changes at somatic levels, the more aware we can become of this the more accurate our decision making process will become. Studies have found that higher accuracy on heartbeat detection predict superior performance

on some laboratory gambling tasks.

In the fund traders study, held in London and published in 2016 in <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep32986#abstract>, they found that people who are attuned to sensing their body sensations are best able to survive and thrive in their environments, including at work. Those who need to make big decisions every day showed above average ability to sense their internal bodily signals when making decisions and also demonstrated higher profitability than those with lower accuracy. More experienced traders showed a more uniform ability in accurately detecting internal bodily signals, while less experienced traders showed more variability.

When making decisions it is important not only to consider all the available alternatives but also to pay attention to our gut feeling, also called intuition. Good news is that we can train ourselves to read more accurately our bodily signals.

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.

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Happy Fourth of July


Pets of the Week

Menno



Hello, my name is Menno. I am a very calm and laid back cat but I still manage to steal the attention with my manly features...a big beautiful face and broad pink and black nose. I really love to cuddle with people and I don't really mind other cats around me. I have been at the shelter for three months already. I'm approximately three years old and I am already vaccinated, wormed and sterilized. Conclusion, I'm 100% ready to be adopted. Will you be my new parent? Come see me and find out, anytime Monday-Friday 10:30 am-1pm or 2-3:30pm, and Saturday 10 am-2:30 pm. See you soon!

Story and Photo: Thamar Cachemir

Fiana



Hello everyone! My name is Fiana. I'm an eight month old female puppy. One of my favorite things in the world is being petted, I can be a big snuggle bug. I was left at the shelter a couple of months ago with my three siblings and all of them have gone to their forever home. I would really like to go to my forever home soon too! I am vaccinated, sterilized and very healthy. Would you like to pay me a visit? We can meet Monday-Friday 10:30 am-1pm or 2-3:30pm, and Saturday 10 am-2:30 pm. I hope to see you very soon!

Story: Edseyenne Pietersz Photo: Sanne Attevelt



Shelter News

Keep your dog safe at the beach

Who doesn't love a trip to the beach with your dog on our beaches where dogs are permitted? The beach can be a great place to enjoy with your dog, but it also presents safety hazards. Pet owners must be aware of their dogs' activities. Here are a few hazards you need to be aware of.

Sand

While no one feeds their dog a plate of sand, your dog can swallow the grit without even realizing it. When a dog eats sand, it is usually consumed in small amounts. For example, licking a dirty paw could result in swallowing a bit of sand. Digging in the sand, especially with a dog's nose in the ground, could also cause a bit of sand swallowing. However, the biggest risk comes from dogs retrieving objects on the beach or in the water. Throw a rope toy or a tennis ball, and your dog will scoop up that toy with zest—often with a mouthful of solid sand or a swallow of sandy water. For the safety of your dog, it is best not to play fetch at the beach. If too much sand is ingested it can lead to sand impaction, the sand causes a blockage in the intestines.

You may not notice a problem at first, but dogs can feel the pain of sand ingestion later. Sand is heavy and as it compacts in the intestines the whole intestinal tract can shut down. Food and water will not be able to pass to the stomach for digestion and hydration, and the dog will show signs of illness very quickly. With or without vomiting, the dog will feel nauseous. You may also notice that your dog becomes lethargic and has a loss of appetite and is uncomfortable in trying to lie down. If you notice that your dog

exhibits any of these symptoms, consult a veterinarian immediately.

Salt water

When dogs are thirsty, they will drink almost anything. This includes sea water. Drinking a large amount of salt water can lead to salt toxicity (hypernatremia), too much sodium in the blood. Just from playing at the beach, you dog can ingest quite a bit of salt, from swallowing too much when swimming, to picking up and chewing on toys that have been soaked from the sea.

Signs of salt toxicity include excessive thirst, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, seizures, and can lead to coma. Seek veterinary help immediately. To avoid your pet ingesting too much salt water at the beach, always have fresh water available so they aren't tempted to drink from the sea. It's also a good idea to rinse them off before leaving the beach rather than letting the sea water dry on their coat. This will prevent them from licking the salt water from their fur and ingesting more salt.

Temperature

While the sea breeze may feel refreshing, the temperature can sky rocket at the beach. Combine high temperatures with hot sand and little shade, the chances of your dog developing heat stroke is very real. Dogs can't release heat like us humans and can overheat very quickly, nor can they tell us when they're hot. To help avoid heat stroke make sure to provide enough shade and plenty of fresh drinking water and limit excessive exercise. It's also best to avoid the beach during



the hottest parts of the day.

Fish hooks

It only takes an instant - your dog sniffs out and snacks on bait or a fish attached to a hook and the hook ends up stuck in their mouth, throat, stomach, or embedded in their skin.

If your dog swallows a fish hook, do your best to keep them calm and seek veterinary assistance immediately. If the fish hook is embedded in the paw, pierced through their lip, or stuck anywhere else on their body, cover the area so you pet doesn't gnaw, lick or tug at the hook to prevent the injury from worsening. If there is fishing line hanging from their mouth it is best not trying to removing it and avoid pulling on it as it can cause further injuries if it has been swallowed.

Poison

Sadly, in recent weeks the Bonaire police and citizens have reported that numerous dogs have died from poisoning after visiting the beach at the end of Kaminda Lagun. If you take your dogs there for walks or swims, please keep them on a leash to prevent them from eating anything that may be lying on the beach in that area. It is wise to keep a close eye on your dog on other beaches as well, since this inhumane activity may not be limited to that area. *Jane Disko*

You can walk your dog between only Punt Vierkant and the Zoutpiet or between the Willemstoren and Sorobon. For a list of the prohibited beaches see page 4.

FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

Business licenses now take six days

Bonairean entrepreneurs can now get a business permit, along with the required Civil Affairs Department proof of registration with the Chamber of Commerce, in only six working days, and without leaving their desks. The whole process can be completed online. Until now it has taken eight weeks and visits to various offices. Some on the island remember when eight months was closer to the norm. *DMR*

Research institute proposed for BES

After ten years, the funding for the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI) on Sint Eustatius is expiring. The NWO (Dutch Research Council) is considering a report that proposes to re-

create the CNSI as the Dutch Caribbean Research Platform (DUCARP), which would be a network organization with six physical 'anchor points' on each of the Caribbean islands of the Dutch Kingdom.

The report says that DUCARP should not perform its own research, but instead facilitate, support and promote research in the region. It should strengthen the quality and quantity of scientific research on the Caribbean islands. DUCARP could develop into an international knowledge and expertise center for issues pertaining to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Defense organizes against organized crime

Bonaire and the Defense ministry have agreed on several cooperation projects to target organized crime, including the

creation of a Multidisciplinary Maritime Hub as well as a Regional Information and Expertise Center for the Caribbean Netherlands. Strengthening border control in order to keep criminals out of Bonaire will be joint objective too. *DMR*

Bonaire girl wins silver in Curaçao tennis tournament

Xaquenne Saragoza from Antriol, 11 years old, recently placed second in the annual ProKids tennis tournament of CSC (Curaçao Sports Center) winning all the way to the finals before losing to 12-year-old Candice Curie from Curaçao. The Prokids tournament is the largest youth event in Curaçao tennis. About fifty girls and boys took part this year, spread over different categories. Xaquenne was the only entrant from Bonaire. *DMR*



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Potting plants

Occasionally, you need a special pot or plant container immediately and you don't have it? What do you do then? It happens to me all the time and I made a list of what to do when in such a situation. The type of plant determines the suitable container: small, big, ground cover, orchid, young tree or root plant like yucca. If it is a small plant, I cut a plastic bottle in two, make holes in the bottom (use a hammer and nail or scissors, a sharp knife or a tool) fill it with dirt and the problem is solved. The bigger the plant, the bigger the container. I use big plastic fruit juice bottles cut in half, bleach containers, soft drink bottles, ice cream containers, plastic cups and yogurt bowls. Anything can be a first aid to help plants live.

And sometimes the plants grow so fast that they need more space and again I don't have the right container. So I put some plants together in one big container or together in a certain place of the yard where they might grow well. What a surprise it is to see how the plants grow beautifully together into a creative bouquet. Now I do it all the time. With the same kind of plants in different pots, it's like bouquets on the porch and in the yard. It's also a more economical use of the dirt, water and space. I even make special bouquets for gifts. When one of my friends started a fashion boutique I gave her two of these bouquets to decorate the business area and it gave a very nice "life" impression.

Take a look at the picture. There is aloe in combination with sensitiera (snake plant). I just put them together a while ago because I did not have enough large containers for each plant. When the original plants grew they became a very nice combination with the tall sensitiers and the wide aloe in a nicely decorated clay pot. I had not expected this result but, I love it. One can combine color, length or ground covers with tall plants and flowers. Or put a young tree in one pot with herbs and spices or a tall cacti with wide jatu or bowl cactus and different colored climbing plants. I now have a lot more plants but in fewer pots and containers which saves space.

I also see on Bonaire small gardens where different vegetables grow together. A few bontji kunuku branches, some sweet potato plants that cover the ground, kalaloe and bimbe (local names), some spinach, papaya trees, sugar apple, pomegranate and yucca on just a few square meters.

Remember there are certain plants that don't grow well in containers. Banana roots need space to grow well and produce young plants. The yucca roots need space to grow and become thick for consuming.

For a short time the plantain plant will do well in a big pot but after a while it does not grow anymore and will die slowly. A very nice plant that grows very slowly is the local wayaca tree. It takes years to become a mature tree so if you plant it in a big, decorative pot it will make a nice plant on your porch with cute little leaves and blue flowers that puts a spell on little birds and butterflies. Once its roots break through the pot it's time to give it a nice place in your yard where it will give shade to plants in hanging baskets. Meanwhile,

while the young wayaca tree is in a pot you can add some ground-cover in the pot so it looks like a little garden on your porch. There are so many ideas to be creative combining plants with each other and in decorative pots.

Besides the recyclable containers made from plastic bottles and bowls, it's easy to make decorative pots by yourself. One of my friends does that from cement and natural things like small beach coral, stones, shells, broken glass and small parts of broken tiles, paint and driftwood. There are plenty of ideas like this in the souvenir shops, plant shops or in the small malls.

If you want something unique, make and decorate your own pots, put a combination of plants in the pots and be proud of your green sustainable art.

Start with it, just do it.



A bouquet of aloe and snake plant

World Sea Turtle Day 2021

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and Dive Friends Bonaire (DFB) organized a clean up dive, at Yellow Submarine's house reef on the June 16th. Meeting time was 9:30 am at Yellow Sub and 12 volunteers signed up! Free tanks were offered by Dive Friends Bonaire. After the clean-up briefing by Kaj (STCB) and a dive site briefing by Robert (DFB) it was time to gear up and get ready to go into the water. All the divers received a mesh bag and a total of 16 divers (including DFB crew) went in. After a one-hour dive, the divers returned with a lot of garbage but surprisingly no fishing lines, which is of course, a good sign! Most of it was parts of plastic and glass. After the cleanup dive, STCB held a raffle with a prize to join their nesting team to check out new turtle nests on Klein Bonaire. Owen Roberts was the lucky winner and DFB wishes him luck in finding some turtle nests.

Thank you to all participants and volunteers! The next Dive Friends Bonaire Quarterly Clean up Dive is Saturday, July 24th. For more information or to sign up, please contact: info@dive-friendsbonaire.com.

*Dive Friends Bonaire,
Robert van Bennekom*



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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TIMBO Funrace results June 2021

1	Uitslagen	elite	Timbo race	6/27/21				
2				ronde 1	ronde 2	eindtijd		
3	1.	Virgillio	Batista	23.24	47.33	1.13.02		
4	2.	Jerome	Spruit	24.25	49.45	1.15.07		
5	3.	Olof	Creutzberg	24.26	50.00	1.18.15		
6	4.	Berry	Poort	26.28	54.50	1.22.04		
7	5.	Domingo	De Lima	26.50	55.18	1.25.30		
8	6.	Jeffrey	Kogelman	28.40	58.31	1.26.35		
9	7.	Bas	Schumachter	28.40	58.31	1.26.44		
10	8.	Jeroen	Dolleman	28.10	56.40	1.27.07		
11	9.	Erik	Grefte	28.10	56.40	1.27.08		
12	10.	Kees	Goeman	28.11	57.00	1.27.09		
13	11.	Jaap	Slump	29.05	55.11	1.27.55		
14	12.	Jarne	Everts	28.40	58.30	1.28.05		
15	13.	Tamara	Brank	28.37	58.00	1.29.50		
16	14.	Marcel	Jans	29.05	59.05	1.29.58		
17	15.	Dianna	Josa	35.36	1.02.00	1.30.08		
18	16.	Olav	Beemsterboer	30.22	1.00.32	1.32.41		
19	17.	Gilbert	Martis	27.54	58.33	1.31.47		
20	18.	Sven	Peerdeman	36.00	1.01.25	1.33.58		
21	19.	Frank	Böhm	30.15	1.02.00	1.35.00		
22	20.	Rommel		29.28	1.02.19	1.37.57		
23	21.	Cilio		31.40	1.05.30	1.40.31		
24	22.	Arnold	Koolen	32.10	1.06.40	1.40.37		
25	23.	Francis	Den Doelder	32.10	1.06.50	1.40.38		
26	24.	Henk	Wilsoe	33.00	1.06.50	1.42.50		
27	25.	Robbert	Snijders	33.00	1.06.35	1.43.03		
28	26.	Martien	Polman	29.55	1.05.37	1.46.04		
29		Henk	Olij	31.54	1.06.36	1.55.00		
30								
31	Fun race	6/27/21		ronde 1	ronde 2	ronde 3	ronde 4	eindtijd
32	1.	Marcel	Spruit	11.38	23.04	35.03	46.46	58.10
33	2.	Michel	Prissiajntouk	11.38	23.04	35.03	46.46	58.11
34	3.	Christiaan	Matser	13.24	26.20	38.20	50.34	1.02.13
35	4.	Michael	Lammers	11.50	24.24	37.58	50.62	1.03.50
36	5.	Maikos	De Lima	11.59	26.48	37.58	50.62	1.10.35
37	6.	Fred	Minne	13.11	27.00	38.00	58.10	1.11.58
38	7.	Juan	Camilla	11.59	27.12	42.00	58.40	1.15.38
39	8.	Arthuro		13.40	28.23	43.10	58.52	1.16.00
40	9.	Reynold	Wilsoe	16.23	30.50	45.46	1.01.30	1.17.58
41	10.	Farmin	Theodora	16.23	33.40	52.20	1.12.02	1.23.25
42								
43	mix/uitval							
44		Tom	Hombug	23.26	50.14			
45		Ramphis	Sambre	35.56	55.13			
46		Eric	v.d. Keuken	34.34	1.13.14			
47		Louis	Coppens	28.30	1.02.32			
48		Fons	de Bie	26.30	50.14			
49		Stan	Huiskamp	26.17	55.11			
50		Dennis	v. Brummer	26.46	1.02.25			
51								
52		Jim	Walker	14.00	26.21	41.03	54.25	
53		Andrea	Magni	38.16	1.20.10	2.02.00		
54		Kelly	Mettes	38.17	1.20.10	2.02.00		
55		Anna	ten Kate	1.13.58				
56		Hans	van Os	1.13.58				
57		Jan	van Tilburg	16.00	49.10	1.07.15		
58		Maartje	Munsterman	d.n.f.				
59								
60								