PORTIA LASHES OUT AT PNP

STORY ON PAGE 3
Angry Andre Russell gets one-year ban

Six Jamaicans to receive awards of excellence

Six Jamaicans are among 15 people to receive the 2017 African Canadian Achievement Awards of Excellence in Toronto.

Packed, peaceful tribute to Dennis Brown

The Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA), organisers of the weekly Reggae Wednesdays concert series in Mandela Park, Half-Way Tree, for Reggae Month are dubbing the first show a huge success. It was a tribute to singer Dennis Emmanuel Brown on what would have been his 60th birthday and he had been alive.

Ja to redefine rape

NEW C’BEAN LAW SCHOOL

A PARTNERSHIP among the government of Guyana, the Law College of the Americas (LCA) and the University College of the Caribbean (UCC) has cleared the way for the establishment of the JCF Mayaro Law School of the Americas (JMLSA), to be based in Georgetown, Guyana.

Tax collections increase

Farmers get to climate-risk management training

Beginning February 7, the USAID-funded Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change II (Ja REEACH II) project, in collaboration with the Meteorological Service of Jamaica and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority will host a series of agrometeorology farmers’ fora.

Prank calls hurting Falmouth firefighters

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT Roland Walters of the Falmouth Fire Station last week launched a special appeal to persons making prank calls to the fire department to desist from doing so, because it is negatively impacting their capacity to function effectively.
Portia lashes PNP

APPARENTLY BELIEVING that she is being hounded out as its leader, an angry Portia Simpson Miller told her People’s National Party (PNP) not to expect her to campaign in future elections. While delegates at the meeting of the party’s National Executive Committee (NEC) on Sunday, February 5 were stunned by the remark and felt that the party president was serious, when she spoke, she later walked-back the statement, party insiders said.

“When the matter of the remark was raised with her afterwards by senior colleagues, she said that the remark was made in jest,” according to one source.

“You know I’m only joking,” she reportedly told party officials.

Simpson Miller, 71, has been president of the PNP for 11 years, but will step down on April 2, to be replaced by Patterson, who stepped aside in 2006.

“Not at all,” said Blythe when asked if he would challenge again.

“I am here to support my party in whatever way they want, but not as leader,” he stated.

With the governing Jamaica Labour Party enjoying a one-seat majority in the parliament, Simpson Miller will, until the for-by-election can be arranged with the government, move to the back benches of the House. But she made it clear that when she goes she will have a firm hand in deciding on a successor.

In keeping the tone of her remarks from Jamaicans in the New York Association in NY, said Simpson-Miller’s charisma and her support among this group of Jamaicans is often credited with helping to keep the lid on the Jamaican society while her 2012-2016 administration pushed through reforms.

“The party leader was clearly hurt,” said one PNP source. “It’s hard to withdraw from something which was a part for 40 years.”

NOT THE BEST MOOD

Even Karl Blythe, the man who challenged Simpson Miller at the party’s last annual conference, was forced to admit that the mood of the conference was not what he had expected.

“I am trying to reason with myself why I feel that way. I wanted and I knew it was time for her to go. But when you say ‘goodbye’, you want to say in an atmosphere of comradeship. I couldn’t feel it today,” said Blythe.

Blythe was one of four, including Simpson Miller, who sought to replace Patterson, who stepped aside in 2006.

“Not all,” said Blythe when asked if he would challenge again.

“I am here to support my party in whatever way they want, but not as leader,” he stated.

With the governing Jamaica Labour Party enjoying a one-seat majority in the parliament, Simpson Miller will, until the for-by-election can be arranged with the government, move to the back benches of the House. But she made it clear that when she goes she will have a firm hand in deciding on a successor.

In keeping the tone of her aides in the NEC speech, she said she knew that it was a long-time that some people had been hankering after her St Andrew South Westminster constituency, the PNP’s safest.

SECRETARY JULIAN Robinson, who will hand in her resignation to the government general after a special delegates’ conference is held on March 26 for the election of the party’s new president.

In her short remarks, she ventured into areas about the absence of respect and questions about her intellect and then told her colleagues not to come calling in future campaigns.

That reference was a clear allusion to Simpson Miller to her popularity especially among the PNP’s base, especially poor, working class Jamaicans for whom she was perceived as a champion and from whose roots she often proclaimed to have sprung.

In fact, Simpson Miller’s charisma and her support among this group of Jamaicans is often credited with helping to keep the lid on the Jamaican society while her 2012-2016 administration pushed through reforms.

“The party leader was clearly hurt,” said one PNP source. “It’s hard to withdraw from something which was a part for 40 years.”

NOT THE BEST MOOD

Even Karl Blythe, the man who challenged Simpson Miller at the party’s last annual conference, was forced to admit that the mood of the conference was not what he had expected.

“I am trying to reason with myself why I feel that way. I wanted and I knew it was time for her to go. But when you say ‘goodbye’, you want to say in an atmosphere of comradeship. I couldn’t feel it today,” said Blythe.

Blythe was one of four, including Simpson Miller, who sought to replace Patterson, who stepped aside in 2006.

“Not at all,” said Blythe when asked if he would challenge again.

“I am here to support my party in whatever way they want, but not as leader,” he stated.

With the governing Jamaica Labour Party enjoying a one-seat majority in the parliament, Simpson Miller will, until the for-by-election can be arranged with the government, move to the back benches of the House. But she made it clear that when she goes she will have a firm hand in deciding on a successor.

In keeping the tone of her aides in the NEC speech, she said she knew that it was a long-time that some people had been hankering after her St Andrew South Westminster constituency, the PNP’s safest.

SECRETARY JULIAN Robinson, who will hand in her resignation to the government general after a special delegates’ conference is held on March 26 for the election of the party’s new president.

In her short remarks, she ventured into areas about the absence of respect and questions about her intellect and then told her colleagues not to come calling in future campaigns.

That reference was a clear allusion to Simpson Miller to her popularity especially among the PNP’s base, especially poor, working class Jamaicans for whom she was perceived as a champion and from whose roots she often proclaimed to have sprung.

In fact, Simpson Miller’s charisma and her support among this group of Jamaicans is often credited with helping to keep the lid on the Jamaican society while her 2012-2016 administration pushed through reforms.

“The party leader was clearly hurt,” said one PNP source. “It’s hard to withdraw from something which was a part for 40 years.”

NOT THE BEST MOOD

Even Karl Blythe, the man who challenged Simpson Miller at the party’s last annual conference, was forced to admit that the mood of the conference was not what he had expected.

“I am trying to reason with myself why I feel that way. I wanted and I knew it was time for her to go. But when you say ‘goodbye’, you want to say in an atmosphere of comradeship. I couldn’t feel it today,” said Blythe.

Blythe was one of four, including Simpson Miller, who sought to replace Patterson, who stepped aside in 2006.

“Not at all,” said Blythe when asked if he would challenge again.

“I am here to support my party in whatever way they want, but not as leader,” he stated.

With the governing Jamaica Labour Party enjoying a one-seat majority in the parliament, Simpson Miller will, until the for-by-election can be arranged with the government, move to the back benches of the House. But she made it clear that when she goes she will have a firm hand in deciding on a successor.

In keeping the tone of her aides in the NEC speech, she said she knew that it was a long-time that some people had been hankering after her St Andrew South Westminster constituency, the PNP’s safest.

SECRETARY JULIAN Robinson, who will hand in her resignation to the government general after a special delegates’ conference is held on March 26 for the election of the party’s new president.

In her short remarks, she ventured into areas about the absence of respect and questions about her intellect and then told her colleagues not to come calling in future campaigns.

That reference was a clear allusion to Simpson Miller to her popularity especially among the PNP’s base, especially poor, working class Jamaicans for whom she was perceived as a champion and from whose roots she often proclaimed to have sprung.

In fact, Simpson Miller’s charisma and her support among this group of Jamaicans is often credited with helping to keep the lid on the Jamaican society while her 2012-2016 administration pushed through reforms.

“The party leader was clearly hurt,” said one PNP source. “It’s hard to withdraw from something which was a part for 40 years.”

NOT THE BEST MOOD

Even Karl Blythe, the man who challenged Simpson Miller at the party’s last annual conference, was forced to admit that the mood of the conference was not what he had expected.

“I am trying to reason with myself why I feel that way. I wanted and I knew it was time for her to go. But when you say ‘goodbye’, you want to say in an atmosphere of comradeship. I couldn’t feel it today,” said Blythe.

Blythe was one of four, including Simpson Miller, who sought to replace Patterson, who stepped aside in 2006.

“Not at all,” said Blythe when asked if he would challenge again.

“I am here to support my party in whatever way they want, but not as leader,” he stated.

With the governing Jamaica Labour Party enjoying a one-seat majority in the parliament, Simpson Miller will, until the for-by-election can be arranged with the government, move to the back benches of the House. But she made it clear that when she goes she will have a firm hand in deciding on a successor.

In keeping the tone of her aides in the NEC speech, she said she knew that it was a long-time that some people had been hankering after her St Andrew South Westminster constituency, the PNP’s safest.
Six Jamaicans to receive awards of excellence

By Neil Armstrong

SIX JAMAICANS among 15 people to receive the 2017 African Canadian Achievement Awards of Excellence in Toronto. The presentations will be made at the St Lawrence Centre for the Arts on February 25 inside the Janet Mallet Theatre.

The six are Delores Lawrence for lifetime achievement, Eric Williams, politics; Marie Clarke Walker, business; Sheryl Antoinette Bernard, medicine; Kay Morris, religion, and Grace Carter-Henry Lyons, arts and entertainment.

Lawrence is the founder, president and CEO of the Peel District School Board since 1977; representing Ward 5 in Mississauga for the past 15 years, and studied in Canada and the United States before becoming a registered nurse.

Upon graduation, she worked at a major teaching Toronto hospital specialising in critical care nursing and at 28 became a nursing supervisor. Lawrence is a registered nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Williams, a member of the Peel District School Board since 1977, representing Ward 5 in Mississauga for the past 15 years, has served on all standing and legislative committees of the board.

CLERICAL VICE-PRESIDENT

Sheryl Bernard

The founding president of the Jamaican Canadian Association of Nurses is driven by her pursuit for healthy public policy, community engagement, clinical research, service excellence, health and social change through philanthropic efforts in impoverished and marginalised communities. Morris is known as Canada’s ‘First Lady of Gospel & Queen of Reggae Gospel.’

She began singing at the age of four and has worked tremendously to explore and celebrate her musical and spiritual roots.

The Heritage Singers, a group that promotes the development of Caribbean folk music and theatre and shares it with the greater community, is making major plans to celebrate its 40th anniversary in October at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Founded by Grace Carter-Henry Lyons, the singers and musicians gave their first performance in 1977 at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.

The Singers started with a group of friends who wanted to keep in touch with the back-home sound and preserve their cultural roots.

The other recipients are: John O’Neill (Guyana), for community service; Rinaldo Walcott (Barbados), education, Superintendent Ingrid Berkeley-Brown, (Guyana), law; Mark Beckles, (Barbados), management and leadership, Anthony Joseph, (Trinidad and Tobago), media; Royston and Claire Jones (Guyana), parenting; Dr. Tabo Sikaneta (Zambia), science, Jeffrey L. Orridge, (United States), sports, and Remi Ojo (Zambia), law.

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

Contributed photos

Delores Lawrence

Eric Williams

Pentecostal ministers so far from an early age she was exposed to two important influences that have guided her life — spiritual faith and the message of music.

She began singing at the age of four and has worked tremendously to explore and celebrate her musical and spiritual roots.

The Heritage Singers, a group that promotes the development of Caribbean folk music and theatre and shares it with the greater community, is making major plans to celebrate its 40th anniversary in October at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Founded by Grace Carter-Henry Lyons, the singers and musicians gave their first performance in 1977 at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.

The Singers started with a group of friends who wanted to keep in touch with the back-home sound and preserve their cultural roots.

The other recipients are: John O’Neill (Guyana), for community service; Rinaldo Walcott (Barbados), education, Superintendent Ingrid Berkeley-Brown, (Guyana), law; Mark Beckles, (Barbados), management and leadership, Anthony Joseph, (Trinidad and Tobago), media; Royston and Claire Jones (Guyana), parenting; Dr. Tabo Sikaneta (Zambia), science, Jeffrey L. Orridge, (United States), sports, and Remi Ojo (Zambia), law.

Her humanitarian work through the Kay Morris Foundation based in Canada and Ghana.

She has also brokered $1.5 million in anti-retroviral medicine for people living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Morris was born in Westmoreland and grew up in Montego Bay. Her parents were...
Brandon University president to receive award at Black History Month event

NEIL ARMSTRONG (Teresa, Ont.)

Dr. GERRYN Pearson, president of Brandon University, will receive an award for his role in helping to address the crisis in black education at the University of Western Ontario.

Born in England to Jamaican parents, Pearson lived in England for four years before moving to Canada in 1968 with his parents and siblings.

The former Dean of The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University was appointed the president of Brandon University in August 2014 to a five-year term ending on July 31, 2019. Before this appointment, he served as vice-president (academic and provost) at the university.

He has a BSc and MSc from the University of Guelph and earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario.

In a 2016 study of Canada’s top research-intensive universities, Professor Malinda Smith, a political scientist at the University of Alberta, found that there was not a single woman of visible minority in the senior ranks, and visible minority men at only four universities.

AFRICAN-INSPIRED ART EXHIBIT OPENS IN RICHMOND

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — TO KICK off Black History Month, the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia is exhibiting four decades of work by Murry DePillars, an artist known for his vivid colours and geometric patterns.

“Murry DePillars: Double Vision,” which features 37 pieces of artwork, opened February 3 and goes on display through the month near downtown Richmond. While DePillars did everything from crayon on illustration to quilting, most of the exhibit shows off his acrylic paintings.

DePillars’ career spanned four decades, from the 1960s to the early 2000s. His early work, such as the illustration “Aunt Jemima,” deals with socio-economic and political commentary. Unlike his later work, those illustrations used little colour. The drawings were created while DePillars was studying art in Chicago and Philadelphia.

DePillars was dean of the School of the Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University from 1976 to 1999. DePillars also served as the director of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, and said DePillars was integral in turning VCU into one of the largest art schools in the country.

He lived in Richmond until his death in 2009.

TRAVELLING ARTIST

Even as a dean at VCU, DePillars continued his own artistic pursuit and travels. On his trips, he carried a suitcase full of art supplies so he could easily work on his art wherever he went. The suitcase he used and two unfinished paintings are featured in the exhibit.

DePillars’ late work contrasts with his early illustrations. He said the space gallery, visitors are greeted by an array of vivid colours and geometric patterns.

Chambers said DePillars did extraneous art in creating his art and often looked at how Africa as well as the current environment influenced African-American traditions.

The exhibit takes its name from Michael D. Harris, an artist and art historian who applied the term “double vision” in describing the process by which black artists look back at African culture to that of contemporary society.

Chambers said the museum also chose this name for the exhibit because it explores not only DePillars’ artistic career but also his role as an educator.

The exhibition coincides with a host of Black History Month events. Chambers said the museum is celebrating black Americans’ contributions to “life, love and liberty” — and also fighting for those things.

“We are celebrating,” Chambers said. “Given the current political environment, we are also still participating in the movement to bring these and the things that may now be in jeopardy.”

The Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia is at 122 W. Leigh St. in Richmond. To find out more about the museum’s events for Black History Month, visit blackhistorymuseum.org

Celebrating Black History Month

Ten amazing facts about Lindy Delapenha

ON THURSDAY, January 26, 2017, Jamaica lost an illustrious and beloved sportswoman and veteran journalist, Lloyd Lindberg “Lindy” Delapenha. Delapenha has featured on both sides of the coin for his role as an educator.

1. He is said to have once called the Sierra Leone Football Association Championships “mini-Olympics,” recognizing the importance of Champs to Jamaica’s exemplary athletic prowess.

2. Representing Munro College in 1945, he participated in 16 events (eight boys’ and eight finals) over the then two-day ISSA School Boys’ Athletics Championships, something no other schoolboy had ever done. He was team captain and won the 800 yard and one-mile races, placing second in the 120 yard hurdles, the 220 yard dash and long jump, and third in the 110 and 440 yard races. That feat eventually prompted a change in the rules governing schoolboy athletics in 1956.

3. He retired from football in England in 1960 and won the Southern League Cup with Burton Albion, scoring the winning goal in the final.

4. He was the first Jamaican to play professional football in England, joining Portsmouth in April 1948, where he won a league championship medal.

5. He was transferred to the Manchester City football team and became a mainstay and the club’s leading goalscorer (1952-56).

6. He scored 93 league/FA Cup goals in 270 appearances, including unbroken records for a winger of 22 goals (1952) and 25 goals (1954) in a single season.

7. At the peak of his football career at Middlesbrough, he was offered £26,000 to transfer to Manchester City, but declined it in order not to dislocate his fiancé.

8. Born in England to Jamaican parents, Pearson lived in England for four years before moving to Canada in 1968 with his parents and siblings.

9. He has a BSc and MSc from the University of Guelph and earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario.

10. He became director of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia from 1976 to 1999. DePillars also served as the director of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, and said DePillars was integral in turning VCU into one of the largest art schools in the country.

He lived in Richmond until his death in 2009.

TRAVELLING ARTIST

Even as a dean at VCU, DePillars continued his own artistic pursuit and travels. On his trips, he carried a suitcase full of art supplies so he could easily work on his art wherever he went. The suitcase he used and two unfinished paintings are featured in the exhibit.

DePillars’ late work contrasts with his early illustrations. He said the space gallery, visitors are greeted by an array of vivid colours and geometric patterns.

Chambers said DePillars did extraneous art in creating his art and often looked at how Africa as well as the current environment influenced African-American traditions.

The exhibit takes its name from Michael D. Harris, an artist and art historian who applied the term “double vision” in describing the process by which black artists look back at African culture to that of contemporary society.

Chambers said the museum also chose this name for the exhibit because it explores not only DePillars’ artistic career but also his role as an educator.

The exhibition coincides with a host of Black History Month events. Chambers said the museum is celebrating black Americans’ contributions to “life, love and liberty” — and also fighting for those things.

“We are celebrating,” Chambers said. “Given the current political environment, we are also still participating in the movement to bring these and the things that may now be in jeopardy.”

The Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia is at 122 W. Leigh St. in Richmond. To find out more about the museum’s events for Black History Month, visit blackhistorymuseum.org

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@gleanermj.com
JN Bank celebrates launch in Toronto

SOPHIA FINDLAY
Contributor

THE JN Bank Welcome Cocktail Reception marked the introduction of the latest subsidiary of the Jamaica National Group on Saturday, February 4, at their Eglinton Avenue, West Toronto location. Almost a hundred guests showed up throughout the evening. “Tonight is especially about welcoming the new subsidiary into our group, which is the JN Bank in Canada. We are more than happy to have a new addition to the group to promote the products and services of another entity where we’re able to serve the people who want to do business in Jamaica,” said Jerrold Johnson, JN chief representative officer of the Canadian branch.

“We are really excited; we just had a wonderful night of the launch and a wonderful crowd where people seemed to have a real good time and that’s what it’s all about.”

“There are some really good stuff coming and we can’t tell all of it now but come March 25, 2017, we are going to have a wonderful night of the launch and a wonderful night of the launch and a wonderful night of the launch.”

JNOH Bank Welcome Cocktail Reception

Dr George Eaton passes

Dr George Eaton, Professor Emeritus, has passed. He died at home in Kingston, Ontario, on January 25, just three days shy of his 87th birthday. He was born on January 28, 1930, in Port Antonio, Portland, Jamaica, the fifth of eleven children born to Annie and Gerald Eaton. The funeral was held for Dr Eaton, February 4, at Highland Funeral Home and his body laid to rest at Highland Memory Gardens, located east of Toronto. The magnitude of Dr Eaton’s influence was evident from the hundreds of mourners who showed up to pay their last respects.

Dr Eaton lived in Toronto for over 50 years, before settling in Kingston, Ontario, in 2013 because of declining health, and taught at York University for 35 years. He was a founding faculty member and a full professor, and before that he was a Senior Economic Adviser to the United Nations. August 2010, he was awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Class by the Government of Jamaica and Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of the West Indies (UWI), in 2012.

BEGINNINGS IN EDUCATION

His career began at UWI in Jamaica, as a research fellow and lecturer in economics. During his tenure there, Dr Eaton helped to establish the Trade Union Education Institute and from 1961-63 helped the Jamaican government to launch the Fair Labour Code. He also served as Chairman of the National Productivity Committee, which recommended the establishment of a National Productivity Centre. In 1961 in Barbados, Dr Eaton launched the annual education programme of the Barbados Workers Union (BWU), which led to the establishment of the BWU Labour College in 1974.

Dr Eaton wrote the critically acclaimed book, Alexander Bustamante and Modern Jamaica, chronicling the life and work of Jamaica’s first Prime Minister Bustamante, while exploring implications of his seminal concept of political unionism. He also served as permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Service and Special Advisor to Prime Minister Michael Manley. In 1968, he was appointed as an Advisor on Manpower and Training to the Imperial Ethiopian Government, at the request of Emperor Haile Selassie I.

Dr Eaton’s humour, sharp intellect, and a sense of purpose invoked with love and respect in all whom he came in contact, were highlighted in his obituary. He was also remembered as loving a good discussion, a robust debate, or a simply good conversation.

Dr Eaton was described as a visionary, mentor and a family man, whose character resonates with many as a true egalitarian. He was considered congenial and comfortable interacting with people from all walks of life and of any age. He is valued by those who sought his counsel on life, philosophy, politics, or their passion.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Kathleen, their daughter Gail and Dawn, sons George, Kevin and Gerald, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and any nieces and nephews worldwide and siblings Flo, John, Stella, Stanley, William and Marie.

JWOF calls for scholarship applications

APPLICATIONS ARE now being accepted for the Jamaican Women of Florida ’Powerful Women – Next Generation’ Scholarship.

The scholarship, renewable annually, is awarded to a first or second generation, Jamaican-American female high school student attending college in Fall 2017. Valued at $1,000 yearly, the scholarship will encourage the recipient to achieve her four-year educational goal at a tertiary institution. So far, three students have been recipients of the JWOF Scholarship.

In order to meet the criteria for the scholarship opportunity, the candidate is required to demonstrate commitment as a volunteer in community projects by performing a minimum of forty hours per semester. In addition, the candidate must compose an essay (not more than two pages, double-spaced), explaining why she should be awarded this scholarship. The application material should include:

1) the essay (not more than two pages, double-spaced),
2) list of volunteer/community projects and (3) school transcript. These must be accompanied by candidate’s contact information (name/address/telephone/email address).

The information can be emailed to Jamaican Women of Florida (JWOF) at info@jamaican-womenofflorida.com or mailed to 8325 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206, Hollywood, FL 33021. Application must be received by Thursday, March 16, 2017. Application material must be accompanied by candidate’s contact information (name/address/telephone/email address) and mailed to 8325 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206, Hollywood, FL 33021. The Scholarship will be awarded at the fourth anniversary celebration of JWOF which takes place at the Women’s Empowerment Conference and Scholarship Luncheon at the fourth anniversary celebration of JWOF which takes place at the Women’s Empowerment Conference and Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, April 8, at the Jungle Island, Miami Beach.
Moravian ministers drop suit against complainant

Liven Barrett and Tamara Bailey
Gleaner Writers

T H E T W O Moravian ministers who charged with having sex with an underage girl have backed away from a threat to file legal action against their alleged victim.

The about-turn by Dr Paul Gardner, former president of the Moravian Church in Jamaica, and the Reverend Jermaine Gibson, the former deputy president, came after their initial appearance in the Manchester Parish Court last week.

Both men had their bail extended and are to return to court next Wednesday. Prosecutors indicated that a copy of the preliminary report in the case would be made available to their attorneys and that a date would be set for a committal hearing to determine whether the case would be transferred to the Circuit Court.

Gardner’s new attorney, Peter Champagnie, told The Gleaner that he advised his client against bringing civil action against the woman at the centre of the case.

“I don’t want the impression to be given that there is any threat or intimidation by way of suggesting that there will be civil action against the virtual complainant in this matter. It is inappropriate,” Champagnie said.

BEFORE THE COURT

“What my client elects to do after the criminal case is a matter entirely for him, but, certainly, at this stage, the matter is before the criminal court, and that is where it is going to be ventilated,” he said.

Lambert Johnson, the attorney who represented Gardner and Gibson at the time they were arrested and charged, described the allegations against them as a witch hunt.

In addition, Johnson asserted that the evidence provided by prosecutors was “riddled” with inconsistencies and benefited credibility, cogency, or corroboration.

As a result, the attorney indicated that the two Moravian ministers were instructed to file civil action against the complainant for defamation, malicious prosecution, and false imprisonment.

But Johnson’s statement drew condemnations from the chairman of the General Legal Council, Allan Wood, who described it as deeply concerning.

Wood said that since the matter was before the court, it was highly improper to make statements that could be viewed as intimidating the complainant or any witnesses.

Champagnie said that Gardner is on record as saying that members of the clergy and other public figures are not “beyond inspection of the criminal law” and has not resiled from that position.

Lottery scam money forfeited to Gov’t

A JUDGE has given the green light for the Government to seize the sum of US$15,270, or approximately J$1.9 million, which police investigators say was taken from an elderly United States citizen moments before she handed it over to persons believed to be involved in the lottery scam.

According to the Financial Investigations Division (FID) of the Ministry of Finance, the cash was taken from 60-year-old Diane Owens during a search shortly after she arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston in May 2014.

The forfeiture order was made in the Kingston Parish Court last week, making it the second time in the last two weeks that a judge has ordered that cash seized by the police be handed over to the Government.

On January 18, a parish judge ordered that cash amounting to just over $1 million, which had been taken from the home of self-styled businessman Daraine Clayton in 2011, should be forfeited to the State.

WEDDING PREPARATIONS

According to the FID, Owens told police investigators that she brought the money to Jamaica to pay for “wedding preparations.”

However, the agency said that the police quickly became suspicious after she indicated that she arrived on the last flight into Jamaica that day and was set to leave the following day on the first flight out.

In addition, the police reported that Owens admitted that she had never met her fiancé and that they found two men in a car outside the airport waiting to pick her up. All three were taken to the Police Flying Squad, where they were interviewed.

“During the interrogation, Ms. Owens changed her account and stated that she had been called and was informed that she was the winner of a lottery. She told the officers that she was advised to send money to several persons in Jamaica in order to receive her winnings,” the FID reported.

The agency said that neither Owens nor the two men turned up in court to contest the application to have the cash forfeited.
Letters

Why didn’t bank call me?

The Editor, Sir,

IMAGINED THAT I migrated to the United States in the quest for a better life. With no immediate plans to return to Jamaica, I sold my few assets and put the proceeds in my bank account, and was promised an annual interest. The amount in my account, I thought, would continue to increase with each interest payment until my return to Jamaica.

After 20 years, however, tragedy struck, and in quick succession I lost my job, lost my house and I was eventually deported.

I was counseled by the accountant that my savings back in Jamaica was a tidy sum, and with so many years of interest added to it, I should be able to survive until I got myself together again.

Can you imagine my deliberate efforts to contact my bank account was depleted and all my funds were gone? Why? Because there was no activity on my account for some time?

What the manage of the bank which I have been a frequent client of can say, however, the bank was acting on the assumption that the loans that the bank has provided, through the accounts held with them, are secure.

Why does the bank continue to confiscate people’s hard-earned savings under the guise of ‘dormant accounts’?

I salute parliamentarian Fitz Jackson for not only initiating public discussions on a matter that was gravely disturbing and depressing for Jamaicans.

K. FABST

k_kfcaey@live.com

Face the grief of corruption

LAST WEEK, Andrew Holness acknowledged the crisis of corruption that engulfs Jamaica. There is no denying, “the prime minister told Parliament, “that whilst we have made significant strides as a politically independent country, we could have achieved much more were it not for corruption in many forms: revenue leakage due to corrupt practices, misuse of public funds, and the overall perception of pervasive corruption - all of which have served to compromise the flow of investment into our country.”

Mr Holness’s assessment is underpinned by credible analyses - from the island’s 14-place slump on this year’s Transparency International’s (TI) Corruption Perception Index (CPI), or to the findings of the latest (2014) National report of the U.S. - sponsored Latin American democracy project, which showed that 91 per cent of Jamaicans believe that public corruption is either common or very common in their country. That democracy survey also highlighted that such perceptions translate to a decline in support for, and trust in, the institutions of the State, as well as a correlation between low levels of trust, social dysfunction and rising crime.

It is much the same argument that University of the West Indies (UWI) social anthropologist Herbert Gayle has been making in his ongoing series in this newspaper on solutions to Jamaica’s horrific problem of crime, including the fact that our homicide rate of 50 per 100,000 population is well above the 90/100-00 benchmark for countries to be considered in civil war…”. Current figures show that violence directly wipes out four per cent of GDP and between two and 17 per cent of businesses (revenue), depending on the size and type,” Dr Gayle reminded last week.

Acceptance

We hope these data on the relationship between crime and the economy are firmly fixed in the mind of Andrew Holness, to act as one of his battle standards in a sustained assault on corruption. In that regard, we hope that the prime minister’s statement in the House on Thursday, during the debate on the corruption commission bill, was akin to reaching the fifth stage of grief - acceptance.

In this circumstance, it is not merely accepting living with the wrong, but doing something about it, so that Jamaicans can accept his word of “tackling the scourge of corruption and… (restoring) public trust and goodwill in the institutions of the State”.

Having anti-corruption legislation is an important, but not sufficient, condition for fighting corruption and rebuilding trust, of which Mr Holness bankers. Firm and transparent action is vital.

In this regard, the prime minister began a reset of the confidence button by being frank and open with the issue that has cast a cloud over his administration: the $860 million, verge-trimming and drain-cleaning project launched on the eve of last November’s municipal elections, which many people branded as vulgar, partisan, vote-buying patronage.

The contractor general is investigating the scheme, but the Government can short-circuit that exercise by publicly disclosing the following:

- The specific process for electing the contractors;
- The volume and value of work assigned to each contractor;
- The management fee of the project and to whom it was paid;
- The actual amount paid to each employee;
- The rate per kilometre of work completed by each contractor;
- The normal rate paid for similar jobs;
- The rate of return for the contractors on this project;
- All documents and contracts related to the programme.

In other words, Mr Holness can assure Jamaicans that on this project there was no “revenue leakage due to corrupt practices” and that it didn’t undermine the possibility of projects such as those identified by Dr Gayle.

The opinions on this page, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Gleaner.

Donald, any advice on how to end scamming?

Andrew

Build a wall

Donald, any advice on how to end scamming?... or

Imposing a 20% tax on scammers...or

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
Have a great week!
Spanish firm TSK to construct Old Harbour Power Plant

SOUTH JAMAICA Power Company (SJPC), a subsidiary of the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS), on Wednesday, February 2, signed an engineering procurement and construction (EPC) contract with Spanish firm TSK Group to undertake the turnkey construction of the 190 megawatt combined cycle plant at Old Harbour Bay, St Catherine.

Construction of the US$300 million project is expected to start by March 1, according to project director of SJPC, David Cook, who said the signing was the culmination of negotiations the companies have had for the past several months.

Signing of the contract means that TSK is assured of building the plant and replaces two other foreign-based companies, which were considered to undertake the long-awaited project, which is meant to make power more affordable for households, local firms, as well as reduce the country’s imports of oil and use of fuel.

In December 2015, the JPS said it had entered into a memorandum of understanding with a China-based energy company to build the power station.

The Chinese company, which was not named at the time but was subsequently identified as Power China, was expected to replace the Spanish firm Abengoa, which filed for protection from creditors a few days after it was named as the preferred bidder for construction of the power plant.

SJPC is now finalising the loan documentation to access funding from a syndicate of local banks and financial institutions led by National Commercial Bank, Cook said.

Following that, the next stage is to issue the contractor with the notice to proceed, Cook told The Gleaner at a reception at the Spanish embassy in St Andrew on Wednesday, February 2, evening, following the signing of the contract earlier that day.

“My role is to ensure that the project is completed within budget and on time, coordinating with the EPC contractor (and) with the fuel supplier because very important to this project is the supply of LNG to Jamaica in order to improve the fuel efficiency,” he said.

Commissioning of the plant, originally set for July 2018, is now set for 27 months after the issue of the notice to proceed, which would put it about mid-2019 as the completion date.

“But we will see (liquefied natural) gas and commissioning starting towards the end of 2018 because gas arrives 22 months after NTP (notice to proceed) and the commissioning process, and starting to turn the engines and putting power to the grid will start a lot earlier, but the final handover is 27 months after NTP, which is early 2019,” he said.

FUEL EFFICIENT

TSK managing director, Joaquin Garcia said the project is the first of an expected long-term relationship with Jamaica. “We are ready to engage in projects in other sectors such as mining, oil and gas and other energy facilities in the island, he added.

General manager of SJPC, Dan Theoc, who is also chief financial officer of JPS, said the power plant will be more fuel efficient and will reduce Jamaica’s imports of oil and use of fuel. Once operational, “we estimate that will be about US$200 million in savings per annum,” he said.

PALMIRA DEPOSITORS have been offered 14 cents on the dollar as settlement, following the disposal of the incomplete project.

One of those depositors, who paid down US$738,000 on two condo units in the Montego Bay-based resort complex, will get back US$104,549.40 of his investment.

“Aw, geez, I thought it was a joke ... a bad joke, really very painful,” depositor Robert Garland told The Gleaner.

He was reacting to the letter dated January 23, 2017 that he got from the Real Estate Board of Jamaica spelling out the settlement.

“Please be advised that on the basis of the sale of the captioned property which was under receivership, the board has received from the receiver a sum of money that will enable you to receive a portion of your outstanding balance of deposit that you made...” the correspondence read.

CEO Sandra Watson says after intervening in 2013 and getting the court to rank depositors on the same level as the banks in terms of compensation, the settlement was the best the board could secure under the circumstances.

Palmyra was sold for around half the value of the US$110 million of debt that backed the project.

“Based on law, the receiver’s expenses have to come out first, and after those expenses, whatever is left is divided based on what each party originally put in,” said Watson.

“The board insisted and the bank agreed and the interest was backed out,” Watson added, referencing the bank that placed Palmyra in receivership.

She said had the board fought further, it would have meant more costs that would in turn reduce the pool of funds left to be shared. The board negotiated compensation for 58 depositors.

Garland says he will fight on.

“I’m gonna wait until I get the funds that they decided on, then I will use part of that funding to pursue some other matters or some other avenues,” he told The Gleaner.

Watson declined comment on how the 14 cent, or 14 per cent, rate of compensation was arrived at, while reaffirming that were it not for the RKB, depositors would have been worse off.

“They would have been unsecured creditors and could only get payment after the secured creditors. With the board’s intervention, through its charge, it was at least able to incur an equal space to the lending institution in proportion to what was invested,” Watson said.

“We threw a lot of resources at this. I sent in our auditors for them to check and ensure that there was not even a dollar in dispute. We also sent in trained property managers and several team members to make sure that we got the best result under the circumstances,” she said.

Palmyra Resort & Spa was placed in receivership in 2011, and the incomplete development was finally sold last year to Sagicor related entities.

Garland, a 61-year-old American who says he works in security, said that the Palmyra experience has hurt his plans and his outlook on Jamaica.

“That won’t stop my investments, but right now, it won’t be in Jamaica. Once you get burned in a particular area, you tend to shy away from it,” he said.

A section of Palmyra Resort & Spa while it was under construction, as seen in 2008.
JAMAICA’s newest bank, The商业银行, has opened its doors on Wednesday, February 1, with services that the bank’s membership had been requesting for years, according to its president.

JAMAICA’S BANKERs say the market will recover by devaluing the Jamaican currency. This will reduce the value of the local currency in terms of the US dollar, which in turn will reduce the cost of imports. Bank officials say the move will also help to reduce the country’s current account deficit.

“By weakening the currency, we are making it more difficult for foreign investors to get their money out of the country.”

The move will also benefit domestic businesses as it makes their goods and services more competitive on the global market.

Managing Director of JN Bank, Maureen Hayden-Cater, told The Observer that it will expand banking options and increase the competitiveness of financial services in Jamaica.

“We are ready. We are really anxious to serve our members and to be able to provide the services that they have been asking for for many years. We anticipate that our members would want to understand what’s different.”

The bank has also introduced a number of specials. These include a free account for students, a low-cost savings account, and a special account for pensioners.

“We are presenting JN to commercial banking rather than commercial banking to the rest of the world as they know it. We have a number of specials. I also expect that a number of persons who have accounts with us would want to reactivate those accounts and become members. We are really quite excited and enthusiastic about starting our members to the culture,” she added.

She added, “JN currently has more than half a million members, so we are aware that a lot of our members would want to touch base with the bank. We are doing our best to get the staff as equipped as possible because we know it is going to be quite a lot of persons coming through.”

After a series of mergers which were characteristic of the society’s growth strategy since its early formation, the name JNBS was adopted in 1979.

JN’s transformation into a commercial bank began more than eight years ago with the introduction of several new banks.

JAMAICA BANKER: Managing Director of JN Bank, Maureen Hayden-Cater spoke at the launch of the bank on Wednesday, February 1.

“new about us,” she said.

“We are presenting JN to commercial banking rather than commercial banking to the rest of the world as they know it. We have a number of specials. I also expect that a number of persons who have accounts with us would want to reactivate those accounts and become members. We are really quite excited and enthusiastic about starting our members to the culture,” she added.

She said, “JN currently has more than half a million members, so we are aware that a lot of our members would want to touch base with the bank. We are doing our best to get the staff as equipped as possible because we know it is going to be quite a lot of persons coming through.”

After a series of mergers which were characteristic of the society’s growth strategy since its early formation, the name JNBS was adopted in 1979.

JN’s transformation into a commercial bank began more than eight years ago with the introduction of several new banks.

JAMAICA BANKER: Managing Director of JN Bank, Maureen Hayden-Cater spoke at the launch of the bank on Wednesday, February 1.

“new about us,” she said.

“We are presenting JN to commercial banking rather than commercial banking to the rest of the world as they know it. We have a number of specials. I also expect that a number of persons who have accounts with us would want to reactivate those accounts and become members. We are really quite excited and enthusiastic about starting our members to the culture,” she added.

She said, “JN currently has more than half a million members, so we are aware that a lot of our members would want to touch base with the bank. We are doing our best to get the staff as equipped as possible because we know it is going to be quite a lot of persons coming through.”

After a series of mergers which were characteristic of the society’s growth strategy since its early formation, the name JNBS was adopted in 1979.

JN’s transformation into a commercial bank began more than eight years ago with the introduction of several new banks.
Jordan Barrow and company rehearse for Sousatzka.

Sousatzka to premiere in Toronto

FRANCINE BUCHNER

THE TORONTO Broadway production of Sousatzka will premiere at the Elgin Theatre on March 23. Jordan Barrow, who plays the lead role of Themba in the musical, said because when he first auditioned for the character back in 2015, the world’s political climate was not what it is today in 2017.

“How timely the piece is. It’s a story about refugees,” said Barrow in an interview with The Gleaner. Adding that this musical is based more on the book, as opposed to the film adaptation, “and Garth [Drabinsky] added a twist,” said Barrow.

Sousatzka is set in London, England, “and tells the story of a musical prodigy torn between two powerful women from vastly different worlds: his mother, a political refugee from South Africa and his piano teacher.” Barrow is a newcomer to Broadway and he will make his debut in the Canadian production of Sousatzka. This will be the 25 year-old, New Jersey born, first leading role on Broadway and professionally Barrow has been acting since he was 8 years old and it was not until 8th grade, when he did some dinner theatre and got paid for it, that he started to think seriously about pursuing acting as a career.

SCOUTED FOR AUDITION

Two years prior to auditioning for Sousatzka, a casting director had seen Barrow perform at his college showcase, remembered him and asked him to audition for the character Themba. He did. Doors that were closed to him before are now opening. “Patience and preparation has paid off,” said Barrow. Barrow admits that he did not know that the character of Themba would turn out to be his dream role. “I didn’t know this was a dream role of mine because it wasn’t created. A lot of the character comes from me,” said Barrow who has come into the demands of the character and the role from audition phase through to rehearsals and into production.

“It’s nice to perform such high-level theatre in Toronto,” said Scarborough-born Ryan Allen who plays the character Jabulani Khenkertha. Allen’s beginnings started at Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts, playing the character Marcellus. Later he went on to study classical music at the University of Toronto and The Glenn Gould Conservatory. “Memory is a big part of the show and how it impacts your future...almost as if your character is across time and land,” said Allen in an interview with The Gleaner.

Alongside Barrow and Allen, Sousatzka’s 47 cast of Canadians and Americans also features Victory Clark, Tony-Award winner, (Memphis), and Judy Kaye (Phantom of the Opera).

Black Arts and Innovation Expo showcase at York Mills Gallery

Toronto, ON: The Black Arts and Innovation Expo (BAIE) is an event hosted by Excelerate and First Book Canada that has ushered in a new way of celebrating Black History Month.

While traditional Black History Events honour the excellence of our ancestors, which is important, BAIE focuses on the remarkable achievements of both today’s and tomorrow’s legends, and celebrates a new generation of forward-thinking leaders.

These new leaders who are making valuable contributions to the worlds of technology, music, literature, visual arts, sports, and entrepreneurship will be featured at the Expo, while attendees take in musical performances, panel discussions and workshops, art exhibits, a technology and career fair and culinary delights.

Through collaboration with industry technology giants including Facebook, IBM, Dell and CompuCom, among others, BAIE will showcase the diverse experiences of Toronto’s black community and creative class.

Programme highlights include:

• Special appearances by Somali supermodel Yasmin Warsame. June Award winning rapper and former CBC q host Shad, the late Bob Marley’s granddaughter Donisha Prendergast, poet laureate George Elliot Clarke, ThatDudeMCPFLY (YouTube) and photographer RoToReCh, and former world champion hurdler Perdita Felicien.

• Multiple disciplines: BAIE 2017 will feature artists across disciplines, including: musical performances by rapper Devonte, and 604 Records’ electro-soul vocalist Tonye; visual arts displays by Otseuye, Amber Williams-King, Sandra Brewster, Nadijah Robinson, Esmaa Mohamoud, Ken Daley and artists/activist collective Babely Shades.

• Rounding out the broad artistic line-up will be appearances by past Danse Swan, children’s author Angelot Ndongo, African dance moves of the Real 3D Dancers, and music supplied by Matthew Romeo (formerly DJ Romeo) and DJ Power. This years edition will also feature a special exhibit and presentation by the International African Inventors Museum.

• Lion’s Lair competition (Dragon’s Den with a twist) that selects an GTA entrepreneur to win $10,000 returns, while 20 financial scholarships will be given away to African-Canadian students with a post-secondary educational interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). At this year’s Expo youth will also be able to connect with leaders from top technology companies at the technology Career Fair. Families attending will also be able to indulge their kids in the children’s Play Zone.

The Black Arts and Innovation Expo takes place on Saturday February 25th 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at York Mills Gallery (1885 Leslie St, Toronto).

Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for students. For ticket info go to www.blackexpo.ca.
Packed, peaceful tribute to Dennis Brown

SHEREITA GRIZZLE
Gleaner Reporter

THE JAMAICA Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA), organisers of the weekly Reggae Wednesdays concert series in Mandela Park, Half-Way Tree, for Reggae Month are dubbing the first show a huge success. It was a tribute to singer Dennis Emmanuel Brown on his 60th birth. The night featured stellar performances from many acts. Christopher Martin, Bushman, Warrior King, and D Major were among the standouts.

Junior Lincoln, executive producer, told The Gleaner that it was executed well and that he hopes the momentum will continue. “The audience was pleased with the show and they were having fun. The point of putting on this event is to entertain people and I think we achieved that,” he said.

PLEASED

Lincoln was particularly pleased with the magnitude of the crowd and there were no disturbances. “It was a packed night, but it was incident free. The energy inside the venue was all about love and we hope to keep things moving in that direction,” he explained. “JaRIA is about showing Jamaica and the world that we can have clean, holistic entertainment and that’s what we’re doing.”

He then lamented that despite the family-oriented entertainment being offered over the years, especially during Reggae Month, JaRIA was still struggling to get sponsorship from corporate Jamaica. “We have shown Jamaica that we can execute clean, wholesome shows. The problem that we have is that the public and private sectors are not supporting the music,” he said.

“We have been experiencing this over the years, and nothing has changed. Why is it so difficult to get sponsorship for something as important as Reggae Month?” Artists give of their time and their service for free, and aside from Red Stripe, who were there last night, there isn’t much support from the rest of corporate Jamaica, “Lincoln stressed.

While I can understand them saying that they are not supporting a dancehall event because it might be lewd and not in tune with their brand, reggae is conscious music. So why are we experiencing these problems?”

“Reggae music is not just music of Jamaica, it is the music of the world. So I’m hoping things will begin to change in the years to come,” he said.

Part of the audience at the concert in Mandela Park, Half-Way Tree, in honour of Dennis Brown.

Seven years of simply Myrna

CURTIS CAMPBELL
Gleaner Reporter

THE SIMPLY Myrna concert will be celebrating its seventh anniversary this year. The event was launched on Thursday, February 2, at the Hotel Four Seasons, Ruthven Road, St Andrew. Simply Myrna: Myrna Hague in Concert is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, at The Formal Gardens, Devon House. Show time is 8 p.m. and cocktails will be at 7 p.m. Guests include Ernie Smith and The National Chorale of Jamaica.

“It was meant to be just one time, and so this is very exciting and very gratifying that people keep coming, which enabled us to last seven years. I decided to host the first one because my husband had passed, and suddenly I was on my own after a successful duo of Sonny and Myrna. I needed to do something to establish myself as a solo artiste, and that is why I did the first show, and it saw the rebirth of my solo career,” Hague said.

“There was a point in my life where I felt that if I can’t win over my own Jamaican audience, then what is the point? So the fact that I have been successful in that regard is very gratifying for me.” Hague was a little emotional as she shared her feelings on performing without her husband during the years after his passing. “My repertoire has grown and I have had a chance to work with a lot of people since. We have a new guest artiste every year, so I have got a chance to work with people like John Holt and Ernie Smith, who I never would have had a chance to work with otherwise,” she said.

She also promised to deliver new material, jazz, pop, and reggae songs, as well as reveal the latest designs from her personal clothing collection. “The women in the audience roared in approval. Founding member of Fab 5 and Frankie Campbell has encouraged sponsors to support this type of event, saying that events like Simply Myrna are rare and should not be allowed to die while only certain types are celebrated.
**BC Dundee Enterprises to develop J$4 billion complex in Trelawny**

**Steve Jackson**

*Senior Business Reporter*

DeveloPer BC Dundee Enterprises Limited plans to construct a J$4 billion upscale residential and commercial complex in Trelawny, to be called the Hamptons at Dundee. The project, which will provide 266 homes, seeks to tap into the returning resident market and unfilled demand for quality housing in that parish.

“The development will cost a huge amount, anywhere between US$30 million and US$35 million,” said Carl Erskine, director of BC Dundee Enterprises Limited. Those estimates average J$4.2 billion in local currency.

Erskine. Those estimates average J$4.2 billion in local currency.

Carl Erskine, director of BC Dundee Enterprises Limited.

“I have a public meeting for the 7th February in the community,” said Erskine. “Two banks are currently looking at the project,” he said. BC Dundee Enterprise’s directorship includes Erskine and Baldwin Jarrett. The company, based in Montego Bay, has already applied to the National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA) for a permit to subdivide approximately 30.7 hectares (76 acres) of land at Dundee in Trelawny for the proposed housing development.

The project recently received approvals from the National Water Commission. **PLANNING APPROVALS**

The timeline for starting construction of the Hamptons at Dundee, however, is dependent on the timeline for planning approvals. “We will have a public meeting for the 7th February in the community,” said Erskine.

**Government facing possible $1b bill**

**Court set to begin hearing claim by Y.P. Seaton and companies**

**Arthur Hall**

*Senior News Editor*

The Government might have to tack on an additional $1 billion to its budget for the next fiscal year to pay a claim filed by businessman Y.P. Seaton and two of his related companies.

“The matter is set to be heard in the Supreme Court in March as Seaton and his companies seek compensation for losses they allegedly incurred in a failed joint venture to develop 112 acres of land in Ebony View, St. Catherine.

The lawsuit names the registrar of titles, the minister of housing, the Housing Agency of Jamaica, and the attorney general as the respondents.

According to documents seen by The Sunday Gleaner, the genesis of the dispute stems from the sale of land by the Ministry of Housing, of land held by Seaton to a group of squatters as part of an Operation Pride project in 1997.

The land had reportedly been approved for a 500-lot housing development before it was sold. It is alleged that in an attempt to salvage the development, Seaton and his companies entered a joint venture with the Ministry of Housing and the Housing Agency of Jamaica in 2004 and a caveat was against the project lands.

**PRIVATE HOUSING SCHEME**

“The objective of the joint venture was to provide roads, sewage, electricity, water and registered titles to the squatter community and to develop the remaining lands as a private residential housing scheme for sale on the open market,” reads a portion of the document.

The Seaton companies reportedly completed 90 per cent of the infrastructure works in the section of the land held by the Government at a cost of $200 million and spent approximately $105 million on constructing the infrastructure work and model houses on the remaining lands.

According to the lawsuit, a few months after the work started Seaton was told by the registrar of titles that a part of the project land was registered with another title issued in 2004 and a caveat was against the project lands.

“Because of the dual registration issue, Mr. Seaton was forced to stop all work on the project. In the meantime, interest and bank charges continued to grow,” the court documents read.

It is further alleged that Seaton had to refund more than $10 million to persons who wanted to cancel their sale agreements, and efforts to get the Ministry of Housing to file a claim against the registrar of titles were unsuccessful.

The court documents charge that because of the housing minister’s failure to act and the losses incurred by Seaton and his companies, in November 2010, they sued the registrar of titles for J$332 with interest, which now amounts to more than J$860 million.

In March 2014, Seaton and his companies sued the minister of housing to recover losses in excess of J$3831 million with interest. That is now estimated to have grown to J$9650 million.

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

**REAL ESTATE GUIDE**

**Beautiful 6.27 acres property in York District, Bethel Town, Westmoreland.**

Build your own dream home. Very private. Fully fenced.
Lush vegetation. Enjoy self sustaining farming

Asking $15,000.00, 416 930 7412
vinnetomohan@gmail.com

**Beautiful Lush Land For Sale In Darliston, Westmoreland**

$15,000.00 USD

Negotiable

Payment plan available

Call 1 (518) 528-2435 FOR MORE INFO

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE WEEKLY GLEANER’S REAL ESTATE GUIDE - CALL TODAY!!**

The Gleaner Company (USA) Inc. 1800-875-6390 • 718-657-0788

The Gleaner Company (Canada) Inc. 1800-565-3961 • 416-784-3002
Clarendon

Residents sensitised about their communities

RESIDENTS OF Clarendon were exposed to data and related information about their communities through a Geographic Information Systems Day hosted by The Social Development Commission (SDC) in May.

According to Juanita Reid, the SDC deputy executive director of research and planning, the commission has been uniquely positioned to provide much needed data at the community level. That is what the agency that collects, analyses and disseminates information required to give a detailed picture of communities' resources.

Kingston

SDC to reactivate development committees in 12 communities

THE SOCIAL Development Commission (SDC) will be establishing and reactivating Community Development Committees (CDC) in 12 communities in Kingston and St Andrew by the end of March.

A CDC is the composition of all organisations in a community such as non-governmental organisations, associations, watches, youth clubs, citizens groups, and any group to discuss development issues, make plans and advocate for positive changes within the community.

Nine of the CDCs are new groups, while the others are being revived.

Islandwide

Merger of three state-run learning institutions

THREE OF the island's training institutions, HKART Trust/NTA, Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL), and the National Youth Service (NYS) are to be merged by next month to better address needs of Jamaicans.

Making the disclosure on Wednesday February 1, during the post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House, Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator Ruel Reid, said the merger falls in line with the Government’s Public Sector Rationalisation Programme and will result in greater synergy and efficiency.

St Mary

Students participate in health awareness exercise

HUNDREDS OF St Mary students and staff from the same school are in an exercise late last month to increase awareness about proper health care.

The Healthy Youth Positive Energy (HYPE) School tour is an initiative between the Ministries of Health, Education Youth and Information. The health awareness activity was held at Annotto Bay High School in the parish.

St Andrew

Interventions coming to Papine communities

RESIDENTS OF 11 communities close to the University of Technology’s Papine campus are to benefit from a series of interventions aimed at strengthening community systems and to reach unengaged youth.

The interventions will be implemented over a six-week period from February 20 to 26, beginning in August Town. Activities will be clustered around four hubs, with the adjoining communities to participate in engagements around a specific hub.

Key agencies will also be on hand to provide services and information on poverty, housing, health, lifestyle, education and training, and how to access documents.

Basic health services will be provided.

St Andrew

Digital makes donation to Clifton Boys’ Home

SOME 28 boys of the Clifton Boys’ Home in Westmoreland who lost their place of abode to fire last month have been given uniforms, school bags and books by Digicel.

The Child Development Agency had been providing counselling for the boys and co-ordinating efforts to have the home rebuilt.

ACROSS THE REGION

St Vincent and Grenadines

Opposition party vice-president confident of victory

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent (CMC): THE MAIN opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) holds its annual convention on February 12 with the party’s vice-president St Clair Leacock saying he is confident that he will be returned to office.

Leacock, who has been critical of other NDP lawmakers over their failure to submit questions for the government to answer, has denied considering joining the ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP) after he failed to become NDP leader last November.

He said that he has a “cordial” relationship with fellow opposition lawmakers and continues to make interventions in the interest of the party.

The NDP’s Constitution provides for two vice-presidents, but Leacock is the only holder of that post after Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines, Godwin Friday, was elected to lead the party and also become Opposition Leader replacing Archibald Eustace.

Leacock, who was contesting for the party leadership, dropped out of the race just before the position was put to a vote in November.

He told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that he is aware that Member of Parliament for North Leeward, Roland ‘Patel’ Matthews, will also be contesting the post of vice-president.

“I am serving now and I anticipate that the New Democratic Party would exercise good sense when it comes to the next convention in choosing their vice-presidential candidate,” Leacock said.

“I have no objection against the democratic process because that is the name of the party - the New Democratic Party. So anybody should be free to contest the elections. And once I’ve been elected back to serve as a vice president, I would continue to give my service.”

Asked if he was confident of re-election as an NDP vice-president, Leacock replied: “I am very confident. Very, very confident. I don’t see anything that stands in my way.”

Leacock said there is “no friction” between him and the other members of the NDP’s parliamentary caucus subsequent to the leadership transition.

MADE HIMSELVES AVAILABLE

He said he has attended every session of the parliamentary caucus and has made himself available to be of help to the party and has made certain suggestions about strategy.

He said that it was his suggestion that the convention be held in Layou “for strategic reasons”.

The NDP is maintaining that the ULP stole the vote in Central Leeward, where Layou is located, and North Windward in the December 2015 general elections to retain a fourth consecutive term in office.

Sources said that Leacock’s constituency council threatened to withdraw support for him if he crossed the floor when he reportedly told them that he could better serve them if he joins the ULP government.

But Leacock denied ever considering crossing the floor.

“I don’t see why I should discuss it when that has not arisen. I haven’t given any consideration to crossing the floor,” he said.

Cancer society seeking funds for mammography machine

THIR, the Jamaican Cancer Society (JCS) is appealing for donations to assist with the purchase of a new mammography machine for its mobile screening unit.

The unit, which was donated to the JCS in 2000, has been out of service since October 2015.

Persons can make donations through the JCS Paypal account or cheques can be dropped off at the JCS offices in Kingston, St Ann and St Elizabeth.

Speaking to the JIS on Tuesday (January 31), JCS executive director Yulit Gordon, said the entity is in need of $160 million to replace the unit.

Gordon told JIS News that the JCS has a pledge of $810 million from last year’s Sagicor Bigma Run towards the acquisition of a new unit, which costs $830 million.

Jamaica Cancer Society is ready to do more but we cannot do it alone. We need the support of every Jamaican. We are inviting the public to play their part and pledge a financial donation towards this target,” she said.

ACROSS JAMAICA

Challenges and needs

St Mary

Students participate in health awareness exercise

HUNDREDS OF St Mary students and staff from the same school are in an exercise late last month to increase awareness about proper health care.

The Healthy Youth Positive Energy (HYPE) School tour is an initiative between the Ministries of Health, Education Youth and Information. The health awareness activity was held at Annotto Bay High School in the parish.

St Mary

Students participate in health awareness exercise

HUNDREDS OF St Mary students and staff from the same school are in an exercise late last month to increase awareness about proper health care.

The Healthy Youth Positive Energy (HYPE) School tour is an initiative between the Ministries of Health, Education Youth and Information. The health awareness activity was held at Annotto Bay High School in the parish.
The Administrator-General’s Department

The Administrator-General for Jamaica, administrator of the estates below would like to establish contact with the following persons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estate</th>
<th>Persons to be Located</th>
<th>Last Known Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vilma May Anderson late of Rose Hall District, Lucea, Hanover</td>
<td>Crystal Malcolm</td>
<td>1220 East 49th Street Brooklyn, New York 11234, United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uda Jackson</td>
<td>Ginger Hill District, Kingsvale, Lucea, Hanover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staudley Bailey late of 31 Saint Johns Road, Spanish Town, Saint Catherine</td>
<td>Lillieth Bailey, Stanley Bailey, Fabian Bailey, Karen Bailey, Shauna Bailey, Denise Bailey</td>
<td>All of 31 Saint Johns Road, Spanish Town, Saint Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All of 35 Brotherston Avenue, Kingston 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralston Ebanks late of Lot 667 Poppy Way, Longville Park, Clarendon</td>
<td>Sonia Ebanks</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Grant late of 24 Lakeland Drive, Greendale, Spanish Town, Saint Catherine</td>
<td>Oneil Grant, Kurt Grant, Lincoln Grant, Latoya Grant</td>
<td>Both of United States of America Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly-Ann Palmer late of 685 1st Marlin Way, Braeton, Saint Catherine</td>
<td>Travon Steadman</td>
<td>6 Higham Place, Higham Street Walthamstow, London E17 6DD England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston Raymond late of Mount Edgecomb, Runway Bay, Saint Andrew</td>
<td>Rayon Raymond, Sancia Raymond, Terryann Raymond</td>
<td>All of United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawton Everton Richards late of 141 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, Saint Andrew</td>
<td>Sherene Richards, Jodi-Ann Richards, Justin Richards</td>
<td>Unknown Unknown Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Taylor-Rodgers late of 165 Anthurium avenue, Eltham Park, Spanish Town, Saint Catherine</td>
<td>Stacey-Ann Rodgers, Sherdane Rodgers</td>
<td>Both of 28 The Paddocks, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5DF, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cacheta Swaby late of 66 Sunnfield Avenue Palmers Cross, Clarendon</td>
<td>Randa Swaby</td>
<td>1380 Richmond Terrace Sl New York 10310, United States of America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any of these persons or anyone who knows of their whereabouts is being asked to contact the Administrator-General's Department within six (6) weeks of the date hereof at:

12 Ocean Boulevard
Kingston, Jamaica
Telephone Nos.: 922-1830-3, 922-0700-5 or 618-1542
Fax No.: 922-4201
E-mail: admingen@agd.gov.jm

Musical Hind-sight

‘Carry Go Bring Come’ singer’s children plan campaign

CARL GILCHRIST
Gleaner Writer

CLARLTON HINDS and his siblings Maxwell, Donald and Avery, all children of late Jamaican music pioneer Justin Hinds, are bent on maintaining their father’s legacy.

Hinds, singer of ska hit ‘Carry Go Bring Come’, as well as Sinners and Botheration among other songs, died in March 2005. He toured with his children from 1997 onwards.

Carlton, Dennis Higgins (a former manager of Justin) and close family friend Everton West want the Ocho Rios office of The Gleaner. Even while mourning the recent passing of one of his brothers, Randy. Carlton insisted ‘we want people to remember the name Justin Hinds and the Dominoes as a legend. He conquered three eras, ska, rocksteady and reggae’.

The persecutionist, added: ‘The next move for me right now is to work on some unreleased songs that he left. We’re trying to get some things moving, re-release his old tracks, remake some in different styles, make T-shirts, CDs available, whatever we need to do to.’

Among the proposed re-releases is the 1985 album Travel With Love, done for the St Louis based Night Hawk label. The title track was originally released on the Trojan label in 1969.

‘Travel With Love’ is the only album that The Wailers, The Skatalites and Justin Hinds and the Dominoes did together. Higgins, who was also part of the production team, pointed out. The album was recorded at Marley’s Tuff Gong Studio and mixed at Aquarius Studio.

The brothers are also working on their father’s album, Cheer Up (2009), which includes a remake of Botheration. Justin Hinds was the first artiste produced by the late Jack Ruby, who later also produced Burning Spear. His last tour was of France, along with Alton Ellis, Roy Shirley and Prince Buster.

Christopher Ellis seeks Ja’s approval

Determined to be more than “Alton’s son”

KIMBERLEY SMALL
Gleaner Writer

CHRISTOPHER ELLIS, son of the late rocksteady great Alton Ellis, was born and raised in London, England. He has already made the rounds as a singer – taking to stages in Europe and doing sold-out shows in Japan.

Now Christopher has his sights set on Jamaica to create his own legacy “My father got approval from the people and for me, personally, that’s one of my goals,” Christopher told The Gleaner “I’m in Jamaica now because it’s really important to me, to be recognised by the Jamaican people. It means something to me so much, I’m always here trying,” he said.

“When a Jamaican say the word ‘boss’, that’s what I really want,” Christopher said.

“Right now I have a new song called Here We Are produced by Stephen Marley. It just came out in the UK and it took off straight away, with great reviews from David Rodigan, Commander B, Daddy Krino ... I have faith in this one, like we’re gonna do really well with this one,” Christopher said.

Here We Are is the first single from an album the singer expects to hit the shelves by the end of this summer.
US travel ban is a ‘significant setback’ for those needing international protection

UNITED NATIONS, CMC - A group of experts from the United Nations have expressed concern that the new executive order by United States President Donald Trump is in breach of the country’s human rights commitments.

“The US recent policy on immigration also risks people being returned, without proper individual assessments and asylum procedures, to places in which they risk being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in direct contravention of international humanitarian and human rights laws which uphold the principle of non-refoulement,” they warned.

The Executive Order, signed by Trump on January 27, bars all nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries – Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen – from entering the US for the next 90 days. It also stops the entire US refugee programme for 120 days, indefinitely bars Syrian refugees, and halts the planned entry of more than 50,000 refugees in the US fiscal year 2017, which began in October 2016 and will end in September 2017.

Noting that “in the midst of the world’s greatest migration crisis since World War II, this is a significant setback for those who are obviously in need of international protection,” the rights experts stressed: “The US must live up to its international obligations and provide protection for those fleeing persecution and conflicts.

“The US is also involved in conflicts such as those in Iraq and Syria and its responsibility must extend to offering refuge to those fleeing from the conflicts,” they added.

The Executive Order also applies to those who come from the seven countries – whether or not they have valid visas or are in transit.

It also affects those who have dual nationality, who either have a passport from one of those countries or are travelling from one of those countries.

“The US recent policy on immigration also risks people being returned, without proper individual assessments and asylum procedures, to places in which they risk being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in direct contravention of international humanitarian and human rights laws which uphold the principle of non-refoulement,” they warned.

The US recent policy on immigration also risks people being returned, without proper individual assessments and asylum procedures, to places in which they risk being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in direct contravention of international humanitarian and human rights laws which uphold the principle of non-refoulement,” they warned.

The Executive Order, signed by Trump on January 27, bars all nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries – Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen – from entering the US for the next 90 days. It also stops the entire US refugee programme for 120 days, indefinitely bars Syrian refugees, and halts the planned entry of more than 50,000 refugees in the US fiscal year 2017, which began in October 2016 and will end in September 2017.

Noting that “in the midst of the world’s greatest migration crisis since World War II, this is a significant setback for those who are obviously in need of international protection,” the rights experts stressed: “The US must live up to its international obligations and provide protection for those fleeing persecution and conflicts.

“The US is also involved in conflicts such as those in Iraq and Syria and its responsibility must extend to offering refuge to those fleeing from the conflicts,” they added.

The Executive Order also applies to those who come from the seven countries – whether or not they have valid visas or are in transit.

It also affects those who have dual nationality, who either have a passport from one of those countries or are travelling from one of those countries.
Helping to solve challenges

J’can, Rolande Pryce is senior manager at World Bank

Jodi-Ann Gilpin
Gleaner Writer

Rolande Pryce is extremely grateful for the experience she gained, having worked for the Government of Jamaica for more than 10 years. This she believes paved the way for her securing the post of portfolio and operations manager for the World Bank’s Office based in Indonesia.

In other words, the past student of the St Andrew High School for Girls, sits second to the country director in Indonesia, managing the World Bank’s programme in the Southeast Asian country, which is the bank’s largest office outside of the World Bank’s Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Before landing the coveted job last December, the 46-year-old applied and was accepted to the World Bank’s highly competitive Legal Associates programme in 2006. Simultaneously, she worked as an advisory lawyer in the Finance, Private Sector Development and Infrastructure Legal Practice, principally advising on energy operations.

She told The Gleaner, however, that having studied law extensively and worked in many legal organisations, this presented a few hurdles which she had to maneuver deals with economics.

“World Bank staff are predominantly economists or have sector expertise important for development, like health, private sector development, water management, agriculture, among other areas. However, I am a lawyer, that surprises people,” she said laughing.

Many of the issues critical to development centre around economics, and while I have studied economics it is not my core academic strength. So when I meet new colleagues I know they may wonder if I can really manage a high-level policy dialogue,” Pryce said.

EMBRACED CHALLENGES

She added: “However, I learnt the issues and the jargon. I really embraced the challenges and learnt heavily on my experience working in the Jamaican Government. After 10 years, I feel more than comfortable with my work at the [World] Bank.”

Pryce who managed the bank’s country programmes in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and drafted the World Bank’s OECS Regional Partnership Strategy in 2008, said that she was thankful for the opportunity to aid in the fight in eliminating people’s poverty and boost prosperity.

“It’s a privilege to work in international development. My job is to help governments solve challenges that will lift people out of poverty. As the fourth most populous country in the world, Indonesia is seen as a very important programme. The bank is concerned about poverty alleviation and extreme poverty in Indonesia is about 11 per cent. This means that in Indonesia approximately 28 million people are living just below the poverty line,” she lamented.
WIHCON makes owning a piece of the rock even more rewarding

KEISHA HILL
Gleaner Reporter

WEST INDIES Home Contractors (WIHCON) recently handed over plane tickets from both Caribbean Airlines and British Airways to two winners in their ‘Own A Piece of The Rock’ promotion.

“I thought hearing the excitement in their voices when we told them they had won was great, but when we actually handed them the airline tickets, the smiles on their faces were hard to beat!” said Janelle Brown, sales and marketing manager at WIHCON.

The promotion gave Jamaicans living in the diaspora (the United States and the United Kingdom) who purchased a WIHCON home during the period October 14, 2016 to November 30, 2016, a chance to win a trip back home.

“We wanted to continue with our diaspora outreach which began in March of 2016. WIHCON understands the importance of our diaspora outreach which began in March of 2016. WIHCON understands the importance of

owning your own piece of The Rock even if you aren’t living here in Jamaica at the moment. You want to make sure you’ve secured it for when you or a loved one is ready. We are here to help you do that,” said Aisha Campbell, WIHCON’s general manager.

Winners from the United States, Gary Bryant and his spouse, Krystal Bryant, who won the return trip from the USA to Jamaica on Caribbean Airlines, joined the prize handover event via Skype, and Sean Edwards, spouse of Tavina Hutchinson who was the winner of a return trip from the United Kingdom on British Airways collected the prize on behalf of his wife.

“We couldn’t believe it when we won but now we have our own piece of ‘The Rock’ and Tavina will be home soon to see it for herself,” Edwards said.

Brown informed that WIHCON has more promotions in store. WIHCON’s Reconnect promotion continues to reward local WIHCON homeowners along with friends, family or co-workers who they refer. To find out more about The Coming Home to You Tour in the US, call 1-855-852-3746 or (870) 754-7008 locally. Online information is available at www.wihcon.com. West Indies Home Contractors on Facebook or @Wihcon on Instagram.

November 7 – 12, 2016

EVENTS

FEBRUARY 9 - 15, 2017

EVENTS LISTINGS

Canada

Kuumba, Toronto’s longest-running celebration of Black History Month, will continue on February 10-11 at the Harbourfront Centre, Toronto.

Jamaican Canadian Association, under the distinguished patronage of the Jamaica’s Consul General at Toronto, Lloyd Williams, presents “Boomomoonos Brunch” a Black History Month celebration on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2-6pm at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. Call 416-746-7722 jcaontario.org

Peel United Cultural Partners (Congress of Black Women - Brampton Chapter and the United Achievers’ Club) presents its 16th annual Black History Month Concert at Lester B. Pearson Theatre, Brampton Civic Centre, 150 Central Park Drive, Brampton on Saturday, Feb. 18, 5:00pm-8:30pm. Call 905-789-1553/905-796-1916

Jamaica Ex-Soldiers Association presents its 12th annual Black History Month Celebration – “Celebrating our Men & Challenging the Myth of Black Fatherhood” – on Saturday, February 18, 5pm at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto. Call 647-234-7957/416-525-2346 jesa.ca@hotmail.com

In celebration of Black History Month, The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and Faculty of Education of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology present George Elliott Clarke, Canada’s Parliamentary Poet Laureate on Monday, February 27, reception: 6-7pm, lecture: 7-9pm at Regent Theatre, 50 King St. East, Oshawa. RSVP and information: Wesley.crichlow@uoit.ca

The Women’s Committee of the Jamaican Canadian Association presents its annual International Women’s Day Celebration on Sunday, March 12, 2:00-5:00pm at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. jcawomen.com/jcacommittee@gmail.com Call 416-746-5772

New York

The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) 20th Annual Awards Gala, The Pierre Hotel, Thursday, February 23, 2016. Cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner Party at 7 pm. For further information contact AFUWI at 212-759-9345 or www.afuwi.org. Proceeds to benefit scholarships for students at UWI.

Save the Date: KCOBA, St. Hugh’s AA 7th Annual Winter Affair; March 11th, Adria Hotel, Bayridge, NY, 8P-2A; Contacts: KCOBA – Clive: 917-971-3945, St. Hugh’s – Althea: 917-459-2076, St. Hilda’s – Lorna: 16-640-7978

Save the Date: Meadowbrook H.S. Alumni Assoc. NY Chapter 22nd Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner, March 25th, from 8pm - 2 am. Tickets - www.eventbrite.com.

ATLANTA

FOC – Friends on the Corner Valentine’s Day Charity invites you to their 4th Annual Passion and Romance Valentine’s Charity on February 11th, The Blue Event and Meeting Center. For further information call 678-418-5777.

NEW YORK

The Pierre Hotel, Thursday, February 23, 2016. Cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner Party at 7 pm. For further information contact AFUWI at 212-759-9345 or www.afuwi.org. Proceeds to benefit scholarships for students at UWI.

Save the Date: KCOBA, St. Hugh’s AA 7th Annual Winter Affair; March 11th, Adria Hotel, Bayridge, NY, 8P-2A; Contacts: KCOBA – Clive: 917-971-3945, St. Hugh’s – Althea: 917-459-2076, St. Hilda’s – Lorna: 16-640-7978

Save the Date: Meadowbrook H.S. Alumni Assoc. NY Chapter 22nd Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner, March 25th, from 8pm - 2 am. Tickets - www.eventbrite.com.

ATLANTA

FOC – Friends on the Corner Valentine’s Day Charity invites you to their 4th Annual Passion and Romance Valentine’s Charity on February 11th, The Blue Event and Meeting Center. For further information call 678-418-5777.

Next Monthly Meeting and Black History Month Program: Saturday, February 11, 2017 - 6:00 PM, St. Timothy United Methodist Church, 5365 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Networking

WILLIAMS MOVING & DELIVERY SERVICE

Larkland Williams
For small moving/delivery
(416) 570-9065
larklandwilliams@gmail.com

GET YOUR BUSINESS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

ALFRED SIMMS, CPA
Accounting Services  Business Plans
Marketing Surveys  Loan Proposals  Tax Preparation
WE RESOLVE ALL INCOME TAX PROBLEMS – 452 White Plains Road, Bronx, N.Y. 10461
Telephone: (718) 994-3208  Fax: (718) 994-5904

MICHIDEAN'S J.A. PATTY
A Taste of Jamaica

• Baked and Unbaked Patties
• Retail and Wholesale
7725 Birchmont Road, Unit 27-28 Markham
905-946-0708

Advertise in this space for only $25 per week (minimum 4 weeks)
718-657-0788 (US) or 416-784-3002 (Can)
George Ashenheim

Falmouth pastor ready to march on municipal corporation

Says he'll no longer be silent about mentally ill

LEON JACKSON Gleaner Writer

The REVEND Junior Rutty, pastor of the Falmouth-based Agape Christian Fellowship in Trelawny, says he is ready to lead a march on the Falmouth Municipal Corporation to force it to deal with mentally ill patients outside the resort town.

While speaking at Sunday’s funeral for Joyce Gomes, the 71-year-old pensioner who was killed by a mentally ill man just outside the Falmouth Post Office, Rutty said the Church is no longer prepared to remain silent on the matter.

“Let us march into the capital, let us march to Water Square, to the seat of power,” said Rutty. “You were not only outside the Falmouth Post Office, you also killed the Church. The Church is no longer prepared to remain silent.”

Tell us your truck trailer or car is a real estate bargain!

Advertise in the weekly Sunday Gleaner Auto Feature

Call us nearest Gleaner Office today!
KY-MANI MARLEY in his zone during Redemption Live. A celebration honouring the life and works of Reggae legend Bob Marley in the heart of the city promised an evening filled with entertainment of epic proportions, and the annual Redemption Live concert delivered just that.

The Half-Way Tree Transport Centre came alive on Sunday evening, February 5 as the sweet sounds of reggae music filled the air. There were few complaints from the audience about the choice of venue, as patrons were accustomed to the event being held in larger spaces. However, any reservations about the concert’s new home quickly disappeared as the show got under way.

The concert got off to a somewhat sluggish start as only a few of the opening acts managed to move the huge audience gathered inside the venue. Jay Prince, Ricky Chaplin, Christopher Ellis, and Garnet Silk Jr were among the acts whose performances were well received by the audience. Garnet Silk Jr. and Christopher Ellis, offsprings of two of Jamaica’s most outstanding entertainers (Garnet Silk and Alton Ellis) had a lot riding on their performances. Luckily, both managed to hold their own, proving that they had indeed inherited the musical genes from their fathers. Ellis thrilled the audience with his smooth vocals, taking patrons on a somewhat nostalgic journey, as he delivered a few of his father’s hits. Songs like ‘Still In Love’ and ‘Breaking Up Is Hard To Do’ had the audience rocking and singing along. Silk Jr was equally impressive.

DANCEHALL SEGMENT

The entertainment value kicked into new gear as the next segment of the show got under way. Ikaya, Devin Di Dakta, and Tifa all managed to push the show to new levels as they each turned in good performances. Based on the crowd’s response, the young Grammy nominee was easily the most impressive of the three, as he deejayed and danced his way into the hearts of the patrons.

The final lap of the concert promised to be explosive and that it was, as Jah 9, Kabaka Pyramid, Ky-mani Marley, Richie Spice, Capleton, and Beenie Man delivered superb sets. Though everyone had electrifying sets, Capleton, Richie Spice, and Ky-mani Marley were the standout acts in that dynamic segment.

Marley had the audience glued to his every word as he delivered a few of his original songs, but it was his rendition of his father’s ‘Turn Your Lights Down Low’, with one of his back-up singers, that garnered the most attention. He then treated the crowd to a special surprise when he invited his brothers to share the stage with him.

The crowd went wild as Stephen, Julian, Jr Gong and Rohan entered the stage to deliver a spectacular performance of their father’s ‘Could You Be Loved?’

That was undoubtedly one of the biggest moments of the night, but it was the ‘Fire Man’ from St Mary who stole the show. He ignited the audience from the time he entered the stage until the very moment he left. His high-energy performance had the venue in total pandemonium, as he spewed hit after hit. His performance was so well received that when he made his exit from the stage, the crowd begged for him to stay a while longer.

The concert was a success and patrons left satisfied, and ready for next year’s staging.

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

Energy-filled performances at Redemption Live
Angry André Russell gets one-year ban

Livingston Scott
Gleaner Writer

WEST INDIES cricketer André Russell left the Jamaica Cricket Conference Centre furious and disappointed after he was handed a one-year ban by a three-man independent disciplin- ary panel last week for a whereabouts violation in 2015. The all-rounder looked tense for much of the proceedings as he anxiously awaited the verdict, and when the unfavourable decision was eventually passed, the cricketer became a picture of anger. Russell’s ban will run from January 31, 2017 to January 31, 2018, ruling the globe-trotting Jamaican out of a number of major tournaments.

The 28-year-old was clearly upset, taking out his frustration on a small palm tree in the hallway on his exit from the conference room. Russell, who faced up to two years on the sidelines after missing three drug tests in 2015 follow- ing his failure to report his whereabouts, was missing from the cash-rich Indian Premier League, where he is contracted to the Kolkata Knight Riders. He also rep- resents Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League in Australia, Sylhet Royals in the Bangladesh Premier League, Islamabad United in the Pakistan Super League, and Jamaica Tallawahs in the Caribbean Premier League.

LENIENT IN RULING

Russell’s lead counsel, Patrick Foster, although disappointed with the ruling, was pleased that, at least, some leniency was shown with the cricketer escaping the full two-year penalty. “Naturally, I am disappointed. I do not agree with the decision, but I am somewhat grateful it is not for two years. They seem to have injected some mercy in the process,” he said.

However, he argued that the commencement date of the ban should have been earlier due to the delay in the announcement of the verdict. “The only point we could raise at this time was for the penalty to start running at an earlier date, and the panel was not prepared to consider it at this time. They said that they were bound by the rules (duties come to an end) and that it was a matter for the appeal to deal with,” he added.

Meanwhile, Hugh Faulkner, chairman of the disciplinary panel, said there were a number of considerations in handing down the judgement.

“In our decisions, we cited the circumstances, we cited the cases, we looked at the evidence or case’s precedents, and that explained our decision to not apply the maximum,” he stated.

Faulkner told the gathering that the tribunal was satis- fied that the evidence proved Russell was guilty of three fail- ures to file his whereabouts to the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission in 2015.

The first was for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015, the second was for the period July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015, and the third for same peri- od (July 1, 2015 September 1, 2015).

However, this, he said, was a result of Russell’s failure to pro- vide explanation in regards to anti-doping rules as to why he was late with the whereabouts requirements.

THE WEST Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA) say they will stand by all-round- er André Russell and offer any support they can to the cricketer following his one- year ban.

Russell was slapped with a 12-month sanction after he failed to file his whereabouts form, resulting in three missed doping tests. Under the World Anti-Doping Agency code, three missed doping tests equate to a failed test.

WICB’s Corporate Communications Officer Carole Beckford said the board would not comment further until they received an official statement from the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission as to the terms of the ban, but confirmed the organisation’s support.

“We will support Mr. Russell in any way deemed appropriate... We don’t know the details of it (ban). Some of them are condition- al, but whatever is appropri- ate, the board stands with him,” Beckford told The Gleaner.

WILL BE MISSED

JCA President Wilford ‘Billy’ Heaven added that the absence of Russell, an inter- national T20 star who has made major impact for the West Indies and in the top T20 leagues around the world, will be felt.

“I think everyone would be disappointed... I saw André last weekend in the semi- final of the AIL (local) com- petition and he was at his best, and we were all hoping to have him in the final this weekend,” Heaven said.

“He is a prolific interna- tional cricketer and his absence on the field during this period in any competi- tion whatsoever will undoubtably impact the game. Fans, including myself, will miss his heroes on the field.” Heaven said.

“But the JCA will stand by him and provide the support it can during this difficult time. I want to assure him that this is just a period in his career and by no means the end of the road, and he should use the experi- ences of this unfortunate situation to make both himself and other young crick- eters better,” added Heaven.

The local cricket boss also believes the ban will have a massive effect on his earnings for the period.

‘He’s extraordinary!’

Leverkusen director happy with Bailey signing

BERLIN (AP) — BAYERN LEVERKUSEN sporting direc- tor Rudi Voeller says his club is happy to have signed Jamaican forward Leon Bailey on the last day of the transfer window.

The 19-year-old Bailey arrived from Genk’s Leon Bailey jubilates after scoring during the Europa League Group stage F match between Genk and Sassuolo at the Cristal Arena in Genk, Belgium, on Thursday, September 29, 2016.

The first was for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015, the second was for the period July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015, and the third for same peri- od (July 1, 2015 September 1, 2015).

However, this, he said, was a result of Russell’s failure to pro- vide explanation in regards to anti-doping rules as to why he was late with the whereabouts requirements.

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

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

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

BOLT

Continued from 24

The world record holder for the 100m and 200m sprints led the Bolt All Stars – including athletes from Jamaica, the USA and Kenya – against teams representing Australia, England, New Zealand, Japan and China.

His race the final event on the programme the 4x100 mixed relay featured two male and two female athletes from each team, as well as fellow Jamaican Olympic gold medallist Asafa Powell.

Bolt ran the second leg, handing over to American Jenna Prandini, the Bolt All Stars won that race to notch up their fourth outright win of the night and finish with a total of 1,080 points.

“It was just a wonderful night. I was just enjoying myself from the start to the end,” Bolt said.

TEAM SUPPORT

Everybody was just having fun. Everybody was trying to support their teammates going over to the long jump, to the javelin – that’s something we’re not really used to.

The Australian team won three of the 12 events to sit second with 1,050 points.

The two teams finished equal first in two other events, while Australia’s Kurtis Marschall also tied for first place with China’s Xue Changrui in the men’s pole vault.

New Zealand won the other two events, while China finished third on the points table with 945.

At the start (of the night) I was a little bit worried. We started kinda slow and I was talking so much smack that everyone was looking at me like ‘you’re losing’,” Bolt said.

“But we won at the end, so that’s the key thing and I’m very happy with how everything turned out.”

The winner of gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay at the past three Olympics, Bolt said he had never run a competitive race in February before and was impressed with the form of the local athletes.

“They came out ready. Most people aren’t ready at the level that they want because it’s February, but you guys were ready and that’s what we want, competition. So it’s fun and it was loud, so it was good.”

LIVINGSTON SCOTT

Gleaner Reporters

A RELEASE FROM the Ministry of Culture, Entertainment, Gender and Sports said the Lloyd Pinnell-led board of directors of the Institute of Sports (INSPOrts) has suspended Ian Andrews, its administrative director, albeit with pay, pending an investigation into allegations of misconduct.

According to the release, the board has advised the ministry of the move to put the administrative director on suspension until investigations are finalised. The ministry will oversee the operations of the institution until an acting administrative director is appointed.

The release also states that Andrews must hand over all INSPOrts-owned property to the permanent secretary in the said ministry. It also said in the release that there would be no further comment on the matter from the ministry at this time.

Andrews has been involved in an ongoing conflict with the INSPOrts board of directors since September 2013. In that year, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament said the former broadcaster failed to report to the Auditor General’s Department in a performance audit of the agency.

PAYMENT QUESTIONS

Pamela Monroe Ellis, the auditor general, reported that INSPOrts did not conduct annual performance appraisals of staff and that Andrews took the decision to recall all 13 of 14 appraised staff members to higher positions. This resulted in unauthorised payments of J$334.6 million for the period June 2007 to June 2011.

Then in 2015, the previous Don Anderson-led board removed Andrews’ signing authority, which is part of the administrative director’s job description, and sent him on administrative leave. However, he returned along with signing powers after a directive from the Ministry of Finance last year.

In recent months, the former broadcaster has again come under increasing scrutiny and pressure, and after nearly a full year into the new Jamaican Government’s term. A new board of directors appointed by Minister of Sports Olivia ‘Babie’ Grange has come to the decision that they are going to look into Andrews’ management of the institution during his 15 years in charge.

Andrews disappointed by fight postponement

LEROY BROWN

Gleaner Writer

“DISAPPOINTED AND very, very frustrated.” That was how former World Boxing Council (WBC) super bantamweight champion Alicia ‘Slick’ Ashley described her feelings following the postponement of her return fight with Fatuma Zarika, which was scheduled to take place in Houston, Texas, on Saturday night, February 4.

When she put her title on the line last October 1, in Flint, Michigan, there was a return-fight clause in place if she lost. She did lose by split decision, and after several weeks of negotiation, it was agreed the return fight would have taken place Saturday.

Ashley told The Gleaner that she took the fight so seriously that she left cold New York, where she lives, for the warmth of Florida in early January and trained hard for a month.

“A few weeks ago, I heard various stories which suggested that there could possibly be a postponement, but I hoped that this would not happen. It did, however, and what I am told is that Fatuma, who is from Kenya, is having visa problems trying to get back to the USA, so this has forced a postponement.” Ashley said. “I worked so hard and, believe me, I was ready.”

Ashley said that she had a really good camp and was in much better condition now than she was in October.

“It would have been a great fight,” she added. “I want back my title and I hope that my promoter can get a new date soon.”

Coley disappointed with Reggae Boyz axe

MARC STAMP

Gleaner Writer

FORMER NATIONAL senior men’s team football coach Miguel Coley says he was disappointed after being removed from the Reggae Boyz coaching set-up.

Coley spent three years as the deputy to former head coach Winfried Schäfer, but was replaced by the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) following the failed World Cup 2018 qualifying campaign.

“I felt disappointed. I believe I have proven myself. It is a job and those in charge decided that I am no longer needed,” said the 34-year-old Coley during an interview with The Gleaner.

Coley, a multiple title-winning coach with Jamaica College, also underlined that young, local talent needs proper nurturing in order to create better players, which, he notes, will help move the Reggae Boyz programme forward.
‘IT WAS FUN’

Bolt All Stars light up Nitro meet

Jamaica’s Usain Bolt (left) and teammate Asafa Powell celebrate after winning the mixed 4x100 metre relay at the Nitro Athletics meet in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, February 4, 2017.

Usain Bolt signs autographs for fans after competing in the mixed 4x100m relay at the Nitro Athletics meet in Melbourne, Australia.

It made no difference as Jamaican track legend Usain Bolt, competing in the inaugural Nitro Athletics meet in Melbourne, Australia on the weekend led his mixed team of men and women to victory.

Nitro Athletics involves a mixture of traditional and modified events designed to provide non-stop action over a two-hour period, with each team consisting of 12 male and 12 female athletes.

Please see BOLT, 23