

Who is the biggest star at JAZZ...

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Big week ahead for St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival



A theatrical production "A Conversation on Climate Change" for Jazz and Arts Festival

The rebranded and diversified St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival continues its run of successes this year with more artists, more venues and from all indications so far, bigger crowds.

It all started April 30th on a heavily drenched Mindoo Philip Park which from all reports recorded its highest attendance to date for the opening of St. Lucia Jazz.

This year's festival was refocused to include the creative sector with specific attention on spoken word, fashion, the visual arts and a theatrical production which drew attention to the issue of climate change.

The arts component of the festival shone the spotlight on local entertainers creating a platform for over 200 members of the creative fraternity ranging from musicians representing various genres to artists, fashion designers, models, stilt walkers, fire eaters, dancers, craft producers and performance poets.

Over 20 venues are being used for performances and most hotels, restaurants, taxi and tour operations will see a spike in bookings throughout the two-week period of the Jazz and Arts Festival.

The festival intensifies Monday at a number of venues including the Fire Grill tonight with the St. Lucia School of Music and Claudia Edward. Calabash TV will film for later broadcast. On Tuesday the focus will be on Rob Zi Taylor and the Vibe Tribe.



Stiltwalkers at street fair in Gros Islet

Jazz performances move to the Derek Walcott Square for Jazz on the Square May 8th, 9th and 10th with Harvey Millar, Fal Fret, Tracy Hamlin, Inner Urge and the Blaise Pascal Project.

Teatime Jazz organised by the St. Lucia Air and Seaports Authority will take place May 8th and 9th at La Place Carenage featuring a number of gospel artists on day one and the Derek Yarde Project on day two.

St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival culminates this week-end with performances from ACE of St. Lucia, The Jacksons, Luther Francois, Boo Hinkson, David Rudder, The O'Jays, Akon, Emrand Henry and R. Kelly.

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» **Headlines**



Local and regional designers take centre stage Tuesday



Local designer Delia Isaac of Flipp Designs

The inaugural HOT COUTURE fashion show which now forms part of the diversified St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival will take place Tuesday at the Audi Showroom at Meridian Place at Choc Bay.

Over 15 designers will be featured among them the best of St. Lucia. The local line-up is led by Delia Isaac of Flipp Designs, Luciana Maxwell of Incognito, Sharleen Lagon of Jaeylu Designs, Queen Esther of Kumba Designs, Lyn Bristol, Taribba Hinkson of Meme Bete Bags, Perry Martial of Perry Bags, Chazi Chalou of Shazi Designs and Tracey Betts.

The region is led by Cassandra Motley of Barbados, Claudia Pegus, Francis Hendy and Heather Jones of Trinidad, Mickaelle Merlin of Martinique and Shushma Patel of India/Atlanta.



The region's top glossy magazine for women, SHE Caribbean is throwing its weight behind the event. Led by the inimitable Mae Wayne, SHE magazine has driven the cause of Caribbean fashion for over 10 years, and Mae is thrilled that the newest addition to Jazz. Mae will further lend her expertise in her capacity as Production Manager for the event.

The Creative Director Vincent McDoom is the flamboyant French/Saint Lucian fashion celeb and actor whose experience in the European industry is unparalleled.

The Audi Showroom at Meridian Place is being prepared for this prestigious event by Adrian Augier's Landmark Events.

Source Star Newspaper

Budget debate continues May 14th after Jazz break

The Budget Address by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, National Development and Social Security will be delivered on Tuesday May, 14, 2013. The Budget Address follows the completion of the debate on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. The debate on the budget proposals will take place on May 16 and 17, 2013.

Dr. Anthony is expected to explain in detail the reasons for the reduction in expenditure by the Government of Saint Lucia and the measures that the Government hopes to take to meet its current obligations. He will also outline the Government's plans for investment in infrastructure, tourism and agriculture.

The Budget Address will be delivered at 5:00pm and will be aired live on the National Television Network (NTN)/ <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/gis/ntnstream.htm>

Architects/engineers concerned about public contracts

Engineers, architects, valuation surveyors, land surveyors, building surveyors and quantity surveyors in St. Lucia have met amid concerns over the procurement and management of public contracts in St. Lucia.

A recent joint meeting of the Executives of the Association of Professionals Engineers of St. Lucia, the St. Lucia Institute of Architects and the Institute of Surveyors St. Lucia Inc noted continued concern over the handling of public sector projects. The joint meeting proposed that legislation on Public Procurement be advanced to ensure the continued viability of the construction sector.

A release issued at the end of the meeting notes that "whilst we are aware that legislation is currently being developed to address procurement in the Public Sector; the professional bodies are in agreement that there should be involvement of the major stakeholders in the development of such legislation".

They want government to critically address the rate of implementation of externally financed projects which form part of the Public Sector Investment Programme. The architects, engineers and surveyors also want government to accelerate these projects to create much needed employment.

Caribbean aims to solidify health and wellness sector



Lilian Piper, member of Caribbean Spa and Wellness Association

Operators of health and wellness facilities in the Caribbean are looking forward to the finalisation of efforts to establish standards for the sector. Draft standards for the region were discussed in St. Lucia recently and the hope is that some of those measures will begin to be implemented early 2014.

The Caribbean is hoping to be positioned as a leading player in the global health and wellness sector but first needs to ensure that persons traveling to the region for the related services are receiving quality care from practitioners. The intention is to have them certified or accredited in keeping with internationally accepted standards.

The Caribbean is a latecomer to the health and wellness industry and consequently needs huge improvement in facilities and service to compete with already established wellness destinations.



Madge Darymple of the Barbados Ministry of Tourism

Madge Darymple of the Ministry of Tourism in Barbados was one of the persons attending the St. Lucia meeting which scrutinized proposed standards for the spa and wellness sector. She welcomed the initiative to advance implementation of standards for the sector, but articulated concerns by practitioners of the costs involved in upgrading facilities and services.

Lilian Piper of Dominica, who owns a number of spa facilities there and is also the president of the Dominica Chamber of Commerce, looks forward to be guided by internationally accepted standards noting the region needs to improve if it is to compete effectively with global wellness destinations. Discussions on standards for the industry have been going on for over three years.

The spa and wellness industry in the Eastern Caribbean is growing and is being positioned as a niche market with tremendous potential.

The Health and Wellness sector currently generates between 80 to 100 million dollars in revenue for the region, in a sector that employs mainly women. It comes at a time when there is a call for the Caribbean tourism product to be diversified.

The draft standards being considered now will in the first instance be applied voluntarily but will become a mandatory requirement once it is adopted nationally.

The draft standard was developed by the European Spa Association in conjunction with University of the West Indies.

Managers learn to Create Winners in the Workplace



Team from J E Bergasse at Milestone Development training programme

More than six years ago, local training company Milestone Development introduced a course to St Lucia called 'Creating Winners in the Workplace', and since then has exposed scores of the island's supervisors and managers to a human resource strategy which has proven invaluable in today's competitive world.

Last week, Milestone welcomed back Dr. Arnold Mol from South Africa to present his leadership program 'Creating Winners in the Workplace', and once again, the feedback from the practical and insightful two-day course was stellar.

According to Managing Director, Lisa Charles "this seminar has helped so many managers change their

style of leadership ... enabling them to lead their staff in a way that empowers and motivates them to produce results. The seminar was very well attended to the point where we were overbooked and had to turn people away. For this reason we will be bringing Dr. Mol back in October to deliver 'Creating Winners in the Workplace again'".

Representatives from organisations such as the St Lucia Fire Service, JE Bergasse & Co Ltd, The Cell, True Value and Digicel participated in the exercise.

Milestone Development's next seminar is aptly named 'Recession Business Survival Training'.

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Insurance Council seminar “Business Interruption” Tuesday

The Insurance Council of Saint Lucia is hosting a one day training seminar on “Business Interruption” on Tuesday May 7th at the Coco Resort Conference Room. The objective of this seminar is to apprise businesses to the range of insurance coverage and services that are available in the event of disaster, resulting in loss of business and earnings.

The seminar targets Board of Directors, General Managers, Senior Managers, Claims personnel, Insurance Brokers among others.

The objective is to bring together those transacting insurance business in Saint Lucia and to secure the advancement of the business of Insurance in the island on a sound basis and to encourage the highest standards of the professional etiquette and ethics in the industry

The seminar takes place Tuesday May 7th at the Palmville Meeting Room at Coco Palm Resort.

Strong Latin American buyer contingents for TIC 2013



Latin American buyer attendance at The Trade & Investment Convention is on the upswing for 2013, as Argentina, Brazil and the Dominican Republic have made commitments to bring delegations from leading

businesses from their countries to conduct trade on the showroom floor.

Buyers, (businesses seeking suppliers of goods and services from exhibitors on the tradeshow floor), are also registered from Poland, Panama, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Belize, Canada, the United States of America, Curaçao, the UK, Saint Maarten, Peru, Venezuela and as far afield as the United Arab Emirates.

Representatives from these countries will include distributors, exporters, importers, manufacturers and service providers interested in several local sectors such as agriculture, construction, energy, paper and printing, packing and labeling and food and beverage.

According to Anthony Aboud, Executive Chairman of TIC: “TIC has always received tremendous support from our local manufacturers and businesses and so it is even more rewarding to know our foreign counterparts understand that for anyone serious about doing business in T&T, TIC is the place to be.”

Hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association, the Trade & Investment Convention, (TIC), will celebrate its Fourteenth Anniversary from June 12th - 15th, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Source Carib PR Wire



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Shares available in Bank of Montserrat, deadline May 10th



2013. The proceeds from the issue will augment the Bank's capital base and diversify ownership.

The bank is seeking to raise EC\$20m. BML is one of two commercial banks operating on Montserrat today but is the only indigenous bank on the island. As such it plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the country and the dreams and aspirations of all Montserratians at home and abroad.

A letter from the Chairman of the bank says that the attendant decline in bankable projects in Montserrat prompted the Bank to diversify its portfolio into other revenue generating assets which culminated in investments in certificates of deposit with CLICO and BAICO. Like other financial institutions throughout the OECS that invested in these companies, the Bank has had to make provisions for impairment losses on these investments within the last three years.

The chairman says BML has confronted and surmounted the challenges of the past, and remains confident that future challenges will be overcome just as well. BML is well poised to take advantage of the projected growth in the Montserratian economy of 4.22 percent in 2012 as a result of a number of projects including the Road Rehabilitation Project, continuation of the Private Sector investment in the new Town Centre at Little Bay, the Museum, Government Accommodations, Volcano Interpretation Centre, the Lookout School Expansion Project, the Hospital Redevelopment Project, the Montserrat Utilities Power Generation Plant, as well as initiatives relating to geothermal energy exploration and sand mining. These projects and initiatives will redound to the benefit of Montserrat and BML.

Single mothers start training in new Celestial classroom



Single mothers at Celestial Training Centre

providing not only jobs for single unemployed mothers, but equally as important, a sense of self-worth to this particularly vulnerable group.

Following recent structural renovations at Celestial's Vide Bouteille factory, a new classroom has been designated and specifically designed for accommodating trainees from the National Skills Development Centre, NSDC. The two week session identifies the best of the best for apprenticeship as Assembly Technicians in the expanding Celestial facility.

Celestial's newly appointed Director Of Operations, Mrs. Marcia Charles, has been planning, screening and interviewing a large number of single mothers to attend this training mechanism provided free of charge by the company.

Tricia Leo, the SMILES coordinator, views the relationship with Celestial as a mutually beneficial alliance.

There are four days left to take advantage of the public share offering by Bank of Montserrat Ltd. The share offering is priced from \$5.00 to \$7.50 with minimum purchase of 100 shares for new shareholders and is scheduled for close on **May 10th**,

LUCELEC ups annual contribution to NCF to \$30,000



Madonna Monrose and NCF Chairman Martin Weekes accept LUCELEC check

St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited newly sworn-in National Community Foundation (NCF) Executive Director, Ms Madonna Monrose described corporate sponsors like the Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC) as the "lifeblood of the organization."

She was speaking at the launch of the 10th annual NCF Telethon, to be held this year on May 26. In its continued show of goodwill, LUCELEC presented NCF Chairman Martin Weekes with a financial donation of \$30,000 for this year. The contribution was made through the LUCELEC Trust Company Inc., a non-profit established by LUCELEC to manage the Company's response to requests for assistance or donations to targeted groups such as the NCF.

LUCELEC has long contributed to the NCF, increasing its initial yearly contribution in support of the NCF mandate which is the provision of financial support to the poor and disadvantaged among us.

"Until 3 years ago, LUCELEC contributed \$25,000 annually to the NCF as it had since its inception. We have since increased that annual contribution to \$30,000 in the face of growing need for the services provided by the NCF. Our contribution goes towards supporting requests for medical assistance, appeals for which we forward to the NCF for consideration," says LUCELEC's Corporate Communications Manager, Roger Joseph.

The Telethon is the single largest fundraiser held annually by the non-profit organization. This year the aim is to raise \$300,000 in donations.

Digicel St. Lucia welcomes coaches from Chelsea FC Foundation



Thirty young football enthusiasts who recently qualified to take part in the 2013 Digicel Kick Start Clinics will have the benefit of three top coaches from the Chelsea Football Club Foundation, England. The Coaches arrived on island on Thursday evening ahead of the event's official launch ceremony and Clinic which took place on Friday.

Digicel's Marketing team was on hand

to welcome the coaches as they arrived. The Chelsea Football Club Foundation coaches were greeted with local fruits and souvenirs giving them a true St. Lucian welcome.

The coaches are David Monk, Senior International Football Development Officer, who specialises in ambassadorial roles and coach education programmes. Andrew Patrick Ottley who is the International Development Officer will join him. The third coach is Kane Nicholas Cowburn, International Football Development Head Coach.

Marketing Manager for Digicel St Lucia, Kerchelle Jn Charles said, "Digicel is very pleased to receive International support from the Chelsea organization for our youth in St. Lucia.

Three of the young football enthusiasts from the St Lucian leg of the Digicel Kick Start Clinics will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a one-week training camp at the Digicel Academy in Barbados in August.

They are Ryi Maryat, Keeroy Lionel and Anton Paul. At the camp they will be joined by other young footballers from other Caribbean islands and Central America.

British territories sign deal on tax information



The Cayman Islands will in future share information on taxes with the UK and other countries. Bermuda and other British overseas territories with financial centres have signed agreements on sharing tax information, the Treasury has said. The move follows similar recent deals with Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

The move is aimed at tracking down banking clients who escape paying taxes by hiding their money overseas.

It comes amid an international drive against tax evasion and the use of tax havens. Just a few years ago, the idea of Bermuda or the Cayman Islands sharing information with the British tax authorities would have seemed farfetched.

By March this year, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey had agreed to a greater automatic information exchange with the UK. And now the ink is drying on a deal with the Overseas Territories. Other British overseas territories involved include the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. What's more the sharing of bank account details will be with France, Germany, Italy and Spain as well.

They will pass on bank account details, such as names, addresses, dates of birth, account numbers, account balances and payment details.

Data will be shared with both the UK tax authorities and those in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

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