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Local News
in English

FREE



WEEKLY

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Happy 4th of July

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Ninth Grade Students Take National Exams



The Weekly's Summer Schedule !

For the next two months, the St. Barth Weekly will appear once every two weeks, or every other Friday through the end of July, when the Journal de Saint Barth goes on summer vacation.

We will be back on a weekly basis as of Thanksgiving, for the sixth season of The St. Barth Weekly, the only all-English newspaper on the island. The Weekly covers the island from all angles, allowing you to keep your finger on the pulse of local politics, cuisine, art, and cultural events.

In the meantime, you can stay in touch with the latest on the island by downloading The Weekly's electronic version every other Friday through July at stbarthweekly.com.

If you are on the island, please enjoy your stay. If you are checking in from afar, please come back soon!

Even if it is just a first step toward a higher education, the junior high school diploma known in France as the "Diplôme National du Brevet," remains an important landmark for young students. Last week, on June 26 and 27, a total of 68 ninth grade students at Mireille Choisy junior high took the exams. In Saint Barth, close to 90% of the candidates passed in 2007, or 8% more than the average of 82% in metropolitan France. This year, with a good "vintage" of students, "We hope to hit over 95%. And why not beat the record—97% of the candidates—set in 1997," assistant principal of the school, Roland Gréaux, proudly remarks. In fact, the class of 2008 had a bit of an advantage: of the 68 students who participated in the written exams in French, history/geography, civics, and math, 15 of them had theo-



retically already been awarded the diploma, since a large part is based on work throughout the year. The results will be announced on July 5.

Fewer Students In Island Schools

It seems to be a growing trend, most visible in the pre-school in Gustavia, which will not be full to capacity this fall, in spite of the closing of the youngest class at the elementary school. Generally speaking, the number of students in all of the island's schools is decreasing, partially due to the departure of a percentage of the population it is hard to pinpoint in terms of size. "There has always been a wave of departures

at the end of the school year, which has traditionally been compensated for by new arrivals," says Yves Gréaux, first vice-president of the COM, who is in charge of scholastic affairs. "This year, it seems as if there is a slight drop in numbers." This may be taken as a sign of economic difficulties by a sector of the population, yet even so, Gréaux says, "this is not too negative. For the past 10 years, the number of stu-

dents was continually on the rise, and we could not continue like that indefinitely. Today, that number has stabilized." Gréaux was also not surprised at the decrease in pre-school students, for two reasons: on one hand, the end of the baby boom from the year 2000; and on the other hand, the fact that "In the wave of departures at the end of the school year, there might have been quite a few young couples."



No More School On Wednesday Morning For Younger Grades

For the students in the public schools, as of September 2008, classes will only be held four days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. And while the school day will remain unchanged for most of the students—8am to 3:30pm—

those who benefit from the two hours of personalized assistance will remain in school until 4:15pm, as the education council decided that the two hours of tutoring for students in difficulty would take place for a half-hour after school every day.

What Happens To The Students On Wednesday Mornings?

YVES GRÉAUX ADMITS THE PROBLEM IS COMPLEX

Even if he admits that the suppression of nursery school and elementary school classes on Wednesday mornings will cause some serious problems, Yves Gréaux, first vice-president responsible for scholastic affairs, does not see an easy solution for the COM or the parents. “First of all there are the families where both parents are obliged to work, but also the employers who cannot ignore the scheduling problems of their employees. The problem should be examined globally. There should be concessions made in terms of the hours that the parents work.”

And for the Collectivité? According

to Yves Gréaux, there are no special plans in place yet there are a large number of students concerned: “There are currently 800 children in the lower grades. 800 children potentially effected. Even if there were only 500, in terms of the laws regulating the care of young children, there would have to be 50 counselors to take care of them every Wednesday morning! Other than the issue of a location, this would obviously cause a staffing problem as well. This does not mean that nothing will be done, but it illustrates that the problem is indeed complicated.”

The imposition of the new French national school schedule—which will now count 24 hours per week in the classroom (compared to the current 26 hours) plus two hours of personalized help for students in difficulty—is not without consequences. As a result of this new schedule, and the decisions made during a special session of the education council ten days ago, as of September when school starts again, there will no longer be classes on Wednesday mornings for those students in the island’s public nursery schools or elementary schools. On the other hand, the private schools in Colombier and Lorient, also subject to the new schedule, will decide on their disposition of classes later this week.

Registration Control Finds 40 Two-Wheel Vehicles

In Breach Of Law

On Tuesday, July 1, the day after the June 30 deadline for all vehicles to conform to the law, a control by the territorial police and the gendarmes was held at the request of the Collectivité. At this time, 40 two-wheelers were found not to have license plates, which are obligatory as to be able to identify

the vehicles. “The goal of this control was to inform the owners of their obligation to register their vehicles, since the application of the act 2008-008 last January 1,” explains executive council member Maxime Desouches. And yet, this obligation is not new even if it has not been enforced until now:

“National laws, applicable since 2004, cover local transportation as well, and require all means of transport on the roads to be registered, so that the owner can easily be identified,” adds Desouches, who notes that since the

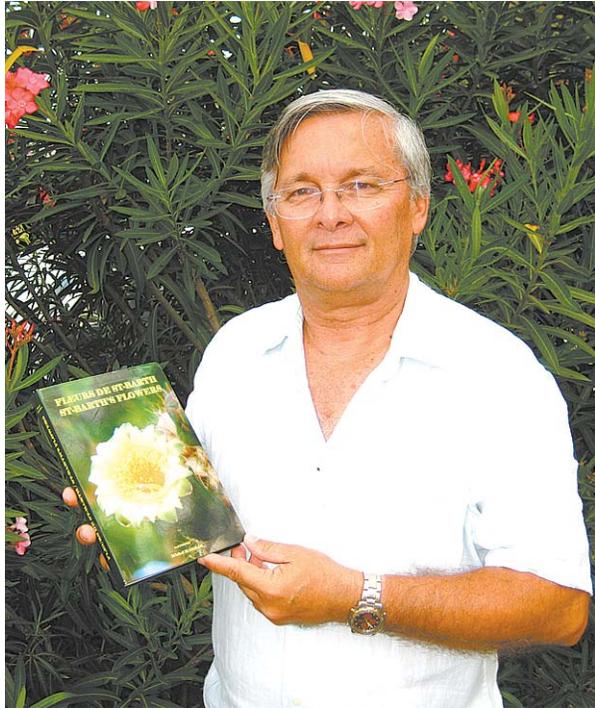


deadline of June 30 has now passed, all non-registered vehicles are not authorized to drive on the roads of the Collectivité.



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Flowers of Saint Barthélemy, A New Book By Michel Magras



Colossal. The work hidden behind the 288 pages of this book—in French and English—is simply colossal. If one were to speak in terms of time, one would have to speak of years of work. Yet the author remains modest and counts not the amount of time he spent, but the pleasure and sense of accomplishment, as well as the passions for nature, photography, and the transmission of knowledge to which Michel Magras, a science and biology teacher at Mireille Choisy junior high, has consecrated his life. We can but recommend that

everyone acquire this book, *Flowers of Saint Barthélemy*, which classifies close to 280 species out of the 400 that make up the rich flora of the island. The author has published a first run of 2000 copies of this book with 1000 photos (taken from the 10,000 images in the author's stock) taken over the years and in keeping with the rhythm of the flowers. Keeping watch is an important part of the job: "If you miss the flowering of a plant, you have to wait until the next year to catch it. So you have to keep a close eye on the evolution of the

flowers," says Magras. Conceived as a practical guidebook, it also has a scientific edge—Latin names and scientific characteristics have been carefully documented and verified—while promoting the island's floral heritage. The represented species are organized in alphabetical order, according to the vernacular name, or the local name they go by. "All of the botanists agree that Saint Barth has a particular richness in terms of its flora. Unfortunately, this richness is not always appreciated and often overlooked in favor of other species which are imported, and whose integration is not without con-

sequence. Also, the local species are by definition, well adapted and often play an important role in the balance of nature." For example the trees called "bois lolo" and also the acacia, have been banned from gardens around houses and systematically destroyed, "while in fact their horizontal roots actively fight against the erosion of the soil."

Flowers of Saint Barthélemy, by Michel Magras: for sale in bookstores for 25 euros. A book signing will take place on July 12 at the Barnes Bookstore on The Point in Gustavia from 10am-12pm.

Puzzle

There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive! "Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9." That's all there is to it.

		4	6	7				
9		7	5			8	6	
2			3			4	5	
1	9		7	6				
	4		8		3		7	
	7			2	1			5
4		9	1		5			6
	5	8			6	2		1
			8					4



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Caroline, Théo, and Léo:

Swimming Champions of Guadeloupe

The Guadeloupe Swimming Championships were held the weekend of June 21 and 22 in Basse Terre, with five gold medals won by protégés of Jean-Marc Outil, the trainer for the Saint Barth Natation swimming club. Following in the footsteps of Shana Brin, Mélodie Laplace, Laurianne Prévost, and Rudy Disler, who all won in past years, the winners this time were Caroline Nicol, Théo Estasse, and Léo Jordil. A super-champion, Caroline took top honors in the 50-meter breaststroke, as well as won a silver medal in the 100-meter butterfly, and two bronze medals for the 50-meter butterfly and 100-meter breaststroke. Théo took home three gold medals for the 200-meter



backstroke, 400-meter breaststroke, and 400-meter relay, plus a bronze

medal in the 100-meter breaststroke. Léo won the gold medal for the 100-meter breaststroke, which makes him a top champion in Guadeloupe as well.

In French Guyana, the finals for the French junior departmental championships took place the same weekend, with competitors from Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Guyana. Gladys Rossoni of Saint Barth Natation was part of the delegation from Guadeloupe. She swam in the 100-meter breaststroke and took part in the 10 x 50-meter freestyle relay. The team from Guadeloupe won this relay with ease and came in second in the overall standings.

Benoît Meesmaecker Wins Saint Barth Laser Championship

The ninth and final day of the Saint Barth laser championship took place on Saturday, June 21 on the waters off the coast of Public, with force 4 wind conditions and high seas. The 2008 champion is Benoît Meesmaecker, who won all four races on Saturday, followed by Markku Härmälä, who came in second all four times. Next

came Julien Darmon, who took third place overall, with Michel Magras coming in fourth. Patrick Bernier and Jeff Lédée also sailed well, with the latter making his return to this event and finishing third in the second race of the day. François de Corlieu was the big loser of the day, coming in seventh, which left him in fifth place in the overall standing.

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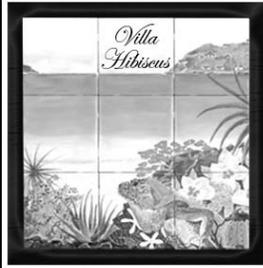
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Local Weather

<h3>Saturday</h3> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F. / 29° C Wind ESE 17mph / 28km/h Chance of precipitation : 40% Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind East 20mph / 32km/h</p>	<h3>Monday</h3> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F. / 29° C Wind ENE 17mph/28 km/h Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind ENE 15mph/25 km/h</p>
<h3>Sunday</h3> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F. / 29° C Wind East 17mph. /28 km/h Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind ENE 17mph/28km/h</p>	<h3>Tuesday</h3> <p>Scattered Clouds High: 84° F / 29° C. Wind East 13mph / 21km/h Chance of precipitation : 50% Night : Scattered Clouds Low: 80° F. / 27° C. Wind East 13mph /21km/h</p>

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Classified ads

Real Estate

For sale, a villa situated in Gustavia in which lots of improvements can be done and with a sea view. Contact St. Barth Property/ Sotheby's International Realty : 0590 29 75 05

For sale, a land on the hillside of St. Jean with a double view on St. Jean and Saline. Contact St. Barth Property/ Sotheby's International Realty : 0590 29 75 05

Gustavia, house to renovate, port view. Additional information by email : stbarthestates@gmail.com

Land

For sale: Mont Tremblant, Quebec, in a development, two acre-plus lots with private dock. 8 euros per square meter. Possibility to build one chalet per acre. Construction loan available through National Bank of

Canada. Additional information by email : stbarthestates@gmail.com

For sale, a 2 bedroom house under construction situated in Vitet with view on Grand Cul de Sac. Good opportunity. Contact St. Barth Property/ Sotheby's International Realty : 0590 29 75 05

Looking for

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Business

FOR SALE in Gustavia, excellent location, corporation since 08/2004, or commercial lease, 65 sq meters. Rent 2200 euros. Tel. : 06 90 65 62 62

Solution

Check the solutions to the Sudoku page 04

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
9	1	7	5	4	2	8	6	3
2	8	6	3	1	9	4	5	7
1	9	5	7	6	4	3	2	8
6	4	2	8	5	3	1	7	9
8	7	3	9	2	1	6	4	5
4	2	9	1	3	5	7	8	6
7	5	8	4	9	6	2	3	1
3	6	1	2	8	7	5	9	4

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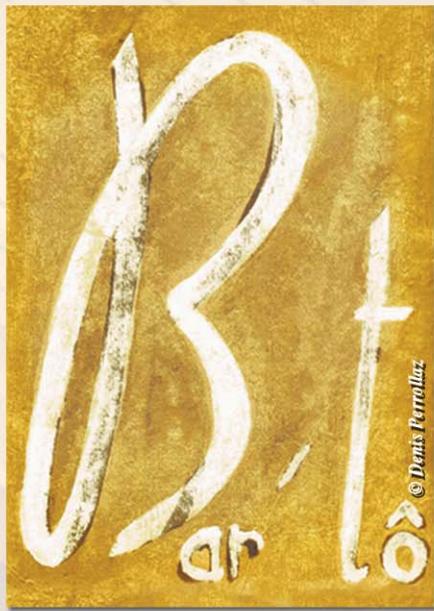
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<u>Gendarmerie</u>	05 90 27 11 70
<u>PAF / airport & port police</u>	05 90 29 76 76
<u>Hospital</u>	05 90 27 60 35
<u>Fire dept.</u>	18 / 05 90 27 66 13
<u>Doctor on duty</u>	05 90 27 76 03
<u>Pharmacy</u>	Aéroport 05 90 27 66 61
	Gustavia 05 90 27 61 82
	Saint Jean 05 90 29 02 12

Useful numbers

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<u>Harbour</u>	05 90 27 66 97
<u>Boat company</u>	Voyager 05 90 87 10 68
	Rapid Explorer 05 90 27 60 33
<u>Airlines company</u>	Winair 05 90 27 61 01
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<u>Taxis</u>	Gustavia 05 90 27 66 31
	Saint-Jean 05 90 27 75 81
<u>St Barth Shuttle (Bus Service)</u>	05 90 29 44 19
<u>Town Hall</u>	05 90 29 80 40
<u>EDF</u> (electricity company office)	05 90 29 80 81
<u>Water system</u>	05 90 27 60 33
<u>Post office</u>	Gustavia 05 90 27 62 00
<u>Marine Reserve</u>	06 90 31 70 73
<u>Catholic church</u>	Sunday 8:30am Gustavia 05 90 27 95 38
<u>Anglican church</u>	Sunday 9am. 05 90 29 74 63
<u>Evangelical church</u>	St Barth Beach Hotel Sunday 9am



Some Suggestions

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Melanzane alla Parmigiana con Mozzarella di Bufala alla Calabrese.
26 €

"Napoli" Spaghetti with Clams.
Spaghetti di Grano Duro di Napoli Spadellati alle Vongole.
24 €

Pan Fried Calamary, Crushed Potatoes, Baby Zucchini,
Spicy Candied Tomato Sauce.
Calamari Scottati in un Solo Lato, Patate Schiacciate, Mini Zucchine,
Salsa di Pomodoro Candito Piccante.
34 €

"Milanese Osso Bucco", Pan Fried Risotto with Saffron Pistils.
Osso Bucco alla Milanese, Risotto Spadellato ai Pistilli di Zafferano.
38 €

Chocolate and Hazelnut Truffle, Dulce de Lecce
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Salsa al Cioccolato Pepato.
12 €

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The restaurant will be open this summer except on Monday and Thursday