No Disrespect To GG

Olympics Pass

London Mayor Boris Johnson waves the Olympic flag before passing it to President of the International Olympic Committee Jacques Rogge (centre), as Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes waits to receive it during the ceremonial handing over of the Olympic flag at the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium yesterday. (Reuters) See story on page 13

Hi 86°  
Lo 79°
Chance of Storm

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BREAKING NEWS 91.1FM / NEWS UPDATES www.antiguaobserver.com
WHAT’S ON

Tomorrow
ST MARY’S REGISTRATION
St Mary’s Secondary School will register new students on Tuesday, August 14 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Parents/guardians should accompany the student and bring along the original and a copy of child’s birth certificate/passport, a recent passport-sized photo and $25 to purchase the school’s T-shirt. Please take note that waistcoats ($35) and ties ($15) will be available for sale. Textbooks will also be distributed.

August 17
ST GEORGE’S BARBECUE
St George’s Anglican Church will be holding its Family Fun Day Service and Barbecue on Friday, August 17 from 6-9 pm at St Mark’s Chapel in Pigott’s Village. This event, originally planned for Sunday at Jabberwock, was postponed due to inclement weather. Tickets already purchased will remain valid.

August 17 & 18
EXPRESSIONS 9 DANCE
Antigua Youth for Christ presents Expression 9, performances by dance groups from Trinidad, St Lucia and the Bahamas, on the theme of “Authentic Worship.” Also features Antigua & Barbuda dance groups including Verity Dance, Liberty Dancers, Potters Dance Ministry, Glorifiers, Chain Breakers and more, to be held Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18 at 7:30 pm at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 children at the door. For more information, contact 725-3747, 732-5910 or 782-4540.

August 21
EX SERVICEMEN TO MEET
The next meeting of the executive committee of the Antigua and Barbuda Ex-Servicemen’s Association will be held on Tuesday, August 21 at 5 pm at the Red Cross headquarters on Old Parham Road. For further information telephone 561-1062.

August 22 & 23
VILLA SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Registration of new students to Villa Primary School will take place on August 22 and 23 from 9 am to 12 noon. Parents are asked to bring along the child’s birth certificate or passport, health card, and a recent passport-sized photo. A registration fee of $35 must be paid on the same day to cover the cost of a PE shirt and the school’s hymn book.

Send your notices to The Daily Observer; whatson@antiguaoobserver.com or fax: (268) 480 1757

EXTENDED FORECAST

ON THE RADIO

OBSERVER Radio 91.1
OBSERVER AM – 7–9 am
Shelton Daniel interviews people who make the Big Stories at home and across the region

Coffee Break – 9–11 am
Cleverory Thomas chats with those making our community a better place
9:00 am – Louis H Lockhart Scholarship Awardee

Voice of the People, “Where you set the agenda” – 11 am–2 pm
11:00 am-2:00 pm – Open line
11:45 am – The Big Stories – Lunchtime news round-up

Carnival Central – 2:30–5 pm
The music of Antigua’s Carnival 2012

Session in Steel – 5–5:30 pm
Pan Man Sam Roberts with the fastest half hour in radio featuring pan

The Big Stories – 5:30 Edition
The most comprehensive round-up of the day’s news

Carnival Central – 6:30-8 pm
Serpent in the Snakepit – 8-10 pm

HITZ FM 91.9
Good Morning JoJo – 7–10 am
Weekend sports round-up

The Hardrive Show – 2–6 pm
Noze Dogg & the Buzz Squad bring you new music at 2 pm; Silent hour with your requests at 3; Text to Win with Dicigel; Afternoon Rev at 4

DJ Bruno C – 6–8 pm
A mixture of old school songs & new age grooves

Facebook Forum
Share your thoughts and experiences of this year’s Carnival on our Facebook wall. What was the highlight for you and what changes would you like to see next year?

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK AT www.facebook.com/ObserverMediaGroup

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Governor General not snubbed

By Juliet Benjamin

The Governor General was not slighted in her absence from Friday’s inauguration of the OECS Assembly, regional and local officials sought to explain yesterday.

The officials, led by House Speaker D Gisele Isaac, moved swiftly to respond to rumours that Dame Louise Lake-Tack, as the representative of the head of state of Antigua & Barbuda, had been snubbed.

Isaac explained that the Governor General is the Queen’s representative and there is no ‘throne’ involved in the Assembly.

The officials said the head of state could not, under the separation of powers between branches of government, be expected to preside over the meeting of parliamentarians of the nine-nation OECS. The regional bloc also includes Dominica, a republic.

But the issue was complicated by an OECS news release that appeared to involve the Governor General in the historic event.

The OECS Secretariat, as late as August 3, indicated that “this milestone event will include such highlights as the inspection of a Guard of Honour by the Governor General of Antigua & Barbuda.”

The Governor General was, however, notably absent from the function and the Guard of Honour comprised members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua & Barbuda and the inspection was carried out by Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer and Chairman of the OECS Assembly Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

Despite the change, the House Speaker, a member of the planning committee, is putting paid to the rumour of a slighting of the head of state. She explained that the event was not a national occasion, but regional, and thus there was no role for the Governor General.

Isaac noted that all trappings which were symbolic of the crown and state had to be removed from the parliamentary chambers to accommodate the Assembly. These included the photographs of Queen Elisabeth and the Governor General, and the national flag along with the laws of Antigua & Barbuda, which usually reside on the clerk’s table.

Even more importantly, Isaac said, the Mace which represents royal authority and prestige in the Westminster System had to be removed and replaced by an OECS Mace. The direction in which it would face in a traditional setting also had to be changed.

“The head of the Mace usually faces the government side. In the regional assembly a special Mace was made for the occasion and instead of being laid horizontally it was laid vertically,” Isaac told OBSERVER Media.

“All these things indicate it was not a state affair, as in Antigua & Barbuda. It was a regional governments’ affair. As such there was no slight to the Governor General,” she added.

Although the regional assembly is made up of elected representatives, there are no government and opposition sides. The members are all national delegates, Isaac said.

The Guard of Honour did not include members of the Defence Force which is headed by the Governor General, and thus two prime ministers inspected the troops.

Additionally, the Speaker added that at the Assembly’s initial start-up date of June 15, the GG would have been absent from the state, hence there would have been no thought of “disrespect.”

OECS Consultant Dr Rosemary Husbands-Mathurin concurred with Isaac’s observations on the lack of a role for the Governor General in the new initiative, noting that not all of the islands making up the assembly have the queen as head of state - case in point: The Commonwealth of Dominica.

The programme was planned by a local planning committee headed by Ambassador Colin Murdoch.

“It was his decision and their deliberation that organised the final programme. The OECS was not involved in the planning at all. It was an OECS event but the planned by the host country planning committee,” Dr Husbands-Mathurin said.

TOR MEMORIAL SCHOOL REGISTRATION

TOR Memorial’s registration for September 2012 is ongoing. School fees are $950 per term. Application forms can be obtained from the principal’s office at the school between 8 am and 2:30 pm Mondays to Fridays. For further information please call 720-2879.
In the months leading up to the final OECS Assembly inauguration, one of the details that organisers had to deal with was creating a distinctive mace to use in the opening ceremonies.

The mace was originally a weapon used to break open heavy body armour. As military tactics changed, the weapon was abandoned for all uses except as a symbol of authority. Its vestiges can be seen in the maces still used in the Westminster Parliament system.

The wooden mace is carried by a sergeant of arms, preceding the Speaker in the processions that begin and end a session. It is also used to indicate the centre of power in the room, and must be present on the table at the front of the assembly in order for business to proceed.

For the OECS, the composition of the symbol was a point of discussion. During the 55th Meeting of the OECS Authority in St Vincent and the Grenadines in June, Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit suggested that it should be made of pieces of wood from all of the member states and the associate members.

However, time did not allow for this to happen, so it was decided that an interim mace would be created, and the organisation called upon Antiguan craftsman Renford Daley to create the piece.

Browne comments on Bird’s absence

By Juliet Benjamin

When the inaugural session of the OECS Regional Assembly began last Friday, noticeably empty were the seats set aside for three opposition members - Dr Keith Mitchell of Grenada, St Lucia’s Stephenson King and Lester Bird of Antigua & Barbuda.

The non-appearance of these three has raised eyebrows and the word boycott is being whispered in some political circles.

Bird’s absence is the most remarkable given he was one of the original signatories to the Treaty of Basseterre in 1981, which brought the OECS into being. Bird is regarded as the most senior legislator among the opposition leaders in the OECS.

He should have taken his seat in the regional assembly alongside his deputy Gaston Browne.

Of significance is the fact that none of the absentees appeared to have sent apologies to the Speaker, apart from a reference made by Mark Brantley - the man selected to speak on behalf of all the opposition parties - who said he had received a letter from King explaining his absence.

Browne said he could not say definitively why his leader was a no-show.

“In the first instance, we were expecting our political leader. I am not exactly sure what happened to him, if he sent an apology. But then again, one would have probably been read.

“Again I am not sure of the circumstances and I do not want to speculate on the reason or reasons why he was not present,” Browne said.

Browne said there were no opportunities in the session to present an oral apology on behalf of his leader.

“At the time when I got there I was expecting him. He didn’t make it to the opening session of the assembly and at that time the opposition leaders had not arrived. They had a pre-arranged agenda and there certainly would not have been such an opportunity to rise on my feet and offer any type of apology.”

Despite the absence of one of the most senior statesmen, Browne said if Bird’s absence was due to ill Continued on page 12
Antigua Commercial Bank
Louis H. Lockhart Scholarship Recipient 2012

CONGRATULATIONS
Stratton Browne

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff congratulate Stratton Browne on being awarded the Antigua Commercial Bank Louis H. Lockhart Scholarship

Strength. Service. Solutions.
Technology to play a role in OECS future

By KC Nash

In their addresses during the OECS Assembly’s historic first session, many of the speakers chose to talk about the past and how the union came to this point. However, in his address, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer put emphasis on the future — and specifically how Antigua & Barbuda was going to provide the technology necessary to help the organisation achieve its goals.

Spencer pointed out that, although the assembly would be based here in Antigua, he believed that technology will be providing the bridge to allow the necessary functions of research and communications.

“We live in disparate islands, and I do not anticipate that a representative from St Lucia will travel to the assembly in Antigua to do research in the Assembly library ... That research, a vital function of all Parliamentarians, will have to be done online, as the St Lucia representative accesses the virtual library of the OECS Assembly,” he pointed out.

He then went even further, painting a picture of a virtual OECS world. “I anticipate the day, and that day is coming soon, when the OECS Assembly will convene online, and we will have the world’s first virtual Parliament,” he posited.

He also pointed out that the Parliament building that Antigua & Barbuda is providing as the headquarters is a state-of-the-art facility giving the parliamentarians effective multimedia access.

“The Debating Chamber in which we now sit not only has multimedia capability, but also has both wired Internet and wireless, and the high bandwidth allows members, the media and the public, easy high-speed access to the Internet,” Spencer said.

In addition, the building has a data centre where the assembly will be able to store important data and make it available to its members.

Mindful of the need to get information out to all the member nations, Spencer also dealt with the building’s broadcast capabilities.

“The three dedicated media galleries and a full TV and radio facility are capable, as we are doing now, of simultaneous TV and radio live broadcast across the region and live Internet video streaming. We place these facilities at the service of the OECS Assembly in order to foster and encourage a high degree of transparency and people participation throughout the region,” he explained.

Math co-ordinator set to address low CXC math pass rate

By Theresa Gordon

Co-ordinator of Mathematics in the Ministry of Education, Caron Weston, said she will be “pulling out all the stops” to increase the national performance in the subject area.

Last year, a mere 29 per cent or 437 student out of a total of 1,518 that sat mathematics passed the exam, and the figure is believed to be lower this year.

This pass rate is quite alarming compared to the region’s average, which according to the Caribbean Examination Council CXC is 33 per cent this year.

Weston, a doctoral student who returned to the job December last year, said this high failure rate is of grave concern for her especially when compared to other subject areas which are recording high passes.

Weston said teachers need to be more equipped with 21st century methodologies to deliver the subject in a more effective manner.

She indicated that this would mean including more research as part of the curriculum and teachers making writing, reading and comprehension part of their trajectory.

“We have also got to make certain that the mathematics we are teaching our children they can link it to their real world experience,” Weston said in an exclusive interview with OBSERVER Media.

The co-ordinator admitted that the examination body cannot reduce the pass rate any lower, adding that the solution going forward is to ensure that the practical math component is not abstract.

“We have to build the students up from where they are and it can be done, but again we have to empower our teachers to make them understand these are things that you can do. High quality teaching is important,” Weston said.

She also pointed out that her visit to a number of schools across the island proved that certain components are missing from the application of the subject which is compulsory.

“It’s not satisfying, and I as a leader, will have to make certain that I get my troops organised that we can take mathematics forward in this country. It can be done, it will be done, and I am prepared to put myself on the line to make certain that there is an increase in math in this country,” she added.

Education Minister Dr Jacqui Quinn-Leandri, in an Continued on page 8
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Math from page 6

interview last year following the announcement of the Math results, said her ministry would be implementing a number of recommendations by CXC to tackle the decline in math scores.

Dr Quinn-Leandro said those steps included training teachers in the use of the new CXC online learning portal Notesmaster for math.

The minister also added that it is the ministry’s hope to sign onto CXC’s teacher certification course to ensure math teachers are brought up to par.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean Examination Council has issued a call to action to address the performance in mathematics.

According to the examination body, the performance in the May/June 2012 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) mathematics examination has resulted in a call for action in the region to address deficiencies in the subject.

This year, 33 per cent of the entries for mathematics achieved Grades I – III, which are the acceptable grades at CSEC.

CXC said this is a further decline in performance when compared with the last two years. In 2011, 35 per cent earned similar grades and in 2010 the figure stood at 41 per cent.

Registrar of CXC Dr Didacus Jules outlined some measures CXC will be implementing to address the issue.

He said the body will be establishing an expert working group to recommend comprehensive changes in the teaching, learning and assessment of mathematics; encouraging participating countries to use CCLSC Mathematics as a foundation programme for developing the competencies for mastery of mathematics; providing teacher training in more effective syllabus delivery and SBA management; and providing study guides in core subject areas in CSEC and CAPE including mathematics, published in collaboration with Nelson Thornes.

In terms of regional performance, CXC said for the third consecutive year, overall performance in the May/June examination has declined.

This year 62 per cent of the candidate entries achieved Grades I – III, the acceptable grades; compared with 66 per cent in 2011 and 69 per cent in 2010.

Of the 62 per cent achieving acceptable grades, 11.30 per cent gained Grade I; 22.39 per cent gained Grade II and 28.46 per cent gained Grade III.

The examination body said 35 subjects were offered for the May/June examination this year and performance improved in nine subjects, declined on 19, remained the same on six and included one new subject.

The communique said the most improved performances were seen on electrical and electronic technology and mechanical engineering technology.

“This year 65 per cent of entries for electrical and electronic technology achieved acceptable grades. This compares very favourably with the 44 per cent which achieved the same grades in 2011, representing a 21 per cent improvement. For mechanical engineering technology, there was a 13 per cent improvement, with 69 per cent achieving Grades I – III compared with 56 per cent last year,” the release said.

Integrated science recorded 6 per cent improvement in performance, with 80 per cent of entries achieving acceptable grades compared with 74 per cent in 2011.

Clothing and textiles also registered improved performance. Eighty-six per cent of entries achieved acceptable grades when compared with 81 per cent in 2011.

Forty per cent of the entries for Information Technology achieved Grade I and 31.42 per cent achieved Grade II. This combined for an overall improved performance when compared with 2011.

Overall, 83 per cent of the entries gained acceptable grades compared with 79 per cent last year.

CXC also reported steady progress in the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), which replaced the traditional A ‘levels in the region.

The number of unit entries this year increased from 108,379 last year to 109,880 this year, an increase of 1,501 entries.

The number of candidates writing CAPE also increased when compared with previous years.

This year 28,043 candidates wrote CAPE, compared with 27,596 candidates in 2011, an increase of 447 candidates.

The Ministry of Education is expected to give an official breakdown of the results for CSEC and Cape later this week.

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LET’S CELEBRATE

The Girls’ Brigade will be celebrating 50 years of service to Girls in Antigua, commencing July 2012. Former members of active and dormant companies are invited to contact Lornette Francis at 728-7171/463-3164 or Tracey Weste at 786-9889/460-1203 for further information. We look forward to your support.

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NOTICE

Form RLNC 6 ANTIGUA AND BARBUD THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374 Section 34 of the Act

Registration Section
North Central
Block 12 2193B
Parcel 107

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 11th day of July, 2012 by PEYTON J. V. KNIGHT of PEYTON J. V. KNIGHT & ASSOCIATES of Upper Newgate Street on behalf of, MILDRED NAOMI FARQUHAR the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate #1346 dated the 30th March 1995 issued to MILDRED NAOMI FARQUHAR, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 25th day of July, 2012

Registrar of Lands
Former medallists see great future for Caribbean Olympic athletes

By Martina Johnson

It has been but a few hours since the 2012 Summer Olympics concluded, but already one Caribbean repeat Olympic medallist is predicting greater victories for the region’s athletes after seeing them churn up the tracks as well as make history on the field these past two weeks.

Deon Hemmings-McCatty, the first ever Jamaican woman to win an Olympic Gold when she won the 400-metre hurdles at the 1996 Olympics and set a record that stood to 2004, said the stage has been set for more record breaking moments for the region’s athletes in the Rio 2016 Olympics.

“From what we have seen of the Caribbean, it can only get better from here. Our athletes are getting younger and I foresee the next Olympics will be an exciting time for the region,” Hemmings-McCatty said during Saturday’s summary of the international event.

At the time she was speaking, she was an analyst on IMC’s special Caribbean centric London Olympics coverage.

Hemmings-McCatty predicted many of the region’s wins during her guest appearance on IMC and rejoiced when they came to be.

In a subsequent exclusive interview with OBSERVER Media, she said, “I knew our athletes would make history and dominate in the track events. The field victory was somewhat surprising and I am very proud of every one of those athletes who represented the Caribbean.”

She noted the size of one’s country is no longer a measure of one’s probable success - just look at the achievements of the Caribbean: from Jamaica’s 4x100 men’s gold medal win in world record time to Bahamas’s 4x400 men’s dominance; Grenada’s first Olympic gold medal with Kirani James winning the 400-metre men’s race to Dominican Republic’s Felix Sanchez’ gold medal victory in the 400-metre hurdles.

And there’s also Trinidad’s Keshorn Walcott who made history on the field as the first gold medallist for the Caribbean in a field event at the Olympics. That event was the men’s javelin. Usain Bolt of Jamaica, made history too by becoming the first man to successfully defend the men’s 100-metre and 200-metre Olympic sprint titles. And there were many more victories for the Caribbean.

The population of the aforementioned Caribbean states come nowhere close to that of the USA, China and Europe which send off hundreds of athletes, chosen from among hundreds more, to participate in almost all the sport disciplines at every Olympic event.

For the Caribbean, Hemmings-McCatty said, there are only a handful of athletes to choose from to send to the Olympics yet, their presence hardly ever go unnoticed by the world, particularly in more recent times.

Achieving such feat only comes after years of hard work, sweat and many injuries, she said.

However, the track star turned director of a real estate company in her homeland said a lot more can be done to ensure bigger successes for the region in track and field events and even in water sports.

“We need to start from early, from primary schools. It is important to have programmes to prepare athletes from primary school right into the high schools and even if they go abroad to study we must keep in touch with them and invite them to championships annually every time they have study break,” she suggested.

Already, she said, there are very good existing programmes in all levels of schooling in Jamaica but she believes more can be done there and in all other Caribbean states.

“In Jamaica for example, we don’t have the amount of resources. There is no track in central Jamaica. Athletes who are serious have to go Kingston or Montego Bay ... the same thing happens in maybe all our Caribbean countries and some don’t even have a track.

Also, it all depends on the individual and how much the person wants it and can go after it. I believe individuals would participate more if the resources were readily available in the region,” she told OBSERVER Media.

Olympic bronze medallist for Bahamas in 1992 in the triple jump event Frank Rutherford expressed similar views as Hemmings-McCatty.

He too was a panellist giving in-studio commentary during IMC’s coverage of the Olympics.

“There would be many more occasions of David slaying Goliath at the Olympics if all things are held equal and our Continued on page 10
Calypsonian calls for gov’t support for the art form

By Theresa Gordon

A veteran calypsonian has added his voice to the chorus that there needs to be more government involvement in the musical art form, especially around Carnival.

Joseph “Calypso Joe” Hunte said the artists’ preparations were not as good when compared to previous years when tent operators were able to operate for a longer period.

This year, the tent operators blamed the lack of funds, including the usual government subsidy that was not forthcoming, as the main obstacle to their late opening.

The calypsonian, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award this weekend from the Wadadli Calypsonians Association, said without government involvement the tents will fail.

“We have tried the private sector; the private sector is really overloaded because everybody is going to the same people every year and the business people too have their own preferences,” Hunte said.

The artiste is also recommending that the Carnival Development Committee (CDC) introduces a zonal calypso competition among students as a build-up to the annual Junior Calypso Monarch Competition.

He said this would generate much interest among the young contenders.

“Just like how they have educational zones, they should have competitions in the zones and then the best from each zone comes forward to the final,” Hunte added.

Hunte, who has been in the business since 1969, said he was honoured to receive an award from his own.

“To accept any award from your peers, I think it’s very important and I gracefully accepted,” Hunte said.

Also taking home an award from the black tie affair, held at the Grand Royal Antigua Resort, were Paul “King Obi” Richards who received the Grand Master Award. The award was also bestowed upon Sir McLean “King Short Shirt” Emanuel and Sir Rupert “King Swallow” Philo.

Queen Singing Althea Williams was also named Most Consistent Female Calypsonian; the Satire and Humour Award went to Muera “Mighty Artist” Boddie.

The late Lesroy Merchant was honoured for being an outstanding composer, along with Rupert “Little Man” Pelle and Marcus Christopher.

There were 12 categories of awards.

“The association believes it is important to show appreciation to outstanding contributors who have contributed to the art form hence the reason behind the occasion,” president of the association Adelza “Lypstick” Sheridan said.

Pelle, a composer for over 20 years said he was indeed elated to receive the award, his second in a week.

Pelle was also awarded by the Carnival Development Committee for his commitment to his work before the close of the 2012 Carnival celebrations.

DCA to set up volunteer unit to monitor unplanned development

The Development Control Authority, (DCA), will be setting up a Volunteer Corps, within the authority as it moves to “identify buildings that are going up in contravention of the law or where they see things that don’t look right.”

Chairman Leon Chaku Symister explained that the establishment of such a unit is necessary at this time because of the limited number of staff and a series of problems plaguing the DCA.

Symister told yesterday’s Big Issues programme that the “common problems” are very challenging to the authority.

“At times these persons build on other person’s land and too close to the neighbours’ boundary and without adhering to the set back as required by law,” Symister said.

According to the law, builders should erect their structure within 10 feet of the neighbour’s boundary, but Symister said residents are turning a blind eye to this and other things.

Another eye sore he pointed to is the tendency of residents building a septic tank too close to fences which create a stench once there is an overflow.

“These are some of the problems we are seeking to avoid, because invariably it will reduce neighboring conflicts,” Symister added.

In recent times, the authority has issued a number of stop orders to persons who violate the building laws and more so persons whom the chairman said have erected facilities blocking the sidewalks.

According to him, once a stop order is issued, the offending individual has 28 days to appeal the order and after the expiration of those 28 days, the authority has the right to act. (Theresa Gordon)
Continuing treatment key to handling HIV/AIDS locally

By Tameika Malone

Founder and Director of the Antigua & Barbuda HIV/AIDS Network said more needs to be done to get and keep HIV/AIDS patients on a treatment regimen where they can be educated on how to suppress the virus.

While speaking on the Big Issues programme yesterday, Eleanor Frederick acknowledged that although the country is doing a good job at testing for the virus, she said persons infected by the disease must be better equipped with the tools to remain healthy.

“We need to get people into treatment and care, we need to maintain them in treatment and we need to make sure it is upgraded, that they are getting the viral load test and the CD4 count and people are becoming treatment literate; that they understand what they can do to suppress the virus,” Frederick said.

Fresh from the Global AIDS Conference held in Washington that brought together 24,000 individuals from 183 different countries, Frederick said special emphasis must be placed on preventing the spread of the disease and treatment care where those infected are educated on the importance of adhering to medication instructions.

Frederick said once HIV/AIDS patients are shown how to care for themselves without relapsing into illness then persons are more compliant with the necessary lifestyle changes needed to keep them well.

“The virus will still be in your body but it is not enough to cause you to be sick and for the transmission to be at an elevated level. Once they get to that stage and they see the change, then trust me they get it, and they will do what they have so they are not sick,” she added.

The director said a larger and more experienced team needs to be in place to manage each case individually and added, “We have to make sure that persons know what they are about when they are telling these persons about the virus. We need to have a larger team that understands the science of this disease.”

Frederick added that the non-governmental organisations must also get on board to work towards the one common goal.

Meanwhile, Frederick said there is currently no data available in Antigua & Barbuda to support calls for the decriminalisation of sex work to help combat the disease.

According to statistics, female sex workers have 14 times the risk of contracting HIV than other women of similar ages. In Asia, 14 countries were surveyed and it showed that the risk among the female population was 0.18 per cent, while the sex workers are 29 times more likely to contract the disease with 5.2 per cent being positive.

The sub-Saharan Africa and Latin American Caribbean survey showed that female sex workers are 12 per cent at risk to contract the disease.

However, Frederick said based on the current numbers in Antigua & Barbuda there is no evidence that would lead her to urge government to decriminalise sex work.

“When you ask for these things to happen it has to be evidence-based, I am sure they can decriminalise based on other issues but based on HIV we need to do our homework. For you to ask for legislation, the facts need to be there,” she noted.

MINDING YOUR BUSINESS

Are you a micro or small business owner operating in the creative or productive industries? The Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority wants to connect with you. The authority is in the process of cataloging SMEs in operation in Antigua ahead of its design of a business incubation unit. If yours falls into the above category of businesses, contact our Enterprise Development Department to complete an information sheet. You may also download the information sheet at www.antigua.gov.ag or visit our Facebook page “ABIA Mind Your Business Small Business Development Series.” Call ABIA at 481-1021 or 481-1000/1/2 for further information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ACCOUNTS CLERK/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WANTED

- RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE INVOICING, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & RECEIVABLE, INVENTORY & STOCK CONTROL, BANKING DUTIES & RECONCILIATION AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.
- IDEAL APPLICANT SHOULD BE SELF-MOTIVATED, HONEST, HARD-WORKING & RELIABLE.
- QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE IN ACCOUNTING/BOOK-KEEPING ARE REQUIRED.
- OWN TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE AN ASSET.

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GENERAL MANAGER,
P.O. BOX 2229, ST. JOHN’S, ANTIGUA.
DCA to set up volunteer unit to monitor unplanned development

By Theresa Gordon

The Development Control Authority, (DCA) will be setting up a Volunteer Corps, within the authority as it moves to “identify buildings that are going up in contravention of the law or where they see things that don’t look right.”

Chairman Leon Chaku Symister explained that the establishment of such a unit is necessary at this time because of the limited number of staff and a series of problems plaguing the DCA.

Symister told yesterday’s Big Issues programme that the “common problems” are very challenging to the authority.

“At times these persons build on other person’s land and too close to the neighbours’ boundary and without adhering to the setback as required by law,” Symister said.

According to the law, builders should erect their structure within 10 feet of the neighbour’s boundary, but Symister said residents are turning a blind eye to this and other things.

Another eyesore he pointed to is the tendency of residents building a septic tank too close to fences which create a stench once there is an overflow.

“These are some of the problems we are seeking to avoid, because invariably it will reduce neighboring conflicts,” Symister added.

In recent times, the authority has issued a number of stop orders to persons who violate the building laws and, more so, persons whom the chairman said have erected facilities blocking the sidewalks.

According to him, once a stop order is issued, the offending individual has 28 days to appeal the order and after the expiration of those 28 days, the authority has the right to act.

Browne comments from page 4

health it was understandable that he could not have attended the event.

He attached no significance to the absence of the other two members saying, “I was actually told ahead of time that they both would have been absent so I don’t think we were really expecting them. I am not sure of the official reason or reasons why they could not have made it but we were aware that they would not have made it to the assembly.”

Speculation though is that the absentee had no confidence in the man selected to speak on their behalf, Mark Brantley. Browne said he was unaware of any joint plan to boycott the session.

“It may just be mere coincidence. I stand corrected, but I am not aware that there was any such arrangement that they would have absented themselves jointly from the opening.”

Browne indicated that Brantley was not Antigua & Barbuda’s choice for the role.

“What I am aware is that Mr Brantley’s nomination to speak came from the leader of Dominica’s opposition. He was the only person who I am aware was supporting Brantley on behalf of the opposition leaders. I can tell you that an intervention was made on our part to have our leader speak on behalf of opposition leaders but the then leader of Dominica’s opposition insisted that he wanted Brantley to speak on behalf of the opposition leaders,” Browne said.

The deputy political leader of the Antigua Labour Party had nothing but praise for the regional integrated effort.

“I think it is a good start. I am hard-core integrationist, I do not believe that these countries are viable as individual entities. I believe with the prevailing global circumstances and most of the difficulties that these islands are experiencing, the need to integrate is ever more now important than perhaps a few decades ago.

“The whole idea of economic union is very important and clearly, having this assembly as well, is one of the most important institutions that is necessary to advance that process.

“I also believe it is a first good step for our eventual political union, and I believe that should be our ultimate goal, that we should be working towards achieving political union in the OECS and sometime in the future, perhaps the wider Caricom community,” Browne added.

FRIENDS HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Friends Hotline offers free telephone counselling services to the young people of Antigua & Barbuda. We are are appealing to the general public for volunteers to be trained as telephone counsellors who may assist in manning our phone lines. Interested persons should send an email providing name and contact information to friends hotline@hotmail.com or call and leave a message at 771-0814.
Parham residents object to sailing facility

By Tameika Malone

The planned construction of a facility in Parham has met opposition from residents in the areas who believe it will take up the last recreation area for villagers.

The residents claimed while they are not opposed to the project itself, which is to be constructed to house sail boats, they believe it should be constructed elsewhere.

Former secretary of the Parham Community Group Sharlene Samuel yesterday said she believes the project should be halted because it is too close to the sea.

“We all in Parham agree that it is a good project but a bad location and had we been brought into the picture before anything was done we would have been able to guide and (would have) chosen a better spot for this particular project,” she said.

According to Samuel, when initial work on the project began, information was not forthcoming and upon investigation she learnt that the National Sailing Academy was in charge of the development.

“I then sought some advice on how we should handle it and I was told to go to the Development Control Authority (DCA) to see if they have a permit to ask to stop the construction and to check and see how close it was to water line. It is 20 feet, when DCA says 100 feet away from the water line,” Samuel added.

However, Elizabeth Jordan of the National Sailing Academy said there is no building being constructed and Parham will actually benefit from the project.

Jordan pointed out that the trench that has already been dug is for the footings for an oblong chain link compound to house the boats when they are not in use.

“There is nothing that will restrict the view or the access to that area. The only building is already there and that is a shelter which is in a very decrepit place, full of filth and graffiti which we were going to clean up and create some storage area and it will still be available to the people,” she said.

Meanwhile, this is not the first time a major project has met opposition from villagers.

As recent as last month, the construction of an integrated poultry farm, to be situated on 150 acres in Willikies, was plagued by residents who said the construction would destroy the mangroves in an area called Shrimps.

DCA has since issued a stop order on the erection of a water catchment for the facility after residents complained that the project would pose a threat to the mangroves in close proximity of the proposed project. However the stop order was not extended to the poultry farm.

Managing Director of Titan Farm Marvin Joseph yesterday said he understands that two overseas environmental researchers are expected to begin the impact assessment on the project.

They will be joining other local researchers to determine if a proposed water catchment will have any negative effect on the surroundings.

“At the present moment, nothing has been done on the study so we are hoping that the assessment will be dealt with in the next couple of days or so,” Joseph told OBSERVER Media yesterday.

Major party for Olympic finale

LONDON (Reuters) - The London Olympics closed with a dazzling, and at times eccentric extravaganza of music and dance that rocked a main stadium filled with royalty, celebrities, 10,500 athletes and a sea of exuberant spectators.

The three-hour show starred the latest names in pop, a hologram of late Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, the Spice Girls, and Monty Python actor Eric Idle singing 'Bright Side of Life' with roller-skating nuns in Union Jack underwear.

Stephen Daldry, head of the London ceremonies, predicted audiences would be as wowed by the finale as they were by filmmaker Danny Boyle’s opening spectacular with both ceremonies unabashedly British in humour, culture and soundtrack.

Sebastian Coe, chairman of London organising committee LOCOG, told the crowd he said on day one of the Games that Britain was determined to show the nation at its best.

“Britain, we did it right,” he said.

The 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium that has witnessed tears and triumphs was transformed for the closing ceremony into a mini-London, with model landmarks including Tower Bridge and St Paul’s Cathedral on a Union Jack shaped stage.

The ceremony opened with nine strikes of parliament’s Big Ben as singer Emeli Sande was unwrapped on a newspaper garbage truck to sing ‘Read All About It’.

Actor Timothy Spall dressed as British wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill recited the same lines from Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’ as in the Games’ opening 16-days ago: “Be not afeard: the isle is full of noises.”
Le Chateau D’or continues to make music

By Alicia Ward

Present economic constraints did not prevent director of the Le Chateau D’or Music Academy Anthony Hampson and his daughter Cleo Antoinette Hampson from hosting yet another successful music camp.

Beginning in 2004, the camp focuses on exposing youth between the ages of five and 17 to instruments such as the violin, guitar, piano, percussion, and the steel pan. The objective is to expose youth to all that Le Chateau D’or Music Academy has to offer as well as foster an interest in music in a fun way.

This year, participants in the camp were given the opportunity to play various instruments in an effort to produce well-rounded musicians. The camp conducted its closing ceremony last week Friday to which attendees were treated to special presentations performed by local artistes as well as the different age groups that were present at the camp.

Special awards were given to those children who demonstrated significant improvement during the camp’s three-week stint.

The most improved camper in the five to seven age category was Amelia Bloodman, from the eight to 11 group was Natajah Simon and receiving the award from the 12 to 17 category was Adia Duberry. Duberry was also recognised as the most improved because of the quality of her performance at the completion of the camp. She was able to play the pan, guitar, drums and violin at a level that exceeded her peers.

“She was one of the few females that can actually drum a beat and have people play along,” Camp coordinator Cleo-Antoinette Hampson said.

Hampson also said that in comparison to other years, this year has been the most successful; 40 students attended the camp this year, which was a marked improvement in comparison to last year where only 20 students attended.

In September, the academy hopes to launch a music programme at Adele Primary School. For the Hampson family, a very prominent musical family here in Antigua, music should not be off limits simply because one has special needs.

During the month of October, they are also planning to host an “Evening of Strings,” a music concert that will be showcasing students from Le Chateau D’or Music Academy playing a number of stringed instruments.

NATIONAL CHOIR OF ANTIGUA
The National Choir of Antigua & Barbuda wishes to remind all members and other interested persons that they are invited to attend choir rehearsals every Monday and Wednesday at 6 pm at the Tim O’Reilly Auditorium on St George’s Street.
UNICEF re-affirms support for child rights

United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) representative Khin-Sandi Lwin re-affirmed her organisation's commitment to supporting Antigua & Barbuda in assessing shortfalls and gaps in advancing the respect, protection and fulfillment of child rights here.

On Friday, the UNICEF representative met with Minister of Health Wilmoth Daniel and the Parliamentary Secretary Malaka Parker to discuss issues relating to the recent Child Survival Pledge, the report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child Protection and the UNICEF initiated programme Return to Happiness.

Further discussions were held on the status of Antigua & Barbuda’s request for technical assistance to conduct the internationally required report on the Convention of the Rights of the Child and to discuss matters related to the provision of a facility to serve as a state of the art juvenile institution for children in need of special rehabilitation and protection services by the state.

Just recently, two social workers from the Ministry of Social Transformation returned from a UNICEF facilitated programme in Grenada, where they participated in a training exercise to boost their skills in counselling children after an emergency and disaster.

Daniel meanwhile, in welcoming the UNICEF representative to Antigua & Barbuda, reiterated the government’s endeavour to address a more robust intervention into disaster management activities in the nations’ school programme.

“Our early childhood facilities are high on the government’s agenda for specialised intervention,” he said, adding that the Cabinet of Antigua & Barbuda has mandated that at the end of August 2012, all schools and government departments must complete the transition of their plants to the comprehensive disaster management requirements.

Additionally, fresh on the heels of the 23rd meeting of the Caricom Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD XXIII), Senator Parker acknowledged the various partners, particularly UNICEF, which have been instrumental in designing and building a regional coordination mechanism for children, in coherence with national and regional priorities and global commitments.

The parliamentary secretary declared that an integrated and holistic approach to tackling one of the region’s most pressing challenges - violence against children and youth, is required.

“Child Sexual Abuse needs to be addressed aggressively, consistently and proactively and Government owes a duty to the nation’s children to deal with perpetrators with the full weight of the law,” Parker said.

Parker also emphasised the need to challenge concerted and decisively, the deeply entrenched cultural practices and norms that condone violence and violate the rights of children and youths.
Countries asking for help on Sigatoka

SAN JOSE Costa Rica, CMC - The spread of the Black Sigatoka disease in sections of the Caribbean has prompted some regional governments to request assistance from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

According to IICA, the Caribbean faces an emergency following the spread of the Black Sigatoka, a leaf spot disease that attacks banana plants, affecting the process of photosynthesis and reducing yields.

Some of the countries seeking assistance to fight the disease are Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. “Although it has already appeared in other parts of the world, such as Central and South America, its arrival in the Caribbean and its rapid spread took the industry by surprise,” explained Humberto Gómez, Specialist in Technological Innovation for IICA.

For updates during the day, go to www.antiguaobserver.com

NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (PROBATE)
A.D. 2012

In the Matter of the Estate of Henry Joseph, deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this Notice, Application will be made in the Probate Registry in the High Court of Justice by Gail Christian of Montgomery Chambers, Cross Street, St. John’s, Antigua, for an Order that Letters of Administration of the Estate of HENRY JOSEPH, deceased, who died on 28th October, 2011 be granted to AUDREY JOSEPH of Potters Village, St. George, Antigua, the sister of the deceased.

DATED the 10th day of August, 2012

GAIL CHRISTIAN
Solicitor for the Applicant

NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
A.D. 2012

In the Estate of CHRISTIAN HORSFORD aka CHRISTIAN ELIAS HORSFORD aka EDWARD HORSFORD, Deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of fourteen (14) days from the date of this Notice, application will be made by RUTH HORSFORD of Picadilly in the Parish of Saint Paul’s in Antigua and Barbuda, to the High Court of Justice for Grant of Letters of Administration of the Estate of CHRISTIAN HORSFORD aka CHRISTIAN ELIAS HORSFORD aka EDWARD HORSFORD, deceased, who died on the 25th day of March, 2002.

Dated: 9th day of August, 2012

BOWEN & BOWEN
Solicitors for the Applicant
Uganda helicopters missing in Somalia mission

KAMPALA (Reuters) - A number of Ugandan military helicopters went missing in Kenyan airspace on Sunday on their way to Somalia to reinforce African Union peacekeeping forces battling al Shabaab rebels, the Ugandan military said.

The military told Reuters that a team of helicopters had left a base in the Ugandan city of Entebbe but only one had landed in the Kenyan town of Wajir, where they were scheduled to refuel before flying on to Somalia.

The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) said they had no details about what had happened to the rest of the helicopters. They did not say how many were missing or how many people were on board.

“The search is going on, we don’t know what exactly happened but we are investigating it and we will let you know when I get adequate information,” said Felix Kulayigye, UPDF spokesman.

Ugandan troops form the backbone of the African Union peacekeeping force (AMISOM) in Somalia. The air force said on August 7 that it was deploying transport and combat helicopters into Somalia to beef up the force.

The AU force, which also comprises of Kenyan and Burundian soldiers, is planning an onslaught on Kismayu, Somalia’s second biggest city, which is a hub for the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab Islamist militants, before August 20.

YOUTH INSPIRATION GROUP

The Youth Inspiration Group is in the process of recruiting new members for both the senior and junior arms.

The group is growing daily and we think there are spaces left for a few more members. If you are between the ages of 18 to 35 and 12 to 17 and would like to be an ambassador for the youths of your country then you can sign up. For more information or to collect a registration form you can call us at 771-2915/722-6043/728-6821/721-1070 or email us at youthinspiration@hotmail.com.
World View

Egypt’s president removes generals

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt’s Islamist President Mohamed Mursi dismissed Cairo’s two top generals and quashed a military order that had curbed the new leader’s powers, in a move that further stamped his authority on the country and its army.

There had been much debate over the fate of Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, 76, who until Mursi’s election in June had ruled Egypt as head of a military council since Hosni Mubarak was toppled last year. The timing of Sunday’s announcement to replace him as armed forces head was nevertheless a surprise.

However, an embarrassing debacle for the army on the border with Israel, where 16 Egyptian troops were killed by Islamist militants a week ago, may have given Mursi the opening he needed to step up the pace in rolling back the military’s influence, pushing aside Tantawi and military chief of staff Sami Enan.

Mursi’s spokesman called it a “sovereign” decision by the head of state, and aimed at “pumping new blood” into an army that has shown signs of hoping to control the novice president. A fellow Islamist said Egypt could not go on having “two heads”.

Secular activists, wary of political Islam, nonetheless welcomed a “first step toward establishing a civilian state.”

Egypt forces fight Sinai militants, five dead

AL-ARISH, Egypt (Reuters) - Egyptian soldiers killed five Islamist militants after storming their hideout near the border with Israel on Sunday, the latest action in an army campaign to reimpose authority on the region, security sources and eyewitnesses said.

The troops tracked down the militants in the settlement of al-Goura, about 15 km (10 miles) from the frontier, as they searched for jihadists who killed 16 Egyptian border guards and tried to infiltrate Israel a week ago.

The latest clash is part of a security sweep that began on Wednesday and is the biggest military operation in the region since Egypt’s 1973 war with Israel. No one has claimed responsibility for killing the border guards.

It is an early test for President Mohamed Mursi - a moderate Islamist elected in June following the overthrow last year of Hosni Mubarak - to prove he can rein in militants whose actions on the border worry Israel. In a speech on Sunday, Mursi pledged to restore order.

“I won’t sleep my nights restfully until the people of Sinai are calm and settled in their homes,” he said. “We will continue with all strength. We have what it takes to end these criminal remnants.”

Security sources said five people had been killed - three from bullet wounds and two more whose scorched bodies were found in the hut which was burned.

Syrian rebels call for no-fly zones

ALEPPO, Syria (Reuters) - Syrian rebels fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad need the protection of no-fly zones and safe havens patrolled by foreign forces near the borders with Jordan and Turkey, a Syrian opposition leader said.

Battles raged on Sunday in the northern city of Aleppo, where tanks, artillery and snipers attacked rebels in the Saif al-Dawla district next to the devastated area of Salaheddine.

Syrian civilians desperate to check on their homes pushed into fluid front lines around Salaheddine, even as sniper fire cracked out and rebels warned them to stay away.

Abdelbasset Sida, head of the Syrian National Council, said the United States had realised that the absence of a no-fly zone to counter Assad’s air superiority hindered rebel movements.

He was speaking a day after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said her country and Turkey would study a range of possible measures to help Assad’s foes, including a no-fly zone, although she indicated no decisions were necessarily imminent.

“It is one thing to talk about all kinds of potential actions, but you cannot make reasoned decisions without doing intense analysis and operational planning,” she said after meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Istanbul.

Though any intervention appears to be a distant prospect, her remarks were nevertheless the closest Washington has come to suggesting direct military action in Syria.

Nelson’s Dockyard Fun

The National Parks Authority’s Visitors Service Department presents Summer Time Fun in Nelson’s Dockyard. It will be a fun and learning experience for the kids in the beautiful and historic Nelson’s Dockyard. Activities take place daily from Monday to Friday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm and include hikes, guided tours and much more. For more information call 460-1058/481-5041/779-7933.
After the XXX Olympiadi, quovadis Antigua & Barbuda

The London Games that can fittingly be dubbed the Women’s Games, are now a part of sporting history. The Caribbean Island-nations can also be dubbed the sprint capital of the world.

Jamaica lived up to the promise of providing excitement and high performance and Grenada and the Bahamas have unleashed such outstanding performances that they have earned first class honours in gold.

To these Caribbean islands we proudly say hearty congratulations. Such individual performances ought to impel us to ask, “What of Antigua & Barbuda?” What approach ought we to have with respect to the Olympic Games that recur every four years?

We feel that the Ministry that is responsible for Sports ought to initiate a programme that can bring out the best in athletics that can be found in our youth. It will never be accepted by the youth and the people of this nation that we carry more officials than competitors to any Olympiad.

We feel that the time has come for any government that is in power to draw up a plan that will tap the physical resources of our youth. If other nations in our island chain have done it - we mean won medals in the Olympic Games - we can do it too.

We need a programme that will tap and realise the potential of our youth. We need to have regular athletic meets in which we can spot and utilise our talented youth. We need a cadre of spotters who will work in and with our schools. Out of this scouting operation, the talent will arise.

We need to make contact with universities that specialise in athletics and give our youth scholarships and from this pool our Olympic prospects will come. We feel that out of this initiative, our Olympians will arise. In addition to such an initiative. We need to have permanent staff who will consistently and constantly be on the lookout for talent. We need to spot them when they are young and we need to initiate a programme that will utilise the talent that we have spotted.

We must begin now. It is not too late for us to develop a cadre of young athletes who will compete in Brazil in 2016 and make us all proud. We need a programme. We need the will to initiate the programme. We need dedicated men and women who will make the programme work. We need the will and the money to carry out such a programme. With nationwide co-operation and co-ordination such a programme will work and we will win.

The Olympic games are not designed for a top-heavy team of officials to go on a joyride. They must now give us their observations and ideas so that we can chart our way forward. And, we will win.

God’s Minute

From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. (John 1:16 “NIV”)

Always remember to count your blessings each day, and to thank God for them. For no matter what we have, when we look around, we find others who have less. So never feel sorry for yourself, instead start counting your blessings, for that should cheer you up indeed.

Now I know that when things disappoint us, we are sad and often depressed. However it is written that we should, “Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Therefore never feel that God doesn’t hear your prayers because a prayer isn’t answered the way you want, or something goes wrong in your life. For your Heavenly Father always knows what is best for you, and “He will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

So my friend, remember to always “Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known among the nations what He has done for you!” (1 Chronicles 16:8)

In closing, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and always. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
Dear Editor

Please allow me some space in your newspaper to comment on a startling observation. Here in Antigua & Barbuda, it appears as though the law applies for some people and not for others. I am referring to an incident that was headlined in the news about two years ago. We all heard of a young woman and her husband who had been involved in a number of cases of fraud and extortion.

In some cases, the couple had obtained monies through fraud from certain banks. In other cases, they had extorted monies from gullible individuals for the sales of lands they did not own, nor were agents for.

We later heard how, in an attempt to commit suicide, the lady had thrown herself from the second floor of the green building on Redcliffe Street, just to the east of State Insurance Corporation, when she had been faced with a surprise arrest by the police.

Apparently, all of the fraudulent transactions for sales of lands by this couple were dealt with by a certain lawyer. However, while the lady and her husband have been charged with fraud and extortion and are presently awaiting prosecution, this lawyer has not been charged with anything. It seems as though his involvement in these transactions is being quietly swept under the carpet.

He still maintains his chamber and walks as free as a bird in the streets of St John’s. It would appear as though he is immune to prosecution.

I am an old woman, who foolishly entrusted EC $95,000 of my retirement money to this lawyer along with the lady and her husband for the purchase of a piece of land in Friars Hill. I was hoping to return home and build a house in order to comfortably live out my golden years after enduring nearly 40 years of hardship and cold in the UK.

That is why it vexes my soul to see this lawyer still parading the streets, protected by a legal fraternity that does not uphold equal justice for all.

I am appealing to the relevant authorities, including the Law Council of Antigua & Barbuda, to seriously investigate this issue. There are many other individuals who have been taken advantage of by this lawyer.

I know there are many instances in our local courts where magistrates, lawyers and the police have perverted the law and made decisions based on personal friendships, or in the interest of loved-ones and well-wishers.

However, I would like to remind both the police and the legal fraternity that the law should not be perverted for any reason, and that the punishment of the law should not only be for the poor and downtrodden, but also for the rich and mighty.

Ms Margareth Peters
Despite growing pains, BBC moves forward

By Joanne C Hillhouse

Earlier this year, the Seven-day Adventists launched the bold Black Boys Can (BBC) mentorship programme. We checked in with them recently to see how it’s going.

“It’s going, but not as well as we want,” admitted BBC organiser Dr Eulalie Semper.

Yes, the project has got off the ground and mentor-mentee relationships are growing – more on that in a minute – but with only about half of the 50 or so pairings still active in a consistent way, Semper can acknowledge that there is need to review some aspects of how the programme is working.

One of the things all of the participants we’ve spoken to have called for is more opportunities for mentors and mentees to come together collectively. The feeling is that too much is left up to the mentor and mentee to make the relationship work, and that with more structured gatherings in place, allowing them to share experiences and guidance, and make real connections, the programme could grow and the relationships could be more meaningful.

And while Semper had hoped that the mentors would take more initiative in making those relationships meaningful, she accepts the criticism.

“We’ve looked at that as something we’ll do for the new year,” she said in response.

They’re also looking at the possibility of attracting more men, Seventh-day Adventist or not, interested in mentoring young boys; men, Semper said, who are hard working and honest, “persons you can look at and say, ‘I want my child to be like that person’.

In the window between the launch of the Black Boys Can programme and now, the need has become even more striking in her view. While there is evidence all around of young men striving and soaring, Semper believes “we can do more.”

There is a need, she indicated, to focus more attention on them and help them to do even better. And there is a need for men to step up in that regard. “Men need to be proactive in terms of the outcome they want to see,” Semper said.

You can’t measure these kinds of things by numbers alone and it is in the individual stories that the impact is truly seen. Semper shared one such story of a boy who’d lost a parent and needed someone to talk to, of helping him to connect with a mentor, and “by just connecting to this mentor, he was able to re-focus a little and that helped him.”

One mentor, Josh Stewart, admitted that finding the time to meet up can be challenging but as both he and his mentee are tech savvy they manage to stay in touch daily, with him passing on inspirational texts routinely. “It’s an honour to be a positive role model,” he said. “It also makes you think more about yourself because others are looking up to you, (and can) learn from the things that you’ve gone through.”

His mentee is a 16 year-old; a confusing age in several ways – and not just because of hormones and the opposite sex. “At that stage is where you’re going to isolate what career path you want to take,” Stewart said. “At that age, I still had three vastly different career paths … I was playing with all these questions in my mind.”

Being able to talk these things through with someone, he said, can be “vital.”

Dickenson Fabien is mentoring two boys and while contact is not daily, he keeps the lines of communication open, “just to ensure that at least they’re progressing in school.” He sees the relationship as one where the mentor acts as a sort of “guiding light” for the mentee. “If I had that in my upbringing (at) 13, 14, 15, it would have been better for me,” he said, adding that without it, “I know the challenge that I went through.” It can be as simple, and necessary, as words of encouragement, he noted.

Why take on this role, you may be asking, especially given that the child is not blood; and the answer for Fabien is simple, it takes a village. “We don’t live in isolation,” he said.

One parent whose son is a part of the programme told us that she’s seen the benefits, in “improved behaviour and better study habits.”

While it’s been said there’s need for more meetings, the occasion that they did meet early on in the programme, made an impression on this parent. She referenced specifically the experiences and knowledge shared by Barbara Belle, whose son Branson and her role in rearing him is held up as an example to the boys, parents and mentors involved in Black Boys Can.

“I was inspired as a mother,” this parent said, “to ensure that I motivated my son to do his best. That experience (the Belle seminar) has greatly impacted the way I operate when dealing with my son and other boys.”

One thing we got from talking to Belle, meanwhile, is that there is no magic bullet. Between peer pressure and parental discord, there is much that can pull a child astray, she illustrated. In the face of this, she spoke of the need for hard work, prayer, and straight talk. “Parents have to be upfront with the children,” she said. “They’re not stupid. You have to level with these children and let them know what is going on.” Most importantly, though, she said, you have to let them know “I am here for (you).”

The verdict on the programme, in spite of the growing pains, is uniformly positive. “This type of intervention is very important,” the parent we spoke with said. “I think it’s about time to break the cycle. Some young boys do not have the role model at home, so it is up to us to train them, and to bring to their attention that they are special in God’s eyes. This is necessary as it helps to change their thinking and will eventually influence them as they think and believe that they can do it; (they can) contribute positively to society.”

FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

St John Hospice opened its doors at Gwenneth O’Reilly Ward, Holberton in January 2012. The Hospice gives people who are terminally ill the opportunity to die with dignity and compassion in a tranquil environment cared for by professionally trained staff. Sometimes family need to travel and cannot leave an elderly or ill relative alone so we also have two rooms available for short term stay (2-3 weeks) that are separate opening on to our day room and garden. For further information please call St John Hospice at 562-8221 or 772-9668.
STElla Wilder

YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you know how to stop short and assess a situation without venturing into dangerous or threatening territory. You may suppose that this means you are also able to avoid doing anything that is in any way hazardous -- but this is not the case. Indeed, though you can see dangers coming, you are not always as adept at knowing when you are creating them for yourself -- and indeed, there are times in which you can bring upon yourself the kinds of troubles that are long-lasting and that have a negative impact on all aspects of your daily life. You pride yourself on being confident and capable -- but you can also at times be erratic and inconsistent.

You don't always do things in traditional or expected ways -- but this is a strength that can serve you well again and again, particularly if you choose to follow a professional path that few have walked before. You know how to chart a course that to which your temperament is most suited.

Also born on this date are: Danny Bonaduce, actor; Dan Fogelberg, singer; Don Ho, singer; Fidel Castro, Cuban dictator; Alfred Hitchcock, director; Bert Lahr, actor; Annie Oakley, sharpshooter.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You can play the game when you have to, but today you may not be in the mood -- and that will make it particularly difficult.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Comparisons are likely to be thrown about, but you know that there's really no one who can do it like you do -- for better or worse.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- You have many talents, and today those that are perhaps most unusual will prove most valuable to you -- and someone else, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Your mood may be lighter than those of the people around you, for the simple reason that you seem to have an advantage of sorts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- You will have to work to remain positive in the face of a challenge that has others shrinking from what seems truly formidable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You're going to want to lay down the law today and demand that those in your care behave in certain ways -- and for the duration, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- You may not be feeling all that creative, but you'll have what it takes to deliver the goods when asked to do so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Image isn't all you have to think about, but when everything else is in place you certainly want to be sure you're presenting yourself well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You may be reluctant to include a friend -- and former student -- in a project you take very seriously, but he or she can be of great help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Everyone will be talking about a surprise development that you had a lot to do with -- even though someone else was in the driver's seat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Self-confidence will be your greatest asset, but you must take care that you don't sacrifice a realistic stance for one too idealistic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You're wanting to know more than you have a right to know at this time -- but an ally is willing to share certain key insights.
Townsville, Australia (CMC) – West Indies Under-19s twice recovered from critical setbacks to complete a nervy run chase and beat two-time former champions India Under-19s by four wickets in their opening match of the Youth World Cup yesterday.

Set a paltry 167 for victory, West Indies stumbled to 13 for two and then 75 for four, before steadying themselves to reach their target with 17 balls left in the encounter at the Tony Ireland Stadium.

Left-hander Anthony Alleyne was at the heart of the recovery with 52 while Kyle Mayers topped off a fine all-round performance with a brisk 43 to earn the Man-of-the-Match honour.

Left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh took three for 35 while pacer Sandeep Sharma grabbed two for 27.

Earlier, fast bowlers Ronsford Beaton (3-23) and Jerome Jones (2-23) dismantled India after they were sent in, with Mayers chipping in with two for 35 with his medium pace.

They slumped to 91 for five and needed Smit Patel’s 51 down the order to stage a recovery.

Left-arm Jones claimed opener Prashant Chopra for one to the ninth ball of the morning at four for one and new ball partner Beaton had number three Baba Aparajith caught behind for five soon afterward, to leave India on 16 for two in the ninth over.

When Jones bowled Hanuma Vihari for eight and Mayers entered the attack to knock over opener and captain Unmukt Chand for 22 in the 20th over at 50.
for four, the Windies had a stranglehold on the game.

Patel then stabilised the innings with two crucial partnerships, adding 41 for the fifth wicket with Vijay Zol, who scored 26 and a further 44 for the sixth wicket with Akshdeep Nath (19).

Wicketkeeper Patel faced 99 balls and struck five.

West Indies were off to a horrid start in their run chase, as seamer Sandeep Sharma removed both openers with just 13 on the board.

Sunil Ambris fell in the third over for four before captain and Test batsman Kraigg Brathwaite was bowled after labouring 26 balls over four.

However, Alleyne and the aggressive John Campbell, who stroked 36, averted disaster with a 58-run third wicket stand.

Alleyne counted two fours and a six off 91 balls while the left-handed Campbell cracked a four and a six in an innings that lasted 70 balls.

Left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh then turned the game on its head, prising out Campbell and Kaven Hodge (1) in successive overs to leave the Young Windies in a spot of bother at 75 for four in the 28th over.

Alleyne once again was at the centre of another rescue effort, partnering with Mayers to add 58 for the fifth wicket and put West Indies in sight of victory.

The left-handed Mayers struck four fours and a six off just 54 balls was the last wicket to fall in the 44th over with his side 13 runs away from victory.

Cudas get mixed results against Blues

The Antigua Barracuda FC loss 1-0 on Saturday night to the Los Angeles Blues FC as the home team avenged a 2-1 loss to the visitors last Thursday United Soccer Pro-League (USL).

Striker Max Griffin continued his impressive run of form by scoring his second goal in as many games off a Maykel Galindo cross late in the first half as he kept the Blues’ knockout hopes alive.

The Blues took instant control of possession and had the first dangerous look of the night in the eighth minute, Shay Spitz finding himself with some time at the top of the penalty area before releasing a powerful effort that whistled wide of the left post.

The hosts’ next chance came four minutes later, as a nice one-two between Griffin and Carlos Borja saw Griffin streak toward goal, but only for two Barracuda defenders to catch up and close in on the striker near the edge of the box.

The Barracudas finally tested Blues goalkeeper José Miranda at the other end three minutes later, Darrelle Russell’s right-footed blast from about 18 yards forcing a solid diving stop from the man between the pipes.

The opportunity seemed to briefly energise the visitors, who had an excellent chance in the 25th minute.

Tamarley “Ziggy” Thomas displayed brilliant skills on the left side of the penalty area to flick the ball over a helpless Bryan Burke, followed by a rocket from a tight angle that deflected off Erlys Garcia and whizzed over the frame for a corner kick.

The Blues were back on the offensive just after the half-hour mark, an open Griffin being picked out at the penalty spot by Galindo’s cross from the left.

With very little time to react, the on-loan Orlando City striker was unfortunate to see the ball bounce off his thigh and go well wide of the frame.

The connection of Galindo and Griffin finally gave the hosts the lead in first-half stoppage time, as Galindo hit another dangerous cross from the left and Griffin beat netminder Nathan Sprekel to the ball inside the six-yard box to nod home for his fourth goal in seven games with the Blues.

In a slower second period, Antigua had a golden chance to level the match in the 62nd minute when Thomas drove past Allan Russell and into the penalty area before being brought down by the Blues’ captain.

Quinton Griffith stepped up to the spot but saw his penalty kick denied by Miranda on a brilliant reflex save to the goalkeeper’s right.

The home side did well to fend off the attacking efforts by their Caribbean visitors for the remainder of the match and held on for a hard-earned victory.

Both sides play back-to-back matches on Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 19 to close out the regular season.

While Antigua returns home to host a pair of meetings with the Richmond Kickers, the Blues need to win both of their home matches against Harrisburg, a direct competitor for the sixth and final playoff spot, to have a chance at reaching the USL PRO Playoffs.

Meanwhile in Thursday’s victory, Orlando Mitchum and Kerry “Arab” Skepple scored for Antigua Barracuda FC while Max Griffin gave Blues their only strike of the contest.

Cudas remain at the bottom of the standings.

Old Road off to good start in Warriors Youth Cup

Old Road opened their campaign in the Under-17 Division of the Warriors’ Cup football tournament with a 6-1 trouncing of Herberths United when they met at the Buckleys playing field on August 11.

The ’round-south men were led by a hat-trick from Roy York while Kyan London recorded a double.

Argell London scored the other goal for Old Road. Herberts’ lone conversion came via a strike from Rashawn Henry.

In another Under-17 clash, Villa Lions snatched a one-nil victory over Young Cubans. Akielo Andre had the lone strike of the contest.

SAP also claimed victory in their opening contest when they had a 2-1 victory over Urlings. Emmerson Henry and Jabari Simon both scored for SAP while K Francis netted for Urlings.

In the other Under-17 contest, CPTSA Wings and Continued on page 26

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY GALA
St Vincent De Paul Society will be hosting its annual gala dinner and floorshow on Saturday, September 22 at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa Ballroom at 7:30 pm. The contribution will be $150 and the dress code is elegantly casual.
Pietersen ‘gutted’ to be dropped by England

LONDON (Reuters) - Controversial batsman Kevin Pietersen said he was “gutted” after being dropped yesterday from the England squad for the third and final Test against South Africa amid speculation of dressing room tensions with his teammates.

Pietersen was left out because he failed to confirm he did not send derogatory text messages about teammates to the opposition, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said.

The future of Pietersen, who hit a stunning century in the drawn second Test at Headingley, had been under a cloud since he raised the possibility of quitting England with comments at the conclusion of the match last Monday.

“To say I am gutted is an understatement,” Pietersen said in a statement to Sky Sports yesterday.

“This entire episode has been demoralising for me and my family. But this is not the end of my international career.”

He had also been at odds with the ECB since quitting limited-overs internationals in May and over suggestions of his desire to play the whole Indian Premier League season with the Delhi Daredevils instead of two home Test matches against New Zealand next May.

“During the past week we have held several discussions with Kevin Pietersen and his advisors,” said ECB managing director Hugh Morris in a statement.

“Following a constructive meeting, it was agreed that a number of actions needed to be completed to re-engage Kevin within the England dressing room.

“A fundamental item was to confirm publicly that no derogatory texts had been sent by Kevin to the South African team.

“This has not been forthcoming despite clear timelines being set to allow the selectors to pick the squad for the third Test match. We provided an additional six hours this morning to provide every opportunity for agreement to be reached, but regrettably this has not been possible.

“The success of the England team has been built on a unity of purpose and trust. Whilst we have made every attempt to find a solution to enable Kevin to be selected we have sadly had to conclude that, in the best interest of the team, he will miss the Lord’s Test.”

National selector Geoff Miller said: “We need a squad fully focused on this Test match to be able to play the sort of cricket we know is necessary if we are to win this week and level the series.”

Pietersen’s exclusion came despite a video he released on YouTube on Saturday stating his commitment to playing for England in all three forms of the game.

He also said that dressing room morale had been improved following a long chat with a teammate.

That has failed to sway the selectors, however, who have replaced Pietersen with Jonny Bairstow who made his debut against West Indies in May.

“The video I released was my way to bring closure to the issues I had at that time,” Pietersen said. “I stand by every word I said in the video.”

England, who lost the first Test by an innings and 12 runs, must win to tie the series 1-1 and retain their place at the top of the Test rankings. The third Test starts at Lord’s on Thursday.

England squad: Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Ian Bell, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Steven Finn, Graham Onions, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann, James Taylor and Jonathan Trott.

Old Road from page 25

Earthquakes played to a 2-2 draw. Gerald Williams and Rashawn Looby netted for Wings while Dwayne Lavon had both strikes for Earthquakes.

Meanwhile in the Under-15 division, hosts Young Warriors came out with a huge 6-0 victory over Blizzard. Isiah Thomas had a double strike while Jahmali Smith, Garfield Thomas, Tajah Morton and Tyrique Benjamin each converted once.

Still in the Under-15 competition, Villa Lions enjoyed a 3-0 victory over Liberta with goals coming from Kwame Kirby and Fari Thomas while there was an own-goal by Shemoy Rhodes.

Also, Earthquake and Pares played to a 1-1 draw with goals coming from Shaquan Charles for Earthquakes and Jawazu Locker for Pares.

In the other fixture, Stingray City Seagulls had the better of Young Warriors by a 2-0 margin. Jamal Simon and D’Jare Giddings netted for the victors.

The Youth Cup also featured matches in the Under-13 Division. Pares had a convincing victory when they hammered Young Germans 5-1. Dandre Gayle and Shemar Weekes both had double strikes while Orain Carr netted the other goal for Pares. Jalique Browne was the lone scorer for Young Germans.

Villa Lions kept their winning streak throughout the divisions alive when they enjoyed a 3-1 victory over SAP. Anderson Hubert, Terique Browne and Iplin O’keeffe netted for Villa while Joel Martin was the lone scorer for SAP.

Also, Young Warriors and Blizzard played to a 2-2 draw in their Under-13 fixture. Karique Knight and Tajah Marton netted for Warriors while Tequane Harris and Britney Hector scored for Blizzard.

Games End from page 24

The home crowd made one final cheer yesterday at the closing ceremony, a celebration of British pop music and culture which artistic director Kim Gavin described as “the disco at the end of the wedding.”

The Spice Girls, The Who and George Michael were among the big names that performed at a concert titled “A Symphony of British Music” after which the Olympic Flame was extinguished and all eyes turn from London to 2016 hosts Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
SALES - GOODS

For IMMEDIATE CASH, bring in your old or unwanted Gold & Silver jewelry to LYAN’s Jewellery. Pigott’s Mall on the corner of Market & Redcliffe streets. Tel: 562-1996. HIGHEST PRICES PAID!!!

FIRST DIAMOND, Offers up to 70% to the locals and 6 months lay away plan. beautiful precious Gem jewellery, men and ladies watches, Glasses. Pay slowly and get your Christmas Gift without squeezing your pocket. 562 5363.

SALE - New HP ProBook 14” LAPTOP (Intel iCore3 2.20GHz Processor, Window7, 4GB DDR3 Memory, 500GB) + free Laptop case $1900. New BLACKBERRY BOLD 9900 Touch unlocked $1750 with accessories (layaway available). Call 784-8789.


SALES - SERVICES

Dr. Ronnie Cooper, Dermatologist, will be seeing patients in the Ramco Building upstairs in Dr. Roberts’ office on Monday, 20th & Saturday, 25th August 2012 Please call: 462-0522/462-6241 to make an appointment.

FEMALE LIFE INSURANCE RATES ARE LESS THAN MALE!!!

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FOR RENT - Apartments – 1-2Bdrm, Crosbies, Marble Hill, Cedar Valley, St. Clair Heights, Houses – 2 – 3- 4Bdrm, Paradise View, Cedar Valley, Mount Pleasant, Fitches Creek, Crosbies, Coolidge. Tel: 720-0255

FOR RENT – 1bd & 2bd apartment and studio @ Lightfoot. For further information for viewing please CALL 770-1027.

FOR RENT IN MCKINNONS: 1 bedroom fully furnished apartments $1200, FOR RENT IN CASSADA GARDENS - 1 bedroom unfurnished apartment $1000. Please contact 779 8320. UTILITIES NOT INCLUDED

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EDUCATION

Fun Camps and Sailing Course this Summer Holiday at THE ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB for ages 8 – 18 years old. Contact 460-1799/6128/yachtclub@canalx.ag or visit www.antigua-achtwachtclub.com


COMPUTER TRAINING - BENCOM TRAINING CENTRE - 

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted – Sales person to work in a clothing store preferably female. Must have high school education, be friendly & self motivated. Apply in person with resume at Vincent & Millicent Clothing Store, Perry Bay in the White Building on the ground floor

Accounts Clerk/Administrative Assistant Wanted – Responsibilities include Invoicing, Accounts Payable & Receivable, Inventory & Stock Control, Banking & Reconciliation and General Admin Duties. Should be Self Motivated, Hard-Working & Reliable. Qualified in Accounting/Book-Keeping. Own transportation would be an asset. Apply in writing with Resume by Aug 20th to: General Manager, P.O. Box 2229, St. John’s, Antigua.

DINING / ENTERTAINMENT

RUSSELL’S FORT JAMES Introduces: OPEN MIC NIGHT. Every Monday from 7:30pm-11:30pm. Come showcase your poetry, songs, short plays, or just come and enjoy the vibes! Contact 726-5242/732-7893 to register!

TURNER’S BEACH RESTAURANT will be closed on Thursday August 16, 2012 for a private function. Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted. Tel: 462-9133.

REAL ESTATE - SALES

FOR SALE: 1/3 acre of prime hilltop land in Cobbs Cross, Stunning views of Piccadilly Valley, Falmouth Harbour, and sea views. Access to road and utilities including water. Only ECS 250,000.00. Please call 720-1777. This land is priced to SELL.

Listen to news updates during the day on OBSERVER Radio 91.1FM including the Big Stories at 6:45 am, 7:45 a.m., 8:45 am., 11:45 am., 5:30 pm.
Spectacular Games End

LONDON (Reuters) - The United States topped the sporting world with 46 Olympic gold medals to China’s 38 at the end of 16 days of thrilling action that culminated with another captivating closing ceremony at the main stadium yesterday.

The stadium has seen some of the most spectacular moments of the 2012 Olympic Games, including Jamaican sprint king Usain Bolt defending the 100, 200 and 4x100 metres titles he won in such spectacular fashion in Beijing, the latter in a world-beating time.

British supporters will also cherish memories of the venue where Somali-born runner Mo Farah won the 5,000 and 10,000 double to deafening roars and was celebrated as a symbol of the capital’s multi-culturalism.

The host nation won 29 golds to take third place in the rankings, its best result for 104 years which helped lift the nation out of the gloom of an economic recession temporarily buried in the inside pages of the newspapers.

“I will say history has been written by many athletes. The Games were absolutely fabulous. London has absolutely refreshed the Games,” International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge told reporters.

British Prime Minister David Cameron agreed, writing in succinct message on Twitter: “Britain delivered. We showed the world what we’re made of.”

Dream Team

On the last day of sporting action, the US basketball team including the likes of LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Kobe Bryant downed Spain in a repeat of the final in Beijing in 2008.

The score of 107-100 reflected a closely fought contest played at breakneck speed in which Durant led the scoring with 30 points.

Earlier yesterday, Stephen Kiprotich of Uganda broke away from two Kenyan rivals to win the men’s marathon near Buckingham Palace before vast crowds, reflecting local enthusiasm for the Games despite doubts about the cost and potential disruption.

After running side by side with world champion Abel Kirui and Wilson Kipsang, the 23 year old put in a powerful kick to shake off the Kenyans six kilometre from the end.

He crossed the finish line draped in the red, black and yellow Ugandan flag, which he knelt to kiss.

Also yesterday, Britain, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine picked up golds for boxing and Japan and the United States for wrestling.

The women’s modern pentathlon was the final medal to be decided, and Lithuanian Laura Asadauskaitė beat Briton Sam Murray to the gold to round off London’s extravaganza of sport.

Legends Born

Many will remember London 2012 for the record-breaking exploits of American swimmer Michael Phelps, who took his lifetime medal haul to 22, including 18 golds, making him the most decorated Olympian in history.

There was, of course, Bolt, the biggest name in athletics and a charismatic ambassador for sprinting.

After winning the 4x100 he went on to a London nightclub to delight dancing fans with a turn as a DJ, shouting out “I am a legend” to the packed dance floor.

Britons may recall Andy Murray demolishing world number one Roger Federer at Wimbledon to Continued on page 22

See classifieds on page 27