BODY OF WORLD’S OLDEST WOMAN DONATED TO UNIVERSITY

THE FAMILY of Violet Moss Brown, on Saturday, September 30 said that her body will be donated to The University of the West Indies (UWI) for medical research.

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BY-ELECTIONS SET FOR OCTOBER 30

STORY ON P3.
PAHO to help Ja improve health care

JAMAICA HAS engaged the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to provide technical support as the country moves towards establishing universal healthcare.

Health Minister Christopher Tufton and Executive Director of PAHO, Dr Carissa Etienne, signed a five-year cooperation agreement on Tuesday at the PAHO Headquarters in Washington DC.

The agreement will see Jamaica benefitting from technical cooperation in health for the next five years. Etienne said under the agreement, PAHO will assist Jamaica to boost its health system to adequately cater to citizens under a universal health system.

Chinese reconsiders decision on Moneymusk

PAN CARIBBEAN Sugar Company (PCSC) has said that its decision to operate the Moneymusk Sugar Factory for the 2017-2018 crop year was made to prevent a socio-economic crisis for communities along the sugar belt but that it is unsure how it will prevent further haemorrhaging at the Clarendon facility.

The Chinese firm’s change of heart was announced by Agriculture Minister Karl Samuda during a press conference last week.

The about-face comes weeks after the firm’s CEO dismissed the possibility of any further investment in the cane industry. The Chinese firm is looking at $500 million in a divestment deal with the Government in 2009, after the Lionel Town-based factory contributed 85.9 billion of a whopping $78.9 billion in tax payments to its bottom line over a five-year period.

Dismissed FLA employees take issues to labour ministry

THURSDAY FORMER employees of the Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA), who were recently dismissed, have taken their fight to the Ministry of Labour.

Former Senior Director in charge of Audit and Compliance, Miss Michelle Holness, along with Milton Reid were sent home late last month by the FLA CEO Shane Dalling. Their attorney, John Junor, says a dispute has been reported to the labour ministry.

Holness says that while the FLA management failed to respond to a letter demanding that the termination be reconsidered and the employees reinstated, he conciliates the meeting at the labour ministry is being scheduled for next week.

The former employees were dismissed amidst the probe by the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) into the granting of gun permits to persons of questionable character.

Public Accounts Committee rapped for absenteeism

DESPITE A plethora of reports submitted by the Auditor General’s Department to Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which has responsibility for reviewing such reports, has not had a sitting since November 1, 2016.

The committee, chaired by Opposition Leader Dr Peter Phillips, in his capacity as opposition spokesman on finance, has failed to carry out its duties as one of the most pivotal review committees of Parliament tasked with examining the reports of the Auditor General.

PM urges C'bean leaders to take climate change seriously

PRIME MINISTER Andrew Holness said climate change is real, presenting a clear and present danger to countries worldwide.

Expressing his concerns about development, he argued that the right balance must be found, so that infrastructural growth is not at the expense of the environment.

Addressing the challenges of the country’s sister islands that were recently devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria, Holness noted that in some cases tourism was the single industry, while in many cases a major industry in those islands.

He, however, cautioned, “This time they must factor in disaster resilience, recovery and adaptation in a systematic and institutional way. The world has been forced to acknowledge that there is urgent need for responsibility, adaptation and resilience as we recognise our changing realities. Climate change is real and it will disproportionately affect those of us who are least prepared to respond.”

The prime minister’s statements come in the wake of the appointment of the country’s tourism minister, Edmund Bartlett, as head of the task force that will lead the UNWTO Disaster Recovery Programme.

Upgrades for Sangster International Airport

MONTEGO BAY Jamaica (MBJ), which operates the Sangster International, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Authority of Jamaica (AAA) to expand and upgrade the existing runways.

The project, which falls under a major improvement plan for the facility, includes expansion and upgrading of the existing terminal building in addition to the provision of additional parking spaces to the western end of the facility.

Chief Executive Officer of Sangster International Airport, Dr Rafael Riviere, says the upgrading of the facility will help to position the airport as a key player in the economy, and will enable the airport to accommodate larger aircraft.

“We want to... create a new vision for the airport. Also, we want to come up with a new logo and a new image of the airport,” he added.
Body of Aunt V donated for medical research

THE FAMILY of Violet Moss Brown, on Saturday, September 30 said that her body will be donated to The University of the West Indies (UWI) for medical research. This was done in accordance with her wishes, the family said. Violet Moss Brown, or Aunt V as she was fondly called, died on September 15 at age 117. She was the oldest living person at the time of her death.

The family sources hoped that the medical students will benefit tremendously in their research and the study of life will enable them to possibly find out the reasons behind the longevity of Aunt V. Her son Sylvia Harrington Russell said that donating his mother’s body was one of her last wishes. “Her soul is gone to heaven, that’s what she said, and if we can find some cure from what is left of it, that is what she would like. So she was up to it 100 per cent,” Russell said.

Both Fray and Russell were among other family members who congregated at Glistening Waters Thursday evening for a private conference to be held at Trottonville Baptist Church. Moss Brown, born on March 10, 1900, became the world’s oldest person on April 15, 2017 and entered the Guinness Book of World Records when the Italian super-centenarian, Emma Morano, who was the previous world’s oldest person, died.

Moss Brown credited to eating good food and serving God. Her son, Harold Fairweather, who died earlier this year at age 97, also shared a coveted spot with his mother in the Guinness Book of World Records as he was the world’s oldest person with a living parent. Since becoming the world’s oldest person, Moss Brown became a celebrity in Daouvahie.

Jamaica Howard Alumni Association launched

DERICK SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK: Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, along with the President of Howard University, Dr. Wayne Frederick, hosted the launch of the Jamaica Howard University Alumni Association and Endowment Fund at a reception held at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington DC. The launch was attended by the Chairman of the Board of the University, Stacey Mobley, members of faculty along with students, current and incoming Jamaican students.

In her remarks, Ambassador Marks told the gathering that Jamaica and Howard University have had a long-standing relationship for more than 100 years. “Historically, Howard has been the university of choice for thousands of Jamaican nationals, many of whom have remained to work in the Washington metropolitan region. Those who returned to the island have done extremely well professionally,” she said.

Ambassador Marks stressed the need for greater support for Jamaican students at Howard, hence the announcement for plans to establish the Jamaica Howard Alumni Association. She added that key mandates of the association is to identify ways to give back to the institution, serve as mentors to current Jamaican students and assist students financially. Ambassador Marks called on past alumni and senior Partner at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Don Christian was selected to lead the Jamaica Howard Alumni Association and hopes other Caribbean countries will follow suit.

A Jamaican national, Howard University alumni and senior Partner at Price Waterhouse Cooper, Don Christian was selected to lead the committee that will spearhead the establishment of the Jamaica Howard Alumni Association.

Ja-born educator runs for City Council

AUBREY CAMPBELL
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK: Jamaica-born educator Rupert Green has announced his candidature for the City Council for District 27, in the Borough of Queens, City of New York.

The district includes the majority of St. Albans, parts of Hollis, Cambria Heights, Addisleigh Park, Jamaica, and Springfield Gardens among communities and townships that is home to a decidedly Afro-Caribbean population.

Green, a twenty-year veteran of the NYC Boy’s Club, will be contesting as a Republican. He is also a Weekly Gleaner that if all the Jamaicans and other Caribbean Americans support his candidacy, he would win.

Green said it is no secret that for many years, Blacks in District 27 (Southeastern Queens), have been voting Democrats into office, yet, it is hard to ignore the many failing schools that “graduate” too many of our children to prisons. From left Rupert Green, Danekel Miller

Add that, he said, to the well documented instances of illegal forclosures in the community, which many including his opponent, say, is excessive.

His opponent, November 15, 2017 election, is the incumbent, Danekel Miller. “I am seeking re-election to continue to advocate for you, to ensure their voices get heard and the policies that enhance the quality of life endure,” according to Miller’s manifest.

Councilman Miller is known to be an advocate on transit equity, housing, jobs, education and justice at all levels of government. Green, on the other hand, said that his vast knowledge of the inner workings of the BoE, makes him better equipped to tackle the vexing matter of the disproportionate failure of African, Caribbean, Latino, Black, and disadvantaged children, and the nepotism that continues to marginalise Black teachers and administrators.

Green migrated to the US 36-years ago. Miller, on the other hand has risen from the ranks. From a rookie bus driver to the becoming the president of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) - Local 1056.

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Both candidates are hoping for the best.
Jamaican Canadian philanthropist builds school in Malawi

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

A CHANCE meeting between Kamala Jean Gopie and a young man from Malawi in a marketplace in South Africa resulted in her building a school in his community.

In March 2016, she met Chimwe MMAusa, whose first name in the Chichewa language means ‘Happy’, 22, in a street market in Cape Town, South Africa. She told him to check his bank account. She subsequently saw pictures of his family and the cement and bricks showing her where they cleared the land. Gopie paid the first $3,500 out of her pocket for the school and asked him to be a teacher. He would be a qualified teacher after four years. He’ll be a teacher and come back.

The People Bridge Charitable Foundation is dedicated to reducing poverty in France and promoting good healthcare in communities around the world while also being responsive to emergencies wherever they may be.

That’s my legacy — that if you’re going to teach the children to speak English, you have to teach them in Chichewa and then maybe a little bit of English,” said Gopie.

Contributed photo

Kamala Jean Gopie, standing, with chiefs for the area, addressing parents and children at the opening of a school that she built in their community.

He told her that he was from Malawi, his father was dead, he had six siblings and he was working to try to take care of his family. Happy told her that they were very poor and that he had gone to a high school run by an NGO but hadn’t done well in grade 12. He really wanted to be a teacher. “And I think that was the clincher when I said I really want to be a teacher but I couldn’t,” says Gopie, a retired teacher.

Gopie recently returned from Malawi, Malawi where she opened a school on September 18 that she, with some help from her friends, had built for under CA$5,000 and it’s less than six weeks this school was starting at the college of education.

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A COMMUNITY meeting organised by Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) on legal services for Ontario’s Black communities drew many who are on either side of the organisation’s decision to shutter the African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLCC), effective September 30.

Field said that the people who work there do it because they want to be advocates for social justice.

He said LAO is not just a fundraising organisation, it is essentially up to all of you, “the community”, to enforce that is to withdraw the funding if nothing else works. And that’s where we’re left today, they’ve lost the funding,” said Falconer.

Falconer said she wanted to be transparent but also to engage people that have a reputation of fighting against Black racism, of speaking truth to power, respected credibility in the community.

“The folks that are on this advisory committee are lawyers, Roger Rowe and Aba Steven, professors Rinaldo Walcott and Ishidaili, Bande Bidi, one of the co-founders of Black Lives Matter Toronto. We also have Ms. Orlando, the first Black female member of the provincial parliament. She said to us that they are independent of LAO and are volunteers.

She noted that clinics are independent corporations and are accountable to their boards and their membership and so LAO can’t just dictate what happens in response to a question about timelines. Tuktu, who seventy-six legal clinics in Ontario.

Field said for the long term, LAO is committed to investing additional funding to improve access to justice for members of the Black community.

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Opposition leader names 19-member Shadow Cabinet

EDMOND CAMPBELL  Senior Staff Reporter

Leader of the Opposition Dr Peter Phillips has unveiled a sizeable 19 portfolio positions in a Shadow Cabinet that saw some shifts from the previous council of spokespersons.

In addition to the Shadow Cabinet, Phillips also named eight persons who will provide support in portfolios to which they have specific responsibility.

Making the announcement at the People’s National Party (PNP) headquarters on Old Hope Road in Kingston, Phillips said that the 19 portfolio areas were not an indication that a future PNP government would reflect the specific assignments.

He said that the Shadow Cabinet would carry out its constitutional role of providing checks and balances against governmental excess or departure from good governance.

The spokespersons, according to the opposition leader, will provide an effective opposition in Parliament while focusing on the priority areas being pursued by the party.

“They are all very competent people, as are the other members of the team in the House and the Senate,” he said.

JACKSON FOR SECURITY

The newly elected chairman of the PNP, Fitz Jackson, has been promoted to shadow the tough area of national security.

“I will not be politicising security. It’s a multifaceted area. It requires the buy-in of the society and specific stakeholders,” Jackson said, adding that the Opposition was willing and ready to sit with the Government to come up with strategies to significantly tackle the crime problem.

“We will not compromise the national security of the country for partisan considerations,” he said, adding that the Opposition was willing and ready to sit with the Government to come up with strategies to significantly tackle the crime problem.

“They are all very competent people, as are the other members of the team in the House and the Senate,” he said.

NEW PNP SHADOW CABINET

1. Peter Phillips – Leader of the Opposition
2. Mark Golding – Finance and Planning
3. Fitz Jackson – National Security
4. Peter Bunting – Industry, Investment, and Competitiveness
5. Philip Paulwell – Mining and Energy
6. Dr Penton Ferguson – Agriculture and Rural Development
7. Dr Wykeham McNeill – Tourism and Trade
8. Horace Dailey – Labour and Welfare
9. Lisa Hanna – Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
10. Julian Robinson – Science and Technology
12. Morais Guy – Housing
13. Ian Hayles – Water and Climate Change
15. Angela Brown-Burke – Local Government
16. Noel Arscott – Community Development and Social Transformation
17. Dr Dayton Campbell – Health
18. Damion Crawford – Youth and Culture
19. Donna Scott Motley – Justice

SUPPORT TEAM

In the Office of the Leader of the Opposition:

- Anthony Hylton – Development and National Physical Planning
- Natalie Neita – Sports, Information and Gender Affairs
- Sophia Fraser-Brinis – Land and Environment

In Finance and Planning:
- Lambert Brown – Public Service

In Agriculture and Rural Development:
- Victor Wright – Rural Development

In Labour and Welfare:
- Senator Floyd Morris – Welfare

FORMER ASSOCIATE VOGEL

A HIGH Court judge last week suggested that Yanika Scott, the former household helper to university lecturer Dr Peter Vogel, was the brains behind his murder.

It came as Justice Evon Brown dressed down Scott, 32, and her boyfriend, Kelvin Downer, 31, before sentencing them to prison for 25 years. They will be eligible for parole after serving 15 years.

“Here is a sensible crime, one that gives flesh to the saying, ‘Dog bite the hands that fed him,’” Brown said.

Before the sentence was imposed, Scott’s attorney, Jacqueline Asher, revealed that her client has earned seven subjects from the Caribbean Examinations Council since she was taken into custody by the police in 2012.

“She works in the institution [prison where she is being housed] to support her [10-year-old] child. That gives the court an indication of the mind of the person, despite the predicament in which she has found herself,” Asher said in her plea mitigation on Scott’s behalf.

However, while acknowledging her educational achievements, Brown cited the contents of a social enquiry report and a forensic psychiatric report prepared for Scott to bolster his assertion that she was the brains behind the attack on Dr Vogel.

According to Brown, the former live-in helper admitted to the doctor who examined her that she saw a man walk into the house behind his boyfriend on the night the lecturer was killed.

“I am not surprised you would say that because, and I mean no disrespect to Mr Downer, you was the one with the brains in the unit,” he said.

During her three-week trial, she gave an unworn statement, saying she and Downer were at the Vogel’s College Commons home, in St Andrew on the night of July 18, 2007, when some men entered the room and ordered her not to move.

‘MISS GOODY TWO SHOES’

In one breath, you look like ‘Miss Goody Two Shoes’, but from the social enquiry report and the people in the community from which you came, you are the person that led Mr Downer down the road to destruction,” Justice Brown blasted.

Downer’s attorney, Diane Jobson, in her mitigation plea, told the court that her client was “sorry for the victim”, but maintains his innocence.

“All the reports show that he was a person of good character and could not be considered a threat to society,” Jobson argued.

But Brown appeared unmoved. “I see Mr Downer is still running with this same cock and bull story about three men entering the house,” he said, pointing to the contents of the psychiatric report prepared for Downer.

Prosecutors Maxine Jackson and Kelly-Ann Francis led evidence during the trial that Vogel’s body was found inside the study room at his home by his then six-year-old son, Daniel.

Vogel, a Swiss national, was found with his hands tied behind his back, his feet bound at the ankles, and a piece of cloth tied around his mouth. Forensic pathologist Dr S.N. Prasad Kadiyala testified that he was strangled.
Gov’t pledges US$100,000 each to hurricane ravaged islands

EDMOND CAMPBELL Staff Reporter

The Jamaica Government has spent more than J$60 million to airlift 200 Jamaicans living in Eastern Caribbean countries back home in the wake of the devastation caused by the islands by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

However, there are several Jamaicans who have remained in some of the hurricane-stricken islands assisting in the rebuilding efforts.

In a statement to the House of Representatives last week, Prime Minister Andrew Holness thanked the private sector and individual Jamaicans who have provided invaluable assistance to the countries impacted.

“I must place on record the Government’s deep gratitude for their generosity,” he noted.

At the same time, the Holness administration has pledged to donate US$100,000 each to the redevelopment funds for Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica.

In terms of other assistance being provided by Jamaica, the country has deployed a Rapid Needs Assessment Team comprising 128 members of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and other agencies and responders to the Turks and Caicos Islands following the destruction caused by Irma.

Holness reported that members of the team deployed as part of the CARICOM Disaster Response Unit, to provide immediate relief in Tortola, which forms part of the British Virgin Islands.

More help for Dominica

The prime minister said in a conversation with his Dominican counterpart Roosevelt Skerrit, at the weekend, the Dominican leader formally requested assistance from Jamaica.

“In keeping with our commitment to Dominica, I authorise the JDF to organise its 120-man strong Disaster Assistance Response Team which is being deployed in three phases between today (yesterday) and tomorrow (today). He said the team would be assisting the country with security and distribution of relief supplies, basic engineering work with light tools and equipment, inclusive of debris removal and construction of improvised shelters, logistics management, conducting damage assessments; and recovery planning,” he said.

Holness said the Government would also be supporting Dominica with a four-man technical and advisory support team led by Colonel Jamie OQOdivie, as they seek to restore the integrity of their national security systems.

No sanctions for errant cops from JCF – INDECOM

COMMISSIONER OF the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) Terrence Williams says responses are slowly coming in from the hierarchy of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Police Service Commission a day after he informed Parliament that the leadership has failed to take action against 138 senior cops recommended for disciplinary actions.

“We have received some letters updating us. Some of the letters are saying that they are going to conduct further investigations. Some are saying that too much time has passed and they are not going to take any further action or disciplinary proceedings, and some are saying that they agree with us,” said Williams, during a press conference at INDECOM’s New Kingston offices.

“But the troubling issue for us is that it is seven years since INDECOM has been around and there has not been a single disciplinary proceeding following a recommendation, and that is amazing.”

Williams said that while the law allows for the constabulary to explain to Parliament why no sanction has been undertaken, no explanation has been tendered.

INDECOM, in its April to June quarterly report, which was tabled in Parliament, said that the commission has submitted 97 cases involving 138 officers to the police force and that an investigation revealed that none of the officers listed have been sanctioned.

Time too short for social intervention in ZOSOs, say stakeholders

JASON CROSS Gleaner Writer

STRESSING THAT there is no quick fix for a long history of bad behaviour, civil society stakeholders are adamant that the 60-day timeframe set out for the implementation of social intervention programmes within the zones of special operations (ZOSOs) is not enough to bear much fruit.

In fact, representatives from RISE Life Management Services and Eve for Life practically scoffed at not only the impossibility of such a plan, but at the social support and capacity building being proposed under the ZOSOs.

During a Gleaner Editors’ Forum at the media house’s Kingston office last week, Shawn McGregor, programme manager at RISE Life Management Services, and Eve for Life’s executive director Sonita Abrahams backed up Crawford’s point, adding, “When they (the Government) wants to do something, whatever it is, they find the resources. So the resources can be found.”

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

Terrence Williams (left), Commissioner of Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM), and Emmanuel Campbell, assistant commissioner at a press conference at INDECOM’s New Kingston office.
Invest NIR in gold bars

THE EDITOR, Sir,

THIS is an open letter to the finance minister of Jamaica, Audley Shaw, and the Bank of Jamaica.

It is so pleasing to know that at last check, our net international reserves (NIR) are at record levels. This is such an achievement to be proud of as a nation.

But as a hedge against the country’s economic instability, I wonder if the minister has ever considered Jamaica investing in gold bars. Rich nations have invested in such commodities and are able to withstand the harsh economic uncertainties over time. I strongly urge Jamaica to look into buying gold bars from our increasing NIR.

With gold prices at low levels in years hovering around US$1,550 per troy ounce, I can only see it rising beyond our expectations within the coming years to come. This can only be a win-win situation.

WESLEY THOMAS

Account to OCG, PM

THE EDITOR, Sir,

ON SEPTEMBER 25, I listened to the unedited recording of Prime Minister Andrew Holness’ response to the political ombudsman’s concern for the timing around the pending $600m roadworks in St Mary South East. Initially, I got the impression that The Gleaner headline ‘Not you, Madam! I am answerable to the contractor general’ was directly quoting the PM. That was, fortunately, not the case.

The PM’s actual reply was that the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) and the National Contracts Commission (NCC) are the agencies with constituted authority to oversee the integrity of the contracting processes and, ‘I respond to them in matters of rules of comprehension, however, indicate that the PM is nonetheless saying I am under no obligation to respond to the political ombudsman in this matter.’

The Ombudsman’s requirement was especially apt at this time given the imminence of three by-elections including one for the constituency of South East St Mary.

Reflecting on what it said was Prime Minister Holness’ attempt at scolding Donna Parchment Brown for her presumed meddling in matters in which he believes she has no place. This reminds us that there is unfinished business to enhance political transparency and limit the ability of special interests to install the best democracy their money can buy.

The newspaper, however, believed that an expansive interpretation of Mrs Parchment Brown’s mandate, rightfully provides the remit for her to comment on matters such as the St Mary issue, even if the formal law hasn’t yet caught up with the exigencies of the time.

TUESDAY

Revising the PNPs’ chairmanship

THE EDITORIAL looked at the stepping-down of office from chairman of the PNPs Robert Pickersgill after 25 years and said there was not the sense that authority resided with the chairman, that it was an ISO-15000 command from which ideas were generated, or that it, in its right, either encouraged or facilitated debate.

Of course, an office usually resembles the character, personality, intellect and/or ambition of the person who holds it. In that regard, there are possibilities for a deeper and wider de jure and de facto interpretation of the post than Mr Pickersgill cared to imagine or dared to exercise.

The editorial said new chairman Fitz Jackson, has declared no intention for the top job, but perseverance there is such an ambition, he has a pulpit from which to establish his bona fides without it being a vulgar mission of self-assertion. For in that post, he can help the leader, if that is the NPM’s remit, articulate a vision of renewal and of the big ideas that Jamaicans want to hear and embrace.

WEDNESDAY

Mr Morgan and biting dogs

The editorial reviewed the issue between The Gleaner and the treatment of the story about Prime Minister stating that resources for work to the Castleton main road in St Mary would not be used in a partisan way in the constituency which has a by-election pending, arising from the death of PNMP Member of Parliament Dr Green. The political Ombudsman had raised the concern about the need for no partisanship in the use of public resources in the road work which had prompted a question at the Prime Minister’s press briefing.

In replying, the Prime Minister had said that according to the constitution, he answered to the Contractor General and the Contracts Commission questions of this nature while giving the assurance that policies would not be involved in the roadwork.

THE OPINIONS ON THIS PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANER.

Summary – October 5-11

MONDAY

Accelerate election finance regime

THE EDITORIAL said its time for the Electoral Commission of Jamaica to begin to reinforce the registration of political parties and the obligations that go with this including the publication of their financial returns and the reporting of campaign contributions. The latter requirement was especially apt at this time given the imminence of three by-elections including one for the constituency of South East St Mary.

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Turning A Corner On Crime?

THE EDITOR, Sir,

HAVE WE done it? Have we finally convinced ourselves that Jamaica’s crime problem can only be solved by us Jamaicans? Have we now realised that crime fighting is a collective effort, ‘everybody ting’?

Perhaps we’ve grown weary of seeing our fellow Jamaicans suffer with no end in sight.

And the bonus? Mr Holness, that it was a position from which ideas were generated, or that it, in its right, either encouraged or facilitated debate.

That is the NPM’s remit, articulate a vision of renewal and of the big ideas that Jamaicans want to hear and embrace.

Antonio Rochester

rochester.a@hotmail.com

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Montegonians Nadine Willock (left) and Sharon Fray stun in different shades of red at the gala.

On their first overseas performance as ‘Package’, are (from left): Gem Myers, Karen Smith and Patricia Edwards, who took the audience down memory lane, delivering a scintillating performance at the Cornwall College Alumni Association Canadian chapter’s 40th anniversary gala at the Markham Convention Centre in Toronto on Saturday, September 30.

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

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New tech park touted as Cbean’s largest

Jamaica tops region for competitiveness – report

A sign is displayed in Kingston advertising the capital city at 145 years old. The new competitiveness report for 2017/18 released this week shows Jamaica improving for a sixth straight year in the global rankings.

JAMAICA NOW ranks as the most competitive island in the Caribbean following its improved ranking in the Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18 released last week. Switzerland, United States, Singapore, The Netherlands and Germany are the most competitive countries in the world. Jamaica improved five spots from 76 to 70, according to the report published by the World Economic Forum, due to improved access to health and primary school education as well as improved financial markets and labour efficiency.

It’s the sixth straight year of improvement for Jamaica.

The five most problematic factors for doing business in Jamaica were listed as crime and theft, followed by taxes, corruption, access to financing, inefficient government bureaucracy and poor work ethic among the national labour force.

The theme of this year’s report compares advancements in competitiveness 10 years after the global financial crisis.

The report measures 12 criteria. Jamaica’s lowest subranking was in the category of small market size at 116. Its macroeconomic performance was also low at 111, while it larded at 90 in the area of higher education and training.

In the overall standings, Barbados, which stood at 92 in the previous report, was not included in this year’s rankings.

Consequently, Jamaica ranked as the highest in the Caribbean country at 50, Trinidad & Tobago at 83, Dominican Republic at 104, and Haiti at 128. Jamaica’s performance has vacillated over a 10-year span of competitiveness reports.

Specifically, it ranked 67 in the world in 2006-07 and continuously nosedived to 107 among 142 countries in the 2011-12 report. The following year, it broke the streak to weigh in at 97 and has continuously improved since then, largely coinciding with periods in which the country has been working with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reform the economy.

The report includes the following key findings:

- Jamaica overcame the global financial crisis and reported growth in the period from 2010 to 2015.
- The government has been implementing policies to improve the business environment.
- The country has improved its rankings in areas such as innovation, infrastructure, and labour market flexibility.

New tech park touted as Cbean’s largest

JAMAICA NOW tops the region for competitiveness. A new tech park project, developed by Musson Jamaica, is expected to generate 5,000 to 7,500 jobs in the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector. The Musson conglomerate, led by Paul ‘PB’ Scott, will use some of its unoccupied space for its telecoms business, Transaction E-Pins Limited, which operates the electronic mobile phone top-up credit in Jamaica, selling airtime for both Digicel and Flow.

The Musson complex, is expected to generate 5,000 to 7,500 jobs in the BPO sector, while making the profitability of the businesses, said Chairman of Stanley Motta Melanie Subratie. The group, noted that development as the largest BPO facility in the Kingdom. It will be managed by an American company called Alorica, which oversees 36 call centre operations globally.

The complex, which is being developed through subsidiary company Stanley Motta Limited, and branded 58 HWT, is now in its second phase, comprising a four-storey building of 120,000 square feet. Overall, the entire complex is expected to generate 5,000 to 7,500 jobs in the business process outsourcing, or BPO, sector.

The complex is being developed through a collaboration of Victoria Mutual Pensions Management and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica. It has taken place against a backdrop of partnerships and support from many stakeholders, said Scott.

The complex is meant to complement existing offices, restaurants, doctors’ offices, insurance and daycare-spaces in the area. This investment demonstrates the commitment of the Musson Group to development and growth of Jamaica. It has taken place against the backdrop of partnerships and support from many stakeholders,” said Scott.

The full project is expected to be completed in June 2018. Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who was present for the unveiling, highlighted the new job to be created and the continuing contribution of the BPO sector to the economy.

Holness said that in the space of a year, the jobs in the BPO sector grew from 18,000 to 22,000 and will grow to roughly 25,000 by February 2018, with the continued roll-out of space in the 58 HWT complex.

Dependency rate projected to double by 2050

AVIA COLLINDER

COURTNEY CAMPBELL, group president and CRO, Victoria Mutual Group indicates that with increasing life expectancy, the reliance of older Jamaicans on those in the workforce – referred to as the dependency rate – is projected to double by 2050.

Speaking at the 10th annual pensions seminar, a collaboration of Victoria Mutual Pensions Management and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Campbell said the development highlights the challenges regarding adequate preparation for retirement for the Jamaican population.

“It goes without saying, that added years means pensions systems will now begin to pay way above what is originally planned and for longer periods even if there is an increase in the standard age for retirement,” he said at the event on Thursday.

In Jamaica, only 10 per cent of the working population contributes to private pension schemes that are valued in sum at more than $470 billion.

Audrey Deer Williams, senior director of investments at the National Insurance Fund, the NIP, who also spoke at the seminar, said only 46 per cent of the Jamaican workforce was contributing to the state-operated National Insurance Scheme, which pays out benefits after age 65.

But, even among the 46 per cent, there are many who only qualify for half-pensions because they do not meet the minimum 39 weeks of contributions required to receive full benefits, she said.

There are currently 110,000 Jamaicans receiving pensions from the scheme. NIF manages and invests the funds, she said. There are currently 110,000 Jamaicans receiving pensions from the scheme. NIF manages and invests the contributions to the public pension scheme.

Campbell pointed to a white paper by the World Economic Forum titled We’ll Live to 100 How Can We Afford It? which states that the life expectancy of babies born in 2016 will be 93 years for males and 96 years for females.

He added that worldwide, “there has not been any significant movement in this area.”

LOW SAVINGS RATE

In Jamaica, he added, the challenge is compounded by a low savings rate which was estimated at 10 per cent of GDP in 2015, according to World Bank data. Additionally, only 92 per cent of Jamaicans 15 years and older are saving for old age.

Campbell stated that low levels of financial literacy were also impacting pensions system, “as it takes a good understanding of financial concepts to assist persons to make key decisions relating to pensions and their retirement savings.”

Deer Williams, who oversees the largest pool of pension funds in Jamaica, last valued at $340 billion, said that currently, pension schemes in the public sector are largely non-contributory, with an attendant cost to the Government.

And even though reforms are being pursued, said the pension fund manager who is also chief technical director at the Ministry of Labour & Social Security, the wider population should be more concerned about their pensions.

The 46 per cent rate of contribution for the NIB was inordinately low, she said, noting that the main causes were lack of compliance on both the part of employers and employees, as well as the “refusal of persons in the informal sector to come on board.”
Finance minister decries panic in local foreign exchange market

NEVILLE GRAHAM
Business Reporter

Shaw is calling for a halt to recent speculative pressures on the Jamaican dollar. He says the recent gyrations in the value of the currency are prejudicial, especially in light of availability. He says there is need for sunset recent increased demand.

“The foreign exchange market needs to settle down. We need to stop speculating. We need to pay prevailing. There is no shortage of foreign exchange in the system,” Shaw said as he addressed the breakfast launch of the programme, Promoting Financial Inclusion and Technological Awareness at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston this morning.

The weighted average rate of the Jamaican dollar closed at $190.52 to the US dollar in trading on Monday, which was better than the $190.91 close last Friday, and $191.61 at the close of trading on September 14, 2017. Shaw says that despite recent movements the exchange rate of the Jamaican dollar vis-a-vis the US currency has settled down. He says Bank of Jamaica Governor Brian Wynter and the central bank are putting in place an orderly process of ensuring that information flows throughout the system of demand for foreign exchange.

The Finance Minister stopped short of saying what will be done about the speculative pressure, but says Jamaican dollar depreciation helps no one. “I am calling on every Jamaican and every businessman and every banker to stop it. Stop it!”

JMMB invites Jamaicans to switch banks, promises ‘nuisance fees’

Shaw has put Jamaica on a path to having single digit interest rates for the provident sector, noting that he is supporting the call from Jamaica’s Association president Metry Seaga for interest rates that are in the region of five per cent. He said there was no reason for banks to continue to exact high interest rates since the international bond market has signalled its appreciation that Jamaica’s sovereign debt is at investment grade rather than the near junk bond status of a few years ago.

“One of the things that will have to ensure as we move to a more formal economy is to create greater access to single-digit interest rates,” the Minister said. “That is a major part of the financial inclusion strategy that we must have. So the more formal you get, the greater will be the access to cheaper money,” Shaw said.

Shaw also said that the Ministry has put Jamaica on a path to having single digit interest rates for the provident sector, noting that he is supporting the call from Jamaica’s Association president Metry Seaga for interest rates that are in the region of five per cent. He said there was no reason for banks to continue to exact high interest rates since the international bond market has signalled its appreciation that Jamaica’s sovereign debt is at investment grade rather than the near junk bond status of a few years ago.

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See NOTICE, HARRY ANTHEL, Editor, whose last known address was New York, USA or anyone knowing his whereabouts, please contact the ADMINISTRATION GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT, 12 Ocean Boulevard, Kingston, Jamaica Tel. (876) 922-1830 or (876) 922-0705 within six weeks of this advertisement.
Kedar Waterman's wows with his nature inspired creations

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

TWO YEARS ago, Kedar Waterman, founder of ANU, The Way of Shea natural products online store was about to give up, when his business took a mysterious upsurge in sales.

"ANU means first creation and it is also the middle name of my first born, my first creation," says the father of two. He created his own line, 10 years ago, in 2007, after attending a conference at the American Shea Butter Institute in Atlanta, Georgia and becoming a certified Shea Butter technician and specialist.

"Shea butter is the vegetable oil that is extracted from the seeds of the Shea trees, indigenous to the African continent," said Waterman.

The Institute created a classification system that can be used "to compare or differentiate one batch of Shea butter from another based on a set of strict guidelines." This was a result of a failure in the late 1990’s to buy products with a consistent and equally effective grade of the healing shea.

After years of struggling, selling his natural soap, cream and lip balm out of his carry bag at the various festivals in Toronto and having a kiosk at a mall that failed, "it was a good experience, but it was a mistake, in that, it was a discount mall, so I had to sell my products cheap," says Waterman, and having to take on side jobs as a musician to support himself financially, he told The Weekly Gleaner that after his brother offered to create a new website for him, for free (Waterman had three websites before with no success), he started to get a flood of online orders. "I had no idea where all the people were coming from," says Waterman. So he asked a client - this one was from California - and she told him, she heard about his ANU Premium Shea Butter from YouTube, "Natural Neiicey."

It was two years ago that, at the prompt of this same brother, Waterman gave Natural Neiicey one of his products at Afro-Fest. He had three products being sold online then, but will be adding five more, some of which will include an essential oil blend for diffusers, a black soap with lemongrass and charcoal and a vanilla chai lip balm. These turn of events, "gave me a fuel to say, you know what, I'm not going to quit," says Waterman who recently hired a marketing specialist. And he admits that he tried to quit many times. His parents are from Trinidad. He was born in Calgary and grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. "It was terrible," says Waterman. It was cold and they were the only Black children in their school, "persecution was a regular thing for me," he says, having a positive attitude coupled with technology and social media is important to becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Ninety percent of Waterman’s online market is from the United States. In Canada, most of his sales are in person. This is because shipping costs within Canada are more than the cost of his products. So for now, it just makes more business sense for him to meet them somewhere or they come to his house to pick up the products.

In the future, Waterman is thinking about owning a line of stores, i.e., the Body Shop or direct marketing, "The reason for that is that type of business is residual income," he says. Until then he will continue with his online direct sales business.

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A ONE-NIGHT-ONLY reggae concert celebrating the 40th anniversary of Bob Marley’s legendary Exodus album is set to take place at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles, California, on November 1.

In 1999, Time magazine named Exodus the best album of the 20th century. Its 10 songs are Natural Mystic, So Much Things to Say, Guiltiness, The Heathen, Three Little Birds, Exodus, Jamming, Waiting in Vain, Turn Your Lights Down Low and One Love. The concert is already racking up a stellar line-up. According to an article on Grammy.com, along with the late reggae icon’s sons Ziggy and Stephen, Jim James, Tom Morello, Gary Clark Jr, Aloe Blacc, Cyril Neville and Citizen Cope have been booked for the event.

The Exodus 40 live concert follows Ziggy Marley’s ‘restatement’ reissue of his father’s LP, dubbed Exodus 40: The Movement Continues. That compilation featured lead vocal out-takes, ad-libs and more from Marley and the Wailers’ Exodus recording sessions. It was released on June 3.

BRINGING THE EVENT TOGETHER

Music director Don Was has been working on bringing the event together. “After listening to Ziggy’s restatement of Exodus 40: The Movement Continues, the album struck me as something so powerful and rarely seen live in its entirety,” said the internationally acclaimed Was. “I am thrilled to be a part of this show with Ziggy and Stephen and perform these songs for the fans.”

Ziggy’s We Are The People Tour live album includes several tracks from Exodus, in addition to his own songs. More artists are to be announced as soon as they are confirmed for the event. Tickets were made available via Ticketmaster on Friday, September 29.

Exodus was recorded in London, England, when Marley left Jamaica after the shooting at his 56 Hope Road, St Andrew home in December 1976, ahead of the Smile Jamaica concert.

Contributed
Ziggy Marley

Atlanta reggae concert to mark Exodus 40th

Jamaica Tourist Board stages pop up shop in SoHo, NY

SHARON GORDON
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK
The Jamaica Tourist Board staged a Pop Up Shop from September 21 to September 24 the SoHo district of Manhattan. This initiative was an effort to grow the numbers of visitors from the New York area to the island. During the first six months of 2017, Jamaica received approximately 120,000 visitors from New York.

The four day campaign was an invitation to New Yorkers to come experience the “sights, sounds and tastes” of Jamaica via a multi media presentation at the “Feel The Vibe Pop Up Shop.”

The space at 393 Broadway was transformed and decorated with palm trees, faux fauna and flora on the walls and the ceiling, which reflected Jamaica’s lush vegetation.

There was a beach area complete with sand, a hammock and wooden planks and structures to reflect the scenery and vibe of being in Jamaica along with mounted artwork and wood carvings.

Golden Krust patties and Jerk Chicken were served, the lunch time cooking demonstrations from the Grace Chefs, folks drank and enjoyed Grace Coconut water and other juices as well Red Stripe Beer, Deejays from Irie Jam Radio 93.5 FM provided the music.

Donnie Dawson, interim director of tourism in a statement said: “We hope that at this interactive experience, New Yorkers can get a taste of what Jamaica has to offer through its food, music, style and beauty.”

Glenroy March, from House of D’Marsh featured his Fall line. Folks were also talking about his personal care and cosmetics line as well as his organic candles made from soybean and his bow tie collection.

Contributed
Fashion Designer, Glenroy D’Marsh (in black shirt) with Gail Moaney, (to his right) of Finn Partners, and some of the models at the JTB Feel The Vibe Pop Up Shop in New York City.
**Sagicor to build 800-room hotel**

**Huntley Medley**

**Gleaner Writer**

Sagicor Group Jamaica is increasing its footprint in the hospitality industry with plans on the drawing board for another investment of approximately US$200 million to build a hotel with about 800 rooms on lands at Rose Hall in Montego Bay, which would be the largest hotel to be developed by a local company.

The project is being spearheaded by Sagicor Real Estate X Fund Limited, the property acquisition and development vehicle for the financial conglomerate.

The hotel site spanning 26 acres is next to the Hilton Rose Hall & Spa, which is also owned by Sagicor X Fund, but the new resort is expected to fly the flag of the company’s hotel brand, Jewel.

“We are going to build a new hotel on the land,” Sagicor Real Estate X Fund chief executive officer Rohan Miller confirmed.

It will be larger than the Hilton property, which itself is less than 500 rooms, as well as the other locally based hotels in Sagicor’s portfolio. For now, Sagicor’s largest hotel property is located outside Jamaica the 742-room Hilton DoubleTree in Orlando, Florida, acquired two years ago but the current project would eclipse it, assuming the room count remains.

There are larger resorts in Jamaica, but those have been developed by foreign investors, notably the Spanish hotel groups.

With some land preparation work and boundary wall construction having started there some months ago, the expectation was that the property would have been utilised for an expansion of the Hilton Rose Hall resort.

However, while not being definitive – reflecting fluidity in the boardroom talks still taking place – Miller said it was “likely” the property would bear the Jewel brand.

This would bring to five the number of Sagicor’s Jewel-branded resorts, adding to the company’s hotel brand, as Jewel Grande.

Miller said the company is investing US$200 million in the new project, but did not disclose a construction schedule, noting that discussions were ongoing within Sagicor on several aspects of the project with some decisions yet to be made.

However, Miller who spoke on the margins of the opening of the Jewel Grande Montego Bay on Sunday night said they already have the necessary building approvals.

The project, new Rose Hall investment, together with the Jewel Grande expenditure, will push Sagicor’s total investment in hotels to just under US$700 million based on the US$403 million that Sagicor Jamaica Group and X Fund chairman Richard Bylles reported last year as having been invested in hotel properties to that point.

Keeping the listed Sagicor X Fund cash rich is something that occupies the minds of its managers.

Quizzed on how the insurance and banking conglomerate ensures that there is money at the ready to finance its hotel projects, Miller they have been selling off bits of the plan and put the property up for sale last year.

Meantime, the real estate investment trust is chasing other property deals.

“We are always looking for deals and it is possible that we could close another deal before the year is out,” Richards said without disclosing the targeted geographic location or financial details of the pending transactions.

Kingston Properties’ total assets are estimated at US$2.6 billion. The US-based properties account for 54 per cent of its portfolio mix, Jamaica 32 per cent, and Cayman 14 per cent.
HPV vaccination programme for schoolgirls

A NATIONAL HPV vaccination programme estimated to cost $100 million targeting young girls will be rolled out next month by the Ministry of Health. The programme is designed to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer which claims almost 200 lives annually. Health officials will be visiting schools to vaccinate the girls against the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is commonly spread through sexual contact. While it will not be mandatory at this time, parents have been advised that it is in the best interest of their daughters to be vaccinated.

Teachers receive summer skill training programme

THREE HUNDRED teachers recently benefited from a summer skills training programme, valued at J$200.5 million, aimed at exposing them to international best practices and standards. The training was carried out in 14 skill areas for HEART Trust/NTA instructors and secondary-school teachers. The objective was to provide Jamaican workers, trainers and educators with the opportunity to advance and upgrade their skills through professional development programme licences locally and internationally. In order to adequately prepare students and meet the labour market required skill set as identified by the labour market research.

They received varying levels of International Culinary and International Culinary Certification from Liaison College in Canada and Hocking College in the United States.

National registry for senior citizens

THE MINISTRY of Labour and Social Security is developing a National Registry for elderly citizens. Speaking at the launch of Senior Citizens’ Week 2017 on September 21 the Social Security minister, Shashine Robinson, said the registry, which falls under the National Policy for Senior Citizens, aims to capture data on the older members of society.

The National Policy for Senior Citizens is also being revised and is to be submitted to Cabinet for review shortly, she said.

Government upgrading juvenile institutions' sporting facilities

THE MINISTRY of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and the Ministry of National Security are to develop and upgrade sporting facilities in the island’s juvenile institutions. Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange disclosed during the ‘We Transform’ Competition and Exposition for juvenile offenders, at the Girl Guides Association of Jamaica headquarters in Kingston, on September 27.

Commenting Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, Senator Pernel Charles Jr., said the initiative is ensuring that young people are given a second chance at becoming productive members of society, and thanked Minister Grange for partnering with the National Security Ministry.

ACROSS JAMAICA

ST CATHERINE

Government to stand surety for student loan applicants

The Government will stand surety for tertiary-level students having difficulty identifying a guarantor for a loan from the Student Loan Bureau (SLB), under the condition that they are enrolled at a teacher-training institution and are willing to be bonded for five years. This was disclosed recently by Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator Ruel Reid, while speaking at a reception in honour of G.C. Foster College athletes at the institution in St Catherine.

ST MARY

Fire-fighters to get ambulance

THE MINISTRIES of local government and community development and health have partnered to provide the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) with ambulances to boost firefighters’ capabilities to assist persons sustaining injuries in motor vehicle accidents and other mishaps.

Minister of local Government Desmond McKenzie made the announcement recently at a ceremony to present the Hanover Municipal Corporation with an ambulance.

Several St Mary students receive scholarships

THE SYDNEY A. Phillips Scholarship Trust Fund (SAPSTF) continues to provide scholarships for deserving students of the parish. The latest recipients have brought the total to 57 in the 23 years of existence of the fund and the payout of funds in excess of JS$12,000,000.

The SAPSTF was established in 1994, and since its inception, Jamaica Producers Group - a prominent supporter of the fund, has raised the total to 57. The latest recipients have been major donors along with members of the Phillips family, past scholarship recipients, other kind donors.

The SAPSTF was established by the family of the late Sydney A. Phillips, a prominent lawyer and co-founder of the Robinson, Phillips & Whitehorn law firm in St Mary.

TRELAWNY

Work begins on Falmouth craft market

WORK HAS started on a J$40 million craft market for vendors of Falmouth. The hope is that the market will be finished by the start of the winter tourist season which begins in mid December according to Mervis Edghill, an official of the Port Authority of Jamaica which is building the market.

The news about the stalls has recently benefited from a summer skill programme licenced by the Ministry of Education's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) division that they are enrolled at a teacher-training institution and are willing to be bonded for five years. This was disclosed recently by Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator Ruel Reid, while speaking at a reception in honour of G.C. Foster College athletes at the institution in St Catherine.

Students at the St Mary Technical High School demonstrate an experiment to the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology Dr Andrew Wheatley, and Mayor of Port Maria and Councillor Richard Creary during the opening of the new chemistry lab last week Wednesday.
Miss Ja World organisers defend pageant’s production quality

FOLLOWING a five-year hiatus from hosting duties for the Miss Jamaica World pageant, Spartan Health Club was once again spearheading the local beauty pageant for 2017. The year has not been short of controversy for the organisers, with last month being one of their hardest periods in the local media, especially with the ejection of Shanique Williams, one of the original finalists in the top 16.

Then the night all had been waiting for rolled around, and the competition was once again at the forefront of heavy criticism, this time as a result of what many viewers expressed was a poorly organised show.

The pageant was broadcast to the general public via live streaming on YouTube on Saturday, September 23 and the comments section was overflowing with messages pointing out all that was wrong with the production aspect of the show. Viewers expressed concern with everything from the quality of the ladies in the year’s competition to the hosts selected for the final night.

However, Pageant Director of Miss Jamaica World 2017, Kevin King said much planning went into the overall project. “I have actually received a lot of positive feedback from those who would have been directly involved in it to say that they loved it. A lot of people see it, and because it looks so glamorous on the outside, they don’t understand how much work goes on behind the scenes,” she said. “The contest coordinator, Alone is, a lot of work and then the planning of the actual event is another job in itself. Mr James, who is the franchise holder, had a whole team in itself that did the event, and I know how much work they put in to make it happen. We had script writers and producers. everyone had a job to execute and they did just that.”

**WILL GET STRONGER**

King pointed out that having taken over the reins of the pageant again after five years, she knows that her team did their best and can only get stronger in the years to come.

“This is the first time in five years that Spartan has been in charge of the production of this show, and the quality has improved. There were no hiccup, no gitches. Everything ran smoothly,” she said. “There was one time I think we had an issue when Yendi announced a video and it never played at that particular time. That was a minor issue because we had for the entire night. This was the first time we (Spartan) were doing a live stream, and we had a few hiccup as is expected with technology. We started about 15 minutes late, so it wasn’t like a big delay or anything.”

She also defended the pageant’s choice, one of the us she said that the chemistry between former Miss Jamaica World Yendi Phillipps and social media personality Quiet Perry was the perfect blend of class and “down-to-earthiness” that the pageant needed.

“We were trying to bring some vibrancy and youth to the pageant, and we thought it would have been the perfect balance and believed it worked. Yendi has the poise, the elegance and the vibe and kind of just brought things down to Earth. We liked the combination and we think it worked well on stage.”

Spartan Health Club’s Morris was once again spearheading the local pageant, Spartan Health Club was once again spearheading the local beauty pageant for 2017.

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

**UNITED STATES**

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington, my daughter is a British citizen living in Jamaica. She has finished high school and wishes to now study in the USA, with the intention of living there. What are the requirements for her to relocate to study in the USA? She currently travels to the USA on an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). Would a student visa now apply? As a British citizen, can she apply for citizenship for herself?

P.R.

As a British citizen, your daughter is eligible to travel to the United States on a visa waiver i.e., she does not require a visa to travel to America. Entering the United States on a visa waiver via the ESTA allows a person to enter as a visitor for up to 90 days. Some persons, because of administrative issues, e.g., previous denial of entry, nevertheless have to apply for a visa. Likewise, if you plan on remaining in America for longer than 90 days you would need a visa. As your daughter intends to travel to the United States to study, she would require a student visa. She would need to first be accepted into a US college or university and then apply for a student visa. In that application, she needs to demonstrate, amongst other things, to return home upon the completion of her studies and that she has the required funds for payment of her school fees, books, and room and board.

A British citizen cannot self-petition for US residency. They would need to be sponsored by a relative or an employer in order to permanently reside in America.

**Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington**

is a Jamaican-American attorney who practices immigration law in the United States, and specialises in family, criminal, international, and personal injury law in Florida. She is a mediator, arbitrator, and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida.

Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

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**PICA CORNER**

**Requesting passport urgently from overseas**

**Q.** I live in Canada, my passport has expired, and I would like to apply for a new passport; however, I have already made reservations to travel to Jamaica later this year. I contacted the consulate in Toronto, and was told that the renewal process would take 4-6 weeks, and they do not offer expedited processing. My question is, can my mother, who lives in Jamaica, process my application there and have it expedited so I can have it in time to travel in October? I anticipate your response.

**A.** For Jamaicans living overseas applications are facilitated through the Jamaican Consulate, High Commission and Embassies for onward conveyance. As such your mother will not be allowed to process an application for you in Jamaica while you are in Toronto. In fact, it is not permitted for persons in Jamaica to apply for a passport on behalf of someone living overseas. Also, Jamaicans living overseas are not permitted to send their passports to Jamaica for someone to renew on their behalf. The turnaround time for the renewal of a passport in Jamaica is indeed 20 working days, depending on however you may need to factor an additional 2 weeks, depending on whether you are applying from overseas. Remember to have the following documents ready and then contact the nearest Jamaican Consulate/Mission for the necessary fees and procedures to be followed in submitting your passport application:

- **Current Passport**
- **Birth Certificate/Adoption Certificate or Jamaican Citizenship Certificate**
- **Two (2) identical Photographs (NB: only one photograph must be certified by the same certifying official who certified the application)**
- **Proof of name change if name has been changed (Marriage Certificate, Deed poll, Divorce Decree, Court Order)**
- **Additional documents**

We currently do not offer expedited passport service to overseas clients; however, arrangements can be made for you to apply for your passport while in Toronto and collect it when you travel to Jamaica. If you wish to pick up your passport in Jamaica, please indicate this when you submit your application to the PICA office in Toronto. The PICA office will hold your passport for you at their office instead of dispatching same to the consulate. Please note that you may travel on your expired passport to Jamaica, however, you must consult the airline to determine whether they will facilitate before doing so. Alternatively, visit our consulate, embassy etc. to obtain an emergency travel document.

Additionally, you must collect the renewed passport in order to leave the island.

**Obtaining passports for children without parents’ consent**

**Q.** Can an aunt, who is the children’s caregiver, renew their passports on their behalf? The mother has deceased and the father’s whereabouts is unknown. What can she do?

**A.** Thank you for your question. It is typically a requirement by law that apparent or legal guardian is the only person allowed to apply for a child’s passport. As such, efforts should be made to locate the father in the first instance so he may apply for the children’s passport or to give consent for the aunt to act on his behalf. Note however that the father’s name must be on the children’s birth certificate in order for him to apply or to give consent to anyone to apply for the children’s passports.

If efforts to locate the father prove futile then there are provisions in the law that would allow the children to still obtain a passport. That being said, the aunt may apply to the courts for legal guardianship or you may contact the Child Development Agency if she wishes to adopt the children. Alternatively, the children’s aunt could visit our office and present her case. She would need to provide evidence that their mother has died and to demonstrate that the children’s father cannot be found and that sufficient efforts were made to locate him. Additionally, the aunt need to indicate that the children are not wards of the State.

In applying, the aunt must ensure that she presents the mother’s death certificate, her (the aunt’s) identification card and a letter from the children’s school stating that they are students at the institution and that she is responsible for them. She is also required to fill out and submit a declaration form, obtainable at our head office in Kingston. This declaration must be signed by a Justice of the Peace. The declaration is a delegated consent given on behalf of the Minister of National Security by PICA.

Once approval has been given to her to act on the children’s behalf, she is now able to apply for their passports.

- Other requirements for making out the application are:
  - Two colour passport-size pictures (only ONE should be certified)
  - A certified application form
  - Application fee of J$4000.00
  - The children’s birth certificates.
  - If she is in possession of the children’s birth certificate then she must visit the Registrar General’s Department to apply for same before obtaining the passports.
  - Please note that applicants, age 12 years and older, are required to sign the application form at the signature can be provided on the top of page 2. Additionally, children over the age of 12 years must appear in person when applying for a passport. As their caregiver, the aunt is permitted to sign that she completes and signs Sections C and D of the passport application form.

**Immunizations**

For further information visit our website at: www.pica.gov.jm. You may send queries to info@pica.gov.jm. Like our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/ PICAJamaica.
Westwood Old Girls’ Assoc hosts fundraiser for school’s rebuiling project

NEW YORK, NY: THE WESTWOOD Old Girls’ Association of New York (WOGANY) hosts a Fall Fundraiser for its alma mater, Westwood High School, on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Bay Ridge Manor in Brooklyn, New York. The event begins at 8 p.m. sharp.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Westwood High School’s post-fire rebuilding project and the purchasing of classroom desks.

“Our beloved alma mater was rocked by a fire during the early morning hours of May 2nd,” Jennifer Brown, President of WOGANY said. “The fire destroyed the building that housed the kitchen, dining room, matron’s quarters and store rooms. We must rebuild and with that in mind, the New York Chapter changed our fall fundraising goals to include this initiative.”

Evoking the motif of ‘The Great Gatsby’, the aptly titled ‘Flourish Edition’ event will pay homage to women from the Roaring ‘20s and the gains they made in literature, entertainment, sports and the Suffrage Movement. It is also a celebration of Westwood Old Girls Alumni Association, which was founded in the 1920s.

Women attending the Fundraiser are encouraged to dress for the period in flapper dresses, and stockings; the men in pants and vests.

Women attending the Fundraiser are encouraged to dress for the period in flapper dresses, and stockings; the men in pants and vests.

Tickets for the Westwood Old Girls’ Association Fall 2017 Fundraiser are now on sale at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-gatsby-flourish-edition-tickets-32038194101. Tickets are $125 per person, and includes premium open bar, dancing, complimentary valet car parking and much more. To learn more about the WOGA Fall Fundraiser, please visit www.thewoga.org/gatsby

Westwood High School is a boarding and day school for girls. Situated in the hills of Stewart Town, Trelawny, Jamaica, the school this year celebrates its 135th anniversary.

For more information on WOGA, please visit our website www.thewoga.org

J’cans overseas encouraged to use Gov’t info portal

M INISTER OF Science, Energy and Technology, Dr Andrew Wheatley, is urging members of the diaspora to make full use of the recently launched Government of Jamaica (GOJ) portal.

Speaking at a town hall meeting hosted by the Embassy of Jamaica at the National Women’s Democratic Club in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, September 26, Wheatley explained that the portal brings all government services into one place, making it easier for Jamaicans in the diaspora and at home to conduct business.

He said that “no longer will people have to remember one. You will only need to go to one place to access all of the services that Government provides online”.

Wheatley said the portal is a major milestone for the Government and is in keeping with the administration’s mission to make Jamaica a knowledge-based digital society.

The minister noted that another achievement was providing zero-rated access to all government website and online services. Through partnership with the major telecommunications providers, access can be granted to any government website or web service without cost to citizens.

In her remarks, Jamaica’s ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, lauded the Government for launching the GOJ portal, describing it as a revolutionary move that will make it easier for Jamaicans in the diaspora, as well as potential investors, to access ministries and agencies by going to one website.

The portal may be accessed at www.gov.jm.
**NEW YORK**

AFUWI Golf and Tennis Tournament
Open, Hampshire Country Club, 1025 Cove Road, Mamaronck, NY 10543 on September 28, 2017; Register by Sep 18, 2017; Contact: 212-759-9345, admin@afuwi.org; www.afuwi.org

UIAA Annual General Meeting and Elections, Jamaica Consulate, 6:30 PM - 9 PM on September 20, 2017.

Westwood OGA Great Gatsby :Flourish Edition" Bayridge Manor, Brooklyn, NY; 8 PM - 1 AM on October 7, 2017. For further information visit www.thewoga.org/gatsby;

Glenmuir Alumni Assn. 8th Annual Red & White Affair Dinner and Dance, 8 PM - 1 AM on October 14, 2017, at Plattdutsche Park Restaurant, 1152 Hempstead Turnpike, FranklinSquare, NY 11010; Contact: Andre 91 7-593-9918, Ann-Marie 646-496-6868.

STATHS NE 12th Annual Fund Raising Ball, Eastwood Manor, Bronx, NY on October 14, 2017, 8P - 1A; $100 pp - incl. dinner, open bar; Contact: Peter - 917-449-0357; Archie 516-469-5113.

4th: Alpha Tri-State Autumn Fest Fundraising Oldies Party; Rochdale Village, 169-65 137th Avenue, Jamaica, NY, 9 PM - 2 AM on November 4, 2017. DJ Road International; Contact: Beverly 917-747-9804, Alpha Tri-State 917-666-8201

JAMAICA AWARENESS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA presents the 31st Annual Fundraising Banquet Saturday, November 11, 2017. Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel, 5855 W. Century Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045. Contact us for info: Patrick - 310.415.0542 or Pam - 818.277.2254. Email: jifdpinc@yahoo.com, Website: www.jamaicaawareness.org

**CANADA**

The Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora at York University in association with the Jamaica 55 Canada Committee presents the inaugural Don Levy Lecture “The Role of the Diaspora in National Development” with special guest, Juliet Holness, MP, Jamaica on Friday, October 6, 6pm reception, 7:30pm forum at the Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Theatre, Accolade East Building, York University, Keele Campus.

Black Business and Professional Association’s annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 26, 6:30pm at the BBPA Centre of Excellence, 180 Elm St., Toronto. Operation Black Vote Canada presents GENERATION NEXT Black Youth Political Summit, for youth 16-24 years on Saturday, Oct. 28, 1:00-4:00pm at Toronto City Hall, Community Room 1, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto. Sponsored by Councillor Michael Thompson, Ward 37

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

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to keisha.lapalmer@gleanerna.net (USA) or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
REPUTED son of St Ann passes

JAMAICA HAS lost one of its most accomplished son, Dr Keith McKenzie. The renowned paediatrician and cardiologist, who was one of the pioneering class of 33 students who became the first ever undergraduate class at the brand new University College of the West Indies. He was born on Friday, September 29.

McKenzie was born on August 9, 1927 in Guy’s Hill, St Ann to Arnold Ashbourne McKenzie, and Rita Ford. He attended the Lucea Infant School from 1933 to 1934, Morris Knibb Preparatory School in Kingston from 1934-1936 and then won a scholarship to the Wolmer’s Boy School in 1936. The same year he won the Drax Scholarship to Jamaica College where he studied from 1937-1945 at which time he passed the Cambridge Higher Schools Examination.

Moving into the working world Keith was a laboratory technician at Government Medical Laboratory in Kingston from 1946 to 1947 before joining the staff of the Kingston Public and Port Antonio hospitals as an X-ray technician from 1947 to 1948. In 1948, Keith returned to his studies where he pursued medicine at the University College of the West Indies.

McKenzie has held several high profile teaching positions in the UWI medical faculty over the years and also lectured to student nurses. A devout Anglican, McKenzie offered many years of voluntary service to a wide range of causes, most notably, the Church of the Ascension Health Clinic. He was a director of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica, a member of the Medical Association of Jamaica, past president of the Paediatric Association of Jamaica and a member of the Friends of the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

McKenzie was awarded the Order of Distinction (Commander Class) for his services to medicine and child health. In 1989, he was honoured by the Paediatric Association of Jamaica (of which he was a founding member) for his long and distinguished service to that body and to the children of Jamaica. In 1999, he was given an award for distinguished service to the Caribbean Cardiac Society at its 14th Annual Conference.

In a notice in the newspapers last Wednesday; the JCA gave persons a one-month deadline to collect the urns. Failure to do so will result in the JCA taking the necessary steps to hand over the remains to the authorised regulatory body for disposal,” said the agency in the notice.

According to the JCA, at least 19 urns are gathering dust at the Queen’s Warehouse facilities in Kingston and St James.

One urn has been in the custody of the State since 2014, when it was detained at the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) after the relatives of the deceased failed to provide a permit from the Kingston and St Andrew Health Department.

Seek proper information

Janice Walker, director of post-clearance audit at the JCA and a former director of operations at the NMIA, told our news team that at least three of the urns which are awaiting pick-up by relatives at the island’s two main airports were detained this year.

“Persons who are coming to Jamaica need to seek proper information before coming in with the urns. If you find yourself in this situation and we tell you where to get the permit, get it and come back because it is your loved ones, we don’t want to keep it,” said Walker.

She said on many occasions she has gone beyond the call of duty to help relatives secure permits to import the urns.

“We have to do more in terms of educating persons not just about restricted items but to zero in on those areas where we see increased activities,” said La Donna Manning, public relations director at the JCA.

Persons urged to collect urns of shipped human remains

Corey Robinson

THREE WEEKS after The Sunday Gleaner started probing reports of a pile-up of unclaimed urns at the nation’s ports, the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) has confirmed that scores of persons have seemingly abandoned the remains of who should be their loved ones.

In a notice in the newspapers last Wednesday; the JCA gave persons a one-month deadline to collect the urns.

Persons who have not yet collected urns are asked to contact the JCA as soon as possible as the organisation ramps up its sensitisation efforts locally and internationally.

“There is a need to do more in terms of educating persons not just about restricted items but to zero in on those areas where we see increased activities,” said La Donna Manning, public relations director at the JCA.
Solange Sinclair, Miss Jamaica World 2017

SHERITA GRIZZLE
Gleaner Writer

T
he sparkle in her eyes could reflect colours, they would light up with the black, green and gold of the Jamaican Flag. Solange Sinclair, Miss Jamaica World 2017, is the epitome of national pride. As she reads herself to represent Jamaica in the global Miss World pageant, the 24-year-old beauty has one goal more important than taking home the crown and that is to use the platform she has been given, to show the world that Jamaica is much more than just sun, sea and sand.

“Jamaica is beautiful physically, beautiful beaches and breathtaking mountainous terrain, but it’s the people who make Jamaica who we are. I’m no longer doing this competition for developing myself; I’m doing it for my country. I want the world to understand our spirit, our rhythm and our vibrancy. I want them to be able to understand our spirit and the fire that burns within us. That makes us so special, so strong and so resilient,” Sinclair said. “I’m definitely confident that I can go over there and represent myself the best way I know how. I want to be able to show the rest of the world who I am and I think I will be able to do that by showing them where I come from.”

FLAG IS ESSENTIAL

The latter is the reason Sinclair simply cannot survive the trip to China if she doesn’t have her Jamaican Flag with her at all times. While one might think her cell phone or make-up would take top priority on the list of must-haves for the freshly-crowned Queen, Sinclair lists her country’s flag as the one thing she doesn’t want to forget.

“My flag is the last thing I will pack because it’s the first thing I want to see when I open my suitcase over there,” she said. “Anywhere I go in the world, I always walk with my flag, because that’s who I am and it’s always a conversation starter, because I get to talk about my country.”

As the niece of Garry Sinclair, former managing director of Flow and granddaughter of the late Jamaican-American actress, Madge Sinclair, Solange will quickly point out that despite her family’s legacy and connections, nothing has ever been handed to her. Proud of all she has accomplished especially the Miss Jamaica World title, she credits her successes to sheer hardwork.

“Before the crown was handed to me, no one knew who Solange Sinclair was. Garry is his own person. Madge Sinclair was her own woman and so the connection wasn’t really there,” she highlighted.

“I went into the competition with a fierce battle ahead of me. I spent a lot of time with 17 beautiful and intelligent women, each of them has their own story and any one of them could have walked away with the crown.”

Winner of Miss Jamaica World 2017, Solange Sinclair

Sinclair is also the cousin of former Miss Universe Jamaica, Kaci Pennell, but says she feels no pressure to follow in her footsteps.

“I wouldn’t say pressure is the correct term. Kaci has set the bar beautifully high, as any and every Queen should,” she said.

DUTY

“I have a duty as Miss Jamaica World, to represent my country to the heat of my ability and I will do just that. It’s not just Kaci’s example that I have to follow, but all the Queens, as they have paved the way and it’s all of their footsteps that I’m walking in.”

With that said, Sinclair noted that past winners have been reaching out to her, lending support and giving advice, something she says means the world to her.

“These ladies have set the path and they are the ones passing the torch on, but they’re not just handing it to you saying, ‘here you go, go fun!’ they’re helping because they want me to understand the path that they’ve already walked and that’s very important.”

Solange leaves for China on October 18. The finale for the global pageant is set for November 18.

Melia Braco unveils Bridal Suite

Meliá Braco unveiled its Bridal Suite for the Universe Jamaica, to be held in October this year. The suite was unveiled to the media at Melia Braco in Trelawny last week.

“The suite, all of three rooms, in addition to a make-up area, was unveiled to the travel and tourism experts by way of a mock wedding, spa treatment, and cocktail reception at the eclectic resort renowned for its village setting.

“We have created a social area where the bride has her final brouhaha, a display area where she can meet with her romance specialist; make-up and massage, dressing pedestal, all complimentary,” disclosed Angella Bennett, director of sales at Meliá Braco.

Bennett had a captive audience in some of the biggest names in the business, and she made sure they were educated on the offerings of the resort, which was refurbished and renamed almost two years ago.

“J.S.”

From left: Tracey Hummel, Travel Leaders; MarciaTodd, Panache Travel; and Andrea Chase of the Jamaica Tourist Board, Miami.
Windies Women launch fresh World Cup bid

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, (CMC)

THE NEWLY-constructed Brian Lara Stadium will play host to the three-match One-Day International series between West Indies Women and Sri Lanka Women, as the Caribbean side begin their bid for direct qualification for the ICC 2021 World Cup.

In a statement last week, Cricket West Indies announced the matches would be played on October 11, 13 and 15 at the facility in Tarouba, located in south Trinidad, and would form part of the new cycle of the ICC Women’s Championship which will be contested between the leading eight women’s teams.

The Windies along with Sri Lanka, Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and newly crowned 50-over World champions England, will do battle in the Women’s Championship until March 2020.

Hosts New Zealand and the three other highest-ranked sides at the conclusion of the championship will gain direct qualification for the World Cup.

The remaining four sides will enter a qualifier. West Indies were good enough to qualify directly for last June’s ICC World Cup in England after finishing fourth in the last ICC Women’s Championship.

They, however, failed to make an impression, finishing sixth after winning just twice.

Following the ODI series, the Windies Women will clash with the Sri Lankans in a three-match Twenty20 International series from October 19-22 at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

An 18-member West Indies Women’s squad are currently in training in Trinidad in preparation for the upcoming series.

LIVERPOOL AND England footballer Daniel Sturridge, whose family has strong links with Jamaica and whose grandparents are Jamaican, has ‘signed’ for Nurishment in a three-year partnership.

Sturridge, who has represented England at all levels, will be actively involved in marketing Nurishment, the best-selling nutritionally enriched milk drink distributed by Grace Foods UK.

His first role will be to promote the Nurishment Filling Station, the brand’s first dedicated gaming app, launching currently with the highest scorers getting the chance to play against him.

“I’m really pleased to be promoting a drink that I’ve enjoyed for many years. I grew up with Nurishment and strawberry’s my favourite flavour,” he said.

“I also love gaming and the Nurishment Filling Station is a really cool game. So I’m challenging gamers to beat my score and get to the top of the leader board. Game on!”

Adam Reader, managing director of Grace Foods UK, said: “Daniel’s a role model for millions of people and his family values are aligned with ours. The fact that he’s grown up with Nurishment will make our partnership even stronger.”

Nyree Chambers, Grace Foods UK’s head of marketing, added: “We’re delighted to be partnering with Daniel, giving gamers the chance to take on one of the UK’s most famous footballers. Daniel’s really up for the challenge but who, if anyone, can beat him?”

In 2014, Daniel fulfilled a lifelong ambition with the opening of The Sturridge Foundation, raising funds to support underprivileged children in Jamaica and England, including through the provision of recreational and leisure activities to improve their well-being.

World ranking will boost local golf – Chin

MARC STAMP
Gleaner Writer

The Royal and Ancient, one of the world’s most famous golf clubs, has been trying for years to get their tournaments recognised by the relevant global bodies. The JGA are very excited about this. We have been trying for many years to get the recognition,” Chin said.

“It will encourage the overseas professionals to play here as it will be worth their while. Even though you have prize money and a person comes down and they win, it is nice to win a purse money, but this is a boost to also get world-ranking points,” the local golf boss added.

Chin also believes it will boost tourism in Jamaica.

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President of the Jamaica Golf Association (JGA) Peter Chin is elated that two of the country’s elite tournaments received world ranking recognition from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the United States Golf Association last week.

The administrator believes the development will not only make local tournaments more attractive, but will also add value to the sport-tourism product.

This new recognition allow better competition among players at the Jamaica National Amateur Golf tournament from October 14-16 at Caymanas Golf Club and the Jamaica Amateur Golf tournament from October 14-15 at the Antigua Golf Club.

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Hurricanes force cancellation of C’bean Netball Champs

ROBERT BAILEY
Gleaner Writer

INTERIM COACH of Jamaica’s Sunshine Girls team Sasher-Gaye Henry said they are deeply saddened by the postponement of the Caribbean Netball Championships, which was scheduled for next month in St Lucia.

The championships were postponed for the second time this year, after it was called off in August following the withdrawal of Barbados and Grenada.

Henry told The Gleaner that they were told by the organisers of the event that they had to postpone the championships because many of the islands were badly damaged by flooding caused from the recent passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Henry, who along with Marvette Anderson, was appointed interim coaches until the end of the year, following the sacking of Jermaine Allison-McCracken in July, said it was disappointing.

“Because I know that we really wanted the practice and we have not had a lot of international practice,” said Henry.

“We understand what is happening in the region and based on what we were told, that is the situation. We just have to work with that and just try to get more international games going forward,” she said.

“We were told that some of the participating teams were going to be out of the championships because of the flooding from the recent hurricanes. It was going to be three countries only, and we will have to play five or four games by ourselves and so the organisers decided that it would be off,” Henry said.

Henry, a former national player, added that the Sunshine Girls have turned their attention to World Fast5 Championships which will be held next month.

“The girls are disappointed but we have now shift our focus to Fast5 because this is a series that we have also been preparing for a long time,” she said. “It was a challenge to prepare for both series at the same time, but now the focus is only on the Fast5 tournament.” Henry pointed out.

We need more female coaches – Walker-Brown

MARK STAMP
Gleaner Writer

CHAIRPERSON OF the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) Women’s programme, Elaine Walker-Brown, said that there is a need for more females to get involved in coaching in order for better development of women’s football locally.

The JFF has attracted a record 18 females for the FIFA intermediate coaching course for coaches of female players from next Monday until Friday at the University of the West Indies/JFF/Captain Horace Burrell Centre of Excellence. The course begins at 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day.

“FIFA and CONCACAF is going that way. It has changed. That is why this thing (coaching course) that is coming up on Monday is very important,” Walker-Brown told The Gleaner.

“If we are serious about the development of female football, it is necessary to have more female coaches involved. We are so way behind in everything. Last year, when we went to the Under-15 CONCACAF tournament in the USA, we could see the quality of play from the girls, and majority of the coaches were females,” the veteran administrator pointed out.

“When you look at it, there are very few male coaches who can connect with the girls and discuss certain issues affecting the females. The female coaches will get them (players) to talk about things as they can relate to the girls in a better way.” Walker-Brown explained.

“I want to see better for the women’s football. I am in my last four years that run until 2019. I don’t know if I will reign again after that,” the JFF director disclosed.

Meanwhile, Walker-Brown also said the female programme needs support and noted that there won’t be any local competition this year. It will be replaced by a five-a-side competition in November.

“Finance is lacking, and we don’t have the sponsorship support to continue the women’s league this year,” said Walker-Brown, who also noted that the course will highlight the importance of proper behavioural patterns among the females, while pointing to some of the issues affecting the fraternity.
COMMONWEALTH GAMES TT TEAM SELECTED

An eight-member squad has been named to represent Jamaica at next year’s Commonwealth Games on Australia’s Gold Coast. The team is led by national champion Simon Tomlinson and includes Christopher Marsh, Rahjni Brown, Kane Watson, Shenique Clare, Yvonne Foster, Dadrian Lewis and Onika Francis.

MCLEOD, LONE J’CAN ON IAAF’S WORLD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINATION LIST

HURDLER OMAR McLeod, Olympic and World Games Champion, is the lone Jamaican on the list of nominees for the 2017 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Athlete of the Year award following his exploits at the World Championships in London in August where he struck gold.

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