

ANTIGUA ECHO

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE (MOSTLY)

WORLD CUP 2034?

After a World Cup that seemed determined to rewrite the rules on foul play, Antigua and Barbuda is getting something rather more constructive from FIFA — a new 5,000-seat football stadium. FIFA President Gianni Infantino gave his personal commitment to support the project during a visit to the island, following talks with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and local football officials. Land has already been earmarked, although its location remains under wraps. The stadium is expected to become the country's dedicated home of football.



SMALL ISLAND, BIG VOICE



Antigua's voice carried all the way to the UN this week, with Ambassador Walton Webson making sure the concerns of small island states were heard loud and clear. Climate justice, fairer financing and even a dedicated SIDS seat on a revamped Security Council were all on the table. Webson also gave a plug to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS and November's Global Eye Health Summit. Small islands, big issues — and Antigua isn't staying quiet about them.

HALO FOUNDATION



A&B has called for the International Whaling Commission to give greater recognition to the sustainable use of whale resources. Speaking at the IWC's 70th meeting in Hobart, Australia, Ambassador Daven Joseph said conservation should be balanced with the organisation's original role in managing whaling. A&B's position supports regulated use where it is backed by science.

REEF REVIVAL

Amid disappointing environmental news around the world, Antigua's underwater world has 5,800 reasons to celebrate after AnuBlue recorded its biggest restoration year yet. More than **5,800 nursery-grown corals** have been planted across local reefs, covering around 2.3 acres — with an impressive **84% survival rate**. Scientists, fishermen, divers and volunteers are behind the mammoth effort, growing 15 reef-building species and giving Antigua and Barbuda's precious marine habitats a much-needed boost for the future. [Find out more about this vital work here.](#)



BACKPAGE GOSSIP

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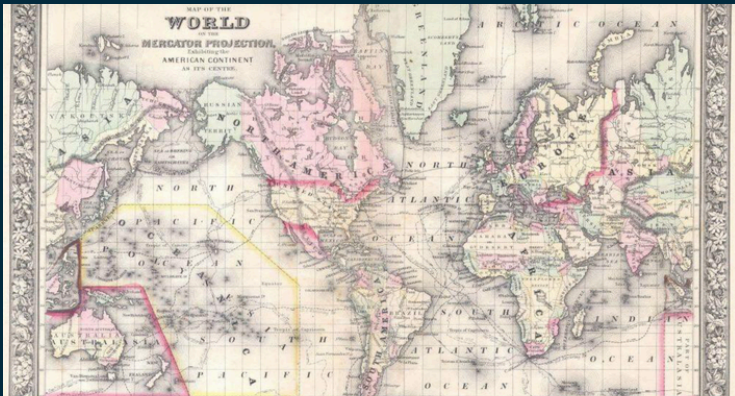
RUMOUR HAS IT

That Antigua is eyeing the 2027 CPL finals — and after the success of this year's tournament, why shouldn't it? The island is rapidly becoming the Caribbean's go-to sporting stage: cricket, football, sailing — if it's big, Antigua wants it. And with the crowds, atmosphere and sheer enthusiasm generated by the recent CPL, there is a growing feeling that major events don't just come here. They belong here.

The Falcons Rule!



RUMOUR HAS IT



That the world has been the wrong shape for 450 years. The UN has backed a new Equal Earth map that shows Africa at something closer to its true size — rather than the strangely diminished version handed down by the old Mercator projection. Equal Earth keeps countries' relative areas accurate while giving the globe a more balanced, readable shape. Greenland, it turns out, is not Africa's near-equal after all. Africa is about 14 times bigger. Geography teachers everywhere may need a larger wall. Perhaps Antigua's 40,000sq miles of ocean, instead of just our 170 sq miles of land, should be more clearly marked.

RUMOUR HAS IT



That hubris can go no higher. Can it? Donald Trump has now put himself on a US one-dollar coin, which feels less like a commemoration and more like merchandising with legal tender attached. The anniversary issue features his portrait beside "Liberty" and "In God We Trust," presumably because "In Branding We Trust" was unavailable. A roll of 25 costs US\$61, and despite their golden glow, the coins contain no actual gold. America, meanwhile, turns 250 and appears to be celebrating with a souvenir shop.

AD-DED EXTRA

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GOOD HUMANS 268

Good Humans 268 says its mission goes well beyond recycling. The local initiative is working to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities, campaign for better waste legislation and help build a more effective waste-management system for Antigua and Barbuda. Education is central to the effort too — from turning waste glass into usable sand to explaining why different plastics and metals need separating. Small changes, they say, can add up to something much bigger.

[Subscribe to their YouTube channel and follow their weekly series to learn more facts about waste](#)



JOSHUANETTE FRANCIS

BE PART OF ART WEEK



YOUNG ARTISTS — START PAINTING!
Antigua and Barbuda Art Week is calling on students aged 7–17 to show what “The Rhythm of the Islands” means to them. Winning artwork will be exhibited at V.C. Bird International Airport, with prizes in three age groups. Entries close November 6 at noon. Paint, draw, collage — and show us your Antigua!
For additional information, call 268-562-7600.

SHOPPING IN ENGLISH HARBOUR

A welcome return to English Harbour: a new supermarket is opening at the Superyacht Marina, next to Seabreeze, bringing a much-needed local grocery option back to the area for the first time since the fire. The official opening is on 10 October.



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Few gifts can change a future like education. The Halo Foundation has donated around \$18,000 to the GN Trust, helping talented young Antiguan pursue university studies in the UK while developing their football at elite level. Lady Sandra Williams presented the donation to GN Trust President Ricky Santos at Government House.

