

ANTIGUA ECHO

THE LIGHTER
SIDE OF LIFE



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Antigua and Barbuda is becoming popular with larger countries looking for solutions to their own problems. Washington would like help accommodating third-country deportees. After all the excitement, the Government's White Paper is actually more caution than commitment. The proposed arrangement would be limited to a maximum of ten carefully vetted individuals, fully funded by the United States and subject to Antigua & Barbuda's approval at every stage. The document spends far more time listing risks & safeguards than making promises. Its biggest warning is that once someone arrives, international legal obligations may make them difficult to remove. The question is not who comes, but whether they ever leave. [Read the White Paper here.](#)



OVERTURN THAT!



Even a rugby fan has to admit the FIFA World Cup has become hard to ignore. Some of the tournament favourites are already heading home while outsiders continue to dream.

Belgium's players provided one of the tournament's more memorable moments after a response to political interference over a red-card ban: "Overturn that!" Quarter-finals begin on 9 July, semi-finals 14 and 15 July, the third-place play-off on 18 July & the final on 19 July. One day, perhaps, A&B will be there too.

England 3 Mexico 2
Belgium 4 USA 1



WHOSE COUNTRY?



Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme has received a formal "request" from the EU to shut the programme down by June 2028. The EU's new position appears to be that

citizenship-by-investment schemes are objectionable simply because they exist, regardless of how well they are run. One might have assumed that Antigua and Barbuda's citizenship laws were a matter for Antigua and Barbuda. The European Union appears to have a different view.

THE FINAL SOLUTION !



There are few more miserable things than itchy, infected, incessant mosquito bites and no more satisfying sounds than the crackle of a mosquito meeting its fate in a bug zapper. In Antigua we are twice blessed - nighttime AND daytime mosquitoes. For those who believe that ordinary insect control simply isn't ambitious enough, one inventor has built a full-body bug-zapping suit. Wrapped in electrified mesh, it fries mosquitoes on contact while somehow avoiding frying the wearer too. It reportedly works rather well, apart from the minor inconvenience of weighing a ton and becoming rather more exciting when it rains. Mosquitoes, it seems, finally have something to fear. Forget street-cred & style. Très chic!

BACKPAGE GOSSIP

ISSUE 2026:11

RUMOUR HAS IT

That ski masks have become surprisingly popular in Antigua and Barbuda. Given that they are prohibited by law and entirely unnecessary in a country where the temperature rarely drops below “warm”, wearers are not preparing for an unexpected snowfall. Cabinet has now announced a crackdown, with police instructed to confiscate the offending headwear. It seems that if you are wandering around Antigua dressed for an Arctic expedition, people may reasonably conclude that snow is not the only thing in which you are trying to avoid being recognised.



RUMOUR HAS IT



That it's not just the occasional white-haired dictator who has unusually ambitious plans. Belgian Bitcoin millionaire Olivier Janssens is reportedly hoping to build a libertarian mega-community called “Destiny” on Nevis complete with villas, hospitals, green spaces and even its own legal system. The proposed 2,400-acre development has been described as a possible “Dubai of the Caribbean,” although plenty of locals are reportedly less than thrilled at the idea of a billionaire-backed mini-state appearing on their doorstep.

RUMOUR HAS IT

That saying “yes” may soon become one of the most expensive words in your vocabulary. Tech experts are warning that AI-powered scammers are increasingly calling people & asking innocent-sounding questions such as “Can you hear me?” or “Are you the homeowner?” The goal is to record your voice and potentially use it for fraud. If an unknown caller rings, resist the urge to say “yes”. Instead ask who is calling and why. Better yet, embrace a time-honoured Caribbean security system: if it's important, they'll leave a message.



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