ZIKA WATCH STILL ON

Doctors report nearly 8,000 suspected cases

Trelawny’s Violet Brown is now the world’s oldest woman – P3

Jamaica National Group to sponsor Diaspora Conference – P4
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Almost 8,000 suspected Zika cases in the last year

Erica Virtue
Senior Gleaner Reporter

Local health officials have recorded almost 10,000 notifications of suspected cases of the Zika virus (ZIKV) in Jamaica between January 2016 and March 2017.

Figures from the health ministry seen by The Gleaner show that from the notifications, 7,767, or 77 per cent, were determined to be suspected cases, while 123 confirmed cases of the virus have been recorded.

According to Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health Dr Winston De La Haye, the numbers are not causing panic among health-care officials, but under-score the need for alertness and vigilance.

De La Haye noted that among the notifications received by the ministry were 827 pregnant women that group had 698 suspected cases and 76 confirmed cases.

He said the health professionals were equally vigilant about symptoms for malaria and yellow fever as they were about microcephaly - a rare neurological condition in which an infant’s head is significantly smaller than the heads of other children of the same age and sex.

Malaria, yellow fever and Zika all have in common the bite of the infected Aedes aegypti mosquito.

De La Haye said, “There are no cases of ZIKV-related microcephaly in Jamaica,” as he sought to quell fears among many persons that babies are born with microcephaly because the mothers were bitten by the infected mosquito.

Congenital syndrome associated with the Zika (CSAZ) virus has seen 50 suspected cases to date, of 170 notifications.

Four members of the group had 698 suspected cases and 76 confirmed cases.

De La Haye said all the children are currently living with their mothers, but this could change.

Those children are being monitored and are seen a bit more regularly at the clinics. Continuous assessments are made to determine if those children may need to be kept in homes. But for now they are with the parents.

The monitoring is done because children with microcephaly often have developmental issues, and with no treatment for the abnormality, early intervention with supportive therapies, such as speech and occupational therapies, may help improve quality of life, he said.

Meanwhile, there are 166 cases of notified cases of babies with Zika neurological complications.

Of that number, 37 are suspected cases, 90 fit the Brighton criteria (specific measurement criteria), seven the Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) variant, and four Zika-positive.

Of the total numbers presented, the health ministry said 77 per cent fit the case definition and were classified as suspected. Of the suspected cases nine per cent were pregnant women, with less than one per cent being confirmed.

ATM users warned about Romanian scammers

Jason Cross
Gleaner Writer

The police are once again appealing to ATM users to take precautionary measures when using the money outlets, especially now that Jamaica and other countries are being targeted by Romanian scammers.

Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the counter-terrorism branch, Clifford Chambers, told The Gleaner yesterday that his team would be working to apprehend the culprits. He is, however, urging ATM users to protect themselves from fraud.

“I implore everyone to ensure that when they are using the ATM, do their own physical, manual covering of the keypad so that when they are entering their PIN (personal identification number), it cannot be picked up by any other gadgets that might be attached to the machine,” Chambers said.

“When you are entering your PIN, use something to cover it up. Until they have your PIN, they cannot do anything. They can clone the card, but they cannot do anything that has your PIN,” he said.

He also advised users of smartphones to make use of their Bluetooth technology, which can be very helpful in detecting certain threats.

“If you have a smartphone, you can activate the Bluetooth on it, and if you enter the ATM and it is picking up any device from the machine itself, it means that that machine has been compromised. Don’t use it!” explained Chambers.

DENIED ENTRY

Last week, two Romanians who were believed to be involved with an international ATM fraud operation were denied entry into the island.

Following that, airport and law-enforcement officials were alerted.

Jamaica appears not to be the only country currently impacted by the scammers.

“Last week, we got a hit that Romanians are in the country and are some of the major fraudsters. They would be attached to ATMs across the island and persons would be skimmed out of their money. As a result, airport authorities were put on alert,” Chambers said.

In this 2016 file photo, Violet Brown speaks with The Gleaner at her home in Trelawny.

Trelawny’s Violet Brown is now the world’s oldest living woman

The United States-based Gerontology Research Group is reporting that Jamaican Violet Brown, who was born on March 10, 1900, the world’s oldest woman.

This follows the death of Emma Morano, who was born on November 29, 1899 in the Piedmont region of Italy. She was officially the last person born in the 1800s still living.

Morano had attributed her longevity to her diet, exercise, and a lot of hard work when she was younger for helping her to lead a fruitful life.

“Really and truly, when people ask what made my life long and happy life was due to her living right rather than any special diet,” Brown said during that interview.

What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

What you should know about the annual tax

The Weekly Gleaner

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THE JAMAICA 55 Diaspora Conference 2017 will be supported by The Jamaica National Group. Earl Jarrett, chief executive officer of the Jamaica National Group, said that the organisation has already “committed financial and other support to the staging of the conference this year.”

“Member companies of the Group are eager to introduce their products and services to Jamaicans from overseas,” he noted.

The 2017 conference, which is being organized as a pre-cursor event to Jamaica’s 55th anniversary Independence celebrations, will be under the theme, “Partnering for Growth.”

“We anticipate that the conference will serve to highlight the rich and vibrant linkages that are possible when stakeholders, both locally and within the Diaspora, work together to build communities and change lives,” Jarrett said.

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Of key interest will be the recently launched JN Diaspora Certificate of Deposit, which has been rolled out to Jamaicans living in the three main markets that JN currently operates in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

“The JN Diaspora CD is a fitting example of the kind of partnerships that we wish to foster between members of the Jamaicans living overseas and organisations within Jamaica that are working to empower our people to invest in themselves and their communities,” he explained.

The product allows persons overseas to earn an attractive return on their investment, while simultaneously contributing to the growth and development of social enterprises in the Jamaican BMR sector, through the JN Foundation’s SEBI project.

Jarrett, who also serves as the chair of the conference preparatory committee, pointed out that “a strong project team has been put in place and to date all sub-committees have been identified, have prepared work plans and are well on the way to delivering a magnificent conference.”

“I extend a warm invitation to all Jamaicans to participate in the conference and look forward to seeing you in Kingston on July 23,” he said.

Contributed

Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica (centre), presents Leon Mitchell, chief marketing and sales officer, The Jamaica National Group with an award in recognition of the organisation’s continued support of the Jamaica Diaspora Conference, as Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade looks on.
Derrick Scott
Gleaner Writer

WASHINGTON DC:
E DUCATION MINISTER
Senator Ruel Reid has called on the Jamaica’s Alumni Association umbrella group in the United States, to partner with the government in the provision of a proper school bus system for students.

The senator said that the Ministry of Education would match the donation by the Alumni Association, it added that he was determined to develop a proper school transportation system islandwide.

Audrey Marks gave assurance that she would work with the Alumni Association to develop an “Adopt a School Bus Programme,” which would go towards the national programme.

Reid pointed out that students in rural Jamaica were experiencing grave hardships, as parents could not afford the kind of bus fares that students were being asked to pay. This resulted in students not reaching school in time, and poor academic performance by students.

He emphasised that the level of subsidy being enjoyed by students in the corporate area who use the JUTC buses would be the same for rural students when the islandwide service comes on stream.

Turning to the shift system, the senator said there were 47 high schools that were still on the shift system and the government needed some $15 billion dollars to construct 17 new schools that would take the island of the shift system completely.

He pointed out that five schools needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency as they were bursting at the seams. These include Old Harbour High, Ocho Rios and Brown’s Town High schools as well as one school in Montego Bay and another in Manchester.

Senator Reid lauded the Alumni Association for their consistent contribution to the island’s education system over the years, noting that their contribution had assisted many students as well as various institutions for which he as minister and the government were eternally grateful.

The minister was accompanied by Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks, Consul General Trudy Deans and Sharon Hay-Webster.

Ron Cunningham to receive community service award at Harry Jerome gala
N EIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Toronto, ON: RON CUNNINGHAM, executive director of Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development (CADC), will be recognized at the annual Harry Jerome Awards for his community service.

Cunningham is hoping that the community service award will influence the young people in the work that his Mississauga-based organization, CADC, is doing.

He wants to bring greater awareness to issues such as mental health among youth, systemic racism against black boys in Peel, Black Canadians earning less income, having higher rates of unemployment, experiencing poorer health outcomes, and are more likely to be victims of violence.

There is concern about the rapidly increasing high school dropout rates among young black males.

He hopes that the increased visibility and greater awareness will result in more funding to some much needed funding.

CADC aims to provide effective programs and services to youth for character building and skills development, leadership, and active citizenship.

In order to do so, it relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support.

OTHER AWARDS
Cunningham is the recipient of the Peace Medallion by the YMCA of the GTA, the 2010 Ron Lenyk Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year Award, the 2011 Ontario Volunteer Services Award, 2012 Queen Diamond Jubilee Award for Community Service, 2014 Ontario Volunteer 10 years Services Award, and 2015 City of Mississauga Civic Award of Recognition for 10 years of community involvement.

He says the Harry Jerome Award means a lot to him, describing Jerome as “a true scholar, a fantastic athlete, and more so, he is one of us, a regular Canadian.”

“He has a statue at Stanley Park, Vancouver, he is named an officer of the Order of Canada, inducted into the Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame, inducted into Canada Walk of Fame, to mention a few. He was a true role model and what the honouring in honouring his name is remarkable. Therefore, for my work to be attached to this figure is amazing, notable and truly significant for me,” he said.

INFLUENCED BY MANLEY ERA
An accountant who has worked in the financial sector for over 25 years, Cunningham was influenced by the Michael Manley-led era in Jamaica to give back and began doing community work.

“In 2005 when Jane Creba [a young woman in Toronto] was shot while walking on Yonge St., I surmised that here I am running off to Jamaica every since I got to work with inner city communities when the same thing is happening right here in my own back yard. So, I became more active here in Canada addressing the issues of community development and crime and violence among our youth, while continuing my work in Jamaica,” he said.

Cunningham subsequently left the financial sector to start his own accounting business.

The 35th annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards will be held on April 22 at the International Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.
Trinidad considers hanging as murders continue unabated

By Adam Raffoul

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad:

Thursday's long-awaited report from a 17-member commission of inquiry into the working conditions of the constabulary was restated by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley who said that any proposal to reform the system needs to be done locally and not based on another country. A change of heart perhaps, back from the analyst's light, is the idea of removing to another solution to speed up the process. He has recently introduced three pieces of legislation to parliament.

We have had two children, two victims of the current system; one of them being my father, who worked for 40 years for the police. He was a constable in the mid-1970s.

Trinis have gotten used to seeing the body bags of young men, and the faces of their crying relatives. However, what has shocked the nation in recent months is a string of domestic violence cases, with young women as the victims. We have had 17 female victims for the year.

A change of heart perhaps, back in 2013 as Opposition Leader, Def Rowley was of the view that the death penalty was nothing more than “political gimmickry”. In fact, Rowley, a former Attorney General, has called for the abolition of the death penalty in Trinidad and Tobago. He has also been critical of the police for their handling of hangings. Maharaj crafted up a policy to fast track the process of hangings. He officially submitted his report to the government late last month.

In Trinidad and Tobago, court cases are notoriously slow. By the time the case nears closure, some witnesses either forget or are murdered. The PM said this will be done later on. As a result, some cases are notoriously slow. By the time the case nears closure, some witnesses either forget or are murdered.

The Attorney General has his work cut out for him. Besides a speedier justice system, we need to have better qualified and trained police officers who are willing to tackle the gangs head on. Decribising marijuana may allow for more resources to be focused on more serious crimes. According to Opposition Senator, Wayne Sturge, as much as 75% of magistrate court cases involves marijuana possession. But more importantly, more work needs to be done on prevention. Conflict resolution classes and parenting classes need to be instituted in schools and Trinis need to bring back that sense of camaraderie and community we once had. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Only together can we take back our country from the gangs.

ADAM RAFFOUL
Contributor

Phone 919-1658

Will Mr. Andrew Ward, whose last known address is Lot 3 Monroe, St. Elizabeth or Lot 3 Whispering Wind, St. Elizabeth anyone knowing of his whereabouts kindly contact the Family Court, 55A Duke Street, Kingston, telephone # 922-0315.

I am Julie, 42 yrs old, two children, very sexy, good looking, hardworking, kind, travel many countries. Looking for An American man, black or white.

Call me at 1876-798-0089.

Beverley seek pen pals ages 63 to 65 from England and United States.

Christians only.

Photo by Christopher Thomas

Senator Norman Grant (right), president, Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS); Donovan Staberry (second right), permanent secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries; Dr Horace Chang (second left), minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; and Glenfordarris, president of the JAS, St James chapter, examining displays at the Montpelier Agricultural Show on Monday, April 17.

The JCA, in a press release said, “We know that they are diverse in their composition; that they are also encouraged that Justice Tulloch has moved the needle even further with recommendations that, once implemented, will lay the foundation for renewed public recommendations by committing to releasing all past SIU reports on police interactions resulting in death and establishing a process to make future reports publicly available, as well as enabling mandated race-based data collection by police oversight bodies by supporting the proposed Anti-Racism Act.”

A recent US State Department Crime and Safety History. A recent US State Department Crime and Safety

But most importantly, more work needs to be done on prevention. Conflict resolution classes and parenting classes need to be instituted in schools and Trinis need to bring back that sense of camaraderie and community we once had. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Only together can we take back our country from the gangs.

Agricultural Show on Monday, April 17.
Gloria’s co-owner dies in crash on mother’s birthday

Romario Scott
Gleaner Reporter

Persons who planned to close off the Easter holiday with a seafood feast at the Port Royal-based restaurant that was the cause of the accident, they said investigations and friends had gathered.

Cecil Prawl, 49, was travelling from Kingston into Port Royal in the wee hours of the morning when he reportedly lost control of the black Lexus sports utility vehicle (SUV) he was driving along a section of the Port Royal main road called Lighthorne Corner. The vehicle crashed and overturned several times.

According to police reports, the businessman, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle, was thrown from the roof of the vehicle, causing him to sustain major injuries.

Alleged eyewitnesses corroborated the police report, adding that most of the injuries Prawl sustained were to the head and upper body.

“I was down there until the ambulance from over the airport came for him. He had a lot of cuts. His head had the most injuries. It was terrible!” a man, said to be one of the first on the scene, told The Gleaner.

Speaking

Cecil died on the birthday of his late mother, Gloria Prawl. In fact, the scene of the accident was approximately two kilometres from the Port Royal cemetery, where he, along with the rest of his family, was due to visit later in the day to pay tribute to her.

Meanwhile, at the Prawl’s family house in Port Royal, Tanya Prawl was still trying to come to terms with the sudden loss of her brother and business partner.

“I got a call this morning about 5 o’clock or so and that’s when I rushed down to see what was happening.” Tanya, dressed in full black, said from her family home in Port Royal, where other relatives and friends had gathered.

“Right now, what I have to do is hope for the best. We could not have opened today. Trust me, with all that has happened, nobody [was in the frame of mind] to work, but we will open tomorrow,” the teary-eyed sibling said with a shake of her head.

Over at the nearby police post, persons, still in shock, converged to look at the mangled SUV.

Although the police have theorised that speeding was the cause of the accident, they said investigations are ongoing.

Quallo takes office this week

Jovan Johnson
Gleaner Writer

GEORGE QUALLO, 58, took office on Tuesday, April 18 as the 29th commissioner of police amid a 21 per cent hike in murders and growing anticipation for the unveiling of the crime plan that helped him land the top job in the 150-year-old Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

Head of communications at the JCF, Superintendent Stephanie Lindsay, said a date for his installation ceremony was to be finalised Tuesday.

The Ministry of National Security announced on April 10 that Quallo, who enlisted in the force in 1976, will replace Dr Carl Williams, who opted for early retirement in January after 28 months on the job.

Among those Quallo beat for the job was Deputy Commissioner Novelette Grant, who acted as crime chief while the Police Service Commission searched for a replacement.

Quallo’s selection has been met with good wishes from the parliamentary Opposition, current and former colleagues, including Rear Admiral (Retd) Harley Lewin, who served as police commissioner for two years.

“What I know of George Quallo is that he is a good, well-rounded police officer and he’s well experienced,” Lewin said.

WAIVING QUALLO’S VISION

Opposition Spokesman on National Security Peter Bunting described the new commissioner as “a man of unquestioned integrity.”

Security Minister Robert Montague told Parliament that Quallo’s appointment was a new phase in Jamaica’s rebuilding process.

But members of the general public, the opposition, business operators and former members of the highly-criticised force set up after civil unrest in 1865 protested social injustices, have said they are awaiting Quallo’s vision.

For the period January 1 – April 10 this year, some 360 persons were reported killed across the island, a 21 per cent jump, or 64 more than was recorded for the similar period last year. Jamaica recorded 1,350 murders in 2016.

Quallo has declined so far to give details of his plans for dealing with the media that he will do so at an “appropriate time and place.” But he has insisted that he will address the murders, now at a rate of 56 per 100,000 of the population.

“We will have this crime monster under control,” Quallo told The Gleaner.

Farmers’ group boss supports GraceKennedy plans for locally produced ‘bully beef’

Christopher Thomas
Gleaner Writer

THE JAMAICA Agricultural Society (JAS) is fully supportive of a recent announcement by GraceKennedy Limited that it is considering producing its own corned beef locally, instead of continuing its reliance on overseas suppliers.

JAL president, Senator Norman Grant, said the establishment of a local corned beef processing industry would fall in line with the national ‘Eat What You Grow’ campaign and cut the nation’s importation of corned beef, 99.5 per cent of which is sourced from Brazil.

“The JAS is very concerned that we are importing so much corned beef,” said Grant. “We launched the ‘Eat What You Grow’ campaign in 2003, and one of the major objectives was to produce all that we can produce locally, so let the record reflect that the JAS congratulates GraceKennedy for taking this game-changing initiative, and I am sure that it is the beginning of a process that can transform the local livestock industry.”

Last week, Don Wehby, GraceKennedy’s chief executive officer, said his company would be looking at producing its own local corned beef at its Westmoreland-based processing plant, which produces several meat products such as Vienna sausages, frankfurters and picnic hams.

The Jamaican Government recently ended a two-week ban on corned beef imported from Brazil, which was imposed following news that several processing plants in the South American country were under investigation for allegedly using rotten meat in its products over a number of years.
Well Done, DCP Grant

The Editor, Sir:

Back in June 1991, while I was a police cadet at the former Police Training School in Port Royal, Mr. William Bill Bowers was the commissioner of police for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

Since then, I can say that the community each individual has played the important role of dealing with the country's main problem crime and violence. Although we (as a nation) cannot simply rely on a police commissioner to solve the country's crime problems, such an individual must be vigilant and understand a variety of issues in order to become successful as a police commissioner.

Over the years, the Police Service Commission (PSC) has always appointed a male police officer to lead the force, and a few have done extremely well, but they have never got the chance to put a serious reduction on crime and violence. While not trying to expose anyone, former police commissioner Owen Ellington was trying to make a difference, but apparently something went wrong during his tenure, so he decided to resign. He was succeeded by Dr. Carl Williams who tendered his resignation without a satisfactory reason, in my assessment.

DCP Quallo will become the country's 29th police commissioner, so the possibility exists that he (not appointing Ms Grant) might be a gender-based candidate, but which is an issue for a ‘fact-finder’ or ‘truth-seeker’ to decide. Nonetheless, I strongly believe that Acting Commissioner Malahoo Forte and those who call for a review of the age of criminal responsibility should have been given the opportunity to make a difference because she knows a lot. She is always humble and continues to support the force in various ways. So my advice to her is that she should continue the drive until she retires because she has done extremely well. We have been making history by becoming the nation's first female police commissioner.

CHARLIE BROWN
charliebrown1004@gmail.com

Go beyond Coral Gardens apology

The Editor, Sir:

There can be no question about the vitally important contributions that tourism makes to the Jamaican economy.

One interesting aspect of our marketing of Jamaica’s tourism product is the usage of the image and likeness of Rastafarians. It seems that Bob Marley or some other Rastafarian sporting a spiff may become Jamaica’s unofficial flag. Some would be forgiven for thinking that this was how things have always been, but a quick glance in history reveals that our treatment of Rastas has been anything but noble.

The events of April 12, 1963 at Coral Gardens, which have subsequently been dubbed Bad Friday, saw members of this much-maligned group of black-heart men being subjected to the full force of the police brutality. Some were beaten, the hair of some trimmed, while others were killed. Some were even arrested for ganja spiff.

Today, some 54 years later, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has rightly apologised to the Rastafarian community for the actions of a then Jamaica Labour Party-led government.

This apology is just the start of a process that must lead to the full embracing of Rastafari as a part of Jamaica’s authentic identity. We can start by perhaps recruiting members of this community into the security forces and exempting the requirements for shaved heads.

NOEL MATHERSON
noelmatherson@gmail.com

Caution for review of age of criminal responsibility

The Editor, Sir:

I write regarding expressed support by Attorney General Marlene Malahoo Forte and those who call for a review of the age of criminal responsibility.

Sir, I totally agree with Opposition Spokesman on Justice Mark Golding when he said that he was reluctant to support the review. The heinous act by an 11-year-old that took the life of a 14-year-old recently marked a sad day in our nation’s history.

A 8 PAR as honeymoons go, George Quallo’s will be over before he hits the sheets on April 18. Which is a pity. For Mr. Quallo, a 40-year veteran of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, would have loved, we assume, to revel, if only for a few days, in the achievement of becoming the country’s 29th commissioner of police.

The nation hopes that the Police Service Commission, which under-took the vetting of candidates for the job and made the final selection, chose Mr Quallo because he was the best man for the job. Based on superior experience, team-building skills, savvy and intelligence, irrespective of gender or other considerations.

This newspaper does not entertain the ageist myopia of some who instinctively question whether Mr. Quallo, who will be 59 in August, has the capacity to be a transformational leader who will overhaul the constabulary and trigger a paradigm shift in public perceptions.

It is this wall of perception of the police force as a relic of 1867, characterised by inefficiency and corruption, that has hardened public distrust and contributed to the huge number of unsolved crimes.

When Mr Quallo steps into his office at Old Hope Road, he must lead an assault on galloping murders. Even though the police force has done a commendable job of curbing some major crimes over the past few years, murders have shot up. National optimism after the decisive bids of Christopher Coke’s militia in Tivoli Gardens in 2010 has cooled. A funk has set in.

Homicides in St James were at record highs in 2016, and despite the deployment of soldiers to Montego Bay and neighboring towns, the bloodletting remains graphic. Special legislation and gang-busting pressure by the police have not resulted in the decisive pushback in this war of attrition. Gangs disperse and then reconsti-tute, or they splinter into factions that engage in inter-decal clashes.

The upshot is that much of the Jamaican public, including the business community is crippled by fear. Of course, Mr Quallo, alone, cannot win the war. The Holness administration, in the lead-up to the February 2016 general election, promised Jamaicans that if the Labour Party returned to power, they would be able to sleep with their windows and doors open. That has been a pipe dream. The Government should, with the deployment of more resources, give Mr Quallo a fighting chance of succeeding at what is arguably the most difficult job in Jamaica.

If the new commissioner commits himself to leading a sea change in law enforcement, this culture shift could redefine the constabulary as a key partner in Jamaica’s attainment of the ambitious economic growth and development indices it chases, something which the Economic Growth Council, through its chair-man, Michael Lee-Chin, has empha-sised.

Safety and security, both in percep-tion and reality, are crucial intangibles that grease the wheels of the economy. Downtown Kingston, the heart of the capital, is generally a ghost town at night because people don’t feel safe. When people don’t feel safe, they are less inclined to eat out and party late, shop, or patronise bars or other ven-ues of leisure and entertainment.

Prosperity depends not only on the Government and private sector, but also on the police.

RICHARDO COLB
lighthousebycycle@gmail.com

Editorial

Commissioner Quallo’s role in economy

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Sir, I totally agree with Opposition Spokesman on Justice Mark Golding when he said that he was reluctant to support the review. The heinous act by an 11-year-old that took the life of a 14-year-old recently marked a sad day in our nation’s history.

Alternate Measures

However, there needs to be alternative measures implemented, and not a review of the age of criminal responsibility, so as to pre-vent a recurrence.

Before reviewing the age of criminal responsibility, I think meas-ures should be implemented gradually. The various agencies that are responsible for the welfare of children should be in dialogue with stakeholders on the most effective ways to move forward.

I think we should take a page from a programme in the United States called “Scared Straight”.

This is one of the programmes that attempt to deter children from a life of crime.

We could also enlist the services of our reimbressees who express a willingness to assist our nation’s children to be upright citizens in order to avoid incarceration.

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The Gleaner Company Ltd., P.O. Box 40, 7 North Street, Kingston; fax to 1-876-922-6223 or email overseas@ gleanerjm.com.
Jamaica College Old Boys’ Association New York Chapter awardees: Senator Ruel Reid, recipient of the Man of the Decade in Education Award (second left); Andrew Ewing, awarded for Technology in Education; Sally Henzel, who received the Distinguished Alumni award on behalf of her husband Perry Henzel; and fellow awardee Winston Stona, with Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Ambassador Audrey Marks (right) and Consul General Trudy Deans (left). The awards were presented at the Jamaica College Old Boys Association (JCOBA) Griffin Awards at the SVA Theatre in Manhattan on April 8.

Gilberta Lucaj and Elaine Kwon perform at Jamaica College Old Boys’ Association, New York Chapter Griffin Awards.

Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United Nations Courtney Rattray with Noel Mignot at JCOBA Griffin Awards.

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Royalton Negril Resort and Spa and Hideaway welcome first guests

SUNWING VACATIONS has announced that Royalton Negril Resort and Spa and Hideaway at Royalton Negril welcomed their first guests on March 31. With the addition of these two new properties, vacationers can choose between four different Royalton Luxury Resorts islandwide (Royalton Blue Waters opened at the start of winter 2016 to complement the consistently popular Royalton White Sands), said the travel company group in a media release last week in Canada.

Set on one of Jamaica’s most legendary beachfronts, Royalton Negril Resort and Spa combines a breathtaking natural setting with an array of luxurious amenities including unlimited reservation-free dining, stylish outdoor lounges, and nightly entertainment.

Younger travellers will appreciate the extensive pool complex, children’s splash park, and complimentary kids and teen clubs. Families can also take advantage of a variety of land and non-motorised water sports such as kayaking or snorkeling, also offered at no extra charge.

ADULTS ONLY

Hideaway at Royalton Negril is an adults-only haven nestled in the heart of the resort that offers couples, and honeymooners in particular, a tranquil enclave when it comes to luxury-accommodation options here. Known as the ‘Capital of Casual’, Negril is famous for its stunning seven-mile beach and legendary fiery sunsets. Many vacationers flock to the resort town to spend an evening savouring some of the island’s finest jerked chicken at the famous Rick’s Café while divers plunge from the vertiginous cliffs. The lush interior surrounding the resort destination offers plenty of options for explorations – from ATV safaris that lead past mountain villages and thundering waterfalls to heritage tours of rum estates and old plantation houses.

Local bedding company lands J$60m contract with Hilton Hotel

JAMAICAN BEDDING company Therapedic Caribbean has won a $60 million contract to supply mattresses and box foundations for the refurbishing of the 489-room Hilton Rose Hall hotel, Montego Bay.

The hotel, managed by Aimbridge Resorts, is owned by the Sagicor Group, which praised to have the items manufactured in Jamaica.

According to the company director, Aswad Morgan, the Sagicor’s tenacity and insistence on buying local is commendable because by so doing, the Jamaican bedding manufacturers were challenged to show the Hilton International chain that the island has the expertise, capabilities, capacity, modern plant facilities, and a quality workforce that can do as good a job as anywhere else in the world and within the given timelines.

“The director of Therapedic Caribbean noted that the execution of the work has been well received by both the local and international representatives of the Hilton Hotel International chain.

“Lauding the company, John Miles, hotel manager at Hilton Rose Hall, said that he was very proud that a local bedding manufacturer could "step up to the plate" and execute at such high levels in terms of delivery management, product quality, and professionalism.

“This new sleep system is guaranteed to heighten our guests’ sleep experience and we are delighted that it was made here in Jamaica.”

Therapedic Caribbean facility at Naggo Head, Portmore.

Therapedic Caribbean general manager Courtney Miller (left) welcomes and cuts the ribbon with his first set of guests on March 31 at the newest resort in the hotel chain.

Royalton Negril guests in a jovial mood as they welcome the first set of guests to their new resort.

where they can enjoy a dedicated beach area, adults-only infinity pool, and their own bar and restaurant while still taking advantage of all the features of the wider resort.

President of Tour Operations Andrew Dawson welcomed the news, stating: "Jamaica, especially the vacation hotspot of Negril, has long been one of our most consistently popular destinations. We already offer vacation packages to a number of leading resort chains in the area and are delighted to be offering travellers even more choice when it comes to luxury-accommodation choices on the island."

"What’s the point of having great food, a nice pool, and a terrible hotel, if there’s nothing to eat or drink?" Morgan added.

"This was because of the way we went about both the production and execution of the job. All goods were delivered seamlessly in 40-foot containers, and we did our best to communicate with the relevant hotel representatives on projected delivery times so they could prepare for each delivery. In fact, we set some very high production and execution standards among our team members, and that approach paid off. We have an amazing team,” Morgan noted.

Royalton Negril’s general manager Courtney Miller (left) welcomes and cuts the ribbon with his first set of guests on March 31 at the newest resort in the hotel chain.

Aswad Morgan

"It was a rigorous bidding process, and we were selected above all the other Jamaican companies that tendered. We are very proud of this achievement, especially as this was the first time the Hilton International hotel chain had made an exception to its long-standing procurement procedures by appointing a Jamaican bedding manufacturer as a preferred supplier of customised sleep products to the hotel’s international specifications.

The items were delivered on time in January this year. "It was a rigorous bidding process, and we were selected above all the other Jamaican companies that tendered. We are very proud of this achievement, especially as this was the first time the Hilton International hotel chain had made an exception to its long-standing procurement procedures by appointing a Jamaican bedding manufacturer as a preferred supplier of customised sleep products to the hotel’s international specifications."

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“Therapedic Caribbean – a member of the Morgan Group, increasingly placing significant emphasis on the design and construction of their beds due to the important role they play in the overall guest experience. "What’s the point of having great food, a nice pool, and a terrible hotel? It has to be the total package to meet guests’ expectations," added Morgan.

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Unemployment in Jamaica still chronic, says IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that while Jamaica has experienced average quarterly growth of positive growth and that employment is growing, the unemployment situation remains a chronic issue.

It said real gross domestic product (GDP) seems on target to grow by 1 per cent in fiscal year 2016-17, driven by agriculture, construction and tourism, while infla-
tion and the current account deficit remain contained, support-
ed by low oil prices.

“Ultimately, a combination of wage negotiations and efforts to streamline the size of the public sector could create new social and political risks,” it warned.

“The government’s reform programme should help attract private investment and bolster growth and job creation,” the IMF staff appraised that domestic consumption and declining unemployment are nearly double the overall gains to the economy, it said.

It also indicated that income earners below the poverty line mostly engage in lower-income jobs in agriculture (25 per cent); retail and repair work (20 per cent); construction (11 per cent), and domestic work (about 9 per cent). Among poor households, only 27 per cent of heads have secondary schooling or more, versus 45 per cent among non-poor household heads.

The Fund said discussed on the review centred on fiscal year 2016-17, 18 Budget that maintains a seven per cent of GDP primary surplus target, rebalances from direct to indirect taxes, and directs greater resources to capital spending; increasing social transfers to the poor, reducing the size of the public sector and increasing its ef-
ciciency, improving the monetary policy toolkit and modernising the means by which the central bank undertakes the purchase and sales of foreign exchange.

It is focused on strengthening the institutional framework for financial stability, and fostering sustained growth.

The Fund said preserving the social consensus for reform will be critical in sustaining the gains of macroeconomic stability and resilience that have been achieved over the past four years.

POLICY ACTIONS

Noting that decisive policy actions are required to improve public sector resource allocation and efficiency, the Fund said reducing the Government’s wage bill, including by strengthening budgetary controls, redefining the size of government, and lowering pension costs is key to shifting Jamaica’s limited fiscal resources to productive spending.

The unemployment rate is declining, albeit still high at 12.9 per cent and over 1.7 million people are unemployed in Jamaica.

Social consensus for reform will be sustained and equitable growth.

It undertakes the purchases and sales of foreign exchange.

It reviews centred on fiscal year 2017-18.

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NDTC LIGHTS UP NEW YORK

DEON BROWN
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK: NATIONAL DANCE Theatre Company of Jamaica (NDTC) lightened in New York City with a series of scintillating performances by the young deck of dancers and choreographers at their recent concert.

While the total package lacked flow and smooth transitions, the individual dance numbers were impressive, some quite riveting, and the audience gathered at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College showed their appreciation.

The most dynamic presentation was choreographed by one of the company’s youngest members, Renee McDonald, whose premiere Into the Blue was visually arresting – the dance modern, futuristic, energetic and daring. Non-traditional in form and music, it had a movie, moving quality to it, and was so well produced, so beautifully danced, that you could hear the audible murmurs of appreciation as it peaked.

It was one of the finest local productions prepared for an international stage. Jamaica’s future is indeed bright as McDonald, is reportedly only in her twenties. Her work, though, showed maturity beyond her years.

The NDTC was true to its mission as the keeper of the culture. It set the pace for what Jamaica is always celebrating – its rich folk heritage.

In pieces like Hommage a Danse (choreographed by Kevin Moore), Gerrebbesta (Rex Nettlesford choreographed) and Mountain Climbing (choreographed by Chris Walker) there were tributes to the past and in NDTC’s signature style, the use of live music – the orchestra playing mainly traditional instruments accompanied at times by the NDTC Singers. The overlap of the traditional music, voices and dance transported the auditorium to Jamaica’s folk past.

NDTC’s Chairman Milton Samuda said the company the will be expanding its role and relationship with Brooklyn College. While he couldn’t offer up details just yet, he said discussions were underway and involved the Jamaican Consulate in New York.

“There will be closer collaborations,” Samuda said, and may well result in more frequent appearances by the Jamaican dance company. The NDTC has been visiting Brooklyn Center for over twenty years on a bi-annual basis for weekend performances.

As the ensemble continues to mark its 55th anniversary in tandem with Jamaica’s 55th year of Independence, it is looking to showcase its offerings in other cities across the United States.
Jameson’s love of food takes cooking to the next level

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

I t’s SO mean, it’s nice, is how Jameson Vedder, CEO/Head Chef describes his all-purpose jerk seasoning. Just seven months ago, Vedder decided to take his love of food and cooking to another level and started his Jameson’s Mean Jerk Seasoning family business. It is Vedder’s love of food that lead him to cooking, packaged in a jar and ready for the market.

“You can use as little or as much of it as you like and it will still be a mean jerk seasoning,” said Vedder in an interview with The Gleaner.

And in just seven months, Vedder’s jerk seasoning has been picked up in Toronto by the Fox and the Fiddle (John Street and King Street) and Crooked Cue (Kingway) restaurants and Ella’s Meat Market (Pape and Danforth).

Vedder likened his jerk seasoning to that of homestyle cooking. Saying with the times now, many people eat out, leaving no time for homestyle cooking anymore. With his jerk seasoning, you can still get that taste of home. “It’s healthy, whole-some ingredients,” said Vedder.

Vedder’s cooking can be used in the traditional way — to marinate meat, chicken, fish and vegetables, but said that it can also be used “on the fly,” and even used, as an ingredient for smoothies. Currently, on Vedder’s Instagram page you can find his recipe for a jerk smoothie. “My seasoning is that flavourful and versatile,” said Vedder.

STUDYING FOOD

Jameson studied Food and Beverage Management and Culinary Arts, which he complemented with Food and Nutrition Management. He said that making his jerk seasoning unique is in his blending of the ingredients. “The way I blend it. I take time to meticulously blend the ingredients. To give a flavourful experience, but with the right amount of heat,” said Vedder. He is careful not to make his jerk seasoning “off-putting.”

Vedder’s love of cooking began with his grandmother who is “well-versed in cooking,” said Vedder. She studied culinary arts in France and had her own catering business. Vedder used to hang out with his grandmother and watch her cook. During those times they talked about cooking and they talked about life. “She taught me a lot,” said Vedder, who also said, his grandmother was his best friend. “With a whole lot of cooking, comes a whole lot of love,” said Vedder, “that’s why I want to carry on.”

Vedder said he does not like to rush anything, calling himself the tortoise in life. His family told him 10 years ago that his Christmas jerk turkey was too good not to share with the world. “They said I should sell it, but I wasn’t going to do that. I wanted to keep it for the family,” said Vedder.

But they convinced him and he decided to try a ting: “It’s something I love to do, I don’t know where this is going to take me, but so far, it’s been going well,” said Vedder. So well, in fact, that he has other seasonings in the works.

UniversSoul Circus heads to Queens

THE UNIVERSOUL Circus will be in Queens April 19th thru May 7th. To kick off the Queens tour, UniversSoul Circus will be hosting two charitable events to uplift the community.

The first show, FamilyOpen House, will take place on April 24th, 2017 @ 7PM. Family Open House is a free event for 2,000 transitional shelter children and their families - providing them with a night of unbelievable, unex- pected, unforgettable experience due to their circumstances. Live entertainment events aren’t always feasible. UniversSoul will provide a wonder- ful opportunity for those who may never get a chance to experience what many consider, The Best Circus Ever.

The second show we named, Kids Lives Matter is April 25th, 2017 @ 7PM. Kids Lives Matter is a peer to peer celebration featuring special appearances by the children of the community. This show is designed to promote positivity thru poetry, dance, song and circus arts. Additionally, 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to various children’s organizations in the community.

For more information on these two shows and how you can help, please visit www.universalcircus.com.

This show is designed to promote positivity thru poetry, dance, song and circus arts.

Kimberley Small
Gleaner Writer

KIM POMMELL, Sherida Sharpe and Faith Waltson, the three Jamaican female lead singers of the six-member band Rising Tide, have returned home with the hope of winning the fandom of their country. The trio are in Jamaica following the conclusion of their 15-date tour of France.

“It’s only right for Jamaicans to know what we’re doing,” Pommell told The Gleaner. “It’s a different side of the music mixing reggae and jazz. It’s very rare that anybody try to touch that, because sometimes the notes get risky, and you haffi love music fi listen to it. The song dem different,” Pommell said.

“We’re jazz musicians who just love our (reggae) culture, so we fuse it,” Waltson added.

Rising Tide began about two years ago as a side project. After the lead singer of the original nine-member California-based band Groundation went on hiatus, the remaining members formed the female-led offshoot.

Groundation is an American roots reggae band started by Harrison Stafford in 1999. Two years ago, the band went on hiatus, while founder and lead singer Harrison Stafford established a solo career. The remaining active members of Groundation who make up Rising Tide are Marcus Urani, who is the production lead and keyboardist, Ryan Newman on bass, and Paul Spina on drums.

After the release of their self-titled debut album in March 2016, Rising Tide embarked on their first tour, which took them to multiple venues across France from March 1 to 19.

“Groundation built a foundation for us. Most of the fans we have now are friends and family of Groundation,” Pommell told The Gleaner.

According to Pommell, the first time Rising Tide performed was on the Reggae Sun Ska Festival last August, where they opened for Damien Jr Gong Marley in front of 20,000 people.

Sharpe, who brought her performance skills with Cathy Levy’s Little People and Ashe, “until Dean Fraser come draw mi outta mi good-good Ashe,” she joked.

Fraser’s pull landed Sharpe gigs with Luciano, with whom she performed for three to four years. Sharpe also listed Junior Kally, Tyrone Riley and Richie Spice as other artistes she has toured with.

Waltson was also a part of Little People and Ashe, before moving on to perform backup for Buju Banton, Chaka Demus and Pliers, Richie Stephens, Diana King and Jimmy Cliff.

Pommell’s career began with Ashe, where she performed for 12 years. When she moved on, Pommell spent nine years with Groundation

This year, the band plans to release their first Jamaica-produced and recorded single, with vocals already laid with Felisha.
Property tax rollback

Powerful interest groups welcome property tax changes, PNP rejects revision

Jovan Johnson
Gleaner Reporter

THERE Powerful interest groups that led public calls for the Government to review the revised property tax regime implemented on April 1 are expressing satisfaction with the changes announced on Tuesday, April 11 which will see a fall in rates and the level of increases.

The Andrew Holness administration has been under pressure from the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA), Jamaica Manufacturers’ Association (JMA) and the Realtors’ Association of Jamaica, along with farmers and fixed-income earners such as pensioners to re-examine the regime that saw increases, for some more than 1,000 per cent, in property tax.

Finance Minister Audley Shaw, who initially said there would be no rollback of any of the tax measures he announced on March 9, told the House of Representatives that the Government has heard the ‘cries’ and ‘cannot ignore’ them.

The adjustments now include a reduction in the property tax rates using eight bands, which will range from 0.5 per cent to 0.9 per cent of the land value. The rates announced in March were from 0.8 per cent to 1.3 per cent.

“With this change in the tax rates, 448,360, or 58 per cent, of the total 776,487 properties will now see a reduction or no change in their property tax. This is a big increase from the 35.1 per cent who would have benefited based on the previously announced rates,” Shaw said, adding that 61 per cent of all property owners will see an average increase of “no more than 15 per cent” when compared with what they paid last year.

Pointing to a survey it did, the JMA had argued that variations under the previous system were questionable and that businesses needed time to adjust to rates being upgraded for the first time since 2002.

Shaw said, that while the initial announcement was made with a view to，“cries” and “cannot ignore” them.

He supported Seaga that had no longer expects real estate owners, in any significant way, to sell off their properties to cover the higher taxes.

The Realtors’ Association said it no longer expects real estate owners, in any significant way, to sell off their properties to cover the higher taxes.

He told The Gleaner that he will have to check with members for feedback. “It depends on the individual members and how much they’re being asked to pay. But a reduction is welcome,” said Robinson.

Under the April 1 regime, commercial properties were faced with an average increase of 137 per cent. With the adjustments, however, that will fall to 58 per cent. According to the finance minister, who said the public discussion must consider that the value of unimproved land in Jamaica in 2013 amounted to $1.9 trillion, or 130 per cent of Jamaica’s gross domestic product (GDP). The value in 2002, he said, was $567 billion.

He said the consultations been done before the initial announcement, public reaction may have been different.

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VOLUME 931 FOLIO 212

Wednesday May 31, 2017
at 11:00 a.m.

Former Carbonated Beverage Bottling Facility to include Factory/Office Building and Plant & Equipment

The Main Building of 6,108,696m² (65,754.00ft²) accommodates factory/production facilities at ground floor and office area at first floor of 780.00m² (8,396.00 ft²). Floor to ceiling clearance in the factory is 21ft at eaves.

Operational facilities include:
- Reverse Osmosis Plant
- Storage Tanks and Vessels
- Packaging Plant Equipment
- Docking and Loading Bay Equipment
- Utilities and Support Equipment
- Boilers & Standby Generator and Waste Water Treatment Plant System

The CO₂ Building is 197.975m² (2,131.00ft²) and has maintenance, welfare, waste water management and electrical facilities. An open plan shed of 185.433m² (1,996.00ft²) is attached to this building.

Land area is 12,142.997m² (130,707.225 ft²) or 3.0006 acres.

For additional information contact our offices:
Deposits payable immediately by certified cheque
Phone: (876) 927-4724-5, 927-9133
Fax: (876) 927-8011
Email: allpitco@cwjamaica.com
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What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@jamaica-gleaner.com

www.jamaica-gleaner.com
Small to medium-sized enterprises to receive more benefits

THE JAMAICA Jamaica Business Development Corporation’s (JBDC) Mobile Business Clinic Initiative (MBCI) to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises kicked off a new phase on April 12 at the Terra Nova Hotel in St Andrew. Implemented in 2014, this three-year initiative, with an islandwide reach, involves the decentralization of business development services geared at reaching a wider group of MSMEs in new and existing industries and sectors. It targets high growth potential entrepreneurs within the MSME sector.

Young people benefit from 3D animation training

SOME 150 young people are benefitting from training in 3D animation, which will prepare them to take up jobs in the industry.

The HEART Trust/NTA has created a business process outsourcing (BPO) sector which is expected to boost the economy and is sensitive to the principles of environmental protection and efficiency, and is one of the most adventurous and ambitious projects in the Caribbean. Various governmental agencies intensified their lobbying claiming that the project “would mean certain extinction for some employment,” the HEART Trust/NTA has now focused on creating some programmes at the tertiary level. According to a statistician in the Education, Youth and Information Ministry, Floyd Green in an interview with the Jamaican Information Service (JIS) the decree regarding certain requirements on students is based on the surplus generated last year. “The entity has actually increased its provision to the SLB of $6.3 million from the $6.1 million provided last year to cater for the needs of some students.” He said, during his 2017/18 Sectoral Presentation in the House of Representatives on April 5.

Improve registration process to start a business

Regulatory improvements were made to the process to expedite the formation of a business in Jamaica is living up to expectations and is moving towards producing an electronic version, according to the Commissioner, the COJ.

Registration process to start a business slashed to a day

The recently created business registration form ‘super from’ part of the process to expedite the form of starting a business in Jamaica is living up to expectations and is moving towards producing an electronic version, according to the Commissioner, the COJ.

The project gave the students an opportunity to use their maths skills outside the classroom with architectural design and engineering in building a greenhouse. It also showed how waste management can be of importance to engineers, she added.

The plan is now to build on the house using more waste products such as banana trunk to grow vegetables.

ST JAMES, HANOVER

Business Process Outsourcing to grow economy

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The HEART Trust/NTA grant will add to the J$2.8 billion the SLB is projected to receive for 2017/18.

60,000 jobs over the next five years

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Kingston

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The project gave the students an opportunity to use their maths skills outside the classroom with architectural design and engineering in building a greenhouse. It also showed how waste management can be of importance to engineers, she added.

The plan is now to build on the house using more waste products such as banana trunk to grow vegetables.

HANOVER

Garbage problem impacts Venture Gutter

THE DEPLORABLE state of the Venture Gutter that runs through the Lucea town centre could spark a disease outbreak.

According to one community member, the gutter has an age-old problem of having household garbage that is left to hold garbage and other debris for decades and only band-aid measures have been attempted by the relevant authorities to address the problem.

“The major gutters that take the water off the land and so when it is blocked and cannot flow freely, it becomes quite stagnant and, as a result, it smells. I am concerned that it might give rise to various diseases here in the town,” one resident said, noting that the problem was exacerbated by a perennial erosion problem from the hills above Lucea.

A parish councillor for Lucea, Ronford Edwards mentioned that the council was not having much success in addressing the problem.

ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN

ST LUCIA

Government defends multibillion-dollar project

CARRIBEAN, St Lucia, CMC

THE ST Lucia government has defended the multi-billion-dollar ‘Pearl of the Caribbean’ project as “one of the most advanced and ambitious projects in the Caribbean” as environmental groups intensified their lobbying claiming that the project “would mean certain extinction for some of the country’s most valuable wildlife.”

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister, President’s Special Adviser, Dr Lennox Linton, stopped the US$2.6 billion project under undertaken by the Hong Kong-based Desert Star Holdings in St Lucia, saying it is poised to make St Lucia “as even more a green island nation and create economic activity as never before seen in the south of the island.”

The Allen Chastanet government has said that the DHS project will result in a mixed-use real estate development enterprise involving inter-alia, entertainment and sporting facilities, as a third category under the real estate provisions of the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) legislation. It would also encompass a project that meets the basic stipulation but entails a horse racing track, high-end hotel and residence, a casino, free trade zone, an equine diseases free zone, a marina.

In pursuance of this project, the Government of St Lucia and the Master Developer, Desert Star Holdings Caribbean Limited (DSHL), are committed to operating within the laws of Saint Lucia and the project will be subject, as in all cases, to the requisite Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the approval of the Development Control Authority (DCA).

“The Government is also committed to undertaking the necessary studies, protecting and conserving the natural landscape of St Lucia and in particular the wildlife and marine life on Marisota Island. Contrary to some reports, the project is intended to enhance St. Lucia’s natural assets, and is sensitive to the principles of sustainable development which includes biodiversity preservation, environmental protection and respect for the eco-system,” the government statement noted.

“The project has not received the support of the main opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) with former prime minister Dr Kenny Anthony warning earlier this year that there would not be ‘peace in St Lucia’ if the government did not renegotiate the controversial multi-billion-dollar Desert Star Holdings Caribbean Limited deal is not renegotiated and the project redesigned. If the agreement is not renegotiated, if this agreement is not redesignated, if the provisions in that agreement are not removed then I say to you tonight, there will never ever be peace in this country, in this community,” Anthony said.

A group of people had last December staged a protest outside the Parliament and environmental groups here and abroad claim that the project poses a serious threat to the island’s ecological, cultural and archaeological heritage.

BAHAMAS

Opposition party seeks public debates ahead of May 10 poll

NASAAU, Bahamas, CMC

THE MINORITY opposition Democratic National Alliance (DNA) is calling for at least three public debates ahead of the May 10 general elections in the Bahamas.

DNA leader, Brandyville McCartney, said he had written to the leaders of the two other main political parties, Prime Minister Perry Christie of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) and Dr Hubert Minnis of the main opposition Free National Movement (FNM) urging them to participate in the initiative.

“The DNA therefore challenges the leaders of both the PLP and FNM to a series of public debates so that all three parties may present their vision to the voting public, to voice their visions for the future,” he said, adding that the letters were sent.

“We have been in contact with the University of the Bahamas who has graciously agreed to host the debates,” he added.

McCartney said that he was urging the leaders of the other two political parties to join him “in promoting the Bahamian people with a real look at the leaders we might have and where our parties will take this country.”

“If you are proud of the country which you helped create, if you are confident that your plans are indeed the best way forward for Bahamians and if you believe as strongly in the ideals you have espoused on the rally stage then agree to a debate on the issues and give Bahamians a real chance to compare the ideas and ideals of each organisation.”

“I believe the DNA has the strongest ideas, the strongest cadre of candidates and I am prepared to put those ideas and our ability to execute them side by side any other plan presented by any other organisation.”
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I want my UK pension in Jamaica

John Bassie

UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Mr Bassie,

I am nearing the age where I will be able to claim my pension in the United Kingdom. I am aware that some people who have lived in the United Kingdom receive their pension in Jamaica. I am thinking of retiring in Jamaica so I would like to know how this works.

– G.M.

Dear GM,

Persons can claim their United Kingdom pension outside of the United Kingdom if they have paid enough national insurance contributions to qualify. Persons should apply for a pension statement if they need to find out how much pension they are eligible for. In order to make a claim, persons must be within four months of their pension age. To claim a pension, they can either contact the International Pension Centre and/or send the international claim form to the International Pension Centre. The address is on the form. If a person lives part of the year abroad he/she must choose which country he/she would want their pension to be paid. A person cannot be paid in one country for part of the year and another for the rest of the year.

With respect to the bank account, the State pension can be paid into a bank in the country where the person resides, e.g., bank or building society in the United Kingdom.

Persons can use: an account in their name, a joint account, someone else’s account if they have permission and keep to the terms and conditions of the account. Persons will need the international bank account number (IBAN) and bank identification code (BIC) numbers if they have an overseas account. The funds sent will be paid in local currency and the amount received may change due to exchange rates. Persons have the option to have their pension paid every four or 13 weeks. If the State pension is under PS5 per week, persons will be paid once a year. In December it should be noted that a person’s State pension will only increase each year if he/she lives in the European Economic Area (EEA), Switzerland, countries that have a social security agreement with the United Kingdom.

Persons will not get yearly increases if they live outside these countries and their pension will go up to the current rate if they return to live in the United Kingdom. However, persons will not get increases in Canada or New Zealand.

Please note that how much tax might be paid and where it needs to be paid will depend on where a person is considered to be taken up residency.

What’s your view? Let us hear from you. Email: theweeklygleaner@gleaneruk.com

Looking to entertain in Canada

Deidre S. Powell

CANADA

Dear Ms Powell,

I am an entertainer and a friend wants me to perform at their wedding. I want to apply for a Canadian visitor’s visa. Can you tell me what I will need to apply for a visa? I hear that all applications must be submitted online. I’m worried I may make a mistake. What are the documents that I need to send in with my application? – N.B.

Dear N.B.,

You may apply for temporary resident/visitor’s visa to Canada either online or by submitting a paper application to the Visa Application Centre (VAC), either in Kingston or Montego Bay. You will first need to download the application forms online and complete them, since you do not want to apply online.

The required forms are found at www.cic.gc.ca. You must complete the application carefully and answer all questions. Each country has a different list of required documents, so you will need to download the list of forms that are specific to your country.

You should note that the application forms for temporary resident visa was recently updated, so be sure to use the forms that were updated this year. Other forms that you should download and complete are temporary resident visa checklist, family information application for temporary resident visa, and statutory declaration of common-law union, or marriage certificate, if applicable.

You will need to have a valid passport, job letter or proof of employment, photographs, birth certificate. You will also need to commit to your fingerprints to the VAC.

PROOF OF BUSINESS

If you are self-employed, proof of business registration or incorporation or contracts; newspaper clipings; documents about partnerships, letter from recording label or manager; proof of assets such as title to home, land or car.

You will also be required to provide a bank statement and proof that you have enough money to cover expenses for the duration of your stay. The amount of money you will need depends on the circumstances of the visit, how long you plan to stay, and whether you will travel with a partner or with friends or relatives. If your visit will be financed by a third party, friend or relative, that person will need to send an invitation letter along with proof that they are in Canada legally and can afford to sponsor your trip.

The key issue is to remember that you must satisfy the immigration officer that you will return to Jamaica at the end of your trip. This is usually by showing that you have significant ties to Jamaica and your community. You should mention community involvement, family and financial ties to Jamaica.

The person inviting you will need to provide an invitation letter and a copy of the wedding invitation. The letter should state specifically the services you will provide, details of the performance and whether this will be your only performance. It will need to show exactly what you will be performing and if you have a signed contract, you should provide the contract.

As an entertainer, you are required to submit proof that you are established in the profession. However, if you have any questions, you will need to provide an explanation of the circumstances leading to the performance. You should have been detained, charged or have any criminal record, I strongly recommend that you meet with an immigration lawyer to discuss your application.

Will the US let me in?

Dahlia Walker-Huntington

UNITED STATES

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington,

I am a Jamaican citizen who recently married a permanent resident of the United States (US). The wedding took place in Jamaica, but now I want to come to the US to spend some time. I would like to know if I can travel on my US visa.

Jamaica and your community. You should keep to your arrangements with the United States Department of Homeland Security. In the end, you need permission to come into the US. You should apply for a non-immigrant visa to come into the US.

– J.S.

Dear JS,

Anyone who is not a US citizen can be prevented from entering the States. This includes green-card holders, business visa holders and any non-immigrant visa holder. The concept is that green cards and non-immigrant visas give you legal permission to travel to the border of the US and request permission to enter. Various reasons, the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at the port of entry can deny you entry into the US.

As a non-immigrant either applying for a visa or for entry into the US, the burden is on you to convince either the consular officer or the CBP officer at the border that you intend to visit temporarily and return to your home country, that is, that you do not have an intent to migrate. When a non-immigrant is married to an American citizen or a permanent resident, or is otherwise an immediate relative of a US citizen or green-card holder, you have a rebuttable presumption to migrate. You can rebut that presumption by proving to the CBP officer that you intend to visit and return home until your husband’s petitions for you to join him in America has been finalised.

For each person, that proof will be different, but generally you must show that you have sufficient ties to your home country and that you will return after your temporary visit. You should travel with your proof and be prepared to present it to the CBP officer if the purpose of your visit is questioned. Proof include but is not limited to, employment or business ties, birth certificates of minor children, proof of property ownership, business interests, etc.

At all times, be honest with the CBP officer as any falsehoods or misrepresentations can result in your being detained, charged or have any criminal record, I strongly recommend that you meet with an immigration lawyer to discuss your application.
JAMAICAN MABEL HAMILTON CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

JANET SILVERA Senior Gleaner Writer

WESTERN BUREAU: Governor General Sir Patrick Allen and former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson have joined a global village commemorating St Ann centenarian, Mabel ‘Miss Dolly’ Hamilton, who is celebrating the remarkable innings – 100 Not Out.

Hamilton, the last of 12 siblings still alive, was officially recognized by her family at a birthday soirée recently in the Garden Parish.

Weeks before her special day, the governor general, acting on behalf of Queen Elizabeth, wrote Hamilton acknowledging her as one of a small distinguished group of persons to enjoy the blessing of attaining their hundredth birthday.

“Celebrating a centenary is indeed a very special occasion,” Allen stated, adding that he trusted she would be surrounded by loved ones who would help to make it a truly wonderful time to celebrate life and the many blessings enjoyed along the way.

He was correct about that one, as, on March 17, Hamilton’s family and close friends showered her with glowing tributes at the mother of birthday parties.

Former Prime Minister Patterson, who has known her personally for several years, having had the fortune of her granddaughter, Debbie Hamilton, as his personal assistant for the last 20 years, in his message, described the centenarian as a strict disciplinarian, one whose stern look was enough, but, if necessary, she spared “not the rod to spoil the child”.

INDEPENDENT

Patterson said the mettle of this centenarian was manifested in many respects, chief among them her independence.

“Up to now, no one can dare to order her around, as she does what she pleases in her own way, time and space” he said.

An extraordinary entrepreneur, Miss Dolly, who operated a grocery business up to the age of 94, had unique business skills and managed to satisfy her customers at all times, said Patterson.

Renowned for her culinary skills, “the food from her kitchen was worth dying for”, stated the former prime minister, singling out her fried fish and a variety of pastries as delightful.

He said one of her greatest joy was watching her customers and members of her household dig into the sumptuous fare of the delicious food she prepared.

Comforted by the fact that Hamilton has passed on her knowledge and recipes to her grandchildren, Patterson said that as masterful as she was in the kitchen, so was her prowess in horticulture. “She possessed the proverbial green thumb, and before you knew it was planted, it was beautification to thrill,” he disclosed.

Today, many attest to the wonderful addition Hamilton’s roses made to the flower shows over the years.

Mabel ‘Miss Dolly’ Hamilton is surrounded by her family during celebrations marking her centenary.

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EVENTS

EVENTS

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<td>Justice Michael Tulloch will present his report of police oversight review to community and policing stakeholders. April 20: Thunder Bay, at Da Vinci Centre, Marco Polo Room, 340 S. Waterloo St 6:30-8:30pm April 24: Hamilton, at Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, Centre Ballroom, 116 King St West. 6:30-8:30pm Space is limited. RSVP at <a href="mailto:info@policeoversightreview.ca">info@policeoversightreview.ca</a></td>
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Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators presents its 3rd annual Provincial Conference and AGM “Re-Imaging Education: Inspiring Leaders & Fostering Community to Achieve Powerful Outcomes” on April 21 & 22 at York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto. Featured speakers include: Mitze Hunter, Ontario’s Minister of Education, and Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, York University. https://onabse2017conference.eventbrite.ca

The Story of Albert Jackson will be presented on Wednesday, May 3, 7-9pm at A Different Booklist, 777-779 Bathurst St, Toronto as part of the Mayworks festival, April 28-May 7, 2017. albertjackson.eventbrite.ca

Following the launch of a new picture book by and for children about the black postal worker who faced racism from the other postal workers, there will be a panel discussion moderated by ItahSadu and featuring Maryama Ahmed (Jane Finch Action Against Poverty), Mark Brown (Canadian Union of Postal Workers), and Kingsley Kwok (Ontario Public Service Employees Union).

Co-presented with Ontario Black History Society, The Elementary Teachers of Toronto, Toronto’s first black postal worker who faced racism from the other postal workers, there will be a panel discussion moderated by ItahSadu and featuring Maryama Ahmed (Jane Finch Action Against Poverty), Mark Brown (Canadian Union of Postal Workers), and Kingsley Kwok (Ontario Public Service Employees Union).

http://www.mayworks.ca

NEW YORK

UJAA Penn Relays Bus Ride Fundraiser - Saturday, April 29th - 2 buses: BUS “A” - Bklyn/Queens/LI Border: Green Acres Shopping Ctr.; BUS “B” - Bronx: Bay Plaza/Co-Op City. Event ticket optional. For further information contact: Wilbert Davis: 917-668-3079; Donovan Willson: 917-972-5502; Sharon Weyert: 246-388-2479; or Marlene Clarke: 917-499-1869; Children of the Syndicate (COTS) presents its 5th Annual Charity Gala on Saturday, April 22, starting at 10:00 pm at the C.W. Mellon Center, 112-50 Springfield Blvd, Queens Village, NY. Entertainment by Ricky Genius and Baby Q. For information. 646.525.2243.

KCOBA invites you to their 34th Annual Reunion & Awards Dinner at Antun’s, May 6th, Queens Village, Queens, NY. Nursing and Allied Outreach invites all to their Annual Health Fair on May 6th from 10 am -3 pm. Come and get free health screening and education; Mammogram, Prostate screening, Eye exams, Diabetic education, and many other services will be available/provided. Tell a friend, bring a friend.

You are cordially invited to our 34th Annual Reunion & Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at Antun’s, 94-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, NY. Join us as we Reunite and Celebrate our year in review and Kingston College under the theme, ‘Mind, Body, & Soul.’

Alpha Tri-State NY Alumnae Chapter invites you to their Founder’s Day Spring Luncheon, Sunday, May 7th from 12:30 - 4:30 pm, Antun’s, 94-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village. For further information call 917-668-8201 or email: presidentalphatristate@gmail.com


PHILADELPHIA

Team Jamaica Bickle invites you to a Caribbean Forum, April 27th, 7 pm - 9:30 pm, Calvary Baptist Church, 6122 Haverford Avenue, Philadelphia

TELL US WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR ORGANIZATION. EMAIL US AT extraeditor@gleanerna.net

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listings section, then send them to normadelle.rose@gleanerna.net (USA) or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
Members of the Jamaican community speak to the dead through Gah San

Jason Cross
Gleaner Writer

FOR JAMAICANS with African heritage, the cathedral-like, "sacred, nine-night"-or "set-up," for those Autochthonous who consider it a tradition. During the last week, members of the Chinese community from Gah San, the annual tribal Spring Festival. During Gah San, members of the Chinese community gather at the graves of their ancestors to appease them and seek guidance. We make offerings of food and incense and our ancestors' favourite drink, white rum is dispensed. Chinese people traditionally hold no reasonable offer valued at JA$10M, in 18767836720 Belgrade Heights, J$7 M. REAL ESTATE / COMM. / ST. CATHERINE. 1-876-864-1732

"We have to carry out the rituals because it is our heritage. We must do what we must. I think the CBA has decided to carry forward the heritage," said Lopez. "This festival is important! That is because it is our custom, respected by the Chinese-Jamaican community. They respect it. They respect us. They respect our culture. They respect our heritage."

The Chinese community, like many other communities, has been forced to adapt to the new reality. They have had to find new ways to connect with their ancestors and honor their traditions. They have had to find new ways to maintain their cultural identity in the face of change. They have had to find new ways to carry forward their heritage.

"We have to carry out the rituals because it is our heritage. We must do what we must. I think the CBA has decided to carry forward the heritage," said Lopez. "This festival is important! That is because it is our custom, respected by the Chinese-Jamaican community. They respect it. They respect us. They respect our culture. They respect our heritage."
J’can students excel at Diamond Challenge

FROM MARKS to ‘700 teams world-wide, a team of Jamaican high school entrepreneurs recently placed second at the Diamond Challenge, an international pitching competition for high school students.

The student entrepreneurs founded ‘BoltBot’, a mobile application that allows consumers to self-check-out at the supermarket, drastically reducing wait time for average consumers in supermarkets.

Daniel Chatani, a member of the team, shared that the Diamond Challenge provided him with an opportunity to do something he had never imagined doing. “My team mates and I are thankful for the opportunity to showcase Jamaica’s young entrepreneurs to an international audience,” Chatani said.

The team travelled to Newark, Delaware, in the United States, after winning the final preliminary round of the competition that was hosted by Next Gen Creators. The four-member team, hailing from Kingston and St. Ann, were not easy.

But according to Simpson, now a celebrity chef in New York: “My mission right now is to motivate, to give back, to inspire, to tell the youth you can do it.”

“You asked me why Wenford Patrick Simpson has to come back to Jamaica annually to seek to motivate and inspire young people. After all, his childhood years in Jamaica were not easy.

“Growing up with his younger sister, he usually had to prepare meals for his sister, he usually had to prepare meals for his sister, he usually had to prepare meals for his sister.”

“Growing up with his younger sister, he usually had to prepare meals for his sister, he usually had to prepare meals for his sister, he usually had to prepare meals for his sister.”

“One evening they were giving cruiseship jobs in St. Ann’s Bay with Mr. Joe Dawkins,” he recalled. “A friend encouraged him to go. So he did. This was around 1990 when he was around 18 years old.

Six months later, the job was confirmed. But he had to buy his ticket to the USA to take up the offer. He had no money.

“My mom called a friend of hers in Canada, the friend took my information and booked the flight. Even now I don’t know who this person is. My life took off from there.”

Simpson’s big break.

Simpson spent around nine years working on the cruise ship Royal Caribbean, before moving to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and later, New York, where he had worked at various hotels and restaurants, including Red Lobster and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, before being appointed executive chef at B.B. King.

There is a lot more to his story than what you read here and Simpson has used his experience as a motivating factor for young people, as he journeyed to several schools across the island to speak. Despite his humble and rough beginnings, he has been able to excel and become a top name in his chosen field. Others, too, he believes, can do it, if encouraged.

After a successful first year in 2016, Simpson returned to Jamaica in April to continue impressing on the youth the importance of working hard and remaining focused on their goal.
Experts sure Boyz will make 2026 if bid succeeds

Shayne Fairman
Gleaner Reporter

A SUCCESSFUL joint bid by United States, Mexico and Canada could result in as many as six teams from the region playing ‘at home’ in the 2026 World Cup.

Harbour View’s general manager Clyde Jureidini is confident that if the bid is successful Jamaica would have a great chance to make their second appearance in an expanded World Cup, which could feature as many as 48 teams, an additional six countries.

Jureidini believes “six teams, at most” could be given the nod from CONCACAF, which could feature as many as 48 teams from the region in the 2026 World Cup if the spots are increased.”

MULTIPLE HOSTS

If CONCACAF’s joint bid is given the green light, it would mark the second time that the tournament would have had multiple hosts. The 2002 World Cup was co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

Mexico would returning a third time if CONCACAF’s joint bid is given the nod from CONCACAF, which could be awarded to Costa Rica, which would be the next two in, in terms of ranking, to get in there, so the next two Caribbean nations would think that they have a big chance to get in there quality,” he said.

Boys Town’s Andrew Price also voiced his support for CONCACAF to host, noting it would not be such a rat race for teams like Jamaica.

“I believe they are more than capable of hosting the tournament. They have proven it over and over again when they have hosted the CONCACAF Gold Cup in both Mexico and the United States, and have done it very successfully,” he reasoned.

Price added that Jamaicans should “at-least vision themselves in the top six countries of CONCACAF”, noting, “it would give us a better opportunity to participate in the World Cup if the spots are increased.”

Change that date, IAAF tells JA

Dana Boge
Senior Gleaner Reporter

RIO OLYMPICS women’s 4x400 metre relay silver medallist Jamia Fields has welcomed the shift in date of the Jamaica International Invitational (JII), which sees it no longer competing with the International Association of Athletics Federations Diamond League meet in Qatar.

“It’s a good thing for athletes, in general. It would be good for us because we have an opportunity to compete at both meets,” McLaughlin-Whilby said.

Since its inception, the JII has been staged on the first Friday or Saturday in May, which this year would fall on Saturday, May 6. However, the event has been moved to the third Saturday in May.

Jamaica Athletic Administrative Association president, Dr Warren Blake said the local body had been instructed by the sports’ world governing body, the IAAF, to shift the Jamaican meet because it was in direct competition with the Diamond League meet in Doha, Qatar on Friday, May 5.

CREATING PROBLEMS

“The IAAF decides on what dates their meets are held. Once the meets are of a certain level, they tell you when you can hold it. And they said it was too close to the Diamond League Meet in Qatar, and it was creating problems with the Diamond League Meet in Qatar and they changed it,” Blake said.

“The athletes that go to the meets are the same. That is the exact reason why it creates problems. If you compete in Qatar one day you couldn’t compete in Jamaica, and when you’re competing for the same pool of athletes in the premier meets, they try to create spaces between them,” he added.

McLaughlin-Whilby said she was not sure if she would be competing at either meet.

“I’m not sure as yet and we would know what my schedule is a week ahead,” she said.

Elaine Thompson heads World Relays squad

OLYMPIC SPRING champion Elaine Thompson heads Jamaica’s 41-member team to the 2017 World Relays in the Bahamas.

Thompson, who capped gold in the 100 and 200 metres in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil last year, will be joined in the women’s 4x100 and 4x400 metre squads.

The members of the women’s 4x400 metre squad are: Veronica Campbell, Sherricka Jackson, Aleisha McLaughlin-Whilby, Stephenie Ann McPherson and Janieve Russell.

There will also be a mixed (men and women) 4x400m squad and this includes: Natoya Goule, Jaheele Hyde, Tiffany James, Martin Manley, Jamai Rose and Ristananna Tracey.

TOP NAMES

Former world 100 and 200 metres record holder Asafa Powell and 2011 World 100m champion Yohan Blake are the top names on the men’s team, which will also compete in the 4x100m, 4x200 and 4x400m.

Teams: Kenyan relay team, Jamaican Blake, Everton Clarke, Julian Forte, Jevaughn Minzie and Asafa Powell.

4x100m: Nickel Ashmeade, Oshane Bailey, Rasheed Dwyer, Nigel Ellis, Cha’Deen Hinds and Warren Weir.

4x200m: Javone Bell, Jordan Francis, Demiath Gaye, Steven Gayle, Peter Matthews and Rusheen McDonald.

4x400m: Nickel Ashmeade, Oshane Bailey, Rasheed Dwyer, Nigel Ellis, Cha’Deen Hinds and Warren Weir.

100m: Kenyan relay team, Jamaican Blake, Everton Clarke, Julian Forte, Jevaughn Minzie and Asafa Powell.

Team coach: Paul Audu.
World rugby to the rescue

Rachid Parchment
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA CROCS team manager Cherine Richards has said that national player Omar Dixon had a second eye surgery and is in good spirits as he recovers.

However, the Jamaica Rugby Football Union (JRFU) still has an issue of repaying world governing body World Rugby, who covered the cost of the surgery.

“The need was so immediate that the surgery had to be done and World Rugby paid for it and we owe them, so we have to reimburse them,” Richards told The Gleaner.

She said that Dixon was told by doctors that he would not be able to fly out of Hong Kong for three weeks. She added that a contact in Hong Kong told her that the player was “actually in pretty good spirits for a young fella who’s been through the wringer”.

“Omar is OK. He did the surgery and he’s recovering. We now just need to find the funds to cover the cost,” Richards said.

Richards had previously said that the JRFU would be trying to come up with the funds (roughly US$40,000, or JA$5 million) needed to cover the costs and, in doing so, it has launched a GoFundMe account. However, she also made an appeal to the public to contribute to the cause by donating to the JRFU’s Scotiabank account.

Dixon was injured during the Crocs’ opening Hong Kong Sevens game against Germany last week when a high boot to the head concussed him, detached the retina in his right eye and cracked its socket. Doctors say once he makes a full recovery, he should be playing again within three months.

CARIFTA

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All season, Vere Technical High School’s outstanding hurdlers has been competing against the wind, and Monday it was no different as she showed her class once again in the event. Competing in a negative wind of 2.5 metres per second, she smashed the previous record of 13.29 seconds set by Jamaica’s Janeek Brown in 2015. After winning the event in 13.16 seconds, defending champion, Daesay Freeman, her compatriot, finished second in 13.39 seconds. With Gabrielle Gibson of The Bahamas taking bronze, after finishing third in 14.07 seconds.

Amoi Brown, team-mate of Anderson at Vere Technical, made it a quick double for Jamaica in the Girls’ Under-20 event. Brown and her team-mate, Janeek Brown had a very close battle throughout, but it was Amoi who came off the best off the final hurdle to win in 13.44 seconds, just outside the previous record of 13.42 seconds set by Jamaica’s Samantha Elliot in 2010. Janeek finished second in 13.49 seconds with Laetitia Bapte of Martinique third in 13.71 seconds.

The Under-18 Girls’ quartet of Kimara Francis, Joanna Reid, Shanqua Poete and Samique Walier won in 3:38.78, ahead of The Bahamas in 3:41.24 and Trinidad and Tobago in 3:43.05. The Under-20 Girls’ quartet of Kimora Muschette, Nicolee Foster, Shaunna Salmon and Janelle Bromfield won easily in 3:37.95, ahead of The Bahamas in 3:59.37, and British Virgin Islands in 3:53.03.

However, there was a major upset in the Boys’ Under-20 4x100m as Jamaica was beaten by Trinidad and Tobago. A fumble at the first exchange saw Jamaica having to play catch-up, despite a brilliant anchor leg for Christopher Taylor who made up a big deficit but stumbling close to the finish line. However, Trinidad and Tobago held on to win in 3:09.32 as Jamaica finished second for silver, clocking 3:10.33.
ONE YEAR later and it is the same story, as Jamaica’s junior athletes proved once again that they are the best among their Caribbean counterparts. They dominated the 46th staging of the Carifta Games which came to an end on Monday, April 17 in Willemstad, Curacao. According to a report on the IAAF website Jamaica ended with a total of 86 medals, 38 gold, 27 silver and 19 bronze. They equalled their medal haul of the previous year.

Jamaica, perennial winners of the Carifta Games started off Monday’s final session with a bang, led by a smashing record run by Britany Anderson in the Girls’ Under-18 100m hurdles to make it a clean sweep by Jamaica in the hurdle events.

All season, Vere Technical High School’s outstanding hurdler has been competing against the wind, and Monday it was no different as she showed her class once again in the event.

Competing in a negative wind of 2.1 metres per second, she smashed the previous record of 13.29 seconds set by Jamaica’s Janeek Brown in 2015, after winning the event in 13.16 seconds.

Defending champion, Daszay Freeman, her compatriot, finished second in 13.39 seconds, with Gabrielle Gibson of The Bahamas taking bronze, after finishing third in 14.07 seconds.

Amoi Brown, team-mate of Anderson at Vere Technical, made it a quick double for Jamaica in the Girls’ Under-20 event. Brown and her team-mate, Janeek Brown had a very close battle throughout, but it was Amoi who came off the best off the final hurdle to win in 13.44 seconds, just outside the previous record of 13.42 seconds set by Jamaica’s Samantha Elliot in 2010. Janeek finished second in 13.49 seconds with Laetitia Baptie of Martinique third in 13.79 seconds.

JA COPS OVER 80 MEDALS AT CARIFTA