

N°94 - July 20, 2006



St-Barth WEEKLY

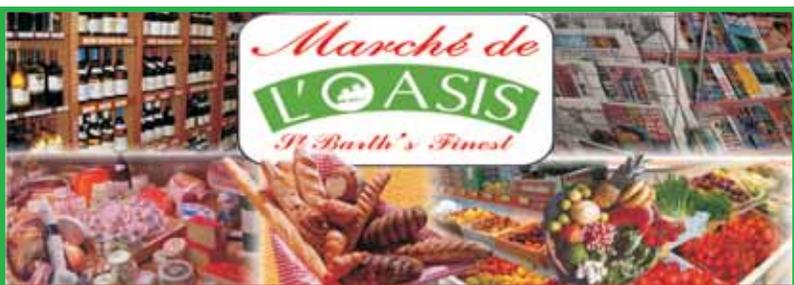
Local News
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LAST ISSUE BEFORE NOVEMBER 2006

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SAINT BARTH POLITICAL STATUS ON STAND-BY

DEAR WEEKLY READER,

The 2005-2006 season has finally come to an end, which means that this is the last issue of *The Weekly* for this year.

We hope you have enjoyed our "Weekly" recap of local news, information about places to go and things to see, as well as portraits of people who add fun and flavor to life in Saint Barth, whether you read us on the beach, in your villa, or back home via the Internet.

The Weekly is published by *Le Journal de Saint Barth*, which has closed for a brief summer vacation. But we promise to be back next fall, with *The Weekly* once again ready to keep you up to date with the latest news from the island.

We look forward to seeing you on your next visit to Saint Barth!

The editors
Saint Barth Weekly

The extra French Parliament session, which normally takes place in July or August, has now been set to begin on Thursday, September 7, as per the presidential decree issued on July 5 at the end of the Minister's Council meeting, and made public by governmental spokesperson, Jean-François Copé. The last meeting this summer will be on August 2, he noted.

Three projects are on the docket: the agreement to merge GDF-Suez; one that aims to prevent delinquency; and a law about water already accepted. The plan to privatize GDF will be debated in the Assembly as of September 7, while the Senate examines Sarkozy's text on delinquency. The Overseas dossier including the change of political evolution in Saint Barth is not on the agenda. Is there a new stumbling block? Who knows? Last week, mayor Bruno Magras had a meeting with senator Christian Cointat, who has been put in charge of the political evolution projects in the Northern Islands. He indicated that the project is following due course. Louis Constant Fleming, representative from Saint Martin, also met with Cointat the same day. Christian Cointat, the

senator who represents the French outside of France and the secretary of the Senate commission for constitutional laws, legislation, and universal suffrage, was part of the delegation of three senators named in December 2004 by the Senate Laws Commission.

The Mayor Attends Overseas Convention of UMP

Before his hearing at the Senate on July 12, Bruno Magras attended the Overseas Convention of the UMP political party, organized in the Salle Gaveau in the 8th arrondissement of Paris. This annual convention, organized by Michel Diefenbacher, national secretary of the UMP in charge of Overseas affairs, and Marie-Dominique Aeschlimann, national secretary of the UMP for the Overseas presence in France, was based on the theme: "Overseas: Unleash The Energy," which has nothing to do with electric production in the DOMs. The goal of the meeting was to understand the important issues in the overseas departments, which are of course different from those in France. Nicolas Sarkozy, president of the UMP, closed the meeting.

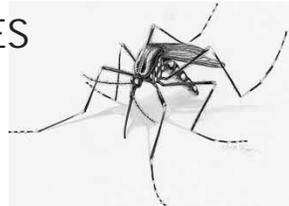
WATCH OUT FOR MOSQUITOES

Saint Barth has witnessed an increased number of cases of dengue fever, and local health officials fear it could be an epidemic. This could be due to a humid spring, with rains contributing to the voracity of the mosquito population and ineffectiveness of spraying of insecticides. The island has supplied extra pulverization around the houses where there are cases of dengue, and additional overall spraying in an attempt to control the situation. But everyone should take personal measures as well. Dengue is a viral disease whose symptoms include a high fever with headaches, muscular aches, and general tiredness that can last for a few weeks. Most people do not have complications

although there are hemorrhagic forms of dengue, which mean that patients should avoid taking aspirin or anti-inflammatory medication, and not self-medicate: your doctor should take a blood test before deciding what to prescribe. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for this disease.

Here are a few things everyone can do in the fight against mosquitoes and getting dengue:

- 1) Protect yourself from getting mosquito bites, by wearing long sleeves and long pants when possible, and using bug spray or repellent creams;
- 2) Help eliminate places where mosquitoes can breed:
 - ☞ Protect cisterns and water reserves with screens or add fish that eat the larva;



- ☞ Throw away any old objects that might collect water;
 - ☞ Anything you are keeping should be stored where it cannot collect water (tires, flower pots, buckets, etc)
 - ☞ Change water in vases regularly, at least twice per week
 - ☞ Make sure gutters are clean and do not have stagnant water;
 - ☞ Make sure the septic system is not cracked and protect the air vents with screens.
- They say you cannot get dengue more than once, but there are different strains of the disease, so beware!

News from the Marine Park

Scientific Studies

Temperature: Bleaching / Algae

No sooner did it recover from the high temperatures of last summer, than the local coral is faced once again with a rise in water temperature. In fact, coral stops growing when the water is hotter than 80°F: it “bleaches,” and if the period where the temperature is over this threshold is too extended, the coral dies. Unfortunately, much of the coral around Saint Barthélemy was affected due to the long summer of 2005. Let’s hope that this summer isn’t quite so long.....

A call for witnesses!

Every year at this time, marine turtles lay their eggs on the island’s beaches. This is the perfect occasion for the



Marine Park to observe the turtles and try to count them and observe their actions. If you would like to lend a hand, and especially if you are lucky enough to see traces or the place a turtle has laid her eggs, please call the Marine Park at 0590 27 88 18 or 0690 31 70 73.

Getting informed

School exhibition

The student in class 5A at the Mireille Junior High School organized an exhibit on the “underwater environment around Saint Barthélemy.” The exhibit exposed other students to the variety of things they can learn if they go on the excursions planned by the Discovery Itinerary, including a visit to the “sea grasses” in Petit Cul de Sac, a trip to the “coastal ecosystem”



in Grand Cul de Sac, and finally, a trip about the “coral reef” near Gros Islets. In addition, those who participated in the project included Eric Delcroix (turtle expert) and Liliane Frenkiel (specialist in mollusks and conch). The students thank the Mireille Choisy School, Mme Estienne, and the Marine Park for this initiative.



Elementary students, already aware

of environmental protection

Environmental protection also concerns small children. That is the conviction of the teachers at the elementary school in Gustavia who called upon the Marine Park to explain to their students about the fragility of the environment and the necessity of protecting it. This was done thanks to the help of diorama illustrated with



photos and drawings. In addition, several classes went on a field trip to Petit Cul de Sac, where they learned about the origin of sand, and the biodiversity of the underwater environment.



Jonas’s Internship

The Marine Park has several interns every year as part of a school curriculum. They participate in various activities at the Marine Park in order to get an understanding first of the working world, and secondly about environmental career options. Jonas H. completed an internship as part of his degree in ocean and coastal management, while Sarah-Lee Q. is doing an introductory internship as part of her high school program.

Maintenance

Buoys



Like every year, the buoys that define the limits of the Marine Park’s protected zones are checked to make sure they are working properly and that the chains that attach them are not too rusted or eroded.



2006, A Disappointing Year :

ONLY 70.9% SUCCESS FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



Sixty-one students out of 86 received their national junior high school diplomas on Friday, July 7, 2006. This represents a 70.9% success rate for this first of the national diplomas issued in France. This percentage is lower than that of 1005, when 84% of the students passed, and less than the national average which hovers near 78%. Of the 61 who succeeded, 24 of them, or 40%, received a “mention,” a new distinction added in 2006 for a grade average of 12 to 14 (out of 20). One student, Sylvia Louis, was given a “very special mention,” corresponding to a grade average of more than 16 (out of 20) during the last two years of junior high, and on the exam. Five other students were given a “special mention.” This new distinction carries with it a cash prize for scholarships of 800 euros for the school year 2006-2007. These merit awards, according to the French Minister of Education, serve to help students continue their studies or do research, in the school of their choice, and in the best conditions. The exams were held on

Thursday and Friday, June 20 and 21. Before passing the three areas of the exam— French, math and history-geography-civics— two of the candidates already had the 160 points needed to pass. This corresponds to a grade average of over 16 throughout the past two years. They were already in theory awarded their diplomas, but only in theory as passing the test is also obligatory. Another handful of students needed only five or six extra points to pass. This national diploma does not mean that a student is automatically admitted to special high school classes. There is a difference in France between having this diploma and the orientation of the student, which is based on their specific capacity in an area of study, and their desire to continue their studies. The student, family, and educators make the final decision. In Saint Barth, this decision is even more difficult as after junior high school, the students must leave home to continue their education, as there is no high school or institution of higher learning on the island.

August 9-20: Boubou Is Back WITH MC SOLAAR, MANU DIBANGO, TOIRES ...

The fifth edition of Boubou's St. Barth Festival will take place from August 9-20 at the Christopher Hotel, whose charming oceanfront location in Pointe Milou will be the home base for the festival throughout the month of August. Approximately 150 artists and technicians are expected for the two portions of the festival: the first from August 9-14 with ethnic sounds, and the second half from August 15-20, which turns more toward African rhythms. Boubou's fans will note that some of the musicians on the program for 2006 have participated in the past, and will be happy to welcome back MC Solaar, Manu Dibango, Toires, and Courtney Williams, all “hot” acts

at the festival in 2003. MC will return with friends, including DJ Ménélik Courtney, now known as C-Will, will appear with the New York-based urban rocker Reese. Among the new names on the roster one finds: James Asher, the “pope” of world music; DJ Rafe Gomez, the VIP DJ from CD101.9FM in NYC who was invited by Courtney Williams; and Gnawa-Spirit, a young group from Morocco, formed in 2003, and which gets its inspiration from the Gnawa music played in mystical circles in the Northern Sahara. The only woman on the schedule is the young Dajla, whose music has been called Soul-Poetry (complete program below).

Boubou's St Barth Festival

□ Wednesday, August 9

Courtney Williams / Reese * Rafe Gomez

□ Thursday, August 10

James Asher * Just Jinger * Toires

□ Friday, August 11

Toires Live * Speed Caravan * DJ Maxx - the Strand

□ Saturday, August 12

Courtney Williams / Reese * Just Jinger * Rafe Gomez

□ Sunday, August 13

Afternoon concert

Speed Caravan * James Asher * Jam Session

□ Monday, August 14

Irie Bean * Dragonfly * Toires in Dub

□ Tuesday, August 15

Les Cochons dans l'Espace * Gnawa Spirit * DJ MC Bob

□ Wednesday, August 16

MC Solaar + guests * DJ Jaques Dumas

□ Thursday, August 17

Dajla * Gnawa Spirit * DJ Boubou Feat / Toires

□ Friday, August 18

Manu Dibango * DJ MC Bob

□ Saturday, August 19

Les Cochons dans l'Espace * MC Solaar + guests * DJ Franck

□ Sunday, August 20

Dajla * Manu Dibango * Jam Session

SUMMER EVENTS SCHEDULE

Northern Neighborhoods Fair

SATURDAY, JULY 29

Ascco, Colombier

- 8:30am: Inscriptions for Bêlote tournament
- 10:00am: Various games for children
- 12:00am: Snack bar open for lunch, cocktail reception
- 2:00pm: Beginning of pétanque (boules) on the municipal court in Flamands
- 3:00pm: Various games for all ages;
- 6:00pm: Free comedy performance in Creole act 1
- 6:20pm: Dance performances
- 6:40pm: Free comedy performance in Creole act 2
- 7:00pm: Dance performances
- 7:25pm: Free comedy performance in Creole act 3
- 8:00pm: Dance performances
- 8:10pm: Free comedy performance in Creole. act 4
- 8:50pm: Dance performances
- 9:30pm: Dancing to music by a local band.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

- 8:30am: Mass at the chapel in Colombier

Windward Neighborhoods Fair

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Ajoe, Lorient

- 9:00am: Table tennis tournament, Baby Foot tournament
- 2:00pm: Bêlote and pétanque competitions, mini soccer tournament
- 9:00pm: Dancing at Ajoe

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

- 8:30am: Mass, procession, blessing of the sea, release of balloons on the beach in Lorient
- Morning events: Regatta, games on the beach, prize ceremony, arrival of fishing tournament, cocktail reception
- 4:00pm: At Ajoe: various games, competitions, dances, awards
- 9:00pm: Raffle

Piteå Day

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

Beach in Public

- 5:30pm: Fishing on the dock in Public for children under 15. One line and hook per child (must be accompanied by a parent)
- Hike along historic Swedish itinerary

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

- 5:00am: Fishing tournament. Return and weighing of fish between 12 noon and 2:00pm on the beach in Public.
- 7:30am: Snack bar opens. Pétanque tournament. Domino competition, Beginning of musical presentation.
- 8:30am: Games on the beach. Beach volleyball.
- 10:00am: Regatta for traditional wooden sailboats
- 10:30am: Placing of wreaths and commemorative ceremony at the Swedish Cemetery.
- 11:30am: Champagne toast sponsored by the municipality.
- 12:00pm: BBQ on the beach in Public
- 6:00pm: Prize ceremony

Gustavia Festival

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Gustavia

- 8:00pm: Public dance on the Quai Général De Gaulle in Gustavia

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

- 1:30pm: Basketball, Belote (cards) tournament
- 2:00pm: Pétanque
- 4:00pm: Mini Marathon
- 6:30pm: Various activities
- 9:30pm: Public dance on the Quai Général De Gaulle, Gustavia

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

- 5:00am: Start of fishing tournament
- 9:00am: Domino competition
- 10:00am: Traditional regatta
- 12:30: Champagne reception with music by RMI
- 2:00pm: Various games begin
- 2:30pm: Laser and Optimist regattas
- 6:00pm: Dances and performances
- 7:30pm: Prize ceremony

Saint-Barthélemy Day

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

Gustavia

- 6:30am: Ringing of church bells; boats decorated with flags in the harbor
- 8:30am: Sailor's mass and procession for blessing of the sea
- 9:00am: Pétanque competition
- 10:00am: Start of regattas
- 10:30am: Placing of wreath on war memorial followed by a cocktail reception sponsored by the municipality. Speeches. Diplomas presented to students.
- 12:30: Arrival of regattas in Gustavia harbor.
- 3:00pm: Various games for children organized by the association "La Marmaille." Saint Barth Quiz and singing contest.
- 5:00pm: Dance performances presented by several associations.
- 6:00pm: Tae Kwon Do demonstration by Eric Gréaux's group
- 18:30: Prize ceremony for regattas and pétanque
- 8:00pm: Fireworks with music, followed by a public dance, Quai Général de Gaulle

Saint Louis Feast Day

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

- 6:00am: Start of the fishing tournament (sign up on the beach in Corrossol)
- 8:00am: Mass at the foot of the Rock Saint Louis
- 9h30am: Belote (cards), football, and beach volley ball (sign up at 8:30am)
- 10:00am: Start of various sailing races; Children's games
- 10:30am: Regatta for traditional wooden sailboats
- 12:30am: Champagne toast organized by the municipality
- 3:00pm: Various games; The Saint Louis Quiz
- 5:30pm: Awards ceremony
- 6:30pm: Dance performance presented by the dancers from ALC
- 7:30pm : Saint Louis 2006 raffle
- 8:00pm : Saint Louis program of traditional dances and skits in patois
- 9:00pm : Fireworks and public dance on the streets of Corrossol

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