PRESS US ON REMITTANCE TAX – MORENO

OUTGOING US AMBASSADOR URGES JA TO INCREASE LOBBYING

P3: I AM PROUD OF MY RECORD – PORTIA
Patrick Powell verdict July 11

THE ATTORNEY for businessman Patrick Powell argued yesterday that her client invoked his constitutional right to silence when he ignored three requests from the police to hand over his licensed Glock pistol for inspection, but this assertion has been dismissed by prosecutors as meritless.

Deborah Martin, the attorney representing Powell, and lead prosecutor Yaniqwe Gardener Brown were delivering their closing arguments in Powell’s trial for a breach of the Firearms Act.

Presiding judge Vaughan Smith has set July 11 as the day when he will deliver his verdict. According to prosecutors, the offence carries a maximum sentence of 12 months in prison or a fine of $300,000.

Proposed Road Traffic Act bans hand-held cellphones use

JAMAICA PROPOSED new Road Traffic Act is in line with most states in America, but is tougher than what now obtains in Florida.

The new Jamaican legislation would ban drivers from using hand-held electronic devices and any electronic visual device outside of GPS, radio, and reversing cameras.

It proposes a fine of $10,000 for any breach of this rule, but Executive Director of the National Road Safety Council Paula Fletchcr notes that it will allow for the use of hands-free phones.

New vending initiative working in MoBay - Mayor

THS ST James Municipal Corporation is reporting a near-100 per cent compliance from vendors in regard to the implementation of the plan to designate several streets in downtown Montego Bay as no-vending zones.

“Be far it has been working and it is about 90 per cent better than what it was before,” said Montego Bay’s mayor, Councillor Homer Davis, who is also chairman of the corporation.

The western city’s main street, St James Street, is among the roadways singled out as a no-vending are a following years of complaints from motorists, pedestrians and business stakeholders about the extreme difficulties caused by street vending.

Lt. General, governor general, Brazil, Julius Maada Bio, Gambia, and President, Kofi Annan, 7.9.19.2.3

Church Teachers College principal is new JTA president-elect

GARTH ANDERSON, principal of Church Teachers’ College is the new president-elect of the Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA).

Anderson gained 5,024 votes to finish ahead of the other contenders: Owen Spud, principal of Rousseau Primary (4,622 votes) and Wayne Mullings, principal, Louise Bennett-Coverley All-Age (3,854 votes).

A total of 13,460 votes were cast in the election which was held from June 19-23.

Anderson will be officially proclaimed at the official opening of the JTA’s Annual Conference scheduled for the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa, in Montego Bay, August 21-23.

Lorne said the development will not affect the Mario Deane case in which he is seeking damages from the state for the estate of the St James labourer who died after being beaten in police custody in August 2014.

According to him a team of attorneys is involved in the matter and he will remain a part of it.

Lorne also said he will make arrangements for representation of clients in other matters.

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Former Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller takes her salute and says goodbye after the Special Joint Sitting of the House of Representatives and Senate in her honour at House of Parliament on Tuesday, June 27.

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Willie Mae Milward passes at 100

TRIBUTE BY MARK MILWARD

WILLIE MAE Milward passed in her sleep on June 3, 2017 in Albany, Georgia. She was 100 years old. Milward was the wife of West Indian Social Club of Hartford (WISC) founding father, Oliver H. Milward and was laid to rest beside him on June 10, 2017 at Riverside Cemetery in Albany.

Milward died in December 1997. Mrs Milward was born in Albany December 23, 1916 and was the only child of John and Mattie Haynes. She was the third in her family. Her father passed at 102 years old in 1944 and her grandmother Elijah Haynes passed at 103 in 1962.

Willie Mae arrived in Hartford, Connecticut in 1943 at the age of 27 years old, and shortly thereafter met and married Oliver Milward, a Jamaican farm worker from Chapelton, Jamaica. Together they raised their five sons in Hartford and with Milward as the club’s Secretary, the West Indian Social Club became an integral part of family life, social gatherings and their children’s exposure to their Jamaican and West Indian cultural background.

Mrs. Milward would recollect the first meetings and formation of the West Indian Social Club, with Leon P dodge as the club’s attorney. The WISC was officially incorporated on September 21, 1950 by David Mills, George Paul, Henry, Vincent Cockett, Lance Gordon, Sr., and Ivan Redwood. George Hudson, who was the last of the WISC founding fathers passed in 2016 at the age of 96.

The Jamaican immigrant farm workers arrived in the greater Hartford area in the 1940s to work in the tobacco fields of the Connecticut valley and filled the labour shortage void that came about as a result of World War II. They were welcomed into the United States. Mrs. Milward was also a member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Hartford, and upon her return to Albany, Georgia for her retirement years was a founding member of the Missionary Baptist Church where she was called by all who knew her, was known for her warm smile, gracious manner and keen wit of which she never lost even at 100 years old. She recalled leaving her first job in Hartford in the 1940s at the Connecticut Department of Education to take a job as the first woman machinist at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co.

When asked why she left her office job to go work in a factory, she replied, “Because it paid more money!” During her retirement years, and after both she and Mr. Milward settled in Albany, she devoted much of her time working with her church and in youth development. She was known as the 90 something year old lady who drove around town in her 4 speed manual shift automobile and wearing high heels. Many would say that her age and her mind did not match. At 94 years old she made her modelling debut at a community fashion show, and her walk across the stage that evening, brought the house down.

In 2012 an award was established in her honour called the “Willie Mae Milward Extraordinary Life Award.” The award is now given yearly by the “Chosen to Conquer” organisation that felt the need to establish a community award that recognised outstanding people who exemplified leadership, strength of character, and who had been of service to others as they overcame tremendous obstacles in their own lives. In 2013 she had hip replacement surgery after a fall, and much to her regret had to give up the high heels after her recovery but she continued to drive.

Mrs. Milward was a 2014 WISC Honouree, for being a founding member of the WISC Women’s Auxiliary, and at the time its oldest member at 97 years old.

With her passing, June 3, 2017 is being proclaimed “Mrs. Willie Mae Milward Day” in the City of Hartford. On her 100th Birthday she received a letter from the White House and a birthday wish from former US President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama.
Graduating students celebrate their achievements with a walk

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

The enthusiasm of 650-plus students about to graduate from high school was on full display at an event to celebrate their accomplishments and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary education.

“When I say ‘I am,’ you say ‘great,’” said educator, Raimon San Vicente. The venue resounded with the words in the interests of Emery, Westview, Donview, C.W. Jeffrey’s and West Humber Collegiates.

It was the 5th annual Walk With Excellence held on May 24, which included the graduates, community organisations, elders, parents, educators and special guests.

This is the first year that students from West Humber Collegiates have participated in the walk from C.W. Jefferys to York University that has inspired other such events.

On the following day, Toronto District School Board students in the east end of the city walked into the University of Toronto campus, and students in Ottawa walked into the University of Ottawa campus on May 31.

In keeping with the theme of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), students from the five schools walked into York University’s Life Sciences building, symbolically marking their move from secondary to postsecondary life.

They were not present to disseminate modalities employed: “knowledge is power.”

“Who remembers our teachers suggesting this would be the best four years of our life?” asked a student presenter who then responded, “On June 29 we’re graduating.”

She indicated that it was a token of their hard work, sleepless nights, juggling school and work, and “we made it.”

In a stirring token word piece Tinuola Akinwade of Downsview said, “the power of knowledge is the springboard to opportunity.”

“We have been told that we’re not good enough, and look, we’re here,” she said, encouraging her colleagues to, “Rise up and shine brighter than the people who want to dim our light.”

Lyndon Martin, Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora welcomed the students, reminding them that it is a beginning and encouraging them to seek postsecondary education.

TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Bursaries were presented to Nana Boateng of Westview, Kellisha Roberts of C.W. Jeffery and Masi O’Sullivan of West Humber, and Tinuola Akinwade of Downsview.

O’Sullivan, 20, who is Jamaican and visually impaired, will attend Seneca@York to pursue the one-year independent songwriting and performance programme. After that, he plans to go into radio broadcasting.

He is very active in the community performing at community centres such as Rexdale and Etimbank, and in various churches.

Boateng, 18, is heading to Queen’s University to study computer and creative writing.

As a performer, he sings, plays the guitar, and plays with his band extracurricular activities, such as assemblies for Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, and other events.

“I feel like that has really shaped me into who I am today,” she said.

Roberts, 18, moves on to the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University to pursue hospitality and tourism management.

“More students want to work at the airport and to open a banquet hall in their homeland.”

High school students who received bursaries at the 4th annual Walk With Excellence at York University in Toronto on May 24 are from left to right: Nana Boateng, Kellisha Roberts, Tinuola Akinwade, and Gavin O’Sullivan.

Photo by Neil Armstrong

Jamaica’s education minister celebrates P.A.C.E. Canada’s 30th anniversary

JAMAICA’S MINISTER of Education, Senator the Hon. Dr. Nicolette Henry, says Jamaica has been credited by the World Bank as having one of the better early childhood education systems in the world.

“However, he noted that there are some missing links to be addressed while endorsing the work that the organisation has done in the 30th anniversary award.”

He said that in Jamaica today only 15% of the workforce have tertiary education, and a couple years ago it was only 2% in the English-speaking Caribbean who went to a university.

Eighteen per cent of the workforce have technical qualifications, and 67 per cent have no secondary certification.

“And so to correct this unfortunate analogy we have to correct at the bottom so while students actually attend, generally basic schools, that’s not where early childhood begins.”

He said that early childhood is crucial for the brain to learn and grow, and that “the knowledge is power,” to make sure we get the foundations right.

“It is about providing the investment that you’ll make in early childhood if you don’t get it right it is not going to achieve the desired goal and objective.”

He said colleagues, such as Jamaica, did not have access for the majority of the population, and that at the early part of the twentieth century only about 1.1% of the entire global population were literate.

“Since we have an investment in education, there are quite a number of times that there have already been a time and a moment in how you’re going to be effective in educating your entire populace.”

He said in the 1970s there was a greater awakening in education in Jamaica.

“The basic school system was actually a bridge to begin to mainstream these Jamaica to educational opportunities.”

Reid said as the minister of education he was the first one to agree with anything that is educational, but he also wants to make sure that it is “knowledge is power.”

He noted that in Jamaica today only 15% of the workforce have tertiary education, and a couple years ago it was only 2% in the English-speaking Caribbean who went to a university.

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“And so to correct this unfortunate analogy we have to correct at the bottom so while students actually attend, generally basic schools, that’s not where early childhood begins.”

He said that he wants parents would have to be educated that there is a relationship between prepared and educating a healthy and agile mind that’s ready to learn.

Senator Reid said they are now “preaching to the gospel in Jamaica the critical first 1000 days of a child because we all know by age 8 there is 80% of brain development.”

“There is a relationship between the development of the brain, the readiness for the brain to learn and grow and the development of the brain, the readiness for the brain to learn and grow and the readiness for the brain to learn and grow.”

Dr Mavis Burke and a team of dedicated women got together to mobilise P.A.C.E. Canada a reality.

“Over the 30 years hundreds of teacher scholarships both in Jamaica and Canada have been disbursed, our Tech De Bu continues to visit schools, we have supported over 300 basic schools with everything from books, equipment to stoves and kitchen equipment—all donated by our generous Adopt School sponsors and we continue our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Scarborough.”

Awards were presented to Michelle Campbell, Deirdre Jones, Ken Bowen, Sharon Wynter-Brown, Dr. Vincent Convillie, Nadine Isaac, Yvonne Nelson-Campbell and Patricia Gloun.

Paul Barnett was appointed a patron of P.A.C.E. and Dr. Ralph Mani received a special 30th anniversary award.

Founded in 1987, P.A.C.E. Canada promotes early childhood education with a special focus on children of pre-school age and the initiatives of racial, cultural or economic disadvantage. Its goal is to mobilise and support community-based efforts to help young children succeed.
Ontario invites applications for multicultural grant programme

ONTARIO IS providing more opportunities for newcomers and multicultural communities to succeed, with a new grant programme focused on promoting diversity and reducing barriers to inclusion. Laura Albanese, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, was at the Fortinos Toronto to announce that the province is now accepting applications for the Multicultural Community Capacity Grant Program.

This programme will help local organisations promote diversity and break down barriers to inclusion in multicultural communities across the province,” Albanese said.

“If Ontario, we all benefit when everyone has the opportunity to take part in our civic, cultural, social and economic life,” she added.

The programme will provide up to $6 million over two years through the Multicultural Community Capacity Grant Program to support community projects that advance diversity and reduce barriers to inclusion, while providing opportunities for newcomers and ethnocultural communities to participate fully in the civic, cultural, social and economic life of Ontario.

Projects will be selected for their ability to:

- Increase intercultural awareness and understanding
- Enhance civic engagement and social connections
- Improve social and economic integration of newcomers and vulnerable groups such as refugees and newcomer women and youth.
- Empower women, for example by providing opportunities for leadership roles
- Improve access to services for newcomers and diverse communities

QUICK FACTS

Ontario will invest $6 million over two years through the Multicultural Community Capacity Grant Program to support community projects that advance diversity and reduce barriers to inclusion, while providing opportunities for newcomers and ethnocultural communities to participate fully in the civic, cultural, social and economic life of Ontario.

Ontario is investing more than $11.0 million in 2017-18 in programmes and services to help newcomers and refugees succeed, and to promote diversity.

Projects must take place between November 1, 2017 and March 31, 2019.

Incorporated not-for-profit organisations that represent unincorporated not-for-profit organisations focused on immigrant and ethnocultural communities have until August 1, 2017 to submit a project proposal. The programme has two streams: one for 12 new individuals representing an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, with available grants between $3,000 and $3,500, and a second stream for 25 not-for-profit organisations, with available grants between $3,500 and $4,500.

Ontario is supporting dozens of multicultural grant recipients through the Ontario150 Community Capital, Community Enhancement and Leadership Programmes. Go to ontario.ca/150 to learn more.
JAMAICA WAS among six CARICOM countries that voted in favour of a failed US-backed resolution at the Organisation of American States (OAS) general assembly that included a proposal for a group of friends to mediate the Venezuelan political crisis.

The resolution “did not seek to frustrate the Government’s efforts to pass the Zones of Special Operations bill. At the end of the sitting of Parliament, the bill was passed with 18 amendments.”

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck, who piloted the legislation, sent a strong message to “marauding” criminal elements that with the passage of the Zones of Special Operations bill, the security forces would put gunmen to flight.

Painting a picture of a society “gripped by fear of the ‘wicked’ actions of criminals who have held communities hostage, Chuck said that the ‘trigger-happy, dog-heart-ed’ gunmen have no regard for age or gender and have laid siege to communities and are sexually abusing young girls.

“These communities are crying out,” the justice minister lamented, charging that with this new piece of legislation, the security forces must go into the belly of these areas plagued by gunmen and set up their bases to flush out the criminals. “We cannot allow these gunmen to take over the country. We must put them on the run.”

“The new legislation has been crafted as the Government’s latest response to crime, with zones of special operations declared to tackle the threats to the rule of law and order by criminals who unleash hostility on communities.

Renewing appalling murder figures from as far back as 2003 when the murder rate was less than 1,000, the prime minister said that the succeeding years have seen a preponderance of murders, surging past the 1,000 mark.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness made it clear that the murder situation in Jamaica was not normal, noting that the country was becoming insensitive to incidents of murder. He said that countries engaged in war did not wrack up murder rates as bleak as those in Jamaica.

Holness said that the leaders of the country, and, by extension, the Parliament, were sending a signal that “we do not accept this as normal.”

The prime minister said that the crime problem in Jamaica required urgent action, and the new legislation was an appropriate response.

On the question of adequate resources for the security forces to take on the crime monster, Holness suggested that the Government would be taking a measure to Parliament next week that would set out new funding arrangements to fight crime.

Noting the state of emergency of the Zonal Special Operations law, according to Prime Minister Andrew Holness, “is not seeking to replicate a state of emergency, an issue raised by the parliamentary Opposition.

He sought to dispel fears that the prime minister, in council, would instruct the security forces to carry out their operations. “It is not let in this case the prime minister’s whims and fancies,” Holness said, adding that the prime minister acts upon the advice of the National Security Council to declare zones of special operations.

“Once the zone is established, the Government has nothing to do with the operations,” he stressed.

During the committee stage, it was decided that the prime minister could only declare zones of special operations if such a request was made in writing by the commissioner of police and the chief of defence staff.

Peter Bunting, opposition spokesman on national security, in his contribution to the debate, said that the Opposition did not intend to frustrate the Government’s efforts to pass the Zones of Special Operations law.

Isolate police from politics
He, however, cautioned that Edward Seaga, in his capacity as opposition leader in the early 1990s, proposed amendments to the Jamaica Constabulary Force Act, which effectively separated police from operations. “Isolated the police from politics,” Bunting stressed. He said that if passed in its current form, the bill would give a minister power to direct the police commissioner in operational matters.

Bunting noted that if the Government made a few adjustments, the Opposition would support the bill.

Approved law gives Gov’t power to take $46b from NHT through 2021

LEGISLATION HAS been approved to allow the Government to take J$46 billion in budgetary support, or J$8.1 billion yearly, from the National Housing Trust (NHT) over four years.

But Finance Minister Audley Shaw is insisting that if revenues perform well, the drawdowns will be limited.

Shaw, in opening the debate on the bill to amend the NHT Act, reiterated that while the Government was ‘reluctantly’ using the money, the other options were less attractive and included the imposition of new taxes or expenditure cuts.

Peter Phillips, the opposition leader and spokesman on finance, noted that the Holness administration was going back on its promise in opposition that a Jamaica Labour Party government would not use NHT money for budgetary support.

ELECTION PROMISES

Though saying that the issue is now ‘under the bridge’, Phillips said that the Government had to go to the NHT because of its election promises.

Edmond Campbell
Senior Staff Reporter

The CARICOM bloc carries 14 votes and most of those countries voted in support. Those who voted against the resolution, which also called for President Nicolas Maduro to ‘reconsider’ an assembly to rewrite the constitution, were Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Haiti, Buriname and Trinidad and Tobago abstained.

Short three votes

The resolution failed on Monday because it fell three short of the 23 votes it needed to be passed.

The US did not propose it on Wednesday for the final declaration.

The CARICOM bloc carries 14 votes and most of those countries benefit from favourable Venezuela oil loans, although imports are falling.

In a statement issued yesterday, Jamaica’s foreign minister, Kamina Johnson Smith, said that the resolution “did not seek to censure the Venezuelan government although it expressed strong concerns about the situation there”.

Jamaica supported failed US-backed resolution on Venezuela

THERE WAS no support from the CARICOM countries that voted in favour of the US-backed resolution at the Organisation of American States (OAS) general assembly that included a proposal for a ‘group of friends’ to mediate the Venezuelan political crisis.

Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent were the other CARICOM states that voted in support. Those who voted against the resolution, which also called for President Nicolas Maduro to ‘reconsider’ an assembly to rewrite the constitution, were Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

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Notice

Will Jennifer Smith, Melonie or Ms Norma daughters of the deceased Ethlyn Noble late of 4 Brooks Path, Nannyville Gardens, Kingston 3, please contact Suzanne Robinson at 852-2624 or 1299-888-3482.

NEWS

July 12, 2017

JOVAN JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

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Audley Shaw has said that “if revenue buoyancy continues” the drawdowns from the National Housing Trust (NHT) would become unnecessary. And he added, “it has, in fact, started fairly well in the first quarter of the fiscal year.”

“My preliminary figures in the first quarter (April – June) of the fiscal year are showing that to Monday (June 24), our revenue was J$86 billion ahead of target.”

“I want to give the honourable House and the country the assurance that to the extent that the revenue is ahead, if we don’t have to draw down the funds from the NHT, we will not draw the funds,” he added.

The bill passed without amendments and heads to the Senate. It will expire on March 31, 2021.

— Staff Writer

Gov’t, Opposition coalesce to pass controversial crime bill

The prime minister said that the crime problem in Jamaica required urgent action, and the new legislation was an appropriate response.

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— Staff Writer
Editorial summary June 26-30

MONDAY
Another appeal for JAS to disband itself

The EDITORIAL said that nearly seven years, 2010, The Gleaner suggested to the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) that its deepening state of atrophy, it should disband itself and make way for a new farmers’ organisation with a clear and coherent vision of a modern agriculture sector. It had also been suggested that the JAS abandon that year’s Denbigh Agricultural Show. If they went ahead then the show should be a platform from which to announce the retirement of the 115-year-old JAS.

The editorial said the show was held and it proved to be poorly organised and unthemed, held at the ramshackle Denbigh Show Ground which had been allowed to deteriorate into that dusty garbage strewn environment, all the elements of decay.

The editorial said Denbigh was in a similar state again and pointed out that the ministry of health was threatening to close Denbigh as a threat to public health. The editorial said that even in the case of a reprieve the underlying problem would remain as the show ground was merely a metaphor of the JAS and its leadership.

TUESDAY
No bullying of Qatar

The EDITORIAL focused on the row led by Saudi Arabia between Qatar and some of its Gulf neighbours. It says that Qatar should have an interest because more than a handful of Jamaicans live in Doha, the capital working as airline pilots and professionals in the natural gas sector and other areas.

Apart from that there was a bigger picture at play in which a small country like Jamaica should be deeply invested: the matter of sovereignty.

The editorial said the Grenfell administration was yet to publicly signal its awareness of the problem. The government had a responsibility as much as it can to ensure the safety of our citizens in the security situation worsens.

WEDNESDAY
In the wake of Grenfell

The EDITORIAL reflected on the June 14 inferno that engulfed the 22-floor Grenfell Towers in London killing at least 79 people and on the decision on Tuesday by authorities in the German city of Wuppertal to evacuate 80 residents from an 11-storey apartment as a precautionary move. The building carried the same type of cladding that was blamed for the London fire.

Against this backdrop and the fact there has been no public education on building code and safety regulations, the editorial said Jamaica must move urgently on its building regulations and the fire brigade must audit the extent to which buildings comply with building regulations.

THURSDAY
As Mrs Simpson Miller marches off

The EDITORIAL assesses Mrs Simpson Miller’s contribution as she bows out of representational politics. It concludes that Mrs. Simpson Miller has put Jamaica in its best position for dictating economic stability and sustained growth in more than two generations.

Noting that historians will offer their own verdict on Mrs Simpson Miller as a politician, a female political leader and prime Minister, the editorial agreed with Dr Peter Phillips that she demonstrated grit and determination to succeed.

FRIDAY
On to the next shiny object

The EDITORIAL discusses the current anti-crime legislation which it implies is a shiny object, is on the face of it virtuous. The bill which seeks to set up so-called zones of special operations for the security forces, was passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday. The editorial likened justice minister Delroy Chuck who has taken ownership of the bill on behalf of the prime minister, to a kid at Christmas treating each new present with excitement and astonishment.

It advises he may be over-sell a law which wasn’t required to meet the administration’s intent as provisions already exist. The carrying out of its execution will still have to be monitored against police overreach and civil-rights abuses.

For example, arguing that the bill affords the security forces the powers of a state of emergency without the need for the imprimatur of the governor general and the special parliamentary vote for one to be declared, the editorial urged vigilance in the oversight of its use.

It further noted the provision for social intervention in affected communities to provide needed economic and community-development projects without saying anything about the necessary resources to do so. The editorial wondered why the prime minister could not deploy a social intervention strategy for any community and make the provision of resources a priority.

THE OPINIONS ON THIS PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANEER.
Have a great week!

Katasha Thompson (left) and Jacqueline Edwards-Locke of Unicomer Jamaica Ltd were delighted to collect the Top Spending Advertiser Award with The Gleaner from Michael Sharpe.

Tessanne Chin and Stephen Miller, sponsorship manager at FLOW, snapped backstage at the Air Supply concert, where Chin also performed.

Head of retail marketing, TV & sponsorships at FLOW Kim Lee, gets cozy with half of the Air Supply duo Russell Hitchcock on Saturday at the Couples San Souci resort where scores gathered to raise funds for the St Ann’s Bay Hospital Paediatric Ward.

Katasha Thompson (left) and Jacqueline Edwards-Locke of Unicomer Jamaica Ltd were delighted to collect the Top Spending Advertiser Award with The Gleaner from Michael Sharpe.

Jamaica Barabary/Freelance Photographer
Peter Lampert (left) and Dorothy Duncan (center) jointly accepting the top spending advertising agency award from Gary Allen.

What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
New Day bauxite partnership pacts on hold over Cockpit boundaries

SENior mining official is urging the quick resolution of the Cockpit boundary markings to determine where bauxite companies can drill for ore, saying it is hobbling the completion of partnership agreements with latest miner entrant New Day Aluminium Jamaica Limited.

New Day is an affiliate of Dada LLC, which acquired Noranda’s stake in the St Ann Bauxite Limited last October, and continues to operate the mines as Noranda Alumina.

The senior official said that without the partnership agreements, which await resolution of the Cockpit mining issue, Jamaican representatives cannot take their seats on the New Day Jamaica board and participate in the governance of the operation.

The Holness administration is expected to sign off on the boundaries at a Cabinet meeting next month.

The National Environmental & Planning Agency redirected requests for comment on what precisely Cabinet will be considering to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

The “matter of the Cockpit Country is before Cabinet and as such, I am unable to comment at this point,” said Audrey Swell, permanent secretary in the OPM-aligned Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, which has portfolio responsibility for the environment.

It’s understood that there have been different proposals, as many as seven over time, as to where the Cockpit Country boundaries should be drawn to protect the estimated 1,090 square kilometers of tropical rainforest, while allowing mining companies certainty about their operations.

The state mining official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the boundaries drawn by environmental lobbyists are extensive, and if accepted by the Government, Noranda Alumina would have no bauxite to mine.

“They are even including Appleton in the Cockpit Country,” he said, referencing the privately held rum making estate in St Elizabeth.

But pushback is coming from environmentalists who say government-commissioned studies have recommended appropriate boundaries that should be adhered to.

NORANDA SOLD

“Noranda has been sold to New Day. That company has some kind of MOU with the Government,”

Chana McCaulay, CEO of the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), said on Wednesday. “We believe it guarantees a certain amount of bauxite. So where is that to come from? We suspect, but do not know until something is made public, that the push will come from mining interests to reduce the new boundaries so that bauxite can be supplied to Noranda.”

The Cockpit is mostly in the parish of Trelawny, but also borders on St James, St Elizabeth and St Ann.

McCaulay said JET would be pushing for the Holness administration to adhere to the boundary recommendations made by the University of the West Indies in a 2013 study commissioned by the state.

“We are fully expecting them not to abide by those,” she said. The Government has not acted on UWI’s recommendations, despite pressure from environmentalists.

“Since 2013, people like me have been trying to say ‘declare the boundaries, decide on them, release them’. They have not done it to date,” McCaulay said.

“Noranda did mine in St Ann within one of the boundaries proposed. But we cannot say it was in or outside of the Cockpit Country since some of the boundaries proposed have been declared,” she added.

The state mining official, too, wants the issue finalised, but for a different reason.

Most of the partnership agreements are not signed yet,” he said in reference to the New Day transacting.

New Day now owns a minority 49 percent of the St Ann bauxite operation, which it acquired from bankrupt company Noranda Aluminium Holding Corporation for US$4.4 million, but like Noranda before it, is the managing partner.

The official notes that because the agreements are pending, no board meetings have been held and the Jamaican Government currently knows very little about the business in which it has a 51 percent interest.

He also wants more lands freed up for mining, saying exports of the ore are on the decline. At one point, the bauxite/alumina sector constituted nearly 70 percent of exports for Jamaica, but that has now fallen to 46 percent, he said.

Operations at Noranda Alumina are continuing and appear only to be affected by the closure of Glencore’s Sherwin plant in Texas in the United States, which it supplies.

Approximately half of its production went to this plant before Glencore placed it in bankruptcy and shuttered the operation in mid-2016.

New Day is now producing around 2.6 million tonnes of bauxite, down from a maximum 4.6 million tonnes when Sherwin was running. Its capacity is 5.2 million tonnes, according to New Day’s Chief administrative officer Anthony Laura.

New Day Jamaica has an initial 25-year renewable lease with the Government of Jamaica (GOJ).

Under the agreement, Laura said the company would either pay the Government US$ 8.50 per tonne of bauxite mined or a specified share of the profits from New Day’s combined Jamaican and Guyanese operations in Louisiana, whichever is greater.

“By date, New Day has paid the GOJ in excess of US$85.25 million, in furtherance of the letter of intent,” Laura told The Gleaner.

Additionally, New Day will invest US$65 million in the operation over the next five years, he said.

Regarding the Cockpit boundaries, he said New Day would refrain from comment “until the issue is resolved in Cabinet”.

No inflation jitters, despite price increases

McPherss Thompson
Assistant Editor – Business

Despite recent spikes in the cost of several food items in shops and supermarkets, the central bank says there were no inflation jitters and it remained optimistic that it will remain within the range it has forecast for fiscal year 2016/17.

John Robinson, the Senior Deputy Governor at Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) said the latest information he has on consumer prices is up to May, at which point it had risen by 0.1 per cent for the month and year-over-year by 4.6 per cent.

“We do expect some fallout from agricultural prices arising from the weather conditions recently, but we expect those to normalise by the end of the year,” he told The Gleaner last week.

Robinson said the BOJ was still expecting for this fiscal year that inflation will be around five per cent. “Our target range is 4-6 per cent and we are still expecting it to be in the middle of that range,” he added.

The central banker said although conditions suggest that there are some increases in food prices in the short run, particularly for domestic agriculture, there were some other countervailing forces, such as the fall in petroleum prices and the slowdown or reversal in the depreciation of the Jamaican dollar against the United States currency, which they believe would help to dampen some of these increases from imported items.

“We don’t have any inflation jitters and we do expect in the short run for some food prices to rise, but for the same reason that they went up they will come down, that is, supply will normalise after having been disrupted,” Robinson said.

Quite Sanguine

“On the inflation front we feel quite sanguine about our outlook that it will remain in the 4-6 per cent band and as of now we expect it to end the year in the middle of the band,” he said.

In the past few weeks, there have been price increases on a number of baked products, including bread, which some retailers believe was attributable to the depreciation in the value of the Jamaican dollar against the United States dollar.

The Caribbean Cement Company also increased the price of Carib Cement Plus, its most popular brand, effective June 26, saying that the depreciation of the Jamaican dollar and increases in fuel prices has forced it to make the adjustment.

Robinson noted that the Jamaican dollar has been appreciating against the United States dollar steadily over the past few weeks, “partly because we supplied a lot of money during May to satisfy some extraordinary demand and with that out of the way and market inflows being normal the relatively lower demand has led to the appreciation.”

“I can’t say how long it will continue, but the conditions now are that there is no extraordinary demand and the daily inflows are satisfying whatev- er demand there is,” he said.

The average selling rate of the Jamaican dollar against its United States counterpart reached its highest level of J$105.48 on May 24 before appreciating steadily to J$128.84 on Tuesday, June 27.

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BOJ offers US$10m for sale in pilot auction

THE BANK of Jamaica (BOJ) offered for sale US$10 million in its pilot intervention and trading tool (B-FFT) foreign exchange operation on Wednesday, June 28.

The BOJ received 41 bids valued at US$16.82 million from authorised dealers and banks.

The weighted average exchange rate was $128.70.

The highest submitted bid price was $130.00 for US$100,000, while the lowest was $127.50 for a similar amount, according to the results of the pilot.

The highest successful bid price was $129.90 for US$50,000.

The bid price for partial allocation was $130.05 and the partial allocation percentage was 8.13 per cent.

BOJ said the next intervention sale schedule for US dollars is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, with settlement on Thursday, July 27.

Jamaican customers now can use their Visa debit cards to complete online transactions whenever they visit the JN Money (JNM) website, www.jnmoney-transfer.com. This new feature will allow more Jamaicans residing in Canada to remit funds to relatives and friends, locally, from anywhere at any time.

The new feature became available on June 5, and replaces the Interac service that was previously available on the website except JN Mobile.

Canadian customers will be able to use their Visa debit cards to remit funds online.

And, our website will now enable them to do so from the convenience of their home, while on the go, or at work,” explained Horace Hines, acting general manager, JN Money Services, owners and operators of the JN Money brand.

“JN Money has always been trying to give our customers the best experience when they conduct business with us,” Hines explained.

To send money transfers and pay bills, customers are invited to visit jnmoneytransfer.com to sign up for the service. All services available to customers at branch and agent locations in Canada are also available via the website except JN Mobile TopUp.

The website service is also available for JN Money customers in the United Kingdom and it is anticipated that the service will be launched shortly in the USA.

“Recipients in Jamaica will also be able to access their funds at any JN Money outlet or at ATMs using the JN Money Card” Hines outlined.

He also emphasised that all systems are in place to ensure the privacy and security of customer information.

“We are aware of the concerns users have, in respect of the security of their information. As a result, we have installed the most secure features to ensure that their information is protected. And, we are constantly doing assessments so as to ensure we maintain the highest level of security,” he added.

JN Money Services Limited, with head office based in Kingston, Jamaica, markets its services under the JN Money brand, with operations in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Ghana and the Philippines.

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JN money website now accepts Visa debit cards in Canada

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Ja-born marketing guru going strong at 90

AMITABH SHARMA
Senior Copy Editor – Overseas
Publications

BLOOMING FLOWERS and the cool shade of trees owe their existence and potency to one simple reason: their roots are well embedded. This fact is often overlooked as everyone is reaping the benefits of the sweetness of the fruits that bear in abundance.

This analogy can be a best fit for marketing and communications guru K. Patrick Byles, who is still going strong after spending 70 years as a marcom (marketing and communications) professional.

The years might have, if one were to use an anatomical term, slowed some of his motor skills, but his mind is razor sharp, churning ideas and formulating marketing and communication blueprints as he would have done in his younger days.

He has a gem or two from his vast treasure chest of knowledge to share with everyone from students to professionals alike.

“Hard work, proper planning, consistency, and teamwork are the key to the success of any programme or campaign,” said Byles.

“This is across the board, whether you are developing a marketing campaign, planning an event, or for that matter, implementing any business process.”

A Jamaica College and St George’s College alumni, Byles began his professional journey in 1946, an era when the analogue and diode tubes were technological marvels, a wee bit prehistoric for most, but his thinking has been futuristic.

“I have opened the door to a lifetime of research,” he said. “I have brought to life an industry, marketing — which is a part of the global industry.”

Byles has, over the years, mastered the intricacies of the left brain with the creativity of the right, striking the ying and yang balance - he is an art entrepreneur, who vociferously advocates that the broad-brush paradigm of art has long changed.

“It is no longer a painting on the wall,” Byles said. “This maturity is recognised at Boardroom levels all over the world.”

“Art,” he continued, “impacts all areas of communication, from commerce to packaging, architecture, travel, food, … to name a very few.”

According to this veteran communicator, art should not be seen in isolation, nor deemed as a profession that is fit for people who did not have any other options in life and ended up doing arts because that was the last resort.

“It is demeaning. I would even say it is insulting to those who have this talent and want to create,” Byles said. “It is not a ‘b retarded’ child and should not be treated as such.”

His strong words are stamped in creations across the history of mankind what would life be if there wasn’t the Pyramids, Great Wall of China, Statue of Liberty, Taj Mahal or the Eiffel Tower … all work of exquisitely art.

EMBRACE WHOLEHEARTEDLY

But, according to Byles, for art or any other industry to succeed, marketing is the key component that has to be embraced wholeheartedly.

These words are gospel from a veteran who began his career as a commercial artist - painting and illustrating film posters for Palace Amusement Cinemas, then moving to Agency Art & Publicity Ltd, who send him to The Bahamas. Along the way, he added to his repertoire, being appointed the representative of Interpublic Group of Companies, one of the world’s largest advertising agencies.

Diversification, he said, is the name of the game. “In the old days you had to be a little of everything,” he said.

Marketing, across the board, cannot be a one size fits all. Byles says that marketing has to be complemented with specialised communications.

“It (specialised communications) is a concept that North American technological spearhead advertising agencies on Madison Avenue have developing for effective usage,” Byles said.

He says that for any marketing and communication to be effective, application of objectivity, academic learning, utilising any motivation and psychological patterns work. Byles has lectured on ‘Personal Wants’ - the new economic sense in relation to education and culture on vocational, emotional, and marketing communications.

But, he warns, that segments of marketing communications, as a vehicle can effect change that can be used to over-influence negative or positive.

“This can result in impulse buying or more drastically, as propaganda to influence countries towards war or civil strife,” he said.

“It (marketing) changes attitudes, conditions people to do what one wants,” he said, making special case for artists and creative people, who he says, can be very effective, as they are more understanding, sensitive towards the public, than being “crass commercial materialists.”

Though the desired mix in the business, these truths though, he says, can be seen as weaknesses.

“The sensitivity of creative people is a large part of the creativity,” Byles said. “A lot of people mistakenly do not relate creativity and sensitivity: to them sensitivity can be considered a weakness.”

The confuence of creativity with rationalisation is time-tested and cannot be brushed aside. Only strong foundations can bring about sustained growth and development, and to evolve is the key to that growth.

Notwithstanding that there will be failures along the way but one has to learn from them and move on.

“It is a baptism by fire,” he said. “One needs to be persistent, keep abreast with an open and inquisitive mind and attitude.”

Byles, who, as he calls himself “90 years young”, is not ready to give up the quest to impart his knowledge, encourage and inculcate best practices for business processes. For someone who still swears by penmanship, Byles thought processes and actions are relevant and pertinent in the digital age and something that every youngster should, immaterial in which profession or industry they are in, learn.
Groovin’ fans wanted more of Busy
R Kelly rocksteady greats and symphony orchestra rocked

...Organisers apologise to Groovin’ fans

Curtis Campbell
Gleaner Writer

Busy Signal walked out of the Groovin’ In The Park event recently, which was held in New York, after he felt his set was cut abruptly, all he got in response was a round of boos. “Busy, Busy” they continued to chant. Although a few patrons exited the venue, many still stayed behind to see the final performer, R. Kelly, and after a few minutes, without introduction, the headliner finally appeared on stage.

R. Kelly filled the stage and launched into bits of hits such as Theme Song, Snake, Get This Money and De Costa.

REAL FANS

Where are the real R. Kelly fans? Not the Instagram fans or social media fans. I mean the real fans that have been rocking with me over the years?” he asked to screams from adoring females.

Seemingly aware that fans were not quite as engaged at one point in his performance, R. Kelly said he had nothing to do with the running order of the event (in reference to Busy Signal’s shortened set). This seemed to appease some fans.

Party jams such as Ignition, Flowin’, I’m a Flirt and Funky in the Club, followed, as the King of R&B was joined on stage by his drumming partner and Freddie McGregor all delivered a stellar performance, backed by the Groovin’ Symphony Orchestra and Lloyd Parkinson and We The People Band.

After taking fans on a stroll down memory lane, all four were awarded with State Senate proclamations from the State of New York for their profound love and commitment to Caribbean music, art and culture.

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R Kelly closing Groovin’ In The Park 2017.
Clarendon to see J$18 billion in housing development from Trust

SHANIQUE SAMUELS
Gleaner Writer

THE NATIONAL Housing Trust (NHT) will be injecting J$18 billion into the local economy through housing developments in Clarendon over the next three-and-a-half years.

Board Chairman at the NHT Ambassador Dr Nigel Clarke made the announcement in Clarendon last week at the ground breaking ceremony for an additional 351 housing developments in Clarendon to see J$18 billion in housing development from Trust.

The Monymusk Country Estate project is one of nine housing schemes to be developed in Clarendon by 2020.

In addition, Clarke said the NHT plans to issue 8,500 mortgages this year to purchase homes from the NHT or on the open market.

“We are in the business of creating affordable housing solutions, which is important because so many Jamaicans, though they may desire to, don’t have their own home and, for the most part, we are a historically dispossessed people and so home ownership plays a significant role in the psychology of the Jamaican individual,” the board chairman lamented.

“Housing developments such as these provide regular accommodation instead of the irregular means these provide regular accommodation, among other things,” he explained.

The Monymusk Country Estate project is one of nine housing schemes to be developed in Clarendon by 2020. In addition, Clarke said the NHT plans to issue 8,500 mortgages this year to purchase homes from the NHT or on the open market.

Two. Of this number, Clarke said 100 units would be exclusively reserved for sugar industry workers who are yet to own a home or are having difficulties with same.

“Monymusk Country Estate will have all the modern and basic amenities that come with development, including paved roads, proper drainage systems and provisions for recreational activities, among other things,” he explained.

Pricey Hilton brand is worth it – Byles

CHAIRMAN OF Sagicor Real Estate X Fund Limited, Richard Byles, says the multimillion-dollar fees paid to Hilton hotel group for the use of its brand is a good deal.

“The real-estate investment company owns two hotels outright, for which franchise fees amounted to just over US$4 million last year, based on a computation of X Fund’s disclosures. That figure translates to more than $500 million in local currency. Sagicor X Fund is invested in six properties overall, four of which operate under Hilton brands, including the two it owns directly – the 742-room Hilton DoubleTree in Orlando, Florida, and the home-based 489-room Hilton Rose Hall in Montego Bay.

The others are Jewel Paradise Cove and Jewel Dunn’s River, which operate as Hilton Curio resorts. Sagicor X Fund CEO Rohan Miller said this means the Jewel brand, which is owned by Sagicor, can also be found on the Hilton website as Hilton properties.

Notes to the property fund’s annual report for 2016 indicate that for the DoubleTree hotel, the Hilton group receives royalty fees of four per cent to five per cent of gross room revenue, and fees for marketing, reservations and other related activities amounting to four per cent of gross room revenue.

Under the agreement for DoubleTree, franchise costs totalled US$26 million in 2016. The franchise agreement runs to September 30, 2025. For Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa, it pays monthly royalty fees of US$100,000, and monthly programme fees of US$650,000. That franchise agreement runs to January 31, 2033.

The issue of the sum paid to Hilton by the property fund was raised by shareholder Orette Staple during a teleconference of X Fund’s annual general meeting (AGM), which was beamed from the Hilton DoubleTree in Orlando to Sagicor investors in New Kingston.

Chairman Richard Byles, who was at the AGM site in Orlando, said the tag – which is another name for franchise fee – was normal in the course of business and quite reasonable. “We get quite a lot of business through Hilton,” he said.

In 2016, the two Hilton-branded properties generated net profit of J$440 million, which was J$70 million less than the year before, due to funds spent on renovations. Revenue from the hotels amounted to J$8.4 billion, up from J$8.35 billion in 2015.

X FUND NET PROFIT UP

Sagicor X Fund itself made net profit of J$1.7 billion in 2016, off revenue of J$610.9 billion, up from J$61.3 billion of profit and $6.6 billion of revenue in 2015.

All hotel properties in which X Fund is invested – excluding Palmyra – contributed J$33.6 billion to revenue last year, although representing only 62 per cent of assets, CEO Miller said.

Hilton Rose Hall carried one of the highest occupancies for the group, as did the DoubleTree. But Miller also noted that occupancy levels at both properties were affected by refurbishments carried out during 2016.

The property fund spent US$14 million on the DoubleTree, which includes two towers of over 300 rooms each and has more than 60,000 square feet of conference and meeting-room facilities. One tower was shuttered in September for the complete overhaul of all guest rooms, general guest areas, restaurant, bar, conference facilities and other areas.

Now that the refurbishing is complete, he said, room rates are set to rise from about US$100 per night to US$120. The hotel operates under the European plan model, and so rates are much lower than those offered on other X Fund properties in Jamaica, which operate as all-inclusive resorts, Miller said.

Sagicor X Fund’s most recent investment was a 15 per cent stake in the Palmyra Resort & Spa, which was acquired by Sagicor Group through several of its managed funds in October 2016. Miller was unwilling to disclose the costs for work being done on the Palmyra, which is set to open this coming winter as the Jewel Grande. X Fund is also planning to upgrade Jewel Dunn’s River and Jewel Runaway Bay, he said.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Three nations nabbed with cocaine in Caribbean Sea

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, CMC

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency says its Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents, working jointly with officers of the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force (CCSF), have arrested three nationals of the Dominican Republic while attempting to smuggle 51.5 kilograms of cocaine into the United States.

In its report, the ICE said the contraband has an estimated street value of US$7 million.

HSI reported that on Monday, June 26, a US Coast Guard maritime patrol aircraft detected a 25-foot boat traveling southbound without navigation lights about 22 nautical miles north of Loiza, Puerto Rico.

On approach by the Coast Guard, ICE said the crew of the vessel jettisoned five large bales and continued south at high speed until it stopped approximately six nautical miles north of Loiza.

The US Coast Guard and PRPD seized and salvaged the vessel, took custody of the crew and recovered the jettisoned bales consisting of 128 bricks of cocaine and two roll-shaped objects, which tested positive for heroin.

ICE said US Magistrate Bruce McAllister authorized a complaint charging the three Dominican nationals with possession and importation of a controlled substance and failure to appear.

The Dominicans had their initial hearing before the magistrate on Tuesday and were transferred to the Guayanabo Metropolitan Detention Center awaiting the outcome of their case.

They face a term of 10 years to life in prison for the narcotics violations.

Environmental department urges caution with seaweed removal

GEORGE TOWN, CAYMAN ISLANDS, CMC:

The Department of Environment (DoE) has called on the owners of beachfront and tourism properties to be cautious when removing Sargassum seaweed from beaches.

According to the department, with the recent influx of the seaweed on the territory's southern coasts, some owners are attempting to remove it but this can have a destabilising effect on beaches and also threatened turtle nests.

According to the department, the Sargassum seaweed should be removed by hand raking, as machinery can remove a lot of sand along with the seaweed. Officials warned that machinery cannot be used without prior consultation with the department and the issuance of a letter of approval outlining the conditions.

ST ANDREW

Re-branded Coconut Park entertainment centre to be reopened in Hope Gardens

Coconut Park, an entertainment centre at Hope Gardens, which was closed for 15 years is to be reopened on July 14 as Funland with the same attraction offerings - ferris wheel, bumper cars, splash zone and a gaming arcade.

The activities also featured an advocacy walk in Annotto Bay.

ST MARY

Basic and primary schools in St. Mary receive water tanks

TEACHERS AND representatives of 12 basic and primary schools in western St. Mary last week, received 660 gallon water tanks as a result of the efforts of local politicians.

Member of Parliament Robert Montague, in underscoring the importance of the donations, pointed to the water needs of the schools, noting that the present water network doesn’t reach all the schools so building up the storage capacity was very important.

Sensitisation session on gender-based violence in the parish

WHAT HAS has been described as "fabulous" to The Gleaner by an organiser was the recent initiatives to sensitize parishioners including students, and church groups, about gender-based violence in Port Maria.

The "Cum Mek Wi Tek Back St Mary" symposium, which was hosted by the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA), the local police's Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB), and the Fi Wi Jamaica Project, featured presentations, interac-
tive role play sessions, and a speech from St Mary's police chief, Superintendent Fabian Farquharson.

According to the BGA's acting director of community liaisons, Shaniqwe Ormsby, who spoke to The Gleaner, the project sought to inform and educate people about gender-based violence by engaging with community groups throughout the parish.

The activities also featured an advocacy walk in Annotto Bay.

ISLANDWIDE

Over 900 fire hydrants repaired

RCEM 900 fire hydrants across the island have been repaired as part of upgrading work to improve firefighting efficiency.

The repairs were made possible under the Japanese Embassy's Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Project, after it was discovered that out of 13,207 fire hydrants, some 4,919 were not functional.

Under the programme, the embassy provided funding amounting to US$612,622 to procure and repair tools and parts, global positioning system (GPS) machines as well as a Toyota Hiace panel van to transport heavy-duty equipment to facilitate repairs of fire hydrants across the island. The grant contract was signed in March 2014.

Transformed Registrar General’s Department to manage national identification system

A NEW agency, the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), stemming from the Registrar General’s Department (RGD) will handle the roll-out and management of the National Identification System (NIDS).

NIDS will provide a comprehensive and secure structure to capture and store the personal identity information of citizens. Under the system, which will have anti-fraud features, every Jamaican will have a unique identification number.

Speaking with JIB News, Acting Chief Technical Director at the Office of the Prime Minister, Jacqueline Lynch-Stewart, addresses journalists during a press conference at Jamaica House on Wednesday (June 21) to address matters regarding the proposed National Identification System (NIDS).

Speaking with JIB News, Acting Chief Technical Director at the Office of the Prime Minister, Jacqueline Lynch-Stewart, explained that the Government decided to transform the existing RGD in order to bring civil registration and identity management under one roof.

“Do the decision was taken that it made sense to marry civil registration with identity management, so, think of it as one roof or organisation with two major divisions within it,” she said.

The NIRA will capture biometric data such as fingerprint, footprint, signature and/or facial photographs and all other activities under the NIDS project.

All the activities that RGD currently undertakes will continue, that is, birth, death, marriage and any other major events.

EDUCATION MINISTRY undertakes safety inspection of schools

THE MINISTRY of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI), in partnership with the National Education Trust (NET) and the University of Technology (UT), is conducting inspections of infant, primary and secondary schools.

Some 971 schools are scheduled to be inspected under the Jamaica Safe Schools Project (JSSP), which is being managed by the World Bank to support the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) in mainstreaming disaster risk management, the regulation, planning, designing, construction and management of school infrastructure.

Acting Chief Technical Director, Office of the Prime Minister, Jacqueline Lynch-Stewart, addresses journalists during a press conference at Jamaica House on Wednesday (June 21) to address matters regarding the proposed National Identification System (NIDS).
Boxill pushes for more ‘Jamaican films’ to be filmed locally

KIMBERLEY SMALL
Gleaner Writer

A SUGGESTION by film commissioner Renee Robinson last November has recently been reinforced by Professor Ian Boxill, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona. At the concluding event at this year’s GATFFEST Film Festival at the university, Boxill revisited the idea, which addresses the lack of outlets for young Jamaican film-makers to ensure that their films can be seen by the general public.

Robinson had suggested the implementation of a exhibition or screen quota system. “The exhibition quota system for local content needs to specify that a certain percentage of exhibition time is reserved for local narrative content,” she said. She also spoke about scheduling parameters to prevent domestic content being pushed into undesirable programming slots.

These quotas, via direct legislation or buy-ins for economic growth goals would enforce a minimum number of screening days for domestic films in cinemas each year, to protect the nation’s domestic output. “This is not a new model. It is a standard best practice across the globe, with excellent results in Canada, France, the UK and Australia. Increasingly, we are seeing this practice grow in Latin America and Africa as well, with South Africa, Colombia and Mexico leading legislative reform in their respective film industries.” Robinson said.

UWI FACILITY PROPOSED

More recently, Boxill also proposed the development of a viewing facility on the Mona campus, which would screen locally made films on a regular basis. This could be done through exploring a public-private partnership, “where this is done in a business-like manner.”

Boxill said: “I don’t know that we can sit and leave it up to our politicians and policymakers. We believe there is much more we can do.”

In a GATFFEST workshop, Andrew Tucker, who is currently teaching documentary filmmaking at various universities in Colombia, and co-sponsored by the Colombian Embassy, focused on film-making on a low budget. During his workshop, Tucker raised the point about the funding model for emerging independent films in Colombia. “In Colombia, there is a law which mandates cinemas to show short films from Colombian film-makers before the main event,” he said.

At the GATFFEST 2017 finale, Boxill said he has begun discussions with the Colombian ambassador to Jamaica. “He has agreed to share with me the Colombian piece of legislation, so I think that at some point, we should look at this legislation, enter into a discussion with JAMPRO and the others, and see how we can assist film-making.” Boxill stated.

Strong J’can acts for Reggae on the River

THE 33RD Reggae on the River presented as a fundraiser for the non-profit Mateel Community Centre, takes place place August 3-6 at French’s Camp in southern Humboldt county, 10 miles south of Garberville along the banks of the Eel River.

Jamaican performers include Alborosie, Ky-Mani Marley, King Anthony, Dance Hall King, Anderson, Lutan Fyah, Warrior Queen, Culture and Marla Brown.

In 2016, festival organisers made 780,000+ gallon rainwater-catchment pond a reality. It enables the festival to manage the water supply necessary for the site with abundant runoff. The aquifer at the driest time of year ensures excess to recharge the aquifer at the driest time of year and offset the festival’s total water usage. This improvement will make Reggae On The River a water-neutral positive event – the first of its kind.

Each year, a percentage of net proceeds are channelled to a fund that is used to support a variety of causes in the local community.

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Will this take long?

Dahlia Walker-Huntington
UNITED STATES

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington,

A male in the United States military made a filing for his mother and sister, however the sister was over 18 at the time of filing. Is filing possible, and how long will it take?

Thank you.

O.P.

Tradesman with an eye on Canada

Deidre S. Powell
CANADA

Dear Me Powell,

I am a tradesman, and I would like the opportunity to live in Canada. My girlfriend said that she heard of another tradesman who just got papers to move to Canada. She is pushing me to see how we can get to live in Canada. Can you tell me how I can get to live in Canada as a qualified tradesman? My girlfriend is also an excellent chef with a Heart certificate.

A.V.

Deidre S. Powell is a lawyer, mediator, and notary public. Send your questions or comments to info@deidespowell.com.

Cayman Airways dismisses employees involved in human smuggling case

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands, CMG

CAYMAN AIRWAYS has dismissed three employees who were arrested nearly two years ago in connection with the smuggling of undocumented Cuban migrants into the United States.

The Cayman Compass quotes a spokesperson for the airline, Olivia Scott Ramirez as saying that the three are no longer employed by the airline. However, details surrounding the human smuggling case are not known as following their arrest in August 2015, the airline employees were released on bail and nothing further was said publicly regarding the investigation.

According to the Cayman Compass, officials from the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) confirmed that no charges were filed in the case.

In response to questions from the Cayman Compass as to why the investigation appeared to have gone silent, the RCIPS said, “The investigation has been processed and a file was submitted to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for review. Recommendations were received and enquiries are continuing. The investigation has not been closed.”

The smuggling scheme allegedly involved the suspects accepting payment in exchange for helping Cuban nationals reach the United States.

It is reported that the Cubans involved were in the Royal overseas territory either as visitors or on work permits.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
After their spectacular performance at the Groovin’ In The Park concert, held at the Roy Wilkins Park in New York on the weekend, reggae artiste Tarrus Riley and musician Dean Fraser both received State Senate proclamations from New York. Tarrus’ father, the late Jimmy Riley, received his award posthumously. Jimmy was honoured for his profound love and commitment to Caribbean music, art and culture.

“It’s very nice. It’s very good to know that people are showing love and respect. We’ve worked beyond hard, I’m living my dream. This is what I want to do my whole life, my father would have loved this,” Tarrus told The Gleaner.

The award was presented by New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton.

“To be recognised by the State of New York is a real accomplishment. I just want to say that I am very grateful and honoured,” Dean Fraser said.

Other reggae artistes who received State Senate proclamations at the event included Leroy Sibbles, Freddie McGregor, Daddy U-Roy and Ken Boothe.
Ambassador Moreno hosts final 4th of July inJa

The Leadership by Design program is currently inviting applications. The deadline is July 5. LBD is seeking applications from current Grade 9 students who will enter its program in September as Grade 10 students. The LBD program is a multi-year program which seeks to inspire leadership and develop leaders. Call Trevor Massey at 416-488-0080 for more information.

AFROFEST 2017 takes place on July 8 & 9 at Woodlawn Park, Toronto. www.afrofest.ca/afrofest-2017. This is a music Africa’s main event and the largest free African festival in North America.

Soccerfest ‘17 takes place on Sunday, July 16, at Fletchers Field, 2743 19th Ave., Markham. The kick-off is at 9:00am.

Jamaican Canadian Association will hold its Jamaica 55 Independence Gala under the patronage of the High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada, Janice Miller, on Saturday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m. at 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. Keynote speaker: Justice Donald McLeod, Ontario Court of Justice. Call 416-746-5772, communications@jacaontario.org

The Consulate General of Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaican Canadian Association presents Jamaica’s 55th Anniversary of Independence Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 6, 12:30 p.m. at The Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. A reception follows at the Council Chambers-Members Lounge. This will be followed by the Independence Church Service at Revivaltime Tabernacle, 4340 Dufferin St., Toronto. RSVP at info@jgcjtoronto.ca/416-598-2064

NEW YORK

Charlemont High School PSA All High School Past Students BBQ, July 6th, 10 am - 6 pm, Central Park Multi-Purpose Center, 9515 NW 2nd Street, Plantation, FL 33324;

Dinhill Technical HSAA, Mico OSA, Camperdown PSA, Charlemont HS PSA “Motion On The Ocean” Boat Ride, July 8th, Harbor Lights – FDR Drive and 23rd Street, NYC. For further information call Dinhill: 516-263-8863, Mico - 914-275-5659,

Camperdown - 646-244-8465, Charlemont - 404-915-8537.

New Dimension SDA Church invites you to its annual fundraiser & community health fair and health screening on Sunday July 9, 2017 from 9am-2pm, 1062 Winthrop St., Brooklyn, New York (between E93 and E94 St.).

-207-7063.7063;

CCOA, ICHSAA, Morant Bay HS AA and Wolmer’s AA – Annual Twilight Dinner Cruise; Paddle Wheel Queen, July 15th, 1 World’s Fair Marina, Queens, NY. Boarding at 7 PM; Sailing 7:30 PM. Contact: Barry (CCOBA) 917-741-0793, Karlene (ICHSS) 516-713-8270, Joyce (MBH-SAA) 718-325-7248 Wolmers (Danny) 718-207-7063.

KCOBA, Alpha Tri-State, St. Hugh’s AA, St. George’s OBA NE and St. Jago PSA “Cruising with a Cause” aboard the Liberty Belle, July 16th, Brooklyn Arm Terminal, 140 56th Street, Brooklyn, NY, Boarding at 6 PM, sailing at 6:30 pm. See www.kjaausa.org for further information.

You are invited to the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, Sunday, July 23rd, from 12 noon, Roy Willkins Park, Queens, NY.

Jah Jerry, Inc. Annual Scholarship Fundraiser on Friday, July 28, 2017, 8:00 pm -12:00 am, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Bronx. For further information call (312) 470-5655.

FLORIDA

Montego Bay High School International Alumnae Association presents its annual fundraiser & reunion Summer White Dinner Dance, Saturday, July 22, at 7:00 pm, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 13400 W. Sunrise Blvd, Sunrise, Florida. Entertainment: DJ Mark Swaby. Info: 305.2819404

Must Laugh Production/Get Well Ministry present the big play ‘God Over Obey, starring Stefan Penilsinly, on Sunday, July 23, at 7:00 pm, Miramar High School Auditorium, 3601 S. Douglas Road, Miramar. Gate price: 2014 Toyota Camry. Info: 954.661.0892

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EVENTS

EVENTS LISTINGS

The United States Ambassador to Jamaica, Luis Moreno is about to bump fists with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Kamina Johnson Smith, at his farewell function earlier in the week.
‘I need justice for my son’

PAULINK DENNIS, the mother of late St Jago High student Carvon McKenzie, who collapsed and died while representing Jamaica at the 2014 North American, Caribbean and Central American Area Cross-Country Championships in Trinidad and Tobago, is still awaiting adequate compensation.

McKenzie died on February 22, 2014, at age 18 at the meet, which was hosted at the Mount Irvine Golf Course on the northern coast of Trinidad.

The Trinidad Express newspaper reported the National Association of Athletics Administrations (NAAA) public relations officer Peter Samuel as saying that an autopsy conducted on the athlete in Trinidad had confirmed a massive heart attack. However, a second autopsy done in Jamaica proved inconclusive.

Denise, who travelled all the way from Annotto Bay, St Mary, on Tuesday to speak to The Gleaner, said that she had been promised compensation from the Government but that she received only $150,000 insurance payout from St Jago but believes that her son’s death was due more to a heart attack.

“It’s like a worst nightmare for me. I need justice for my son because I didn’t send him away sick, and he came back in a casket. Somebody has to be held responsible for my son’s death,” she said.

However, Natalie Neita-Headley, who was the minister with responsibility for sports at the time, said that the Government had done all it could for the family including covering all funeral expenses, which, according to an invoice Dennis represented to The Gleaner, amounted to $448,700.

The Government did its best to provide what it could for the family. We had assisted with funeral arrangements and two houses (Food For the Poor) houses because that was the only thing we could have been provided through the meet organisers themselves.

Each (overseas) meet is covered by insurance. He was insured only by that time, his school and whatever insurance it could have been through the JAAA. I recall that generally, the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC) had indicated that the insurer should be based on results from the autopsy; he had a pre-existing condition, which would have led to his demise, she said, adding that she no longer had access to paperwork, which had been at the Labour ministry office when she demitted office in February of last year.

The Gleaner contacted JAAA president Dr Warren Blake, who said that it was difficult to recall the particulars of a matter that happened three years ago. However, he did say that no sporting association could file an individual claim on anyone’s behalf.

Neita-Headley said that she had recommended that the family seek the service of an attorney.

“The lawyer would press the case for any further assistance on behalf of the family. That would have been the right way to go – for the lawyer to press the case on behalf of the family for any compensation,” she said.

Dennis said that she had contacted an attorney who was pursuing the matter for a time but had since abandoned the case.

The Gleaner contacted current Minister of Sport Olivia Grange, who said that she would try to assist in whatever way she could.

“I have to take a second look at it and see what I can do. My office will be in touch with her,” she said.

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Haile was a good guy

THE DEATH of Haile Clacken has taken almost three decades of friendship from Education State Minister Floyd Green.

Clacken, a former teacher, was shot by a member of a security detail while giving a lecture on a bus.

The St James Police said that it treated it with the level of understanding and respect that the family and the community deserved.

But they still remained friends during that time.

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Contributed

Dancers is something that we haven’t quite grasped with sufficient regard as a people,” he said.

Head of the St Elizabeth police, Inspector Clive Daley, who said that if you leave a will, people will come to your aid.

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Brian Brown’s ‘leap of faith’
One man’s journey through pain

KRISTA ANDERSON
Gleaner Writer

I MAGINE BEING told by doctors that you will never be able to walk again.

That was what Brian Brown was told when his life changed forever on Saturday, August 2, 2014. Brown says not only was he once physically active, engaging in a rigorous fitness routines juggling and swimming, he wore many hats professionally as well. From being the director of the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and working at the Branson Centre of Commerce and Industry, to acting in the very popular TV series “Baywatch”, Royal Palm Estate. Brown also hosted local events and was recording music and videos for a mixtape he was working on, all the while attending school part-time.

HOME IMPROVEMENT GONE AWRY
On the fateful day, Brown returned home from hosting a gig at around 6 pm as he was scheduled for noon, he decided to address a leaking tap.

Instead of using a plumber as planned, he decided to tackle it himself. “I borrowed a ladder; took it up to the second floor; used it to get on the roof, and, long story short, after admiring the view and making a few calls, I was ready to leave when something said to do so facing forward. I did, the ladder shifted with a thump, I went over; falling about 25 to 30 feet on to solid concrete, in slippers. I distinctly remember thinking, ‘Man, this is going to hurt. I’m going to be late for the event – probably end up straining my ankles’ I guess I braced for the impact, hurt my knees upon landing squarely on my heels and abdomen. I tried to get up, but realised I couldn’t.”

His neighbours heard the crash and were at his home in minutes. He recalled that it was a traumatic injury that he jokingly asked if this was what it took to become a doctor with a visit: “My neighbour, Paul, rushed me to the Cornwall Regional Hospital after I called a friend who was driving a train for the first three to four weeks, with people from all over coming to visit me every day. I told my family abroad not to discontinue their lives and come here to shack up with me in the house during nothing, and to send money instead. Genius! Turns out I needed it because I had to have home care for about five months.”

MOTIVATION CAME IN MANY FORMS
During that time on bed rest, he kept busy – resuming exercise, doing sit-ups, using dumbbells, because he realised that he couldn’t be too heavy for his pending physiotherapy sessions. He also teamed up with her daughter, Ayjha, friends and family to map out slogans for his new business venture – Bee Line Clothing. “Doing the website, getting designs and trademark, buying T-shirts, the works all that happened during the first few weeks of my ordeal and almost one year in the wheelchair.”

Motivation, for him, came in many forms. The knowledge that his daughter, who was just a few days to live, his life became a big deal for him. “If I let anyone see me cry or get despondent, and I truly believe it was my faith in God, above all else that kept me grateful and moving. I try to live deliberately with the understanding that fear is mostly in our heads, so nothing is out of our reach.”

Family, friends helped, too, in letting him know that he wasn’t alone on his journey. His daughter inspired him to show her that nothing can break your spirit unless you let it. His late grandmother who knelt down and prayed beside him for his recovery. And his girlfriend Audrey was the bedrock of everything. He thanked other people in his life who made all the difference – friends Mikey and Emhotep, Grace, his fellow board members at the chamber of commerce, just to name a few.

Fast-forward to 2017. He still can’t stand or walk for very long, and sometimes he has to sit out a whole day with his feet elevated. That’s how people realise how serious and long-term his injury is. But to him, the only important fact is that he is able to walk.

And, he made the necessary steps to live his life as normal a way as possible. “The truth is, as soon as I could manage to, I was driving again, automatic this time.”

He looked forward to swimming again, and it came in hard as it was the perfect workout for his ankles. Most times, he said, he feels pain, just on different levels, and has made adjustments to suit his needs. “As long as I’m upright or moving, I’m in pain. I’ve had to get custom insoles and can only wear certain types of shoes. I rely on my trusted walking stick from time to time. But, sometimes I forget. I have a permanent condition and people who see me now always commend me on how far I’ve come.”

Beaming with optimism, he also shared: “It makes for a great story. ‘What am I doing to you, Brian?’ Well, that’s a funny story. Did I ever tell you about my ‘leap of faith’?”

Since then he has recorded the rest of his mixtape, moved up to an executive position in the chamber of commerce, and been a finalist in the Branson Guinness “Made of More” entrepreneur challenge. He was named one of three winners of the Innovation Award for his company Luvenice ACT by the NCBI Nation Builder committee, pitched and won a grant for said company, courtesy of the Development Bank of Jamaica, hired his first full-time employee, auditioned for and won a lead role in last year’s Lennie Little-White-directed movie It’s A Family Affair; and copped the award for Most Outstanding Director 2016 at the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He now has a greater appreciation for life. “People often take life for granted, like running or climbing a steep incline, subtle foot movements that you cannot do. But he has kept moving. He has learnt through this experience that he will never leave this place regretting anything he didn’t have the courage to try doing.”

“It’s all about faith and perspective. Faith tells you that as long as you have life, you can overcome anything. Real faith is when you have no logical reason to believe things will improve, but you do so anyway. I now fully accept that God is on our side if we are on His. All things are possible for those who believe, think and act from a place of positivity and authenticity.” He added. “Take one day at a time, live like today is all you have, be humble and respectful and, above all things, have faith and always be positive.”

Brown with designs from his Bee Line Brand that he developed with his daughter while he was immobile. Available at Fontana Pharmacy in Montego Bay.
Burger King, BCIC sponsor junior national squash team

LOCAL RESTAURANT giant Burger King has served up $400,000 in sponsorship to send Jamaica’s Junior National Squash Team to the Caribbean Area Squash Association (CASA) Junior Championships for the fifth year. Additional support has come from insurance powerhouse, British Caribbean Insurance Company (BCIC) who have also made a substantial contribution to finance the Team’s participation in the prestigious competition.

The highly anticipated tournament will be played in Georgetown, Guyana from July 2-8. The region’s best young players will first do battle in age group categories and then compete in a team competition.

The Jamaican squad is expected to face stiff competition particularly from the home team, Caribbean kingspin Guyana. However, the youngsters are ready to take on all contenders when they bow into action today. Leading the charge is team captain and reigning All Jamaica Under 19 Champion, Tajha Lumley he skipper is among the favourites to win his age group but he’ll have to get past his red-hot teammate, Jonathan Walker who is also a top contender.

In a similar vein, current Under 17 Champion, Adam, Arditto is anticipating a good outing while Kei Dhumian is also expected to deliver a solid performance.

Local Under 15 champion, Sebastian Levy, will be looking to make a name for himself among his Caribbean peers as will his sibling, Under 19 champion, Tobias Levy, who will take his friendly rivalry with teammate Aman Dhumian to the regional stage.

CHASING FIRST CROWN

In the girls’ competitions, Mia Lake, Jamaica’s second highest ranked junior female player, will be chasing her first regional crown.

“We are grateful to Burger King for their continued support of squash and for their sponsorship of our junior team for the last five years and we are pleased to welcome BCIC to the squash family,” Jamaica Squash Association (JSA) vice president, Bruce Levy said.

“For our young players to get to the next level they will have to compete regionally and internationally and we are very thankful that these two companies have provided tangible support to build up the game,” he added.

Burger King’s brand manager, Karina-Gaye Williams, said: “Restaurant Associates, through our Burger King brand is one of the biggest supporters of local squash and we are pleased to have contributed to the development of the game over the last five years. We are looking forward to another solid performance from the junior team and we know they will make us proud.”

The team left the island yesterday for Guyana.

We’ll be ready for Gold Cup – Waite

RACHID PARCHMENT
Gleaner Writer

NATIONAL SENIOR men’s football team assistant coach Jerome Waite has backed the Reggae Boys to bounce back from their defeat in the Scotiabank CFU Caribbean Cup final to Curacao, with a better performance in next month’s CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Jamaica lost 2-1 after seeing defender Rosario Harrriott’s equaliser cancelled out, within a minute of him scoring, by Elson Hooi, who got both of Curacao’s goals at the Stade Pierre-Aliker in Fort-De-France, Martinique.

Waite instructed the team in the absence of head coach Theodore Whitmore, who was serving a suspension for arguing with officials in the previous game. Waite said that the result would have probably been different had the Reggae Boys played with a different approach.

“It was very disappointing to lose a final,” he said. “Any final is hard to lose. I feel that we need to play the ball more on the ground and not always go direct.”

Waite said that patience is needed as he believes a better showing will come from the team during the Gold Cup.

A WONDERFUL MOMENT

“I am sure that for the Gold Cup we can improve and we can score greater things then from the team,” Waite said.

HUBERT LAWRENCE
Gleaner Writer

JULIAN ROBINSON, coach of Pan-American Games discus champion Fedrick Dacres, is hoping star throwers Danielle Dodd and Kellion Knibb will get financial support once their days at college end. Robinson believes Dodd and Knibb could challenge for medals at international championships if they are able to train beyond college.

Dodd and Knibb are outgoing seniors at Kent State University and Florida State University, respectively, and Robinson said, “I hope we can keep them in training because it’s not easy. If we can keep them in training, he continued, “we can look at medalling.”

Knowing the public’s desire for high-level success, he asked for patience.

“I want to say to the Jamaican people, they must understand that it is a process,” he tabled. Noting that Dodd set a national record of 19.15 metres to win the NCAA shot put, and that Shadae Lawrence took gold in the discus with Knibb third, he said, “so they have done well at NCAAs and we want them to do well at the World Championships and the Olympics, but I’m not saying they can’t medal, but be patient with them and see what sort of resources can be put in place to keep them training because if we can do that, we can dominate.”

Lawrence, a sophomore at Kansas State University, and Knibb have the tough challenge of maintaining the discus record this season. Their respective personal bests of 62.59 and 62.73 metres are longer than the qualifying mark for the 2017 World Championships. Dodd, Knibb and Lawrence and Dodd all competed for Jamaica at the Olympic Games last year in Rio de Janeiro.

Throwers need help – Robinson

Julian Robinson

The Harbour View FC man, who came into the game as a substitute for the injured Shaun Francis, described scoring in the final as a wonderful moment.

“It’s always a joy coming on and playing for your country. When I saw the injury to Shaun Francis, I reacted quickly and was mentally prepared for this moment. I felt that (scoring) would give us back the momentum we needed to get back into the game and win the title, but it did not turn out that way at all. It is disappointing not to win, because we certainly have the quality in the team.”

The Reggae Boys will now start preparations for their opening Gold Cup game which, incidentally, sees them meeting Curacao a second time in as many weeks in San Diego on July 9.
Levy shines in Paris

Jamaica's Leslie Burrell (left) and Michael Levy (right) in action in Paris. (Photo: Gerard Bideault/Reuters)

PARIS: Jamaican shuttlecock Leslie Burrell and Michael Levy of the USA made a successful showing at the Badminton World Championships in Paris.

BURRELL

Burrell, a former world No. 1, is in form, having won the 2022 Mexican Open, and he is hoping to continue his good form in Paris. He will face a tough challenge from the likes of Son Wan Ho of South Korea and Chou Tien Chen of China in the men's singles event.

LLEVY

Levy, who is ranked 66th in the world, is looking to make a name for himself on the international stage. He has the potential to go deep in the tournament and could face a number of top players in the earlier rounds.

Levy's first-round opponent in Paris will be Jia Leng of China. The 25-year-old Levy is looking to make a statement and is ready to face any challenge that comes his way.

The Championships will take place from August 21-28 and will feature a strong field of players from around the world. Burrell and Levy will be looking to make a mark and establish themselves as top players on the international badminton circuit.

Burrell and Levy will be joined by other Jamaican shuttlers at the Championships, and the country is hoping for a strong showing from its players.

Just a bad day, says McLeod

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LLEVY

Levy, who is ranked 66th in the world, is looking to make a name for himself on the international stage. He has the potential to go deep in the tournament and could face a number of top players in the earlier rounds.

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JA BIDS GOODBYE TO CAPTAIN BURRELL

JAMAICA amassed 68 medals – 21 gold, 20 silver, and 27 bronze – at the International Sports Karate Association United States Open at the Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, July 1.

Governor General Sir Patrick Allen and the Prime Minister Andrew Holness headed a gathering drawn from the world of politics, business, sport and football on Wednesday, June 28 to pay their final respects to the late president of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), Captain Horace Burrell, at a thanksgiving service at the National Arena in Kingston.

Please see BURRELL, 23

Former Reggae Boyz form a guard of honour prior to the recessional.