Neville O'Reilly ‘Bunny Wailer’ Livingstone, OJ, CD, the only living member of the super popular Bob Marley and the Wailers group was appointed as a member of the Order of Merit, the fourth highest national honour, yesterday for outstanding contribution in the field of popular music.

Jamaican music icon Neville O'Reilly ‘Bunny Wailer’ Livingstone was appointed a member of the Order of Merit for outstanding contribution to popular music, leading select Jamaicans who were bestowed with National Honours for service to the country.

STORIES ON PAGE 3 AND 6
Jamaica bestows national honours
Jamaicans who offered long and distinguished service to their country, and those who excelled in various fields, were recognised at National Honours and Awards, King’s House.

Justice minister accuses Portia, Omar of neglecting their constituencies
Justice Minister Delroy Chuck launched an attack on retired parliamentarians; former Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, and Dr Omar Davies, describing the St Andrew constituencies they represented for decades as “two of the poorest” in the nation.

BUSINESS
PCJ exploring offshore wind farm
Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) has got foreign backing for a prefeasibility study on the prospect of setting up another wind farm, but one that would be anchored out at sea.

JPS introduces new penalties for late-paying commercial clients
Starting October 1, overdue balances on the accounts of commercial customers will attract late payment interest from electricity provider Jamaica Public Service Company Limited, JPS.

ENTERTAINMENT
Argentina open to J’can music
There is no ambiguity about the Jamaican performers at the first staging of the International Reggae Festival on September 2, 2017, in Argentina’s capital; Buenos Aires. Julian Marley and Michael Rose (now spelt Mykal Roze) with Sly and Robbie, recreating the original in Argentina open to J’can music in Argentina’s capital; Buenos Aires. Julian Marley and Michael Rose (now spelt Mykal Roze) with Sly and Robbie, recreating the original staging of the International Reggae Festival on September 2, 2017, in Argentina’s capital; Buenos Aires. Julian Marley and Michael Rose (now spelt Mykal Roze) with Sly and Robbie, recreating the original in Argentina’s capital; Buenos Aires. Julian Marley and Michael Rose (now spelt Mykal Roze) with Sly and Robbie, recreating the original

IMMIGRATION
Jamaica DACA and Trump

SPORTS
Bolt responds to statue issue
Sprint legend Usain Bolt has responded to a debate around the positioning of a statue, which is to be erected in his honour in his home parish of Trelawny, noting that he understands the calls for it to be placed in a public location.

West Kingston compensation report due next month

JUSTICE MINISTER Delroy Chuck has announced that he has received the report of the compensation committee, which was appointed by the Government to investigate and determine claims filed by persons affected by the May 2010 operations in west Kingston, and it has since been submitted to Cabinet, which is to peruse the document shortly.

The report is to be tabled in Parliament early next month.

The justice minister said that the report of the compensation committee would serve as the precursor for the Government to finally address the recommendations made by the Simmons commission, including a public apology to the people of west Kingston by

Gov’t To Assess Five Public Hospitals

THE GOVERNMENT is to conduct assessments on five public hospitals as it makes plans for their expansion.

Health Minister, Dr Christopher Tufton says among the things that will be looked at are the technical specifications of the facilities.

He says the five public hospitals to be assessed are May Pen, Mandeville, Spanish Town, St Ann’s Bay, and Kingston Public.

The assessment will be done by a private entity, which was not revealed.

Tufton says after the assessments are completed the findings will be used to plan for the next wave of infrastructure development.
JAMAICANS who offered long and distinguished service to their country, and those who excelled in various fields, were recognised at National Honours and Awards, King's House.

Among them were Neville O'Reilly ‘Bunny Wailer’ Livingstone, who was appointed a member of the Order of Merit for outstanding contribution to the field of popular music.

Five other persons were appointed members of the Order of Jamaica – Vincent Stephen Francis, for track and field through coaching; Phillip Fredrick Gore, for housing development, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy; Anthony Keith Edmund Hart, for service in business, community development, and humanitarianism; Professor Archibald Horace McDonald, for excellence in academia and public service; and Ambassador Clifton George Whyms Stone, for outstanding public service.

The ceremony of investiture and presentation of national honours and awards was held at King's House on National Heroes Day, October 16.

Among those who received the awards were Davia Ramon Tucker, the nurse who saved sick babies from Intensive Care Unit at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, in January, that had caught fire and Tremayne Sheldon Oshawn Brown who, although he could not swim, saved a boy from drowning in the gushing flood waters in a Trench Town gully.

Jamaica bestows national honours

Jamaican ill and on their own overseas look to Kingston for help

COREY ROBINSON
Gleaner Reporter

A NUMBER of Jamaicans are languishing in hospitals overseas without visits or aid from relatives in those countries, prompting attempts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to locate family members in Jamaica who may be able to assist.

Among the latest is 69-year-old Keith Porter, who is now hospitalized in New York in critical condition. According to information provided to the Jamaica Consulate General in New York, Porter was born in Jamaica but left for New York four years ago to live with an uncle. The elderly man now claims that he cannot recall the name or address of his uncle. Porter’s case has prompted the foreign affairs ministry to issue a press release with the aim of locating his relatives in Jamaica who may be able to assist.

Porter was born on May 4, 1948, to mother Ida Porter. He has said that he is the father of five children – Keith, Nicole, Shanna, and Peter – and cannot recall the name of his youngest child. The foreign affairs ministry said that it has received several similar calls for assistance from Jamaicans living overseas and has dealt with six such cases since the start of this year. Some of these Jamaicans are living in foreign lands illegally, while others are legal permanent residents who may have access to medical care but are left abandoned by relatives.

In cases where they are not legal residents, the authorities will request that they be repatriated to Jamaica since they have no rights to public assistance in the countries where they have fallen ill, the ministry told our news team last week.

“In addition, the Government of Jamaica does not provide for taking care of medical expenses abroad for Jamaican citizens. Assistance with repatriation is given through our high commissions, embassies, and consulates for them to be in Jamaica with their families and loved ones,” added the ministry.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade said that there is a strict and lengthy process to repatriate sick persons to the island. They will first have to secure a passport after verifying that they are indeed Jamaicans, and then their relatives’ identity is contacted and funds identified for airfare.

“If the relatives are not willing to take them in, suitable accommodation has to be found for them such as a nursing home or a home for the aged. This is subject to the availability of bedspace as there is usually a waiting list,” said the foreign affairs ministry.

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

SEE PAGE 6 FOR PICTURES

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The newest recipients of The Order Of Jamaica from left are: Vincent Stephen Francis, Phillip Fredrick Gore, Anthony Keith Edmund Hart, Professor Archibald Horace McDonald and Ambassador Clifton George Whyms Stone.

Lionel Rockwood/Photographer

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J’can-Canadian’s memoir wins Toronto book award

Jamaica’s independence brunch at the Organization of American States

President elect of NAJASO Dr Robert Clarke (third left) and the association’s chairman, Richard Constable, with Ambassador Curtis Ward (right) and friends at the Embassy of Jamaica’s independence lunch at the Organization of American States.

New NAJASO board members to be installed on October 21

The new executive of National Associations of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO) will be sworn in on October 21 at West Indian Social Club of Hartford. The following office bearers would be installed:

- President & CEO – Dr Robert Clarke
- Immediate past president – Rick Clarke
- Executive vice-president – Veita Nugent
- Immediate past president – Rick Clarke
- Financial secretary – Patrick Williams
- Recording Secretary – Carol Williams
- Treasurer – Derrick Harvey
- Public relations officer – Mark Milward
- Vice president, Northeast – Dr Richard Constable
- Executive secretary – Janice Williams

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

Notice

Will Mr. Richard Wilson whose last known address was 2030 NW 67 St 203 Miami Florida 33147-7372. If anyone knows of his/her whereabouts kindly contact: The Resident Magistrate’s Court, 15% White Church Street, Spanish Town, St. Catherine.

Not ce

Will Ms. Nichole Johnson, whose last known address is Eugenio Maria De-Hostos Community College of the City of New York 500 Grand Concourse, Bronx New York 10451 anyone knowing of her whereabouts kindly contact the Family Court, 55A Duke Street, Kingston, telephone # 922-0315

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Neil Armstrong
Freelance Editor

Toronto, ON

Jamaican-Canadian author, B. Denham Jolly is the winner of the 2017 Toronto Book Awards for his memoir, In the Black: My Life, published by KCW Press.

Presented at the Toronto Reference Library on October 12, the Toronto Book Awards, established by the Toronto City Council in 1974, honours authors of books of literary or artistic merit that are evocative of Toronto.

The annual awards offer $15,000 in prize money: finalists receive $1,000 and the winning author is awarded $10,000.

“Toronto is absolutely incredulous and unexpected. I feel this is a community win not only because my story is a black/Jamaican story but because it shines a bright light on it,” said Jolly.

The other finalists were: I Hear She’s a Real Bitch, a memoir by Jen Agg published by Doubleday Canada; Catherine Hernandez’s novel Bearheart, published by Arsenal Pulp Press; Life on the Ground Floor, a memoir by James Maskalyk published by Doubleday Canada; and Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queen, edited by Jase Barrow, John Lorne, et al, published by Coach House Books. They were shortlisted from a long list of sixty-one books.

"Black rights activist and entrepreneur Denham Jolly should be a household name. With humour and personal stories that reveal how Toronto’s diversity is embodied through its residents,” said Mayor John Tory at the announcement of the finalists in August. “It is also notable that three of the authors spoke out whenever they perceived any form of inequity, even at his first job in Jamaica and subsequent ones in Canada.

“My father was a very proud man too. He used to change authority so I had all that in me when I came here and saw the overt racism that was handed out here.”

Early in life, his father, Benjamin Augustus Jolly, who operated various businesses, told him, “Don’t work for anyone but yourself. And always own property.”

His mother, Iva Euphemia Jolly, a justice of the peace, made sure that he and his siblings knew the value of helping others.

In Canada, he countered discrimination by enlisting the support of white allies when he wanted to buy a house for his growing family - wife, Cindi, and toddler daughter, Nicole, and the arrival of twins, Michael and Kevin.

It didn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out there are different treatments for different people.

Please see MEMOIR, 5

40th Anniversary Celebration

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TORONTO, ON.

YOLANDA McCLEAN, second vice-president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario, diversity vice-president on CUPE’s National Executive Board and president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists – Ontario (Canada) Chapter, is the recipient of the Ed Blackman Award for her activism on racial justice.

She received the recognition at CUPE’s National Convention at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on October 3 where Mark Hancock, national president, described her as a champion fighter for equity.

“As equity vice-president for CUPE Local 4400, representing 3,000 Toronto education workers, Yolanda has fought side by side with education workers against precarity across CUPE workplaces. As a trade union leader, Yolanda has been vigilant in promoting actions against precarious work knowing that our radicalised members are most likely to be affected by it,” said Hancock.

He said McClean had worked hard to increase the participation of women and equity-seeking groups at all levels.

“As a diversity vice-president for CUPE National, she has promoted anti-racist programs and caucuses for workers of colour and CUPE sectors across Canada and she has been a strong advocate for employment equity programs,” he added.

Since 2013, McClean has been the president of the Canadian Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unions (CIBTU) providing a strong voice for black workers within the international trade union movement, and challenging organised labour to be more relevant to their needs and aspirations. Hancock noted.

He said McClean’s leadership is reflected in her work as a facilitator sharing her personal experiences and acting as a mentor for workers of colour.

“In her acceptance speech, McClean said she was only able to do this work because of the strength that she received from many people within the labour movement and outside. She thanked the members of CUPE National, the board, and CUPE Ontario for their continued support. McClean also thanked the CIBTU for “being there all the time and encouraging her as a leader to continue to push the envelope and for continuing to work to promote access, to open doors for other black workers in this labour movement.”

Referring to CUPE Local 4400, she said its leader John Weatherup is committed to the work that she does, and she described the members as her “rock.”

“To my own family who is here with me today who has given me the strength to fight every single day to be the person that I am today, and they’ve given me the courage to continue to do this work. While it’s been time-consuming and a lot of sacrificing sometimes I’m not even sure if the keys still work in the door — but I could never have done this work without your love and support through these past years.”

Her parents—80-year-old mother Sylvia McClean and 88-year-old father Lionel McClean — were on the stage for the occasion with Yolanda noting that her father has Alzheimer’s and doesn’t even know who she is but, “I feel that you love me and I feel that you’re proud of me, and to my parents, I thank you for the shoulders that you’ve given me and I thank you for loving me very much.”

FIGHT BACK, BE BOLD

“The only thing we can do as activists is what we’ve always done: fight back, be bold, be brave,” he said in concluding her remarks.

The late Ed Blackman was a worker of colour and a committed trade unionist on the local and national scenes. He was a founding member of the CUPE National Rainbow Committee and a prominent local and national leader of the union. Blackman served for many years as president of CUPE Local 500, Winnipeg Civic Employees, and as a general vice-president on CUPE’s National Executive Board.

The award is presented to a CUPE member who strengthens the labour movement by demonstrating commitment to activism on racial issues, providing leadership and acting as a role model for activism, dismantling barriers to greater participation for workers of colour in our union, promoting racial justice in the workplace and the community; promoting and defending the rights of people of colour in our communities; and building a stronger social movement.

The winner receives a commemorative plaque and CUPE will make a $10,000 donation to the social justice organisation of her or his choice McClean has chosen the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

House to debate act to absolve national heroes of criminal record

From left with Yolanda McClean are CUPE National President Mark Hancock, CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn and CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer Charles Feary.

Gladstone Taylor

DEBATE ON a bill to absolve certain national heroes and their supporters of criminal liability started in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, October 10. The legislation, the National Heroes and Other Freedom Fighters (Absolution from Criminal Liability in Respect of Specified Events) Act, 2017, was piloted by Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Minister Olivia Grange.

When passed, national heroes Sam Sharpe, George William Gordon, Paul Bogle and Marcus Mosiah Garvey, as well as their supporters, sympathisers and participants by association, and other freedom fighters, will be absolved of criminal liability arising from their participation in “acts of liberation with moral justification.”

Grange said the objective is to redeem and restore the dignity and integrity of those who suffered much.

“Our ancestors were of a pedigree that was not daunted by challenges, no matter how great they were or how seemingly insurmountable the obstacles. They came to Jamaica shackled and belaboured, but within their fertile minds dwelt the militant cultures they had fashioned back home in the various tribal forces of the (African) continent,” she stated.

“They soon became freedom fighters, ‘buffalo soldiers, stolen from Africa, fighting for survival’. In this prolific and prolonged campaign, they wreaked mayhem and holy war against the oppressors. They made life difficult for those who would try to rule them, making them realise that, though they would enslave the body, they could not enslave their minds,” she added.

“‘This bill gives new life to these, our heroes and unsung heroes, and seeks to redress the wrongs and set the captives free.’

Opposition Member of Parliament for Central Kingston, Rev Ronald ‘Thwaites, said the legislation would enable an engagement that is "approachable and valid in law”.

“When law is wrongly applied, it must be corrected. There is a legal as well as a moral argument to exact. We are the highest court in the land, and it is of great importance that we should do what we are doing,” he said.

Debate on the Bill will continue at the next sitting of the House of Representatives.

Union leader Yolanda McClean awarded for fight for equity

MEMOIR

Continued from 4

Even I myself noticed that in certain circumstances I was treated differently so I paid attention to that and learn from it.”

Alongside community activists like Bromley Armstrong, Al Hamilton, Charles Hoach, Jean Augustine and Dudley Laws, he would protest publicly the police killings of black people such as Buddy Evans, Albert Johnson, Lester Donaldson, Sophia Cook and others, starting in the 1970s to now.

Bromley Armstrong, Al Hamilton, Charles Hoach, Jean Augustine and Dudley Laws, he would protest publicly the police killings of black people such as Buddy Evans, Albert Johnson, Lester Donaldson, Sophia Cook and others, starting in the 1970s to now.

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NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor
For her outstanding public service in education and religion, Sister Mary Paschal Figueroa was awarded The Order Of Distinction in the rank of Commander from Governor General Sir Patrick Allen at The National Honours and Awards Ceremony held at King’s House.

Well done! World renowned track coach Vincent Stephen Francis OD, receives The Order Of Jamaica.

Theodore Eccleston ‘Tappa’ Whitmore, interim head coach of the national senior men’s football team receives The Order Of Distinction in the rank of officer for his contribution to sports, nationally and internationally, in particular to football as a player and coach.

For Gallantry for her courageous efforts in rescuing patients from a fire at the Intensive Care Unit at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, in January, Davia Ramano Tucker receives The Badge Of Honour.

Majorie Dlores Parkin accepts The Badge Of Honour for Long and Faithful Service.

Commissioner of Police, George Fitzroy Quallo is all smiles as he receives The Order Of Distinction in the rank of Commander for distinguished service to the Jamaica Constabulary.

Tremayne Sheldon Oshawn Brown receives The Batch Of Honour For Gallantry for his act of bravery displayed when he jumped into a gully with gushing rainwater to save the life of 12-year-old Renaldo Reynolds in Trench Town.

Professor Archibald Horace McDonald CD receives The Order Of Jamaica.
Justice minister accuses Portia, Omar of neglecting their constituencies

LIVERN BARRETT  Senior Gleaner Writer

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

Crime costing Jamaica J$68 billion per year

PAUL CLARKE  Gleaner Writer

Crime is costing the Government of Jamaica close to J$68.5 billion per year – money, the National Security Minister Robert Montague says, could fund the construction of 16 new schools.

Addressing the first Jamaica Geographic Information System (GIS) User Conference, Montague cited ministry data, revealing the monetary impact that the high levels of crime have been having on Jamaica’s fiscal space.

“Crime is costing us a lot of money in this country. It is estimated by the World Bank that crime is costing Jamaica five per cent of GDP per year, which translates to about J$6 billion per year,” said Montague.

It cost the Government approximately J$400,000 dollars per day to keep a gunshot victim in intensive care. Jamaica sees, on average, approximately 2,000 gunshot victims per year, according to the minister.

“So if you do the math, it gives you an idea of the cost of crime in Jamaica and how it affects you, because as much as the prime minister and the minister of finance gave back to our public servants the J$1.5 million tax free, that money is being sucked by the persons who [are] in our hospitals,” stated Montague.

“So even if you are not a victim of crime, you are also paying for the cost of crime in this country,” Montague added.

Juxtaposing the value of crime against what he said was much needed national infrastructure development, the security minister said that in reality, the J$68.5 billion could fund the construction of 16 high schools in addition to 30 new hospitals.

“We could build some 30 hospitals, furnish them and staff them. We could upgrade and put barber-green on 100 of our Grade A roads in Jamaica, and everyone of us knows what that means,” he reasoned.

“We could repair every clinic and every school and have money left over. We could repair and furnish every government office. That is the cost of crime not only to the country, but to every single one of us,” said Montague.

The two-day Jamaica GIS User Conference was host-ed by the National Spatial Data Management Division, an agency of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, under the theme ‘Geospatial Technologies: Mapping Our Way to Secure Communities’.

Angela Brown Burke, the former mayor of Kingston, who is seeking to replace Simpson Miller, and Senator Mark Golding, who is seeking to represent Davies, did not escape the scathing attack.

“Persons are fighting to get to these constituencies because it is a safe seat. And once they get there, they perpetuate, respectively, the patronage that continues the one-sided political participation,” Chuck said.

“And I say to Mark Golding and Angela Brown Burke, is that to continue, or is there to be a change where development can take place in those two constituencies?” he questioned.

Chuck cited South West and South St Andrew as constituencies represented by his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) as examples of garrisons that must be dismantled in keeping with one of the key recommendations of the west Kingston commission of enquiry.

The commission, chaired by retired Chief Justice of Barbados Sir David Simmons, was established to investigate the conduct of the joint police-military operations in west Kingston in May 2010 to capture drug king-pin Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke.

More than 70 persons, including one member of the Jamaica Defence Force, were killed in the operations.

The Simmons commission recommended that a road map for what it called ‘de-gar-risonisation’ be handed over to an independent body similar to the electoral commission, to develop the details of the process.

The commissioners recommended, too, that political leaders commit themselves to ending the allocation of the government and the political party resources to the extent to reduce their influence.

However, according to the justice minister, it appears that the Andrew Holness administration is grappling with the question of how to go about dismantling political garrisons.

He said that a sub-committee of Cabinet examined the issue and was left pondering the extent to which this was something for the Government to address “or if it should be dealt with by the country at large, starting with the Parliament”.

No new JUTC rolling stock until 2021

EDMOND CAMPBELL  Senior Gleaner Reporter

Despite significant costs to maintain the current fleet of buses owned by the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited (JUTC), the Government has no plans to retire the older buses, and is looking instead at another four years before it acquires new buses.

Addressing members of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee of Parliament, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Mining Dr Alvin Hales said that the ministry had made a significant submission, last year, for new buses.

Hales said that the submission, which was carried over from the last administration, was approved by the finance ministry. He said that the ministry, which carried out its carry over of funds to 2021 in 2013.

Hales acknowledged that the older buses being operated by the JUTC incurred significant costs for upkeep. He also noted that there were safety concerns in terms of operating them as well as the negative impact they have on the environment through pollution.

Managing Director of the JUTC Paul Abrahams told the committee that the entity had achieved a 430 bus rollout, which is 22 shy of the 452 targeted by the company.

Abrahams said that the company was expected to attain its full rollout by December or early in 2018.
Balancing justice, how?

THE EDITOR, Sir:

IN RESPONSE to the Gleaner article ‘Kinda Cruel’ - Court orders Patrick Powell to pay family of Khajeel Mais $2m’, I guess the law is a very funny institution. I do understand that a person’s failure to answer to charges brought against him in a court of law amounts to an admission of guilt being granted to the plaintiff. But I cannot for the life of me comprehend how it is that the murder trial of the accused killer of a young man full of promise fell through, and yet, in juxtaposition, there was a basis for a successful lawsuit against the accused.

From my perspective, there’s no balancing of the scales in this matter. This type of justice system has some gaping loopholes that do not engender confidence in the judiciary’s ability to represent the Jamaican people and to plead the cause of the oppressed. Simply put, if there’s no case against Mr Powell, then justice should not require him to pay $2 million for the lawsuit. Likewise, if there is a case for a successful lawsuit against him, then justice should utilise the evidence which substantiates the settlement to make him liable to the charges of murder.

I am not a student of the law and may be missing some classical legal explanation of this judgment. If I am, I do hope that some learned mind will enlighten me on how this thing works.

Meanwhile, Amos’ words resonate in my ears brand new: ‘But let justice run down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream’ (Amos 5:24, NKJV).

Given my chagrin, I can only conclude with a popular Jamaican proverb: ‘Don’t cry say well! no level!’

Pastor J. Fitzroy Johnson
jermaine@johnsonmail.com

Whip-loving parents abused as children

THE EDITOR, Sir:

MANY OF the contemporary Jamaican parents who abuse their children in the name of discipline were treated in a similar fashion by their own parents, and the research will show that it goes back to slavery and our beloved British masters who we adored, respect and fear (even) as leaders.

It takes a keen mind to understand and where the problem started and, most important, how it can be resolved.

During slavery, these slave overseers, mainly Irish, held public whippings, and so a little black boy would have seen his father or mother get a whipping. Thus, the male ego was emasculated.

Now we know that slavery was abolished a long time ago, but just like our slave masters’ names, which we still have and cherish, many things have not changed significantly.

I laugh when I hear Europeans run off their mouths about modern-day slavery when they are yet to pay reparations for the atrocities of their ancestors. The British Parliament and the monarchy have not even apologised for slavery as yet.

We will not resolve these issues until the right persons are in a position to bring about the changes desired.

MARK TROGOFT
marktought@gmail.com

Aunt V didn’t get fitting farewell

THE EDITOR, Sir:

THERE HAS been more controversy than mourning over the death of the once oldest living person, Violet Moss-Brown. It has simply been drama par excellence since the day she was declared the oldest woman alive!

Aunt V lived a humble and unseen life for 117 long years, only to become fettered by her achievement of celebrity for the last six months of her marathon jubilees.

The shenanigans that surround how she was treated in her last days, being sent to a private hospital for a medical inquiry, and eventually dying six days later, are worrying. The question in my mind, as with many, is whether she would have lived much longer had she been left at her Duanvale home?

We have seen Aunt V’s case as a typical example of the contentious and rascuous displays that too often emanate from the death of our loved ones. I was even more appalled when I learnt of the outburst that marred the thanksgiving service.

Shameful! Is this how we choose to honour the memory of a Jamaican icon?

The Government, on the other hand, has failed to step in. For example, why was Aunt V not accorded an official funeral?

Ironically, when news broke of her achievements, all roads led to Duanvale — the GG, PM, and leader of the Opposition all went like pilgrims to pay homage to a great Jamaican woman. Yet they have divorced themselves from the pomp and pageantry that ought to have marked her departure as well.

What Aunt V achieved for Jamaica cannot be quantified or quantified. Hears was a story untold for several generations. The thought that a black woman in the Third World, who managed to survive all and lived to 117 years without fame or fortune — is phenomenal! Thankfully, the University of the West Indies has seen fit to honour her memory by accepting her corpse to conduct possible life-changing research.

AMOS WINT
amowintwint@gmail.com

Summary October 9-13

MONDAY

Urgent: Publish the Golding report

The editorial wondered about the delay of the government in publishing the Golding Task Force report on Jamaica’s relationship with CARICOM which was delivered five months ago.

It pointed to the sense of urgency which Mr Holness appeared to have imbued Jamaica’s CARICOM relations, and called for the urgent publication of the report.

TUESDAY

Central Kingston plan worth considering

The editorial referred to the National Housing Trust writing to residents of certain communities in Kingston pertaining to an urban renewal project and the need for them to formulate valuations preparatory to their homes being acquired.

The editorial disagreed with the response of Ronnie Towle, the member of Parliament for the area, who had conjectured that the Trust correspondence to the residents meant, ‘I am going to be evicted.’

It suggested that the MP the Trust and the residents, discuss methods of public private partnership to secure homes for residents who are willing to pay.

WEDNESDAY

A new dispensation for dons

The editorial called on the Prime Minister to quickly bring clarity to the role he expects dons/community leaders to play in the rejuvenation of downtown Kingston. This subject had been raised during the week by Gladstone Hutchinson an economist with the PM’s ministry of economic development.

The editorial said the term ‘don’ was interchangeable with crime boss and community enforcer.

THURSDAY

New vistas from Khajeel Mais’ murder

The editorial discussed the case and its aftermath where an accused motorist Patrick Powell was found not guilty of fatally shooting a schoolboy Khajeel Mais, a passenger in a taxi, following a minor accident between Powell’s car and the taxi two years ago.

Powell who did not contest the civil case brought against him by the parents of Mais has subsequently been ordered by the court to pay compensation of $23 million to the parents.

On the face of it, the Maises would have had to put Mr Powell at the scene of the incident and prove that it was he who shot their son, a claim that the Crown could not cause to stick during the criminal trial, the editorial reasoned.

This action by the Maises could well open the way to similar claims of compensation by the families and/or estates of murder victims — even in circumstances where the alleged killer has been freed of the crime — were among the observations the editorial made.

FRIDAY

The issue beyond Shane Alexis

The editorial said it was time for a full debate on the issue of eligibility for election to the Jamaican House of Representatives as yet another such issue which has been dogging elections to the House, has surfaced. This time it pertains to Dr Shane Alexis’ citizenship.

Dr Alexis the Opposition FNP candidate is seeking to retain for his party the South St. Mary seat in a by-election. The FNP won the seat by five votes in last year’s February general election which the JLP government won by one seat.

Dr Alexis it is agreed, has been duly nominated for the election by virtue of the fact that he is a Commonwealth citizen which the constitution permits.

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

Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks greets Alexander Panton, student of American International School of Kingston and his classmate, Diallo Richardson (centre). They were on a tour of Washington, DC where they visited the White House, the U.S. Capitol, and a number of other U.S. government institutions.

Lloyd Wilks, recipient of the Doctor of Divinity award, with Stephen Hambly (left), and Rev. Daphne Shand

From left: Pat Charles, Miguel San Vicente, Karl Subban, Loris Thomas at the book launch of “How We Did It: The Subban Plan for Success in Hockey, School and Life,” written by Jamaica-born Karl Subban and Scott Colby. A reception was held at A Different Booklist Cultural Centre in Toronto on October 12, 2017.

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PCJ exploring offshore wind farm

AVIA COLLINDER
Business Reporter

PETROLEUM CORPORATION of Jamaica (PCJ) has got foreign backing for a prefeasibility study on the prospect of setting up another wind farm, but one that would be anchored out at sea.

An American outfit Keystone Engineering Inc has been invited to do the study, which PCJ Group General Manager Winston Watson indicated should be finalised by around December 2018.

The study for the offshore wind farm is being financed by a grant from the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). "Preliminary work should begin during the final quarter of 2017 and the study is scheduled to last for 12 months," said Watson. "The results of the study will give an indication of the cost and viability of developing an offshore wind farm for Jamaica," he told The Gleaner.

The study is expected to evaluate the viability of installing the wind farm, which would represent one of the first offshore wind installations in Jamaica and the greater Caribbean region.

PROJECT-PLANNING ACTIVITIES

USTDA links US businesses to export opportunities by funding project-planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions. The US agency said in a release on the project that the development of the wind farm offers potential export opportunities for a range of American equipment and services related to the design, development, and operation of offshore wind power generation and transmission infrastructure.

Keystone is a Louisiana-based energy firm specialising in the engineering, design, procurement, project management and construction support for offshore wind and oil and gas platforms. The company was the foundation design-engineer for the first offshore wind farm installed in the United States, the 30 MW Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Rhode Island, USTDA noted.

Watson told The Gleaner that it was the US agency that approached the PCJ about overseeing the implementation of a grant-funded feasibility study on the prospective offshore wind farm.

He did not indicate the size of the grant, who would develop the facility, nor what the plans were beyond the study.

"At this point it is still too early to comment on the ownership or operational arrangements for any future offshore wind projects that might be implemented as a result of the study," the PCJ boss said.

The PCJ currently owns and operates the Wigton wind farm, based at Rose Hill in Manchester. "The facility, first established in 2004 and expanded over time, now has generating capacity of nearly 63 MW. Wigton’s total output is now 164,776 MWh per year. It accounts for 6.2 per cent of installed capacity on the national power grid, and 9.7 per cent of Jamaica’s electricity generation," he added.

In the USTDA release, Watson was quoted as saying the study would help to build "a viable data that can attract overseas investment for the development of our offshore wind resources".

PCJ explores offshore wind farm

Winston Watson, group general manager of Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

JPS introduces new penalties for late-paying commercial clients

STARTING OCTOBER 1, overdue balances on the accounts of commercial customers will attract late payment interest from electricity provider Jamaica Public Service Company Limited, JPS.

Head of communications Winsome Callum directed the The Gleaner in a company advisory which said that the implemented charge was a “requirement included in the amendments to the Electricity Licence, which took effect in 2018”.

As prescribed by the Electricity Licence, the interest to be charged on non-GCC commercial accounts will be based on the commercial bank overdraft rate, the company said, while noting it would average 1.3 per cent to 1.8 per cent and revised on a quarterly basis “consistent with movements in the overdraft benchmark”.

“The late payment interest charges will be calculated once monthly on balances that remain unpaid seven days after the due date. This means the interest is calculated at the end of Day 7, following the due date,” JPS said.

Interest is applied to both fuel and non-fuel portions of the bill, excluding GCC and deposit balance. This new interest policy will not affect accounts that are fully paid on or before the due date. The company said the measure is intended to encourage on-time payment.

Accounts will become liable for disconnection 30 days after the billing date. JPS said its licence “explicitly states that interest should be charged with commercial customers”.

Customers who make payments on multiple accounts with different due dates are advised by JPS to make wire transfers to facilitate payments on the accounts, and to supply the power utility immediately with details relating to date of lodgement, amount lodged, bank, and allocation per account.

The same interest rate will be applied to all non-government business accounts, and where the penalty is applied it will be indicated as a line item on the bill.

The company noted that even when payments arrangements are made, interest will continue to be applied as long as the business is in arrears.

A payment arrangement simply facilitates a payment plan for overdue amounts, which continue to attract interest once they remain unpaid, the power utility said.

Permament Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Donovan Stanbery.

Cess on imported coffee to take effect by year end

PERMAMENT SECRETARY in the Ministry of Agriculture, Donovan Stanbery, says the regulation authorising the cess is now being drafted. The cess to be imposed on coffee imports is expected to take effect by year-end.

Agriculture Minister Karl Samuda announced the imposition of the cess last week after it was revealed that the main buyers of the premium brand Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee in Japan are demanding an almost 50 per cent cut in price and have refused to enter into new contracts until this is done.

Japanese traders paid US$660 per kilogramme for Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee last year.

The revelation came just as local farmers of the premium brand coffee were protesting about the low price they are being paid per box for the green coffee beans.

They say the J$46,000 per box being offered is too low as the cost of producing the coffee is high.

However, local coffee processors say the price being offered to farmers is based on what the Japanese traders are offering.

In response to the downturn in the demand and price for Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee, the Agriculture Minister said farmers should focus on increasing production of High Mountain grade coffee.

Samuda said the earnings from the cess will be used to aid farmers to boost production of the lower grade coffee that is sold mainly in the local market.

He said boosting production of High Mountain grade coffee will in turn reduce the amount imported for sale on the local market.
Poultry producer Jamaica Broilers Group is now going after markets on the east coast of the United States, with the acquisition of a hatchery in Big Valley, Pennsylvania. The company has not disclosed the terms of the transaction, saying only it would grow its hatchery capacity by 40 per cent.

The acquisition positions Jamaica Broilers as a key supplier of baby chicks to small producers. And it is now the largest independent supplier of fertile eggs.

Jamaica was successful in securing more than 70 victims. Berry appealed for help to find interpreters for non-English speaking victims, Berry said the Jamaican Constabulary Force has “crafted a plan to deal with the flow of illicit money.”

“Future plans may talk about additional freezing of assets that we may be able to identify,” he said. "The money is being used to fund human trafficking.

The company has not disclosed the cost of the acquisition, but Parsard said they disclose the cost of the acquisition in three to five years.

Jamaica Broilers buys new hatchery in US

Jamaican traffickers turning to bitcoin to mask trail

Avia Collinder

The JAMAICAN police is focusing on the use of bitcoin, or "in the "pocketbook," says Deputy Superintendent of Police Carl Berry, even as the perpetrators are increasingly using bitcoin as a means to use the Gilbert, two 13-year-old brothers rescued by the Jamaican Constabulary Force.

“[The traffickers]’ strategy to hit human traffickers is having conversations with global law-enforcement partners on how to follow the money trail.

“He made millions.

The human trafficking trade, which mostly targets females, is having conversations with global law-enforcement partners on how to follow the money trail.

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What's your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
Argentina open to J’can music

MEL COOKE
Gleaner Writer

THERE ARE some numbers that stand out about Argentina, one of the perennial football World Cup contenders for many a Jamaican (in addition to that other South American nation). It is home to Buenos Aires which, at over 44 degrees south, is widely regarded though not undisputed as the southernmost city in the world.

They have won the World Cup twice, 1978 and 1986, and were beaten in the finals in 1990, 1990 and 2014. Their star, Lionel Messi, has been FIFA’s World Player of the Year five times. The website worldpopulationreview.com, puts its 2017 population at 44,290,033, and Argentina’s Ambassador to Jamaica, Ariel Fernandez, adds another telling number: There are over 300 bands playing Jamaican popular music in Argentina.

With a different professional music support system from Jamaica, Fernandez said “not many of them can record. They will organise performances in places like bars. But several bands have managed to record”. He has a personal connection, as a family member, to one of those bands. When members of The Wailers came to the embassy, he played a song by the band for them. Laughing, Fernandez said “They said it was good, but it was not reggae. It was rocksteady.”

There is no ambiguity about the Jamaican performers at the first staging of the International Reggae Festival on September 2, 2017, in Argentina’s capital Buenos Aires. Julian Marley and Michael Rose (now spelt Mykal Rose) with Sly and Robbie, recreating the original Black Uhuru sound, were the headlining Jamaicans. They performed alongside Godwana, KLUB, Blackdali, Lively Songs, and DJ Nelson, Argentinian press put the turnout at about 60,000 persons.

Fernandez sees Argentina’s intense interest in Jamaican popular music as an economic opportunity that is not being fully utilised. Naming a number of other Jamaican performers who have made the trip there - such as Toots and The Maytals, Israel Vibration, The Skatalites and Alborosie (who is from Italy but has established strong Jamaican roots) Fernandez said “Argentina is very open to foreign culture”. There are other prospects, Fernandez saying, Bunny Wailer “is a very much interred in travelling there”.

The connection has started in Jamaica, as the ambassador said he invited Wailer to be part of Argentina’s National Day, which also involved Queen Ifrica.

There are many others,” he added.

Language is not a barrier to Jamaican performers connecting with Argentine audiences, with most persons understanding English and fans enthused about comprehending Jamaica’s nation language. Along with interest in Jamaican music comes interest in the fashion and food, among other aspects of Jamaican culture.

That leads to some Argentinians travelling to Jamaica, not far from where their famous countryman, Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara, fought in the successful Cuban Revolution.

“Some of them have been here. I have not met them, but they come,” Fernandez said. He is determined that the exchange will not only continue, but increase.

“We are talking about clothing, food, the culture industries. There could be cultural connections. Fernandez told The Sunday Gleaner “For the future, that could be a good business for intellectual-property rights.”

However, he is concerned that not enough people understand the importance and impact of Jamaican popular music in Argentina, in order to capitalise on the opportunities. “It must be known,” Ambassador Fernandez said.

“I told him about the passion Argentinians have for Jamaican music,” Fernandez said. Ifrica was a part of this year’s Kingston observation of Argentina’s May Revolution in 1810. The Gleaner also reporting that Tony Rebel performed. If Jah Is Standing By My Side, in Spanish and English.

appreciation and connection. The appreciation and connections go back to a commonality across the Atlantic Ocean. Ambassador Fernandez saying, “there are connections between the countries and they come from Africa. It is unbelievable the number of Africans in Argentina.”

Acknowledging the presence and power of the Jamaican music off-shoot reggaeton in Argentina, Fernandez also spoke about the bands that fuse Jamaican music with home-grown beats. A classic example is the band, Los Fabulosos Cadillacs.

Some years ago they were playing in Mexico, and attendance was 100,000 people,” Fernandez said. “There are many others,” he added.

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Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation to raise $60,000

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

HELPING HANDS Jamaica Foundation celebrated their 12th Anniversary Annual Gala at Donaldas Club on September 15 to raise a minimum of US$60,000 to build school.

This year the organisation has built four schools. Sean Paul called in and donated $10,000, that brought the total to $40,000. Those were individual donations, but Karl Hale, president of Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation said he would take $20, $40, $100 donations as well. No donation was too small.

Bruce Croxton gave a testimony and said he is no stranger to Jamaica - his mother is from there; this year he took his 12 year old daughter down with him and together they volunteered their time to help build a school. The conditions of the present one was not good - 30 plus students crammed in the basement of the church, just getting by. "It’s tough if you don’t have the basics," said Croxton.

Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation was first established in 2005 in the office of then consul general of Jamaica in Toronto, Anne Marie Bonner. Hale said growing up in Jamaica he was one of the fortunate ones and he wanted to give back. That year they raised $15,000 and to-date they have contributed to the education of over 8,000 children and contributed to “raising the literacy levels in some partner schools from 33% to 84%,” said Hale. "Most Jamaicans grew up with the mantra that we must help each other and especially those less fortunate. This core value has remained evident in Jamaicans and has no doubt become infectious by the many friends of Jamaica - Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation epitomises the essence and cultural centre of the Jamaican people,” said Lloyd Wilks, consul general of Jamaica in Toronto.

Karl Hale, president of Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation contributed to “raising the literacy levels in some partner schools from 33% to 84%,” said Hale. “Most Jamaicans grew up with the mantra that we must help each other and especially those less fortunate. This core value has remained evident in Jamaicans and has no doubt become infectious by the many friends of Jamaica - Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation epitomises the essence and cultural centre of the Jamaican people,” said Lloyd Wilks, consul general of Jamaica in Toronto.

Netflix brings Kristen Bell, Kelsey Grammer to Jamaica Inn

KIMBERLEY SMALL
Gleaner Writer

NEW ZEALAND has experienced an increase in tourist activity since the revelation that the sprawling, majestic shots of the terrain in The Lord of the Rings were filmed there.

Between Oregon and Vancouver, the Twilight films past locales also invited hordes of fans to visit where their entertainers once stood. Perhaps Jamaica can experience the same as Netflix carries one of its original productions to the island’s shores.

Recently, movie and television star Kristen Bell posted an image of herself on Instagram, with crew in tow, signalling the end of filming on location at Jamaica Inn in Ocho Rios. The film, Like Father, in a Netflix comedy feature starring Bell and television legend Kelsey Grammer, who is known for his two-decade-long portrayal of Dr Frasier Crane on the NBC sitcom Cheers and Frasier.

The script centres on a workaholic woman (Bell), who is left at the altar by her groom-to-be and ends up on her honeymoon cruise with her equally workaholic father (Grammer), who left her and her mother when she was a child because he believed family life was a hindrance to his career.

The script was written by Lauren Miller Rogen (spouse Seth Rogen), who also takes the director’s chair in her feature-length debut. Bell gained critical acclaim for her major role as the title character in the teen noir drama television series Veronica Mars and was one of the stars in the hit comedy Bad Moms. She will reprise her role for A Bad Moms Christmas, set to open in November. She gained further recognition for voicing Princess Anna in the popular 2013 Disney film Frozen. Since 2016, she has starred in the main role of Eleanor Shellstrop on the NBC comedy series The Good Place.

The Gleaner reached out to Jamaica Inn, where marketing manager Elia Owens confirmed that they provided accommodation for the crew back in September. In that same month, Kyle Mais (general manager of Jamaica Inn) visited the Jamaica Travel Market at the Luton Hoo Hotel in the United Kingdom from September 28 to 29, alongside Edmund Bartlett, minister of tourism.

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Ronald Thwaites upset at NHT's attempt to 'evict' his people

Ryhn Jones
Gleaner Reporter

MEMBER OF Parliament for Central Kingston Ronald Thwaites is preparing to go to battle with the National Housing Trust (NHT) over its attempt to acquire property in at least three communities in his constituency.

The NHT is trying to acquire a large swathe of land in Central Kingston under its Urban Mass Regeneration Project, but as far as Thwaites is concerned, residents have the legal standing to contest the project. Thwaites has joined with residents of Allman Town, Kingston Gardens and Campbell Town in criticising how the land valuation and acquisition phase of the project is being done.

According to Thwaites, what appears to be happening now is the arbitrary eviction of the residents. "If you write and tell me that I am going to be evicted without having sensitised me or offered me any option, then undoubtedly that is so," charged Thwaites. "I have asked for the letters to be withdrawn and I have been in touch with the housing trust to tell them that is not the way to go about any redevelopment of the area," added Thwaites.

Thwaites has joined with residents.

"We told the persons who came that we had no plans to sell and were actually in the process of refurbishing," said Thwaites. "They still offered to value the property at no cost to us, so we told them to go ahead as we didn’t mind learning the value. They sent two different evaluators here but we were never told the value."

Palmer said they received a second letter on September 28, once again notifying them of the plans to acquire the property.

"It is very disrespectful because they are sending letters and they didn’t come in the community and call a meeting," Palmer lamented. "I didn’t tell them I was selling. I have five kids and all of them have a room here and I have tenants," charged Palmer.

Senior general manager at the NHT, Donald Moore, told our news team that there is no plan to forcefully evict the residents.

"The first order of business is to find out who wishes to sell the properties that they have. It is not to force anybody to sell," said Moore.

"We want to acquire those properties that we can, and if we acquire enough properties from people willing to sell, then it means the project may be a go. If we can’t, then we may not bother."

"We are also doing a general assessment so we know what the state of all the properties in the area is. What we want to do is an overall plan for the area and then to see how we go about implementing the plan," added Moore.

"Evaluation will probably take place over the next couple of weeks while acquisition may last several months or even a couple of years, depending on how much the people buy into it and how quickly and how easily the NHT will be able to compensate and relocate those who will be dislocated once the project starts," said Douglas.

"We have started delivering letters to proprietors or occupants of the lots for which the NHT will be developing," said Douglas. "But Thwaites has taken issue with the distribution of these letters to members of his constituency before discussions are held with them to outline what is being done and the relocation plan.

"I reject the terms of the letters that were distributed on behalf of the National Housing Trust," Thwaites told our news team. "For this peremptory and inconsequential letter to be sent out by the housing trust has only served to put everyone’s feet on edge. Eventually, it is going to delay, if not delay, the whole process that could have gone smoothly.

"I never knew anything about it and it goes entirely contrary to a discussion that I had in Parliament with the prime minister on the subject, when the whole issue of the memorandum signed by the Chinese was the subject for discussion, and I rose and pointed out that all of the discourse about redevelopment could only happen if due care was given to the needs of the residents in the area," added Thwaites.
Bill to modernise agricultural sector passed

THE AGRICULTURAL Loan Societies and Approved Organisations Act, a bill which seeks to modernise the agricultural sector to meet the country’s growing demands of food security and productivity, was passed in the Senate on October 6.

The bill also facilitates the dissolution of the Agricultural Credit Board (ACIB) and transfers the Board’s monitoring and regulatory functions to the Registrar of Co-operative and Friendly Societies.

Closing the debate on October 6, Government Senator, Pearnel Charles Jr., said hundreds of thousands of farmers and their families will be impacted through the provision of more effective regulation and monitoring of important institutions.

Anti-pollution effort – NEPA is reclassifying water bodies

THE NATIONAL Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is reclassifying recreational water bodies to ensure the most important areas are protected from the negative impacts of pollution. A draft should be ready by next March to facilitate public discussion, Anthony McKenzie, the agency’s director of environmental management and conservation, told the Gleaner.

NEPA’s action is in accordance with its obligations under the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution (LBS Protocol), which it ratified in late 2015.

Inaugural cross-island run launched Local Government and Community Month

THE INAUGURAL Cross-Island Run to launch Local Government and Community Month got under way on Tuesday (October 10) at Jamaica House.

The run will last until October 29, with more than 200 runners from several youth groups involved, delivering messages from Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) – the Opposition and the Association of Local Government and Community Development (ALGAD), the leader of the Opposition and the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) – to the Mayors in the parish capitals.

Universal school enrolment up

JAMAICA HAS universal enrolment of children in school up to age 16 with improvement being reflected in older age groups.

Speaking at a post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House on Wednesday October 4, Minister of Education Senator Ruel Reid, cit- ing the 2015 Survey of Living Conditions, said in 2006, enrolment among the 17 to 18 age group, was 49.9 per cent, moving to 50 per cent in 2015.

Enrolment in the 19 to 24 age group, increased from 5.5 per cent in 2006 to 18 per cent in 2015.

The minister said “money problems” was cited as the main reason for absence of students from school from the early-childhood through to secondary levels.

Capacity development workshop held at UTech

A THREE-DAY Capacity Development Workshop with the objective of assisting Jamaica’s Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) agenda and empowering administrators was held at the University of Technology (UTech).

Hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and Vocational Education (UNESCO-UNEVOC), in association with HEART Trust/NTA and Utech, the workshop, from Monday October 9, was held under the theme ‘Moving to Action through Collaborative Capacity Development’.

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Second focus on human trafficking

THE FI WI Jamaica project, a collaborative effort of the University of Technology and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), established in 2015, has impacted more than 10,000 individuals in its advocacy against human trafficking, domestic violence and issues of intolerance, according to director of the project, Professor Rosalea Hamilton.

The three-year project incorporates a number of strategies, with the objective of helping to remove stigma, spark discussion around key issues and effect positive behaviour change among the citizens of Jamaica. Hamilton told JS News that the programme has been working through training and sensitisation sessions, workshops and other activities.

Project to sensitise Jamaicans about human trafficking impacts 10,000

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The project is called, ‘Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change while Reducing Disaster Risk’ in Peckham and surrounding communities.

CLARENDON

Climate Change adaptation programme for upper Clarendon

SEVERAL COMMUNITIES in upper Clarendon will benefit from a US$758,000 Climate Change Adaptation programme, organised by the Environmental Health Foundation (EHF).

Project Manager of the EHF, Paradaine Forbes-Edwards, said the initiative is to increase production and improve the livelihood of farmers in the communities that are prone to disasters, according to a JIS release.

The project is called, ‘Today’s Trees, Tomorrow’s Future’.

Children in State care facilities and members of the IDAs Children’s Advisory Panel (CAP) participated in the activities at 33 childcare facilities islandwide.
BUSINESSES ARE being advised to invest more in cybersecurity systems and tech security talent to protect themselves against hackers and cybercrime.

Cybersecurity expert Karl Chambers, president and CEO of Diligent Security from Atlanta in the United States, says Jamaican companies have been seeing an increase in the number of attacks following the history-making performance of the Jamaica Stock Exchange in 2015, with higher incidents of ransomware, phishing and malware attacks.

“Boards of directors need to own cybersecurity. They also need to know the risks their companies are facing. Too many of them are not even aware of what they have – including servers – which need to be protected,” the cybersecurity expert said in a presentation to the two-day Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism Conference in Kingston.

Chambers cited examples of increased phishing in which CEOs and CFOs of Jamaican companies are being targeted with emails appearing to order payment for goods signed for under their name or coming from their email. He was unable to provide a full count, but said anecdotal reports have been increasing, and significantly so, since December 2015.

The expert said that wives of company heads were also being targeted. The perception, he said, is that there is wealth in Jamaica because of the publicity brought by the stock exchange outperformance in 2015, when it was adjudged the world’s top market for that year.

The Jamaica Stock Exchange at Harbour Street on the Kingston waterfront.

The dark web – initially created by the United States Navy for secure government communications – was now being used for illicit trade in criminal services.

It is now a source, he said, of malware and hacker service for hire, paid for in cryptocurrencies. The hackers often require a relatively small upfront fee as well as profit-share when they succeed.

“Because of the dark web, cyber-criminals can use outsourced services to launch attacks. Every day, there are millions of attacks,” Chambers said.

In July, he said, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, and other crime-fighting agencies “discovered and shut down one marketplace, called Alpha Bay – the largest discovered to date.”

Alpha Bay had 200,000 users and 40,000 vendors trading goods and services, including sex and guns and hacking tools, and had 100,000 listings of fraudulent documents. Chambers said. The site, which was created in 2014, had seen US$1 billion in transactions from inception to its shuttering by the FBI.

He also highlighted the cases of LabMd and Equifax Inc, which had their data stolen, costing them millions of dollars.

“The year 2017 was a particularly frightening year with ransomware attacks, including the encryption of data belonging to individuals and companies, and the demand in payment in bitcoin in return for a code for their release,” he said.

WannaCry ransomware, for example, affected 30,000 victims in 150 countries, including courier company FedEx, which reported US$300 million of lost revenue, while Equifax lost US$70 million, he added.

Chambers advised Jamaican companies that they should not pay ransom to cyberthieves, while noting they would be in a better position to resist if their data were secure. He also advised that they employ automated tools to detect vulnerabilities, and beef up their staff with skilled cyber personnel, including a chief information security officer.

“Your organisation may not survive in the future without automated cybersecurity,” he warned.
DACA gave these young people the reassurance that they would not be deported, and an opportunity to lawfully participate in American life.

**JAMAIACAN CASES**

Jamaica has 2,840 recipients. For the Jamaican cases, some were brought to the US on their own legal visas and others were smuggled into the States by adults. The vast majority of these young people were unaware of their legal status until they graduated from high school and realised that they had no legal status to attend college or to apply for a green card. Some undocumented children are permitted to attend public elementary and high schools pursuant to a Supreme Court decision. For many of these young people, they thought they were American citizens because they don’t remember their birthplace. America is the only country they know.

For at least two decades, the US Congress has been unable to pass legislation known as the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) and its various permutations. This lack of action by Congress prompted President Obama to implement DACA by executive order.

On September 4, 2017, the Trump administration rescinded DACA. The rescission gave those who have DACA applications that would have expired by March 2018 until October 5, 2017, to file for renewal. All other DACA authorizations will expire on a rolling basis—unless Congress finally passes legislation to make the DREAM Act or some version of legalization for the undocumented young people law.

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**Daliah A. Walker-Huntington is a lawyer, mediator and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida. info@walkershuntington.com**

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**Ja, DACA and Trump**

In this Sunday, September 3 photo, supporters of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme demonstrate on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House in Washington.

In 2012, the Obama administration announced relief for children who were brought to the United States (US) and who, currently have no legal status. The reasoning was that these young people had no participation in coming to America and were caught in a legal quagmire because the US Congress failed repeatedly to pass legislation to grant them legal status and to protect them from deportation.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) provided relief from deportation for those who were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, came to the US before reaching their 16th birthday; had continuously resided in the States since June 15, 2007; did not depart the US on or after August 15, 2012 without advance parole; were present in the US on June 15, 2012; entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or their lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012; had graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from a high school, had a GED, or in school at the time he or she requested DACA; were an honourably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the US; had not been convicted of a felony; and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida.

Deidre S. Powell

**CANADA**

Dear Miss Powell, I came to Canada with my mother on a visitor’s visa in 2008 to help my aunt who was sick and needed a helper. The summer after I finished high school in Jamaica, my mother took me to Canada. I was 19 at the time. My mother and I now live with my aunt. I passed seven subjects in Jamaica and wanted to go to college/university here, but my aunt and mother are worried that the immigration authorities would send me home if they found me. I have been helping my aunt and some of her friends with housework just to get some pocket money and to have something to do. I would really love to get my documents so that I can go to college and stop hiding. I’m scared to go anywhere and to talk to any one apart from family friends, as I don’t want to be sent back to Jamaica. My aunt says if I’m not careful anyone can call the police, who can look me up and then deport me. I don’t have anyone in Jamaica to help me, so I wouldn’t know what to do. I want to go back to school and become a nurse but don’t know how to do this if I don’t have my papers. I’m also worried about my mother, as all she does is help my aunt and go to church. She is also scared.

Deidre Powell

**PASSIONATE GROUNDS**

Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

**DACA**

DACA gave these young people the reassurance that they would not be deported, and an opportunity to lawfully participate in American life. They were provided work authorisation which allowed them to obtain a social security number and legally work and pay income taxes, or enrol in higher education or attend colleges and universities in the States.

As of September 4, 2017, US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) reported that 689,800 persons were active DACA recipients. At its peak, there were 866,000 DACA recipients, but for various reasons, including those who have since become US residents, the number of active recipients declined. The estimate was that 1.2 million individuals were DACA-eligible, but many did not apply to become permanent residents.

**Deidre S. Powell**

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**CANADA**
Drawing room project now in ‘Senior’ year
Annual poetry retreat attracts overseas applications

MEL COOKE
Gleaner Writer

THE DRAWING Room Project was started as a 10-day workshop in 2008, and, in 2013, its annual master’s level retreat began at Country Thyme in Highgate, St Mary. The fourth retreat is slated for Good Hope, Highgate, St Mary. The project’s trustees are Dr Millicent Graham, co-founder of the project, with Joni Jackson and Olive Senior as the facilitator. Graham makes it clear that the drawing room programme is not for persons at the outset of their writing efforts. “We firmly believe that we should have a resident writing programme. We have all the makings of a great programme,” Graham said.

Christine Craig, author of All Things Bright & Quadrille for Tigers, facilitated the first retreat. Professor Mervyn Morris (Peelin Orange, 2017) guided participants at the 2015 retreat at Liberty Hall Great House, Lime Hall, St Ann. And Professor Edward Baugh (Black Sand, 2014) was the mentor for last year’s retreat at Woodside in Greenwich, St Andrew.

“We are appealing to writers who are early career. They are ready to submit to a journal or magazine. They have some knowledge of craft but probably need guidance,” she said.

Graham describes a process where there is exposure to the community’s activities, beginning with a collaboration with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) in 2014. For the 2017 retreat, there will be a focus on Georgian architecture, its annual master’s level retreat attracting overseas applications.

melt@philipmelt.com
The Drawing Room Project has been attracting attention from outside the country as among this year’s 15 applications were submissions from Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Poland. Previously there have been participants from Puerto Rico and Trinidad, as well as interest coming from the British Virgin Islands and parts of Europe. Graham says that about 15–20 writers have written the Drawing Room Project annual retreat so far.

“One of the activities at the retreat is to create a writing programme in Jamaica that can support writers as they try to develop their craft with a Jamaican aesthetic.” Graham said. However, funding is a challenge, and, in addition to being open to sponsorship, the Drawing Room Project hopes to host a fundraiser at Victoria Pier, Kingston, next February.

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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Steve Higgins and friends to perform at York College, CUNY

York College, CUNY will open its performing arts season with an exciting concert by tenor soloist, Steve Higgins. In addition to his classical credentials, he is also known for Jazz, Gospel and Jamaican folk music, with three solo albums to his credit.

A member of the trio, Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors, along with David Reid and Ceci Cooper, Higgins who is also an award-winning actor and his guest artists will thrill audience at the Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center at York College. His eclectic repertoire usually includes favorites from classical, Broadway, ballads, jazz and selections from popular genres “with an infusion of island music” from his native Jamaica. He will appear with Dahlia Wynter, April Marr and David Reid.

He has performed at New York Meta games and at a tribute for Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 90th birthday celebration. He has also sung with Olve Lewin’s Jamaican Folk Singers. As an actor, performance of upbeat, jazzy love songs along with Jamaican folk music about love and life. This amazing group of singers will infuse these songs with some lessons about “keeping it fresh and new” and “rekindling the flame’ and just how to make her happy! The energetic banter is guaranteed to make you laugh and to increase your understanding to the language of love!”

The event will take place on Sunday, October 22 at 6pm and is sponsored by The Jamaica Tourist Board, as part of the Jamaica 55 celebrations. The Steve Higgins & Friends 2017 season kicked off in May in The Cayman Islands, following up with a show August 37 at The Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Ft Lauderdale. Visit Steve Higgins Music on P1 or www.stooshproductions.com. Tickets are $30, and may be ordered online at www.yorkpace.com or call box office at 718-282-2840.

Steve Higgins

EVENTS

EVENTS LISTINGS

EVENTS

CANADA


International Festival of Authors—Scarborough presents Jamaican—Canadian authors, B. Denham Jolly and April Marr, on Oct. 25, 7pm and Rachel Manley, on Oct. 25, 9pm at A Different Booklist Cultural Room 1, 100 Queen St. East. Visit Steve Higgins Music on FB or www.stooshproductions.com. Tickets are $30, and may be ordered online at www.yorkpace.com or call box office at 718-282-2840.

Friends of Porus invites you to their 31st Anniversary Fundraising Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 4th, from 9 pm - 3 am, Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Rd, Bronx, NY. Music by DJ Prentice. For further information contact Carl - 917-716-4569. Tickets are $30, and may be ordered online at www.yorkpace.com or call box office at 718-282-2840.

VERE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI, NEW YORK presents The 2017 Fall Dance on Saturday November 25, 2017 at The Adria Hotel, 220-35 Northern Blvd, Bayside, NY 11361. Music by Echo Vibes Disco with Guest DJs! Gate open its performing arts sea-

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ANDRÈ WILLIAMS
Gleaner Writer

Ferdinand ‘Nancy’ Smith’s memories will forever be etched in the hearts of natives in west Rural St Andrew. Described as a community hero and stalwart, it came as no surprise that hundreds of people who happen to know him, or know of him, were plunged into mourning following his death last month. Smith, whose selfless life spanned decades, lived in Stony Hill, and his acts of kindness and good deeds were felt beyond the surrounding environs.

From the infant to the elderly, everyone has been touched directly or indirectly by this true model of a community hero. Nancy departed this life, leaving family and friends on September 26, at the age of 63.

His younger brother, Leonard Smith, said that Nancy was very passionate about his community and although he was large in the eyes of persons, he lived a simple life.

“Him is a man weh help people and him nuh have nothing. Just love for people. You can’t hungry and go to him and nuh get nuttin. Him will have his last and give it away.

“Mi miss him. A morning time mi wake and know say mi have to give him his breakfast. But it’s just life still. Him pass away. The entire community loved him. Is like him fulfil his purpose on Earth, which is to spread love and show that you nuh afi rich fi kind.”

Nancy was recently forced to have one of his legs amputated due to diabetes.

“He died about a week after dem cut off the foot. It was too late when he went to the doctor. Stubborn and hesitation caused it, and then him just fret until him dead. Neighbours say he cried a lot at nights,” Smith said.

Sheldon Picart, a resident of Stony Hill, told The Gleaner that Nancy was very kind.

“Every party I promoted, Nancy would come at the bar and seh, ‘Gimmi two crate fi pick up di empty bottles. People will thief dem, enuh. Nuh because u mek money now, always protect your profit,’” he said.

Community groups and as well as the police in Stony Hill have recognised Nancy for his dedication to the area. In 2015, he was awarded in recognition of exemplary community service for over 20 years rendered to Stony Hill and its environs.

‘Nancy’ gave his all to Stony Hill

More court workers to be charged in divorce racket

LAW ENFORCEMENT sources say more persons employed to the Supreme Court are to be charged in connection to a divorce racket.

Last week the Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Investigation Branch charged four people in relation to the racket uncovered at the Court.

Those charged are 40-year-old Assistant Clerk at the Supreme Court, Camille White; 44-year-old construction worker, Artnel Sampson; 35-year-old studio engineer, Wayne Annakie; and 36-year-old farmer, Shervin Levy.

They were charged with forgery; uttering forged documents and conspiracy. The police say they have received additional documents from the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice.

Sources say more arrests are to be made soon.

Minister of Justice Delroy Chuck said he did not mean to broad brush the entire unit.
Bustling Sam Sharpe Square: a heritage hotspot

PAUL H. WILLIAMS
Gleaner Writer

Sam Sharpe Square in Montego Bay is not the epicentre of life for St James only. It is the crossroads for all of western Jamaica and has always been like that, historically.

Though the British slave trade to the West Indies ended in 1807, the anti-slavery zeal in Britain did not begin to take root until about 1823-24 when there were rumours that the king had granted the enslaved their freedom.

The rumours were so strong that the king had to make a declaration to deny any such granting of freedom. The disquiet took a while to be defused, but a few years later, another such rumour surfaced. That time around, it stayed and frustrated the enslaved.

It was 1831, and a 31-year-old Baptist lay preacher named Samuel Sharpe after his owner was secretly agitating against the evils of slavery. Apparently, he, too, believed that freedom had been granted, but was being withheld, so he met after prayer meetings with his followers to organise a general strike in western Jamaica.

REMARKABLE MAN

Sharpe was a field slave on the Croydon Estate in St James but grew up in Montego Bay. He had a good relationship with his owners and was described by the Methodist, Reverend Bleby, as ‘the most intelligent and remarkable slave’ he had ever met.

Of his physical attributes, Bleby said, ‘He is of the middle size. His fine sinewy frame was handsomely moulded, and his skin as perfect a jet, as can well be imagined. His forehead was high and broad, while his nose and lips exhibited the usual characteristics of the Negro race. He had teeth whose regularity and pearly whiteness a court beauty might have envied, and an eye whose brilliance was almost dazzling.”

Sharpe used his influence and authority to get support from many enslaved people who were entitled to three days holidays every year after Christmas. He instructed the people not to return to work after the holidays in 1831. They were also told to fight for their freedom only if the planters refused to give it to them. But, he was preempted as some of the enslaved started the flames before Sharpe was ready to and all hell broke loose.

After the smoke and the fire dissipated, and the bullets stopped flying, about 14 white and three coloured people lay dead, while approximately 186 enslaved people were killed and 31 wounded.

The surviving enslaved people were dragged to court and severely punished. Many were hanged. Sharpe himself was executed on May 23, 1832. In his cell, he told Bleby, “I would rather die upon yonder gallows than live in slavery.”

He was hanged in the square in Montego Bay, which was called Charles Square up until 1976 when it was renamed Sam Sharpe Square. On October 16, 1983, the Sam Sharpe monument, designed by Kay Sullivan, was unveiled in Sam Sharpe Square. It consists of five bronze statues, including that of Sharpe, who holds a Bible while speaking with his followers.
JADCO ready for court battle with Brown

RACHID PARCHMENT
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING Commission (JADCO) chairman Alexander Williams says the agency is fully prepared and ready to go to court regarding its decision to terminate the services of its executive director, Carey Brown. This is after Brown and his legal team were granted an injunction by the Supreme Court which bars JADCO from terminating his contract with notice of his final day being on October 31.

“I can confirm that Mr Brown has secured for himself an interim injunction,” Williams told The Gleaner. “In other words, it’s granted by the court without hearing the other party to the dispute and it will expire on November 1, and on that day, there will be a full hearing into the issue.

“JADCO is well prepared to go to court on November 1. We have representing us Ms Althea Jarrett of the attorney general’s chambers.”

Brown was asked to resign from his position by JADCO last month because its board had “lost confidence” in Brown’s ability to effectively carry out his role as executive director. However, he did not cooperate with the request and was then fired from his role by the

Wildman, said that the injunction was granted because he was temporar­ily reassigned from his origi­nal employment to that of execu­tive director at JADCO, therefore, its board did not make the decision it did to terminate him.

“Mr Brown is not an ordinary employee of JADCO,” Wildman shared. “Mr Brown is a public office­cer. He was appointed under Section 125 of the Constitution to the Public Service, then he was sec­onded to the post as the executive director of JADCO.

“If you look at Section 10.6 of the JADCO Act, it also speaks to that secondment. Anyone who is appointed from the public service to that post, or any post in JADCO remains a public servant and is entitled to be treated as a public servant. Therefore, Mr Brown cannot be terminated at the pleasure of the board ... because he is pro­tected by the constitution his employment is not one of private law, but public law.

“The injunction was first granted by the Supreme Court on October 4 but Wildman said that it was con­tinued on Tuesday by another judge. This was after an applica­tion for leave to pursue judicial review was filed, but could not be heard until November 1.

New additions to Sunshine Girlz Fast5 Squad

ROBERT BAILEY
Gleaner Writer

STAR SHOOTER Jhaniele Fowler-Reid is among three players who have been added to the Jamaica Sunshine Girls team to this year’s Fast5 World Series, replacing Sherema Sterling, Shantal Slater, and Zonasha Hinds, who were denied US visas two weeks ago.

Former captain Malysha Kelly and veteran player Paula Thompson are the other players who have been brought onto the Sunshine girls team for the tourna­ment, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from October 28-29.

Fowler-Reid had initially indicated to the Sunshine Girls coaching staff that she would only be available for the Caribbean Netball Championships and not the Fast5 Series as both tournaments would be held in the same month, which would have caused her to miss a number of classes at the Mico University College, where she is currently studying.

However, the Caribbean tournament, which was scheduled for October 8-16 in St Lucia, was cancelled last month due to the unavailability of some of the teams, and Fowler-Reid has since indicated her wil­lingness to represent the country in the Fast5 competi­tion.

Kelly and Thompson were also members of the squad preparing for the Caribbean Championships and not the Fast5 tournament.

Expectations have been heightened going into the tournament,” Lewis added.

Lewis also confirmed that Fowler-Reid would cap­tain the Sunshine Girls team at the championships Down Under.

“We are very happy about that. She is very respected in the team, very influential, and the players look up to her a great deal, so we are quite happy that she will be there.”
Bolt responds to statue issue

OKOYE HENRY
Gleaner Writer

Sprint legend Usain Bolt has responded to a debate around the positioning of a statue, which is to be erected in his home parish of Trelawny, noting that he understands the calls for it to be placed in a public location.

There is a strong debate centred around where in the parish the statue should be placed, with the private access Cruise Ship Pier being pinpointed as the likely home of the Bolt statue. However, residents of the parish have argued that Water Square, which is accessible to the entire public or Bolt’s childhood community of Sherrwood Content would be more suitable locations for the statue.

Bolt, however, stood firm in his resolve, highlighting that the decision does not rest with him alone, as his intent was to come out and have fun, and not necessarily, as his intent was to come

"So for me to actually get a statue, it doesn’t really matter where it is. It’s in Jamaica, so it is just an honour," he added.

Nevertheless, iconic sprinter Usain Bolt did state that he understands the plight of some persons, who argued that the statue should be to be in a public space to be enjoyed by everyone.

"I don’t make that decision. I am not the one who can make that choice, but I understand that if it is out in the public then more people will be able to see it. I understand that, but I don’t make that decision," Bolt stated.

In the meantime, the sprint king has been enjoying his time since retiring from competitive track and field this year.

According to him, he has been busy with charity and sponsorship work both locally and abroad, but once he is settled, will be looking towards investments in Trelawny.

“We have been trying to get

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A ground breaking ceremony for the oval which will be built at Taylor’s alma mater, Eltham High School in St. Catherine will be held on Wednesday November 1.

Taylor at 17 began her cricketing career in the unusual way of playing for her school’s boys’ team. Her impressive run with bat and ball was to lead her to represent Jamaica and WI women’s team where she sustained her good form.

An undoubted highlight of her career came when she became the only woman from the region to have led a sports team to a World Title, accomplishing that feat when the West Indies emerged champions at the ICC Women World T20 tournament in India in 2016.

Taylor who bowled off-spin, was voted ICC T20 Player of the Year in 2011, 2012, and at age 22, she became the first player, either male or female to hold the number one position in ICC rankings for both batting and bowling at the same time in international limited overs cricket.

“I am delighted that my country and more specifically my alma mater has seen fit to honour me in this way,” Taylor said.

“Ethiopia is where I learnt the game and have always wanted to make it my career, so I want to thank all the students at Kitham, and throughout all of them, will be motivated by the success I have achieved in my short stint thus far on the world stage. My dream is to see all our leading sports personality serve as role models to our children and adults alike,” she said.

The Stephanie Taylor Oval is being constructed by the Sports Development Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. It is one of the Jamaica 55 Legacy Projects.

Kemar Leslie of Rainbow Seaford making his way across the finishing line to win the 4K Run in the 3rd JN Foundation Heroes in Action Run/Walk held in Falmouth, Trelawny, on Sunday.

Archibald, Blagrove win Heroes in Action 10k

OSHAKE ARCHIBALD and Karlene Blagrove both defended their respective 10K Run challenge at Sunday’s JN Foundation Heroes in Action Run/Walk 2017 in Falmouth, Trelawny, that had well over 1,600 people locally and abroad participating in solidarity for the charity and fitness.

Blagrove, who less than a month ago copped the CUMI Come Run’s female 10k event, repeated her winning ways with a time of 46.11 ahead of William Knibb High School’s Chrissy Granville (47.34) and Muschett High’s Ashanti Carrod (47.39).

“The route itself was a good route but it rained a little so it was very slippery and challenging, but I maintained my pace and pulled through,” said the 46-year-old Spanish Town runner who represented Pacers Running Club.

Archibald, on the other hand, told The Gleaner that he feels extraordinary as his intent was to come out and have fun, and not necessarily, to win the male 10k run, which he did on a time of 33.57. His runners up were Nickroy Harding who clocked 38.57 and Lucien Graham who registered 36.40.

Kemar Leslie of Rainbow Seaford took reign in the 4K Run on a time of 13.43 while his female counterpart, Tashanaha Smith of Jamaica National Bank, finished on a time of 18.57.

“In just a little over a month I did Colour Run in Hope Gardens in Kingston, then went to CUMI Come Run at Tryall and now this event, and I’ve won all three so I feel my good and jolly,” said the 30-year-old Leslie.

The Trelawny Infirmary is the beneficiary of this year’s third staging of the charity which JN Foundation has always partnered on with the Usain Bolt Foundation.

The sprint legend himself was even at the event to give his time and support of the humanitarian effort, stating that ‘the elders are the ones who set the stage for us so in any way we can give back to make them more comfortable is a pleasure’.

A cheque valued at $500,000 was presented to the infirmary which Dunstan Harper, Chairman for the Poor Relief Department at the Trelawny Infirmary, noted will go in aid of infrastructure rehabilitation efforts.

“The dining area is a little bit uncomfortable because of the benches need to change, he more recreational for the residents and have them in a more comfortable environment,” Harper outlined.

“The other issue is vehicle to transport residents to the hospital when they are ill. We would like for the infirmary to have a vehicle of its own so it can have immediate access to transport them in the event of an emergency,” he added.

The Managing Director of JN Bank, Maureen Hayden Cater, said the turn out this year is testament that people are willing to aid their fellow countrymen and women once rallied behind a cause.

“This is more than just giving a cheque, it is to get people to come and support other people, and that is what this is all about,” she noted.

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West Indies batting star Chris Gayle has thanked the nation for being chosen for a national honour. Gayle, one of the West Indies’ most prominent players over the past two decades, received the Order of Distinction, Commander Class.

Gayle gives thanks for CD

Jamaica’s leading female cricketer Stafanie Taylor, and the current captain of the West Indies (WI) Women cricket team, is to have an oval built in her honour.

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