MORE PASTORS ARRESTED IN SEX SCANDAL

THE TWO top pastors, leaders of the Moravian Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman who resigned a fortnight ago, are now facing formal sex charges deepening the sexual abuse crisis that has rocked the church since the start of the year.

Please see PASTORS, 3

Dr Paul Gardner

Jermaine Gibson
AMBASSADORS HAIL OBAMA’S ‘UNDERSTANDING’

Former Jamaican ambassadors to Washington during the 2009-2017 presidency of Barack Obama are hailing him for his ‘understanding’ of Jamaica’s culture and the ‘success’ of bilateral co-operation in areas such as education, energy, and security.

BUSINESS

SOUTHERN HIGHWAY REDESIGN TO SAVE US$100M - FINANCE MINISTER

Finance minister Audley Shaw says that Jamaica will save about US$100 million ($12 billion) from revamping the first phase of the Southern Coastal Highway. Shaw said at a forum on Wednesday night, January 18, that he plans to travel to China next month to sign the loan agreement for the project.

SANGSTER INTERNATIONAL EXPECTS MORE AIRPORT TRAFFIC IN 2017

MBJ Airports Limited, operators of Sangster International Airport, expects passenger traffic to surpass four million this year, Sangster International expects more travel to China next month to sign the

POLITICS

JUSTICE MINISTER DELROY CHUCK IS EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT HIS PLAN TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW RE-RETIRING JUDGES TO RETURN TO COURTROOM DUTIES WILL SUCCEED.

The court management services (CMS) is holding the keynote address at the sixth annual Jamaica David ‘Wagga’ Hunt fund-raising ball at the National Education Association Atrium in Washington DC on Saturday, January 14, 2017, Jamaica’s ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks has lauded the organisers for their efforts.

ENTERTAINMENT

MARTIN LUTHER KING REMEMBERED

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, hosted by the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA), and held at the McVetty Conference Centre in Toronto explored ‘The Dreams Matters.’

IMMIGRATION

I WANT TO HAVE MY BABY IN THE US

Thousands of Jamaicans doing business with the US are hailing Barack Obama for his ‘understanding’ of Jamaica’s culture and the ‘success’ of bilateral co-operation in areas such as education, energy, and security.

SPORTS

KSAFA REFEREES TO GO HI-TECH

Chairman of the Kingston and St Andrew Football Referees Group, Malica Reid, says the association’s officials will soon be using radio communication during matches. Reid made the announcement at the group’s annual general meeting and said that this new technology will come into effect when the Kingston and St Andrew Football Association’s (KSAFA) Super and Major Leagues get into their Friday night fixtures in March.

Talking on former members of the Bench to serve after age 70

JUSTICE MINISTER Delroy Chuck is expressing confidence that his plan to amend the Constitution to allow retired judges to return to courtroom duties will become a reality this year.

Chuck, who first announced the plan in Parliament last June, has tentatively secured the support of the parliamentary Opposition so the two-thirds majority of both Houses needed to enact the constitutional changes should not be difficult.

“I have been in touch with the Opposition and it shouldn’t be a problem for the two-thirds majority. It will take at least six months. So later in the year, if it is passed, then the judges will be available,” Chuck told a recent Gleaner Editors’ Forum.

Drug-resistant strain of gonorrhoea and other STIs could be in Ja

Researchers at the University of the West Indies (UWI) are becoming concerned about the rate at which Jamaica is seeing some sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which are becoming resistant to antibiotic treatment.

To counter this growing threat, the researchers are embarking on a study to test the effectiveness of the medication used to treat the STI gonorrhoea across the island.

“We are about to embark on a study where we go down to the clinics where they see those patients and collect swabs on all the patients,” said Dr Alison Nicholson, head of the Department of Microbiology at the University of the West Indies.
JAMAICANS ABROAD Helping Jamaicans at Home and Abroad (JAHJAH) completed a week of its “mission for change” to Jamaica. During this mission, according to the organisers, they provided a range of medical assistance from donations, technical know-how to the local health sector, schools and inner city communities.

The week of activities for the 2017 Mission, ran from January 16 to January 21 and was executed by a team of over 20 United States based volunteers, which comprised of medical doctors, dentists, paediatricians, gynaecologist and nurses. They assisted with some 12 projects across the Corporate Area, Trelawny, St James and Westmoreland. They made a donation of some US$30,000 worth of medical supplies to the Savanna-La-Mar Public Hospital. According to the organisation, they will also assist in the construction of a sonocare unit at the hospital along with providing equipment.

The team conducted human resources training and shared best practices and procedures with local public medical personnel by holding three conferences – the Annual Emergency Ultrasound, and Annual Paediatric Cancer Conferences. They also organised the first Trauma Conference to improve the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response especially as it relates to trauma caused by the marked increase in multiple fatalities.

The team provided health and nutrition initiatives through a range of school and community health fairs. They also continued one of the main projects, “One Love One Heart” where free echocardiogram (cardiac test) tests were carried out on high school athletes.

JAHJAH Foundation has been helping Jamaica from 2007. It has garnered support of other organisations such as Team Jamaica Bickle (TJB), Jamaica Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (JAMETs), Inter-School Athletic Association (ISAA) and other entities to collaborate in making the individual projects under the mission become a reality. The mission is also endorsed by the Ministry of Health, the Western Regional Health Authority and the South Eastern Regional Health Authority (SERSHA).

Commenting on the organisation’s work, Dr Trevor Dixon, CEO and Founder noted that JAHJAH was facing serious financial challenges. He appealed for donations so that their work can be expanded across Jamaica and more people can be impacted.

JAHJAH team though mail is extremely passionate about helping the people of Jamaica,” he said.

JAHJAH Foundation is a nonprofit organisation that has been participating in the upliftment of Jamaica since 2007. The foundation seeks support from the Jamaican Diaspora and friends of Jamaica all around the world to execute its annual Mission for Change.

From left: Irwin Clare Sr, Advisory Board member, Jamaican Diaspora, USA; Lyttleton Shifley, chairman, SERSHA; and Dr Trevor Dixon, founder of JAHJAH, are seen in this 2014 file photo.
THE FIRST thing that strikes you about Krystal Chong is her spontaneous laughter, not that she is treating life as a joke, but her attitude is to take everything in stride and with a sense of humour, rather than be bogged down by life.

A Jamaican-born woman, one day she just happened to pack her bags and caught a flight to be in the ‘Big Apple’.

Chong admits that it was a decision, which might be deemed ‘crazy’, given the traditional insular growth trajectory of life. After all, she had decided to move out of her comfort zone and a high flying corporate life.

“The one crazy thing I would have done was to resign from my family’s publicly listed company, when I was Chief Marketing Officer and move to New York with no job, no visa and not knowing how I would get either,” she said.

Chong’s family owns the Honey Bun bakery, and life for her, by any means was on an overdrive on the superhighway.

But, this wanderer was in search of purpose and meaning in life beyond simply working for money.

“His (moving to New York) has been the most rewarding thing I have ever, ever done! golly oh golly!” Chong said.

She lists a number of dissimilarities between Jamaicans and Norwegians, which she described as an opposite to her.

The book, she said, is a mix of ethnicities, languages and diverse cultures, which she said, was a mix of revelation, and a shock at the same time.

“People don’t have to invent the wheel of the search for a more purpose-filled life,” Chong said.

The book has primarily been conceived and inspired by her move to New York, which she said, was a mix of revelation, and a shock at the same time.

“After all, she had decided to move out of her comfort zone and a high flying corporate life,” Chong said.

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“Lasse and I come from possibly the most opposite cultures in the entire world,” she said.

She lists a number of dissimilarities, from the culture to the way they view life. But, she says, their differences give them balance and that makes the relationship so healthy and fulfilling.

Chong calls herself as a ‘Jamasian’, a mix of ethnicities, and now to add the Norwegian genes to her family tree. A mix, that could be parallel to New York, which is diverse, contradictory, overwhelming, yet it works.

“I would love to write more books, produce movies that are entertaining and healing, maybe have a talk show, create other entertaining and educational tools like daily meditations, maybe a children’s book,” she said.

“Right now I’m focused on getting this book into as many hands of those who need it, and then we shall see – Universe – your cue!”

“They don’t spend time criticizing or telling you why they can’t work,” Chong said. “They spend time brainstorming ways in which it can. It fuels creativity and really allows you to dream, and no matter how crazy it is.”

Such interactions, she said, helps people to think what they are doing possible – helps one to believe, and critically forge partnerships and support.

EXHILARATED

“Things happen on such a large level in New York; you just feel exhilarated about the possibilities,” she said. “On the other hand it’s exhausting. It’s like running on a never ending treadmill.”

As she was running on the treadmill of life, Chong met her fiancé Lasse, a Norwegian, who she describes as an opposite to her.

“Lasse and I come from possibly the two most opposite cultures in the entire world,” she said. “Norwegians don’t know how to appropriately regulate when they should or shouldn’t speak about their emotions!”

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Congresswoman Clarke disappointed Obama did not pardon Marcus Garvey

NEW YORK, (CMC): Jamaican-American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, says she is disappointed that former President Barack Obama did not posthumously pardon Jamaica’s first national hero, Marcus Mosiah Garvey before leaving office.

On his last day in office Thursday, January 19, Obama commuted the sentences of 310 individuals, but Garvey was not on that list.

Garvey was convicted for mail fraud in the US in 1923. “While the exoneration and/or pardon of the Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey remains elusive, unresolved and unfinished business, we must continue our education and organising efforts in the pursuit justice for the masses of Caribbean peoples, for self-respect, self-determination and cultural awareness in our world,” the letter stated.

The 17 members of the US Congress including Democrat Charles Rangel and Maxine Waters had written to Obama in December noting that Garvey, who was born in St. Ann’s Bay, Jamaica, had “inspired generations of leaders, from the Rev Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. to President Nelson Mandela.”

CRITICAL MOVEMENTS

“His efforts to organise the African Diaspora across nations in support of freedom and self-determination were critical to the movements for independence in Africa and the Caribbean and to the Civil Rights Movement here in the United States,” the letter stated.

It noted that when Garvey formed the UNIA and African Communities League, most of the nations of the Caribbean were colonies of the British Empire, adding that African Americans in the United States – nearly 40 years after the end of the Civil War – were “effectively denied their human rights across the United States.”

Marcus Garvey offered to his people a different vision for the future; and, even as we continue to work toward his dream, he would have been proud to witness our achievements,” the letter stated.

Despite that legacy, the Members of Congress lamented that Garvey “has never been fully exonerated from racially-motivated charges of mail fraud.”

Recognising that prosecutors and the government mishandled the case, President Calvin Coolidge commuted the sentence at the earliest possible opportunity.”

We believe that Marcus Garvey meets the criteria for a posthumous pardon, based on his efforts to secure the rights of people of African descent and the utter lack of merit to the charges on which he was convicted,” the US lawmakers wrote.

The congressional representatives’ call came on the heels of a similar one, issued last November, by Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.

“Marcus Garvey was the victim of trumped up charges orchestrated by the late J. Edgar Hoover, the famously anti-black director of the US’s Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),” said Sir Hilary in a statement, calling on Obama, himself the victim of racist campaigns to de-legitimise his presidency, to exonerate Garvey before he leaves office.

“It is the right and proper thing to do,” added Sir Hilary, stating that “UWI’s mission and mandate are manifestations of Garvey’s struggles for quality education for the masses of Caribbean peoples, for self-respect, self-determination and cultural awareness in our region.”

A global petition campaign demanding that Garvey’s US federal record be expunged had generated tens of thousands of signatures.

The campaign was supported, among others, by the Jamaica government, the Caribbean Reparations Commission, the New World 21st Century and by members of the Congressional Black Caucus in the US House of Representatives.

A letter circulated by the Jamaica Embassy in the US in September noted that “there have been several efforts over the years seeking Garvey’s exoneration.

Last August, a number of Caribbean organisations in the US joined the campaign to exonerate Garvey.

AP Photo/ Desmond Boylan
A woman with her child uses a public wifi hotspot in Havana, Cuba. While the island nation remains one of the world’s least internet-connected societies, ordinary citizens’ access to the internet has expanded over the last two years.

Barbados seeks full and frank discussions on SME

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados

Barbados government is calling for ‘full and frank’ discussion on the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME) for the free movement of goods, skills, labour and services across the 15-member CARICOM grouping.

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, who has lead responsibility for the CSME within the quasi CARICOM cabinet, made his position known during talks with a delegation from the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat headed by Secretary-General, Irwin LaRocque.

“We have to look at what we have achieved, what remains to be achieved, what are the existing challenges, and what can assist us in achieving; and what are the disabling features that can stand in the way.”

“We have to see where our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities are, and build on them to deal with any threats to the achievement of our objectives,” Stuart said.

The statement said that the twofold-hour meeting was held to update Prime Minister Stuart on the status of the implementation of the CSME, as CARICOM leaders prepare to meet in Guyana for the CARICOM Intersessional summit February 16-17.

A JOURNEY

Prime Minister Stuart stressed that the CSME was a journey on which the Caribbean Governments had embarked.

“This will never be a destination, but at some stage one can say that the labourer’s task is over. We tend to accentuate what has not happened as much as we should not allow random challenges to divert our attention, from what we have achieved. We do not give ourselves enough credit for what we have achieved; we judge ourselves based on what we have not achieved,” he added.

Stuart noted that a lot of work had already been done and this region was more closely integrated today than at any other time in its history.

– CMC
DERRICK SCOTT

WASHINGTON, DC: JAMAICA DAVID ‘Wagga’ Hunt Scholarship Fund has been providing scholarships to over the past eight years to students of Calabar High School and Kingston College, and in these past years over US$66,000 have been distributed to the deserving students. Delivering the keynote address at the sixth annual Jamaica David ‘Wagga’ Hunt fundraising ball at the National Education Association Atrium in Washington DC on Saturday January 14, 2017, Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States, Austin Marks has lauded the organisers for their efforts. She said that the scholarships have helped these recipients to achieve educational goals they set for themselves. “Through the unwavering efforts of committees members to preserve the distinguished name and legacy of David Hunt, exemplary graduate of Kingston College and highly successful sportsman, our current administrator at Calabar High, several young male students have been afforded the opportunity to pursue their dreams and chart a course for their future,” she said. Marks said she was heartened to learn that over the past eight years, seventeen students had been awarded scholarships to cover tuition and books and other costs. She pointed out that the scholarships also served to encourage academic excellence and well-rounded young men. “These goals complement the efforts of the government, Diaspora and civil society to ensure that our young male students are not left behind,” Marks said.

The Jamaican Ambassador expressed concern that the island was now experiencing a crisis of violence. She said with 75 per cent of the crimes being committed by young men between the ages of 15-25, were both the perpetrators and victims of this crisis. She added that these scholarships were having a positive impact on the lives of the recipients and their parents, and reiterated the importance of this initiative. “I cannot praise you enough each year’s recipients of the David ‘Wagga’ Hunt award.”

Washington, DC: CONNOR ALL REGIONAL Hospital and three schools in the area will benefit from a working visit by US-based The Links, Incorporated, from January 24 – 29, Armed with art supplies, technology equipment, oral health care kits, and a mission to team up with communities, a 120-member strong delegation from the friendship and service organisation of African-American women, is heading to Jamaica to join the JAMAICA DAVID ‘Wagga’ Hunt Scholarship Committee and the Jamaica High School in the sixth annual Jamaica David ‘Wagga’ Hunt Ball at the National Education Association Atrium in downtown Washington DC, on Saturday, January 14.

“I’m very pleased to have Colgate Bright Smiles for Happy Kids and Healthier Children learn about good, dental hygiene practices. We are aiming for happy kids and healthier students could fly,” he said. Pollard said that so many students could fly, “that Obama could run and that our students could fly,” he said.

I want to encourage you to soar high and go after your dreams.” he said. Paying tributes to former President Barack Obama, Pollard said “I want to encourage you to soar high and go after your dreams.” he said. Paying tributes to former President Barack Obama for the work he has done, despite the odds. Pollard reminded the audience that, before Obama was elected President of the United States in 2008, he was the president of Harvard Law Review. A Harvard Law Review and a United States senator representing Illinois — the third African American elected to the body. Pollard, during his speech touched on a wide variety of subjects that affect the lives of people of African heritage, both in the United States and here in Canada, especially in the judicial system. He said that he read an article written by Toronto writer Kathryn McBride that says Blacks make up less than three per cent of the population yet they make up 10 per cent of the inmates in the federal prisons. Although many are unlikely to be re-offenders, they are being put in maximum prisons, which shows that The celebration was attended by a wide cross section of the Canadian-Caribbean community. Among those in attendance included representatives from the Ontario government, members of various community organisations, politicians and visiting clergy.

Delivering the keynote address Pollard paid tribute to the life and legacy of the late Dr Martin Luther King Jr. He also recognised, among others, Marceu Garvey, Dr Eric Williams, Nelson Mandela, Viola Desmond and Rosa Parks for their contribution. He also delivered a speech to the delegation on issues on whose shoulders we stand,” he said.

Pollard praised Pauline Christian, president of the BBPA for the work she is doing, and her contribution to the organisation. “Viola Desmond and Rosa Parks sat so that Martin could sit, so that Obama could run and that our students could fly,” he said.

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Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

Martin Luther King remembered

EDDIE GRANT

Gleaner Writer

THK ANNUAL Dr Martin Luther King Jr celebration, hosted by the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA), and held at the McWorey Conference Centre in Toronto explored ‘The Dreams Matter’. The celebration was attended by a wide cross section of the Canadian-Caribbean community. Among those in attendance included representatives from the Ontario government, members of various community organisations, politicians and visiting clergy.

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Obama, a friend to Jamaica – Holness

IN A message last week, Holness commended him for demonstrating an exemplary family life, raising his young children in the public glare of the world.

“Personally, as a father of young boys, I have always been struck at the grace with which the Obamas managed their two terms in office, especially with two young daughters. Their grace and poise serve as examples for many families in the United States and here in Jamaica,” Prime Minister Holness wrote.

According to him, Jamaica and the United States have historically shared a special bond, describing the last eight years as a productive relationship with the Obama Administration.

“The Caribbean Energy Security Initiative (CESI), which has enabled Jamaica to benefit from the significant natural gas reserves of the United States, and the United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act, which gives the US Secretary of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) better opportunities to develop long-term strategies in the areas of security, energy, diplomacy and access to educational opportunities, are two areas of note,” said Holness.

“Jamaica recognises President Obama as a friend of the nation and we know that the productive, and friendly relationship with the United States further developed under his administration will undoubtedly continue.”

Ambassadors hail Obama’s ‘understanding’

FORMER JAMAICAN ambassadors to Washington during the 2009-2017 presidency of Barack Obama are hailing him for his ‘understanding’ of Jamaica’s culture and the ‘success’ of bilateral co-operation in areas such as education, energy, and security.

Anthony Johnson was Jamaica’s top representative at the start of the Obama administration. For him, it was a ‘tremendous pleasure’ to interact with the first black man to be president of the United States.

“We have always known the US to be a place that has tremendous improvements for white people, and now here comes a black man, someone from Kenya no less, becoming the president. It meant for all Jamaicans that the world has clearly been making a change such that persons who have black skin don’t have to feel a solid block on where they can reach.”

This he recalled with laughter: “When I was up there, he had made plans to come down, and when I met him and asked him about the possibility of coming to Jamaica, he said, ‘No, not really.’ He had already been to the southern part of the US. I said, ‘No sir. Jamaicans regard our southern part as completely different’.”

MEMORABLE MOMENT

For Ralph Thomas, whose tour of duty was August 2015 to February 2016, “The tone and mood of the entire experience was well-placed, with mutual exchanges on many areas of co-operation. The most memorable moment is my visit to the White House to present my credentials to President Barack Obama in the Oval Office, along with my family. The sheer humanity of Barack Obama and his ease were evident, and certainly, his understanding of Jamaica and its culture.”

Jamaica’s current ambassador, Audrey Marks, also did a stint from May 2010 to July 2012, while Professor Stephen Vasciannie served from July 2012 to July 2015.

Cuba move a big plus for outgoing president’s legacy

THE RESTORATION of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba is seen by one political analyst as a significant plus for outgoing United States president, Barack Obama.

Richard ‘Dickie’ Crawford says that Obama’s decision to set aside the vestiges of the decades-old Cold War and renew relations with Cuba was overwhelmingly popular across the world, with the exception of Miami, which has a strong Cuban population.

“It has certainly gone over quite well with Jamaicans and Caribbean people, who actually lobbied him and spoke with him when he went to the OAS (Organisation of American States) meeting in Trinidad and Tobago. He scored on that one, and that was one of the positive moments of his foreign policy,” Crawford reasoned.

BIGGEST MISTAKE

When Obama shook hands with Raoul Castro, the Cuban president, it marked the first meeting between a US and Cuban leader since both countries severed ties in 1961.

On the other hand, political observers have described Obama’s decision to intervene in Libya’s civil war, which led to the death of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, as the biggest mistake of his presidency.

“I do believe that Barack Obama as the president, as the human, as the individual, may have been overwhelmed by the geopolitical realities because he is the president of the so-called mightiest power in the world, and that has to be taken into consideration at the same time,” said Crawford.

Commenting on the brisan nuclear deal, Crawford says that time would eventually show the world whether it was a positive aspect or a negative aspect.

On the Bin Laden issue, Crawford said Obama can take credit for the operation led by US special forces, which ended in the demise of the so-called terrorist. “He probably put his presidency on the line because if anything had gone wrong, then you never know what the results would have been,” he noted.

FORMER JAMAICAN ambassadors to Washington during the 2009-2017 presidency of Barack Obama are hailing him for his ‘understanding’ of Jamaica’s culture and the ‘success’ of bilateral co-operation in areas such as education, energy, and security.

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**LETTERS**

**Abrahams’ life was inspiring**

**THE EDITOR, Sir:**

I UNDERSTOOD the late Peter Abrahams well, for his thoughts were honest, without prejudice and for the whole of his life he embraced his idealist. For it was erudite, eclectic and beyond the geographical bounds of his era. I saw his vision, for it was the inner circle of world government for earth and its people.

The journals will recall his advocacy on the issues of political, economic, cultural and social events of the day. His words spoke of the trials and tribulations of the human condition. His words portrayed the entrails of what we are and what we can become.

Peter Abrahams was that man! His physical time is now spent on earth, and the ink he shared generously with many has died. But his immortal spirit roams freely on the pages of our minds, and his soul, though of rest, has been reborn in all of us, and life inspiring.

CHRISTOPHER SAMUDA
Attorney-at-law

**Obeah man not the solution, Minister Montague**

**THE EDITOR, Sir:**

THE CRIME CYCLE CONTINUES

On the contrary, the only national security concern is their rejection of this offer, which would be the precursor to recidivism, with a rising number of criminals, what type of national security concerns there were attempts by his administration to negotiate a mutually beneficial offer for us to get somewhere.

He is known that we need all hands on board but the obeah man is not a viable alternative to house prisoners in more secure and secure conditions.

He has stridently opposed this proposal in September 2015 and has not given us any reason to believe that persons would soon be able to sleep with their windows and doors open. We hear the minister of national security saying the new commissioner when selected should come with a crime plan, but I thought that was the job of Robbers Week.

You cannot believe my surprise when I heard the minister of national security accepting that the criminals should run his ‘uncle’ is a obeah man. Is this what we have to come to a nation? Is this the crime plan that the minister has offered? This is what brand Jamaica has come to, that we resort to obeah to fix our crime problems. This must be the last time, and啡itions will no longer be made. It exists in the present tense – unencumbered by the accumulated knowledge of the past. He is ahistories; Americans; there-fore, should be uneasily not only his rightward shift, but an authoritarian streak, masked by a beguiling charisma.

In the midst of the gloom, however, there are positives. America has a way of righting itself, as it did after McCarthy. And the opinion polls as Mr Trump heads to the Oval Office suggest that Americans are gaining the measure of the man and will hold him on a short leash.

At 97 per cent, he will enter the White House with the lowest approval rating of any modern president. Eight years ago, Mr Obama’s was 87 per cent, and before him, George Bush’s was 61 per cent. The majority of Americans (53 per cent) also are less than sanguine about Mr Trump’s ability to handle the presidency. Therein lies the opportunity for his containment.

RASLTON CHAMBERS
Toronto, Ontario

**Prison snub an affront to human rights**

**THE EDITOR, Sir:**

THE HOLINESS administration has taken the retrograde step of rejecting the very generous offer made by the United Kingdom government to assist in building a modern penal facility that would improve the living conditions of prisoners and propel us into conformity with domestic and international human-rights laws. It remains to be seen what the alternatives will be.

The minister of foreign affairs, Kamina Johnson-Smith, said the basis for rejecting the offer was that its terms, which include the proposed transfer of 300 Jamaican prisoners serving time in the UK jails to our facility, would not be beneficial to Jamaica as a whole.

Holness had stridently opposed this proposal in September 2015 while he served as opposition leader, yet, to date, he has not advanced any viable alternative to house prisoners in more secure and secure conditions.

Since the deal was rejected, Holness should now declare whether there were attempts by his administration to negotiate a mutually beneficial offer for us to get somewhere.

Johnson Smith further said the administration’s disregard for the rights of the prisoners, and for a state-of-the-art facility with rehabilitation measures, means the country required the ejective reintegration into the society, by stating that she was profligated from answering certain questions because of national security con-

In a context where we desperately need more space to house the rising number of criminals, what type of national security concerns could be raised to the reasonable questioning of the justification for rejecting this deal to improve not only the deplorable conditions of our penal facilities, but the lives of the prisoners?

On the contrary, the only national security concern is their rejection of this offer, which would be the precursor to recidivism, with a rising number of criminals, what type of national security concerns could be raised to the reasonable questioning of the justification for rejecting this deal to improve not only the deplorable conditions of our penal facilities, but the lives of the prisoners?

CRIME CYCLE CONTINUES

What would prevent a convict from furthering his criminal acts after being subjected to the inhumane conditions which the State enables, which they have been forced to accept as the standard? He is likely to be very anxious to secure his freedom, and when he was imprisoned. Rejected this prize deal is a recipe for disaster. Successive governments have talked about improving the state of affairs. But none of them have effectively demonstrated the polit-ical will needed to fix the justice and law enforcement system. The Government searches for a ‘perfect’ deal, and pontifi-cates about the necessity bring us to better lives. Prisoners are suffering, and their moral and dignity are being further eroded.

There lies the opportunity for his containment.

DUJON RUSSELL
dujon.russell@yahoo.com

**Why we worry about Trump**

**THE EDITOR, Sir:**

THE Vert KhoAb the behaviour of a technologically engaged modernist, a dissection of tweets reveals a man who is a throw-back to a simple, uncomplicated time whose arguments are absent of context and nuances and without intellectual discipline. Mr Trump exists in the present tense – today, for now – unencumbered by the accumulated knowledge of the past.

He is ahistorics; Americans; there-fore, should be uneasily not only his rightward shift, but an authoritarian streak, masked by a beguiling charisma.

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**EDITORIAL**

**The Gleaner Company Ltd., P.O. Box 40, 7 North Street, Kingston; fax to 1-876-922-6223 or email overseas@gleanerjm.com.**

Here’s another forum for you to share your views with Jamaica and the rest of the world.

**Congrats, Eddie, getting this global award!**

**Portia, remember you were voted among the Top 100 Influential Persons Worldwide!**

**THE WEEKLY GLEANER**

www.jamaica-gleaner.com
Several youngsters were the highlight of the entertainment segment at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration held recently at McVety Conference Centre. Seen here are Children and Youth Dance Theatre.

United States Vice-President Mike Pence, his wife Karen (left), and Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks at the Chairman’s Global Dinner and Diplomatic Ball, given in honour of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, at Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Washington DC, on Tuesday January 16, 2017. The Vice President expressed his love for the island and the people of Jamaica and hoped to visit whenever the opportunity arose.

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Southern Highway redesign to Save US$100m

Finance minister

Steven Jackson
Business Reporter

Finance Minister Audley Shaw says that Jamaica will save about US$100 million (US$115 million) from revamping the Phase 3A of the Southern Coastal Highway. Shaw said at a forum on Wednesday, January 18, that he plans to travel to China next month to sign the loan agreement for Phase 3A.

Phase 1A of the project linking Harbour View to Morant Bay was projected to cost US$600 million. However, Shaw said that the US$6385 million represented the preferential loan agreement with the People’s Republic of China and that land acquisition would have pushed the price tag to US$500 million.

How would we justify that expenditure from Harbour View to Morant Bay? It is not a statement of disrespect to the people of St Thomas, but business is business and expenditure is expenditure,” he said.

Last June, the Holness administration announced changes to the Southern Coastal Highway but did not quantify the savings at the time.

“Now, we said to the Chinese Government that this cannot work. We went back to the drawing board. We have now re-scoped it such that of that US$385 million, land acquisition has been brought down to a nominal US$15 to US$20 million because much of that land is owned by Government,” said Shaw.

The previous administration approved a contract for China Harbour Engineering Company (CHiC) to undertake the design, improvement, and construction of sections 1A and 1B of the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project. The Harbour View to Port Antonio section covers some 43 kilometres, with Morant Bay to Port Antonio measuring approximately 68km.

Shaw says that the US$200 million of savings from Phase 1B will finance the East-West Highway from May Pen to Williamsfield.

“Now isn’t that good re-scoping of money,” he said. “And that toll road will be a part of the payment plan for the money we borrowed from the Chinese. I am going to China next month, God willing, to sign that agreement with the Exim Bank.”

Minister of Finance Audley Shaw speaks at the Mayberry Investors Forum on Wednesday, January 18, at Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston.

CARICOM/CARIFORUM review report for Cabinet by mid February

The Report of the Golding Review Commission on CARICOM and CARIFORUM will be submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Cabinet by mid February and the review of CARICOM Commission has been extended ‘to facilitate appropriate analysis’.

Giving an update on the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade on Wednesday January 11, at a press conference, Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith also disclosed that Chairman Golding would be making his own announcements in due course.

Appointed by Prime Minister Andrew Holness the Review Commission began its work last July. The report will be made public after the Cabinet was through with it. Johnson Smith told journalists at the ministry, CARICOM comprises CARICOM states and the Dominican Republic which have a trade-development pact with the European Union.

The Ministry as part of the ministry’s ongoing public education campaign on the COTECOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade launched the first of three flyers.

Johnson Smith said the flyer would help people to understand what they should do to prepare to travel that way they have a problem as well as things they should be aware of concerning working and travelling.

She said the flyers would deal with the skills certifcate and how to establish business in other CSME countries. The flyer is available at the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) website and the Ministry’s Facebook page.

Johnson Smith reported that a new trade policy prepared by the Ministry was before the Cabinet for review. The Ministry would collaborate with CARIFORUM Partners in consultations with the UK to retain Jamaica’s preferential market access.

In keeping with that the ministry had requested meetings with the UK Secretaries of State with responsibility for International Trade and International Development Cooperation.

She would also be attending the inaugural meeting of the Commonwealth Trade ministers in March by which time “we are hoping to have a clearer idea of the UKs strategy for its exit from the European Union.”

Pointing to the importance of strengthening Jamaica’s relations with EU countries, she said that during the annual Diplomatic Week in February, the ministry would hold its third EU-Jamaica Political Dialogue under the provisions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement which identifies the framework for relations between the ACP group of States and the European Union.
Sangster International expects more airport traffic in 2017

STEVEN JACKSON
Business Reporter

MIU AIRPORTS Limited, operators of Sangster International Airport, expects passenger traffic to surpass four million this year, a forecast that suggests the country is ready to receive the competitive advantage of being a 4.4 per cent higher year on year.

New routes, frequent flyers, greater demand and load factors contributed to the rise, according to the company in a release to the Gleaner Business queries.

For 2017, it is expected that the political and economic ties between the United States and China are "not expected" to add any additional impact on traffic at Sangster, though China continues to receive an increasing number of visitors from the US via direct, regularly scheduled commercial services.

"Nonetheless, Sangster will continue to enjoy increased air traffic and gateway into Cuba for multi-destination tourists, with several carriers, including Cayman Airways, Aerогвиота, interCaribbean Airways and Copa Airlines, offering direct or connecting service to the island," said MIU.

US travel to Cuba for tourist activities remains prohibited by statute, according to facts on the Embassy in Cuba website, but as noted by MIU, the US Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control issues general licences for 12 categories of travel, which include family visits, research, sport activities and the sort, but not business.

INCREASED TRAFFIC

Traffic growth in 2016 met management’s expectations, which was based on an economic conditions in key markets, available hotel room inventory and market prices.

"MIU management anticipates traffic through Sangster International Airport will continue to grow in 2017 and will exceed four million passengers for the year," said MIU.

Most passengers originated from the US as 61 per cent of total throughput at Sangster in 2016. Flights arriving from and departing to the US carried 6.8 per cent more passengers in 2016 than the previous year.

Canada continued to be the second most important source market for Sangster in 2016, representing 17 per cent of overall traffic.

Passenger traffic, however, was 1.4 per cent lower relative to 2015. The weak economy related to dips in oil price and the Canadian dollar resulted in the decline in passengers out of Canada, especially those originating in Western Canada.

The European Union accounted 15.47 per cent of total traffic, while the market grew 19 per cent.

MIU said it would continue to invest in infrastructure while building strong relationships with airlines.

Part of that plan includes a US$668-million upgrade of the runway. The Airport Improvement Fund, which charges fees to passengers, will finance the runway development.

MIU Airport’s CEO Rafael Rochevar said a number of projects are in the works.

"In terms of aeronautical infrastructure, we are addressing some major ramp and taxiway works, which will ensure the long-term integrity and quality of these key facilities. We will also start work on a runway extension project," he said.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

Business, consumer confidence break election curse

MCPHERSON THOMPSON
Assistant Editor - Business

THERE WAS a sustained level of optimism and confidence in the Jamaican economy across both businesses and consumers in 2016, breaking the trend of dramatic declines in the post-election periods throughout the 15 years that the surveys have been conducted. Data from the first and second election periods in 2002, 2007 and 2011 show that the confidence indices peaked in the periods before the polls, but fell predictably in the first or second quarter thereafter, according to the chairman of the board of the Market Research Services, Don Anderson.

But that trend was broken in 2016, an election year.

In fact, it represents the highest level of confidence in the 15 years since the survey began,” Anderson said on Tuesday at the release of the fourth quarter 2016 indices.

"It is an indication that the economy is doing well on the whole, across businesses and consumers, “are now beginning to feel very confident about the policies that are being pursed and there is great expectation that growth will in fact materialize,” he said.

"If this is sustained throughout 2017 this will represent a major financial boons for business confidence, an increase in the confidence of the economy and will be concrete evidence that the policies being pursued are very optimistic about the long term change for both businesses and more sustainable growth."

According to the survey report, the businesses confidence index stood at 142 in the fourth quarter of 2016, between the previous quarter’s 139.2 and the peak of 146.6 in the third and fourth quarters, it also remained more favourable throughout 2016 than in any other year since the survey began in 2001, Anderson said.

The report said that optimism is a necessary condition for business confidence and is accompanied by renewed economic stability.

Business firms become even more willing to engage in a sustained programme of new investments.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING SUMMARY

Trade Date: Monday, January 23, 2017

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10-DAY MOVING AVERAGE RATING

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JSE Market Table

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11

January 26, 2017

www.jamaica-gleaner.com
New poster and booklet focus on STEAM

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Toronto, ON:

ARTIST ROBERT Small, who has been creating posters to celebrate Black History Month since 1995, has this year turned his focus on science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM).

The theme of the Legacy poster matches that of an educational activity booklet for children highlighting these disciplines that he started in 2016 and continues this year.

The poster features veteran retired politician and civil rights activist Howard McCurdy in Science, tech pioneer Leesa Renee Hall in Technology, Somali-Canadian civil engineer Naara Agil in Engineering, singer/songwriter Jully Black in the Arts, and Nova Scotian educator Kenneth Pells in Mathematics.

“I wanted to get people who have excelled directly in that field or use an aspect of that field in the work that they do,” says Small.

McCurdy, a former MP in Windsor and co-founder of the National Black Coalition of Canada, was educated at the University of Michigan in science.

He was the first tenured African Canadian faculty member in Canada when he became a microbiology and chemistry professor at the University of Windsor.

Small says he felt there was a void in the posters he had created and wanted to outreach and focus more than just on African Canadians and Caribbean people.

“Painting her wearing the hijab and everything, given the times that we’re in, is an important message to say that Muslims within our community are part of our community too,” says Small about Agil who is in her 20s, excelling in engineering, and has opened up the first Dollar Store in Somalia.

Black is a successful artist who has been in the music business for over 20 years and uses social media to promote her work.

Small included her to show young people that “even if you want to get into music you still have to be adept in a lot of different areas. You can’t just be a singer or you can’t just write. In order to be able to keep on promoting yourself you have to be knowledgeable about getting yourself out on social media and keeping yourself relevant.”

He says Hall is an author and technology pioneer in Canada who has written seven books related to social media and other areas.

Three years ago, Small went back to teachers’ college with the aim of wanting to create something that relates to what he is doing right now.

“It wasn’t really to go to there in order to start get a job as a teacher. So I thought of creating this booklet that focuses on science, technology, engineering, arts and math that ties in arts to those disciplines, and that it could be a useful resource for teachers and parents.”

The new edition has different activities that relate to the history of Blacks in Canada, such as one about Viola Desmond that challenges students to draw a $10 bill based on the story that they’ve read.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

There are also three pages related to financial literacy and educating youth about the stock market, word searches and math games.

This was created so they that get to understand how stocks go up and down, that the price fluctuates, and that they could start buy- ing stocks from now.

And that it doesn’t matter how much you put in right now, it’s really that you just do it consistently. And that I felt was a good message to sharing out to the Black community to get ourselves more financially aware,” says Small noting that his parents never talked to him about stocks.

Small says he decided to sell the booklets for $2, digitally and physically, because “a lot of people in our community don’t have access to technology as much as they need to so they can easily get lost in the shuffle.”

He created the booklet to provide practical exercises for those who might not have access to a computer so that they are not left out.
A MAN of superb strength and character is an accurate way to describe Marlon James, distinguished writer in residence and associate professor of English at Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota. His first novel, *John Crow’s Devil*, and *A Brief History of Seven Killings* are evidence of his ability to use scenes and dialogue to paint dramatic and bold pictures and explore topics openly and honestly.

Jamaica’s work gives life to the hidden shadows of his homeland Jamaica, tucked behind tourism advertisements and postcard images. He describes himself as a fiction and non-fiction writer, noting that his fiction focuses on Jamaica’s hidden and untold stories and his non-fiction, presented in the form of personal essays, "on his journey from childhood to present."

"Broken implies something that needs repairing and Patois needs no repair. If anything, it’s standard English, nor is there any such thing as ‘broken English’," said James.

"It is very important for me and for Jamaicans to remember that the voice that we actually speak is more than enough to tell our story. It is standard English that’s in trouble."

Jamaican Patois plays a major role in James’ work. "It is very important for me and for Jamaicans to remember that the voice that we actually speak is more than enough to tell our stories. That there is no such thing as ‘broken English’, nor is there any such thing as 'broken English'," said James.

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"If it wasn’t for the Calabash writers’ workshop, hosted by Justine Hennell, Kwame Dawes and Colin Channer, I wouldn’t have tried one last time."

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His first novel, *John Crow’s Devil*, was rejected 78 times by publishers "Honestly, I did give up. I threw the manuscript away. I still remember rejection number 78. It was a card that simply said Not for us."

"If it wasn’t for the Calabash writers’ workshop, hosted by Justine Hennell, Kwame Dawes and Colin Channer, I wouldn’t have tried one last time."

Now, looking back, James has learnt a lot from that experience; foremost, "never, ever destroy your work, no matter how bad".

"If it wasn’t for the Calabash writers’ workshop, hosted by Justine Hennell, Kwame Dawes and Colin Channer, I wouldn’t have tried one last time."

As a writer, he was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Fiction. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, won the 2010 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and was a finalist for the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award. *A Brief History of Seven Killings* won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction – one of the world’s most important literary honours – making him the first Jamaican to win the coveted award.

Jamaican to win the coveted award.

James admitted that there are in fact some aspects of writing – the really crucial ones – that he cannot teach. "I cannot help you make your book come alive, that comes from reading, and having that experience happen to you."

For his outstanding work, Marlon James is the recipient of The Gleaner Honour Award (Special Award) for Arts and Culture.

CONSCIOUS OF the needs and wants of those in the diaspora, chef Dave Williams offered a menu of ‘Ole Time Sumting’ at Dale Getfield’s annual Fantasy All-White Beach Party at Tropical Biss on Sunday.

Now in its seventh year, the renowned chef, who boasts of having 35 years experience under his belt, had the ‘foreigners’ literally eating out of his hands as he took the Jamaican Sunday dinner to the beach.

His gungo rice and peas, escovitch fish, curried goat, mannish water, corned pork, mackerel run down, roasted sweet potato, jerked pork, ackee and salt fish, roast yam and festival brought back memories of ‘old time’ Jamaica to the mostly New Yorkers and Floridians who stayed a day after Rebel Salute to revel at the seventh annual all-white affair.

As mouth-watering, tasty and exciting as the food was, Getfield’s event was defined by the musical genius of the selectors he hand-picked for patrons.

Fantasy All-White Beach Party is one of a number of events the New York businessman throws each year. His name appears on the mega ‘Trelawny WI Come From’, ‘Colours on the Ocean’ boat ride and his ‘Black-Tie Birthday’, all in the United States.

Patrons are guaranteed a great time as one regular partygoer puts it. “We are brought so much closer to our culture with events like these. The food, the music, is all authentic.”

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

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JANET SILVERA
Senior Gleaner Writer

Marlon James

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US$50m business-lifestyle hotel, auto investment for Kingston

KPREIT buys warehouse complex

Excellence to construct US$110m hotel in Trelawny
THIRTY COMMUNITIES in Clarendon, Kingston, St Andrew, St Ann, St Catherine, St James and Westmoreland have been exposed to waste separation, recycling and composting techniques and provided with the necessary equipment to keep their communities and environment clean while earning income, through the help of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The JSIF is a financial institution of the Government of Jamaica and is formally sponsored by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and funded by the European Union (EU). Its mandate is to drive poverty reduction in Jamaica through socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable investments.

In 2016, the JSIF conducted a comprehensive waste management systems audit of 26 communities, assessing the level of waste management systems and infrastructure and determining the need for equipment. The audit identified 70 per cent of the communities as underserved with respect to waste management services.

With the support of the EU, the JSIF implemented a pilot project in ten communities, which was a success. The project engaged the community in waste collection, recycling and composting, leading to the roll-out of the project to thirty communities.

The project involves the addition of another Floor in order to have more rooms.

According to REDTRAC’s acting director for Academic Affairs Wayne Vassell the mission of REDTRAC is to develop and deliver training courses to meet the needs of law-enforcement, drug-control, border-control and financial-control agencies across 18 English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Women taught the art of self-defence

A GROUP of enthusiastic women turned out to participate in the self-defence workshop hosted by the Clarendon Youth Information Centre.

Self-defence trainer Senpai Duane Riggs of the Jamaica Soo Seido Karate Association directed the sessions and urged women to be more alert to dangers in their surroundings.

He said many times women approach their vehicles with all attention to their cell phones and not being alert on their surroundings.

You need the same kind of killer instinct. There is nothing wrong with a little sense of paranoia, it can save your life. Don’t be too relaxed on the road and allow anyone to invade your space,” warned Laing.

 Kingston

Hinduja call centre to double staff by 500

HINDUJA GLOBAL Solutions Limited (HGSL) Kingston has announced that the company would be doubling its staff by another 500 in the first quarter of this year.

In a statement to The Gleaner, the company said the growth was due to its strong business performance particularly within the health-care industry which is its leading target clientele.

HGSL operates two other centres in the capital.

New justices of the peace commissioned

84 NEW justices of the peace (JPs) were commissioned on Sunday, January 15, and warned that if fingers are pointed at them for reasons deemed slanderous or for dishonest behaviour, they will be swiftly discom missioned.

The warning came from Justice Minister Delroy Chuck, main speaker at the commissioning ceremony for justices of the peace in St Andrew.

He reiterated the importance of maintaining integrity. No one should be able to point fingers at you. If they point fingers at you, it must be falsely done, and that fingers will be pointed (back) at whoever is making these slanderous allegations against you.

Jamaica records first Zika-related microcephaly

THE MINISTRY of Health has confirmed that Jamaica has recorded its first case of microcephaly, believed to have been caused by the Zika virus infection.

The child was delivered in December last year at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital in Kingston.

The child’s mother reportedly developed symptoms of rash and high fever throughout her pregnancy, chief medical officer Dr Winston De La Hayes said.

The health ministry promised to release further details on the matter later this week, as well as give an update on the Zika virus in Jamaica.

Across Jamaica

30 communities benefit from income generating projects from waste material

THIRTY COMMUNITIES in Clarendon, Kingston, St Andrew, St Ann, St Catherine, St James and Westmoreland have been exposed to waste separation, recycling and composting techniques and provided with the necessary equipment to keep their communities and environment clean while earning income, through the help of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The communities, which are now able to convert their organic waste, such as banana peels or grass, into organic fertiliser, while the recycling units provide for the storage of plastic bottles.

“So, the recyclable plastics that usually go to the disposal site can now be converted into income and the organic waste can be converted into organic fertilizer, which can be sold or used at home and in schools,” JSIF’s Systems Operation and Environment Manager Dr Milton Clarke said on Tuesday.

January 17 to be expanded to meet the demand for additional training needs.

The project involves the addition of another Floor in order to have more rooms.

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St James

Cornwall College honoured by St James parish council

MEMBERS of the winning 2016 Cornwall College daCosta Cup football team and coach, Dr Dean Weatherly, have been honoured by the St James Municipal Corporation for excelling in academics, sports and other areas.

Team Captain, Jamario Hines, and Dr Weatherly were presented with citations during the regular monthly meeting of the corporation at its Union Street offices in Montego Bay on Monday.

Cornwall College captured the football title for the 12th time while playing undefeated in its 30 years of existence. The 120-year-old school won all 18 games in the competition.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck (second right), cuts the ribbon to launch the Legal Aid bus, at the ministry on Constant Spring Road last Friday. He is assisted by Legal Aid Council Chairperson, Jacqueline Cummings (right) and Head of Cooperation at the Canadian High Commission, Walter Bernyk (third left). Others (from left) are Social Marketing Coordinator of the Citizen Security and Justice Programme, Jacqueline Nephew; Country Representative of the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), David Osborne; Executive Director of the Legal Aid Council, Hugh Faulkner and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Carol Palmer.

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Cornwall College captain Jamario Hines is presented with the daCosta Cup trophy by flow vice president for marketing, Carlo Redwood, (centre) after leading his team to a thrilling 2-1 win over St Elizabeth Technical High in Saturday’s final at the Catherine Hall Sports Complex.

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Gov’t committed to supporting Jamaican film sector

JAMPRO BOARD member Zachary Harding says moves are afoot to provide the Jamaican film industry with tangible support.

“We’re pushing to mainly get the incentive structure in place. Historically, there were incentives and they were all taken away under one big omnibus system that said no incentives,” he continued. “There have been several hindrances over the years, such as where the funds would come from, getting the local investment community attuned to alternative types of investments such as film, as well as how to assess and manage the associated risks and benefits. There was also an issue of who would manage the fund and the governance structure around the purposes and administration of the capital,” Harding said.

PROACTIVE

Harding suggested that JAMPRO’s Creative Industries Unit has been proactive in establishing models, listing several examples of countries where film funds have been successfully established. They include England, Australia, France, Canada, and the Dominican Republic.

“I recently went to the Dominican Republic and was given a tour of their Pinewood Studios facility by the managing director, and also met with the director of the Dominican Global Film Festival, Omar de la Cruz, who provided some useful insights about how the Dominican Republic model works and how successful it has been,” he told The Gleaner.

From left: Julius W. Garvey, son of national hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey, and filmmaker Roy T. Anderson teaming up to produce ‘Marcus Garvey: A Son’s Story’, a feature-length documentary-film.

Harding also met with Minister Daryl Vaz, particularly about the film industry. “Minister Vaz is the minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, with responsibility for the Land, Environment, Climate Change and Investment portfolios, and has direct oversight of JAMPRO,” Harding said.

“Prime Minister Andrew Holness is aware, supportive, engaged and ready to bat for the industry. He noted that Jamaica should be the film capital of the Caribbean, and instructed us to have dialogue with the Ministry of Finance to figure out what kind of incentives can be put in place, given our agreement with the IMF, and to establish clear timelines for implementation.”

JAMPRO stages film expo

THE JAMAICA Film Commission and the Creative Industries Unit recently staged an expo to educate the public on the little-known and developing techniques for film professionals in Jamaica.

The two-day exercise began on Thursday, January 13, and was hosted in JAMPRO’s New Kingston business auditorium. It was designed to explore solutions for issues impacting the development of Jamaica’s creative industries with stakeholders, practitioners and government representatives.

On the first day, CEO of Hyperion Equity, LLC and JAMPRO board member, Zachary Harding, made an impromptu address to the session’s attendees. It was partly to welcome the participants, but also to communicate the prime minister’s support of the local film industry.

13-POINT PLAN

Harding said that late last year, he and other representatives of JAMPRO were granted an audience with Prime Minister Andrew Holness. "We presented the entire strategic plan for JAMPRO for the next five years," he said. "We had a whole section that spoke to creative industries and, generally speaking, it was all accepted."

According to Harding, the JAMPRO team developed a 13-point plan that seeks more screen time for local content in cinemas and on local free-to-air television, the creation of a film and television investment fund, a specialised incentive programme, tax incentives, capacity building and training, collaboration with other Caribbean and regional countries, as well as possible legislative amendments to enable faster growth. This plan was then shared with the prime minister.

The prime minister expressed his alignment with JAMPRO’s plans and re-emphasised that our culture and natural talent must be focal points for driving economic growth and the creation of jobs, as well as capacity building to enable future expansion,” Harding told The Gleaner. The potential of the creative industries as a key growth sector was discussed, with some of the challenges, opportunities and the vision for the film, TV and animation industries in Jamaica highlighted.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

K.S.
How do I sponsor myself to go to Canada?

Dear Ms. Powell,

I recently finished my degree at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and my prospects here seem very slim. I would like to do the self-sponsorship programme to become a citizen of Canada. I have a half-sister living there, plus Dad said he would give me the funds. How do I sponsor myself? Do I need to have a job offer before I apply? How easy is it to get through? How long will it take? Thank you for taking the time to guide me as I see there are all the elements out there that I don’t know who to trust and I don’t want to get scammed.

B.B.

Dear B.L.

Canada has several immigration programmes under which you could apply to become a permanent resident, provided that you can meet the requirements.

The main programmes are the Federal Skilled Worker Programme, the Provincial Nominee Programme, the Canadian Experience Class, and the Express Entry System. These programmes are accessible via the Express Entry System. It is a two-step process that involves first, applying online and second, receiving an invitation to apply. Once you receive an invitation to apply, you could receive permanent residence within six months.

Express Entry System

The Express Entry system is a points-based, electronic system implemented in January 2015 by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), formerly known as Citizenship and Immigration Canada. It is a streamlining of managing prospective applicants under the above-mentioned programmes, both in Canada and the rest of the world.

Although the system is promoted as not being occupation specific, therefore not having a specified list of occupations, this is more challenging than the previous point-system system. Under the Express Entry System, all applicants are lumped into one pool for selection based on their Comprehensive Ranking Score (CRS). That means that an individual may not get any points if their individual currently in Canada and those internationally.

Under the Express Entry System, all applicants are lumped into one pool for selection based on their CRS score. You will need to provide proof of proficiency in English or French within a set period.

Points under this system are allotted based on core human factors such as education, work experience, language ability, age, and capital. The number of points that you will be allotted is also affected by your marital status and the ability to combine this with a spouse or common-law partner. To exceed the 500 points threshold, international applicants will need to have Canadian work experience within the last three years, quality work experience, or an education obtained in Canada.

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FORMER PRIME Minister Edward Seaga, has received the inaugural Consular Corps of Jamaica Global Achievement Award in recognition of his contribution to national development.

The award was presented during a special banquet to honour Seaga, which jointly hosted by the Consular and Diplomatic corps of Jamaica at the Spanish Court Hotel in New Kingston on Friday, January 13.

The event was attended by a wide cross section of Government officials, diplomats and dignitaries, headed by Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, and Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Dr Horace Chang.

Senator Johnson Smith, who delivered remarks, praised Seaga’s 45 years of public service which she said contributed significantly to Jamaica’s development.

She described him as “a nation builder who saw the need for a newly independent Jamaica to establish its own institutions and symbols in order to create a national identity for its people.”

The Minister further noted that Seaga was pivotal in building Jamaica’s financial system and guiding development of the country’s urban and rural landscapes and cultural heritage, as well as piloting newly independent Jamaica to establish its own institutions and symbols.

Among his achievements highlighted were the extensive economic and social programmes initiated; and conceptualization of entities such as the Heart Trust/National Training Agency (NTA) and Urban Development Corporation (UDC).

“The vision for Jamaica are written in an era of national development,” he said.

In response, Seaga, who served as Prime Minister from 1980 to 1989, recounted several defining moments during his tenure, particularly in relation to Jamaica’s foreign affairs policy, which he noted were aimed at safeguarding the nation’s sovereignty.

Seaga’s political career began in 1959 at age 29, when he was nominated to the Legislative Council, later renamed the Senate, by the then Jamaica Labor Party.

He was also conferred with several honorary degrees by the University of Technology (UTech); and the University of Miami and Boston University in the United States, among others.

Part proceeds from the fundraising banquet will go towards acquiring beds for the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston.

A plaque will also be mounted at the hospital in Seaga’s honour.

Former Prime Minister, Edward Seaga (left), presented with the inaugural Consular Corps of Jamaica Global Achievement Award by Dean of the Consular Corps, Michael Subratie.

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Former Prime Minister, Edward Seaga (left), presented with the inaugural Consular Corps of Jamaica Global Achievement Award by Dean of the Consular Corps, Michael Subratie.
Increase in J’can hotel workers to US in 2016

Labour Minister Shahine Robinson said there was a 19 per cent increase in the number of Jamaicans who gained employment through the United States (US) hotel programme in 2016, compared to 2015.

Robinson said the 2016 figure was the highest number of Jamaicans to participate in the programme since 2007. Some 2,300 Jamaicans were placed in hotels in the US, compared to 1,927 in 2015. Robinson said the trend of recruiting more Jamaicans for the programme is expected to continue this year, with several new employers added to the group. She pointed out that among the employers now seeking workers is Homestead Resort, which has been employing Jamaicans since the 1970s.

“This is testament of the long-standing relationship that we share with employers and that we value,” she said.

Robinson met with a number of US hotel employers in Montego Bay on Tuesday. The employers, who are from Colorado, North Carolina and Michigan, are seeking to recruit 260 employees for their companies.
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NEVILLE C. STEWART

PLAINTIFF'S

JUANNA FONTELLA

TO: THE RESPONDENT

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On October 11, 1943, she enrolled in the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force in Maidstone, Kent. Despite the threat of falling bombs, she worked as a teleprinter operator between 1943 and 1945. After the war ended, Linda longed for sunshine and returned to Jamaica because she could not cope with the cold, rainy weather. In 1948, she married John Dalrymple Pilliner and the union produced a daughter, Maureen. The family lived in Trelawny and St Andrew, where Linda attended the Holy Cross Church. Linda’s early artistic skills were shown when she painted professional banners for the church.

“These banners were enlarged from 2x4 inches to 32 x 44 inches, quite a skillful task for an untrained painter to undertake. I recall her painstakingly poring over the tiniest detail to ensure it was perfect,” said her daughter. In 1968, Maureen left Jamaica for the UK to study nursing. Linda would visit her daughter and grandchildren in England from time to time. Throughout this time, the AGD continued to honour Crosbie’s bequests. The administration process involved remitting advances to Linda’s late sister, Iris, for more than 30 years while she was living in Canada. Iris died in 1991. Money was also sent to assist with Vera’s monthly expenses during a long-term illness while she lived in the UK. Additionally, prior to Jessie’s death, the AGD employed a practical nurse to take care of her.

On October 11, 2014, the AGD was pleased to announce that it had selected five beneficiaries to be the recipients of the 2016 Gleaner Honour Award in the category Arts and Culture.

A section of the crowd at the Calabash Literary Festival in Treasure Beach, St Elizabeth in 2016.

EXTENDED AGD FAMILY

Administrator General Lona Brown said: “When I took office in 1996, I had the pleasure of meeting Jessie, Leila, and Linda. The sisters were like an extended AGD family. It was always entertaining to listen to members of the family, those retired and those present, regale us with stories of their visits and time spent with the sisters.”

At one point, three of the sisters lived at 9 Holborn Road, Kingston 5. With Leila’s passing in 1996, the AGD sold the house and used the funds to purchase an Apartment at 2 Worthington Terrace, Kingston 5, to provide more secure and suitable housing for Jessie and Linda.

After Jessie’s death in 2005, Linda migrated to the UK to live with Maureen in Somerset. She stayed there for several years until she required continuous nursing care and was removed to the West Abbey Care Home in nearby Yevoli. That was where the administrator general and estate administration executive at the AGD, Ingrid Cole, visited with Linda in November 2015. They gave her a blanket in the Jamaican colours, which her daughter promptly used to cover her.

Linda’s legacy
Oldest beneficiary of AGD-Administered dies

FROM PANAMA to Jamaica to the United Kingdom, the fearless and inspiring journey of Linda Pilliner (nee Crosbie) ended in England last year and closed a chapter on the oldest beneficiary of estate administered by the Administrator General’s Department (AGD).

Linda, who passed away in England last October, at 101 years old, was the oldest living beneficiary and the last surviving child of the Crosbie estate, administered by the AGD since 1928.

Her relationship with the AGD spanned several decades, beginning with the death of her father, surgeon dentist Dr William Crosbie, who named the administrator general for Jamaica as executor and trustee in his will dated March 26, 1927. That decision is still having an impact on the Crosbie family.

Crosbie was born at Wildman Street in Kingston, Jamaica, and later moved to Panama, where he worked for the United States Army during the construction of the Panama Canal. He was married to Linda’s mother, Angelina Beverly Crosbie (nee Heartjes), and together, they had six daughters and three sons.

TRAGEDY STRUCK

After the Crosbie family relocated to Jamaica, tragedy struck in 1929 when Linda’s father died. Her youngest sister, Blanche, passed away six months later. In his will, Crosbie established a trust for his wife and six daughters: Blanche, Iris, Vera, Linda, Jessie, and Leila. A further bequest was that upon the death of any of the testator’s children, their individual share would be held in trust for their respective children.

Before the family could begin coping with the loss of their father, their mother died in 1929. And thus began the AGD’s journey with Linda and her sisters.

Crosbie stated in his will that upon the death of his widow, income should be paid to the benefit and advancement of his surviving daughters. The AGD has been carrying out his wishes since then.

Orphaned at 13 years old, Linda and her three youngest sisters were put in the care of the Sisters of Mercy Alpha. Linda excelled at playing the violin and painting. According to her daughter, Maureen, “When she left (Alpha), mum wanted to go to the UK to study art, but there were not enough funds for such an undertaking at that time. This is most unfortunate as mum was a talented artist.”

Years later, Linda would journey to the UK for a different reason. During World War II, she responded to a call for citizens of the Commonwealth to join the British army and travelled to England by ship in a convoy. Though the situation was serious, Linda recalled having an exciting and sociable journey. The ship docked at Inverness in Scotland, but Linda was so cold, she had to be transferred to Surrey, where she was billeted with a family.

Linda and her social worker in Somerset in the UK in 2005.
**Homeless Olympian wants to start foundation for athletes**

_Tamara Bailey
Gleaner Writer_

MANDERVILLE, Manchester

T_HE STORY of Olympian Olivia McKoy, who represented the country as a veteran javelin thrower across the world, but who, a few years later, ended up living on the streets, is certainly not new.

But while some persons have reached out and tried to assist her, McKoy says it is oftentimes temporary and she ends up right back where she started – on the streets.

It is to this end that she has decided to start a foundation to first help herself and then the numerous athletes she says have been left behind.

“I would like to start my own foundation, the ‘Olivia’s Foundation’, in aid of myself first and my endeavours and then extending it to athletes in need, who have fallen on hard times,” McKoy says.

She added: “At this point, I just want to start something that we as athletes can believe in and trust... I know a lot of athletes, they don’t talk, but a lot of them are living in adverse situations, a lot of them are homeless like myself, but they don’t tell you,” McKoy lamented.

She added “…I decided to come to the light and put myself out there, but you have retired athletes who are suffering right now; they have worked all their lives running, but now they have to hold a full-time job, that is added stress when they should be retiring... it’s something that should be looked at, where a pension plan can be given to athletes.”

McKoy expressed that her call on the powers that be is almost cliché at this point, and is of the view that she should be the change she wishes to see.

“I want to start an account at NCB so persons can make donations. I would run it. I don’t know any other name to call. I don’t know what others are about, but I know what I’m about,” McKoy said.

“I hear I’m mad, insane... but the wisdom of God is foolishness to the unwise.”

McKoy said people on the streets tend to be labelled as mad, but she explained that the situations are oftentimes much deeper than mere insanity.

**UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION**

“Let me tell you about the on-the-street thing; if you are living in an uncomfortable situation... A lot of people will stay in the abusive relationships, the abusive homes, and they just live that way I didn’t have anywhere to live, didn’t have any money to pay rent. I worked it out with my son in the parks and markets until better come. A lot of men were calling me to live in their homes, but I know what that was gonna lead to,” said McKoy.

She noted that her foundation would also help athletes better their craft.

“...This would help athletes who are not in a structured programme, who want to harness their talents and skills in whichever event of their choice. Since I live in Mandeville here, I would think to use Brooks Park for training.”

McKoy may be contacted at (876) 565-8906.

**Table tennis president hopes to raise game’s profile**

_Livingston Scott
Gleaner Writer_

**TABLE TENNIS Jamaica President Godfrey Lothian wants to make Jamaica into what he describes as a ‘table tennis nation’, and he expects highly regarded Japanese coach Satoshi Takashima to help make this dream possible.**

Lothian told _The Gleaner_ that Takashima, who will take charge of the national programme for the next two years, has a proven international track record.

“He comes with a lot of credentials. He worked in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, and he played for Japan. So can come here with so many credentials. I am expecting him to use them and take Jamaica Table Tennis to the next level,” Lothian said.

“We want to develop a pool of players as one of the problems we had when we were doing well is that we didn’t have any young players coming through when the older ones left the scene. So we want to have five to ten thousand youngsters across the country playing table tennis within the next five years, with proper coaching, in proper institutions, having the proper facilities, that is our goal,” he continued.

Lothian said that the association would identify Jamaica’s best coach, and together with Takashima, they will organise and train the best talents. The administrator notes that he hopes Takashima will leave a lasting legacy at the end of his stint.

“Our best (local) coaches will be identified to work with Mr Takashima,” Lothian said. “They will pull the best players across the country into the national programme and over a period of two years make the best out of them so they can compete in the Caribbean and on the world stage. We are in Division Three. We want to move from Division Three to Two in short order so people will come to Jamaica to say that this is a table tennis nation,” he added.
ISSA PRINCIPALS VOTE ‘YES’ TO CHAMPS CHANGES

ISSA PRINCIPALS last week voted to ratify five proposed changes which have been touted as designed to protect athletes who compete at Jamaica’s internationally renowned boys and girls school athletics championships popularly called Champs.

The move, they say, is to reduce the workload of the young athletes.

The 105 principals members of the Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA) which runs Champs, by their vote brought a decisive intervention into a longstanding argument which had dogged the celebrated school athletics championship.

The question was whether the athletes were being overworked in the competitive environment of pushing for points while placing their long term interests at risk primarily due to the burn out factor.

The Jamaica Track and Field Coaches Association (JTFCA) had disagreed with the proposed changes, arguing that it came too late for Champs which is usually held in the last week of March.

The proposals were fine-tuned after a meeting last December between ISSA’s technical committee and the coaches.

In the much anticipated vote on Friday, January 20, the principals ratified the proposals which are:

I. Athletes will only be...