MIGRANTS FEAR TRUMP’S HUNT

■ Raid rumours dispelled

NEW YORK: THE MOVE by the Trump administration to crack down on undocumented persons in the United States has triggered anxiety in immigrant-heavy neighbourhoods.

See story on P4.

PAGE 3  CHURCH SEX SCANDAL: School board chairman sacked!
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Man of the Year

Bolt expecting big season on track

ANDRÉ LOWE  
Sports Editor

Here’s a man of many firsts and the 2016 Gleaner Honour Awards Man of the Year Usain Bolt again wrote his own chapter in history after becoming the first three-time recipient of this year’s-awarded award on a day that saw other sporting icons being recognised.

Bolt, who also won his fourth category award for sports, shared the sporting limelight with double Olympic sprint champion Elaine Thompson (sports) and road race magnum Alfred ‘Franco’ Francis’ Running Events Limited (health and wellness).

Already sprinting in January and a record fourth Laureus Award in hand, the recognition was the latest highlight in what is already a great start to Bolt’s farewell season.

The nod follows Bolt’s previous Man of the Year awards in 2008 and 2009, pushing him beyond two-time winners Edward Seaga and Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart as the most successful recipient of this award. In 2012, Bolt was presented with a special Jamaican & Global Jamaican Honour Award.

The big sprinter also won category awards for sports, his fourth following sports awards in 2008, 2009, and in 2002, after his 200m gold medal run at the World Junior Championships.

“It is always a great feeling, I’m really happy. It’s been a tough couple of years and I’m finally coming to the end of my career, so getting these awards is always a great feeling,” Bolt told The Gleaner shortly after receiving his trophy from Managing Director Christopher Barnes.

Bolt, who reminisced about his early days appearing in The Gleaner’s publications, was especially proud to become the first three-time Man of the Year recipient.

“I set high standards, and it’s always good to get to the top and stay there by yourself,” he laughed. “Really, it’s a great feeling, and I will continue trying to do great things even outside of track and field – you never know, I might end up winning in something else.”

HIGH HOPES FOR FINAL SEASON

“Just being on TV and coming in The Gleaner and your parents cutting the articles out and saving them was and is always a wonderful feeling. This is what you dream about. These were your big dreams back then, so it’s a good feeling (to again be awarded by The Gleaner).”


Chairman of Hampton School Board to be sacked

IN THE latest twist of the Moravian parson’s sex saga, Education minister Senator Ruel Reid says he has lost confidence in Trevor Blake when his time expires next month.

Chairman of Hampton School Board to be sacked

Reid said he has since communicated his concerns to the school oversight body/Trust.

On the weekend news broke that Murray was also accused of having sex with a minor.

Meanwhile, Bolt says he is positive about his final season on the track and is boosted by his fitness after recently competing in the Nitro Athletics in Australia.

What we need in Jamaica is to highlight more of the good things that are happening in Jamaica so we can inspire others,” Barnes said. “At his (Bolt) acceptance speech at the RJR Sportman and Sportswoman of the Year awards, he said, “I am a little boy from Sherwood Content and if I can reach here, then there should be nothing that you cannot accomplish.” That was the most powerful message, here is a normal person doing great things, and everyone in Jamaica can aspire towards that.”

Brian Simpson, Managing Director Christopher Barnes.

Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

ON FEBRUARY 3, Blake told the Ministry of Education that he withdrew his statement to the media where he had refuted the Ministry’s account of the meeting about Murray being directed to take leave.

And on February 19, the Education Minister in a statement said he was to discuss with Dr Morgan the constitution of the board going forward.

He also disclosed that the Board members had apologised to him.

The statement said the Board had acknowledged that no independent investigation was done to verify the conduct of Murray separate from the account she had given.

A freestyle of criticism was directed at Murray for sending the wrong signal by attending the Clarke’s court bail hearing in January given her position as Principal of a girls school.

The 64-year-old Clarke, a Moravianian, has been charged with having sex with a minor.

Murray was also accused of blocking a cameraman attempting to take a picture of Clarke leaving the court.

Clarke is married to Murray’s best friend from school days and in defence of her court attendance. She said she was supporting her friend in distress.

Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
Bid to quell rumours as fear of immigration crackdown looms

DEON BROWN
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK: The MOVE by the Trump administration to crack down on undocumented people in the United States has triggered anxiety in immigrant-heavy neighbourhoods across the country.

In a week that saw over 600 undocumented immigrants being rounded up nationwide including dozens in the New York City area, rumours have been running rampant of raids being carried out by Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents at places of business and transportation hubs in New York City.

After word circulated of a crackdown by ICE agents at several places frequented by Caribbean immigrants in Central Brooklyn, Council member for the area Jumaane Williams issued a statement to dispel the rumours.

It was alleged that ICE agents were conducting raids at two Bobby’s Department Store’s on Utica Avenue and Church Avenue, at Kings County Hospital as well as stopping commuter vans and cabs.

But Williams said his office had followed up the reports and could not verify any of them.

“We have spoken to owners of the commuter van lines, as well as the management at Bobby’s Department Store, and have confirmed that at this time there have not been any incidents,” he stated.

He added that while the community should remain vigilant and forward any reported sighting of ICE activity to his office, persons should make all effort to substantiate information before passing it on.

He mentioned that witnesses should also call their local precinct as some of these individuals may be ICE impersonators looking to scam unsuspecting people.

“The NYPD is not currently working with immigration officials, and as policy does not randomly ask people about their immigration status,” the Councilmember noted.

Williams says the Trump administration has fostered a culture of fear. To address this, he along with several elected officials hosted a town hall meeting in Flatbush recently.

The idea was to ensure constituents have accurate information, know their rights and feel empowered at a time when so many feel marginalised and fearful.

He said it was the first of what would be a series of meetings and think tanks.

Also present at that forum was Jamaica-born Assemblyman, Nick Perry. He says Trump’s policies are not a surprise as these were stated loudly on the campaign trail.

“People didn’t pay attention like they should. Everybody is up in arms but a lot of people failed to do their civic duty,” he said.

He added that Jamaicans should not sit comfortably and think they won’t be affected by the new immigration measures.

Jamaicans might think because we’re not a Muslim country and we’re in the Caribbean we’ll be okay but we can’t be too sure. We have to lock arms with our Muslim brothers and sisters and fight for their rights because our rights will also be threatened if we don’t,” Perry said.

He urged all immigrants who qualify for citizenship to adjust their status so they can vote in the next election and advance their voice and power in the adopted country.

The controversial stance of the Trump presidency has riled up communities and made rallying an active political verb.

With Congress on a recess, several Congressional representatives have been holding community forums in their districts hearing directly from their constituents on a range of issues including the immigration ban, the attempt to repeal Obamacare, climate change and questionable US/Russia relations.

PEOPLE CALLED ON TO BE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS

The NY City Council is reminding residents that the city remains a sanctuary community and that the administration including the police department will not compro

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the legal outfit that has been at the forefront of the fight against the Trump immigration measures has issued a set of guidelines for how to interact with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents if they show up at your door.

“Look at the top and at the signature line to see if it was issued by a court and signed by a judge,” the ACLU guideline states.

They are encouraging immigrants to know their rights, plan ahead and be aware of legal and social services available to them.

Information is provided at www.council.nyc.gov/immigrant-resources.

Residents may also directly contact their local council members or by contacting a trusted legal service organisation.

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In a Know Your Rights campaign, the ACLU offers the following advice:

- Remain calm. Don’t open the door. Simply inquire who they are, the reason for their visit, and ask for an interpreter if you need one. Opening the door does not give the agents permission to come inside, but it is safer to speak to them through the door.

- If the agents want to enter, ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge. If they don’t, you may refuse to let them in. An administrative warrant of removal from immigration authorities is not enough.

- If they say they have a warrant, ask them to slip the warrant under the door.

- Look at the top and at the signature line to see if it was issued by a court and signed by a judge.

Only a court/judge warrant is enough for entry into your premises. One issued by Department of Homeland Security ( DHS) or ICE and signed by a DHS or ICE employee is not.

- Do not open your door unless ICE shows you a judicial search or arrest warrant naming a person in your residence and/or areas to be searched at your address.

- In all other cases, keep the door closed. State: “I do not consent to your entry.”

- If agents force their way in anyway, do not attempt to resist. If you wish to exercise your rights, state: “I do not consent to your entry or to your search of these premises. I am exercising my right to remain silent. I wish to speak with a lawyer as soon as possible.”

- Everyone in the residence may also exercise the right to remain silent.

- Do not lie or show false documents. Do not sign any papers without speaking to a lawyer. If you need more information, contact your local ACLU affiliate at aclu.org/affiliates.

Meanwhile, a number of churches, especially in New Jersey have indicated that they will be providing sanctuary for undocumented residents. Faith-based community groups and clergy are reportedly holding discussions on how best to assist immigrants.

There are also grassroots efforts mobilising teams of volunteers to send instant text messages notifying communities of immigration raids and using social media to share information and concerns. Supporters will also videotape ICE activity as they happen and share with legal organisations.
Jamaican restaurants close for a day in support of immigrants

DAVE RODNEY
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK: On Thursday February 16, numerous restaurants across New York City were closed in support of the immigrants who make up a large part of the restaurant work force in the city.

Among the eateries that closed their doors fully for the day were Miss Lily’s, a family business, and Miss Lily’s 7A East Village. The Jamaican restaurants joined other businesses in and outside the New York area who wanted to highlight the importance of immigrants to America’s economy and way of life.

The one-day closings come against a backdrop of growing unease in immigrants communities in New York about new immigration regulations, tighter restrictions and deportations that form part of the new Trump administration’s blueprint to tighten access to the United States for immigrants.

“So much about what defines the Miss Lily’s brand is our multicultural staff and we wanted to stand in solidarity with them, so we closed both our restaurants in observance of 4Day/Without Immigrants”, Paul Salmon, managing partner at Miss Lily’s told The Gleaner.

See related story on Page 17.

Jamaican Diaspora group to launch Immigration Task Force

DERRICK SCOTT
Contributor

WASHINGTON, DC: The Jamaica Diaspora Immigration and Deportation Prevention Taskforce (JDIDTPF) will be officially launched in the Bronx, New York, on Friday February 24.

According to the conceptualiser of the JDIDTPF, Joan Pinnock, who is also the North-East Diaspora Advisory Board member, the task force comprising twenty-one individuals who are clergy, technology experts, immigration and criminal attorneys and social workers, was convened four months ago with its main focus to educate Jamaicans in the Diaspora about their immigration rights and the benefits of becoming citizens of their host country.

She said the mission of the JDIDTPF is to assist Jamaicans in the Diaspora to navigate immigration laws to their benefit, to increase the number of naturalised Jamaicans in the Diaspora, reduce the number of Jamaicans deported from their host country and assist in returning Jamaicans who have been wrongly deported.

Pinnock pointed out that there are over 3 million Jamaicans living in the Diaspora – USA, Canada and the UK.

Many of the undocumented people living in the US are eligible to apply for US citizenship yet have not done so.

She further pointed out that Jamaican are the largest number of deportees from the United States every year, with over 20,000 people deported in the last ten years.

Pinnock stated that high on the agenda for discussion at the launch is the recent immigration executive order signed by President Donald Trump.

Official launch will take place at the Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene at 6 pm on February 24.

Sophia Findlay
Gleaner Writer

TORONTO, ON: RAPHAELITA WALKER, mother of Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange, Jamaica’s culture minister, at the 90th birthday celebration for Raphaelita, a founding member of the Jamaican Canadian Association, and stalwart in the Black and Caribbean community. The event was held in Toronto on December 11, 2016.

Raphaelita Walker passes

She was a true matriarch and supporter of the JCA for the 55 years since her arrival in Canada,” said Roy Williams, JCA’s first president.

She and her husband had gone to England from Jamaica and then came to Canada in 1963, during the introduction of the Commonwealth Immigration Act. Since then, she had become an integral member of several organisations, including the 55-year-old JCA, the largest and oldest community organisation in Canada, Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education PACS (Canada), which adopts basic schools in Jamaica, and the Indepedence Church Service Committee, which plans the annual event to commemorate Jamaica’s independence.

ORIGINAL MRS CLAUS

Walker was the original Mrs Class at the ancient JCA Children’s Christmas party; a role she played with gusto and in high spirits. Her husband would be with her as Mr Class.

She was also instrumental in organising Jamaica Independence Day celebrations.

“Raphaelita was a very special person. She was a champion of the JCA, never shy about sharing its history, struggles and successes. Raphaelita supported the younger people in the organisation and always encouraged us. I and the JCA members will miss her but ensure her legacy is not forgotten,” Adacoma Patterson, president of the JCA, told The Gleaner.

Her community service has earned her several awards and accolades.

“She has a true heart and generosity of spirit have left an imprint in the hearts of a grateful nation,” she stated, in a press release from her office.

Funeral arrangements for Raphaelita Walker will take place both in the east and west of Toronto. On Monday, March 6, there will be a viewing at the Emanuel Baptist Church, 1160 Finch Ave, East, Don Mills, from 1 pm to 4 pm and a formal programme at 7 pm.

There will also be a viewing on Saturday, March 4 at the Revival Tabernacle Church, 4340 Dufferin Street between 10 am and 1 am. Service will begin at 11 am.

Interment follows immediately after the service at York Cemetery, 160 Beechroft Road.

JCA Community tribute will be held on March 2, at the organisation’s location, 995 Arrow Road, starting at 6 pm until 11 pm for ‘Aunt Raph’, as she is affectionately called.

Jamaican restaurant workers gather for a day of solidarity

Toronto, ON: Gifford and Raphaelita Walker, son Lex, and daughter, Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange – Jamaica’s culture minister, at the 90th birthday celebration for Raphaelita, a founding member of the Jamaican Canadian Association, and stalwart in the Black and Caribbean community. The event was held in Toronto on December 11, 2016.

Sophia Findlay
Gleaner Writer
**JSE MARKET TRADE SHEET**

**February 20, 2017**

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**Stocks**

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  - Change: -0.08
  - Previous: 5.60
  - Volume: 35,482

- **Sterling Investments USD**
  - Price: 15.65
  - Change: 0.00
  - Previous: 15.75
  - Volume: 0

- **Sterling Investments**
  - Price: 32.60
  - Change: 0.00
  - Previous: 33.10
  - Volume: 0

- **Seprod Scotia Investments**
  - Price: 41.00
  - Change: -0.19
  - Previous: 37.00
  - Volume: 150

- **Jamaica Producers Group**
  - Price: 16.25
  - Change: -0.36
  - Previous: 15.32
  - Volume: 17,260

- **Jamaica Broilers**
  - Price: 11.00
  - Change: 0.00
  - Previous: 11.00
  - Volume: 0

- **KLE Group**
  - Price: 2.70
  - Change: 0.20
  - Previous: 2.50
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- **JPS 9.5% F**
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**Contact Information**

**Re: Estate Arthur Richards**

**Late of Lewis Dist., Manchester**

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<td>Eulae Richards &amp; Children</td>
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**Contact**

- Earl Hamilton
  - Attorney-at-Law
  - Spanish Town
  - St. Catherine
  - Tel: 335-4883

**February 20, 2017 JAMAICA SEEKING A FRIEND FROM THE USA, AGE 56+**

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**Dated the 20th day of February, 2017**

**Jamaica, Venezuela sign Petrojam Refinery expansion agreement**

The governments of Jamaica and Venezuela have signed an agreement to execute the Petrojam Refinery Expansion Project which will cost approximately J$1 billion.

The agreement was signed in Caracas on Wednesday, February 15.

Venezuelan president, Nicholas Maduro, hailed the signing as a most significant step in a long journey and one that would promote growth, development and partnership.

The Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Dr Andrew Wheatley signed on behalf of the Jamaican government while Group General Manager, Winston Watson, signed on behalf of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

The Jamaican government through Petrojam owns 51 per cent of the refinery while Venezuela owns 49 per cent.

The expansion will increase Jamaica’s national oil refinery’s crude oil capacity from 14,000 to 56,000 barrels of oil per day to 50,000 barrels per day.

It will also involve the addition of enhancements to the Marcus Garvey Derive based plant.

The project will be executed by SINOHYDRO Corporation Limited which will undertake financing, engineering, procurement and construction.

The next steps will involve the establishment of a task force comprised of five representatives from either country, within the next month.

The team will have responsibility for finalising contractual arrangements with SINOHYDRO for project execution.

Wheatley says the upgrading of Jamaica’s oil refinery is the bedrock of the joint venture partnership with the Government of Venezuela.

He says while the groundwork took a long time, the parties will now be moving expeditiously to finalise arrangements so the real work can begin.

**URGENT NOTICE**

**WOULD REIMA SONTUP, DAVID SONTUP or SUSAN SONTUP whose last known address was in Long Island, New York, United States of America or anyone knowing their whereabouts please contact PAULINE FINDLAY at DunnCox, attorneys-at-Law, 48 Duke Street, Kingston with telephone number (876) 922-1500.**

**Dated the 20th day of February, 2017**

**DunnCox**

**PAULINE FINDLAY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW**

**single Jamaican lady looking for a single male, age 55 and over, no joker!**

**My contact #1876-452-1938 or 1876-290-1603, 1876-407-1803**

**LOVING LADY FROM JAMAICA SEEKING A FRIEND FROM THE USA, AGE 56+.**

**CONTACT #872-9545**
Starbucks weighing market entry in Jamaica

STEVEN JACKSON
Business Reporter

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE chain Starbucks is weighing entry to the Jamaican market, likely through a franchise partner. “We remain committed to expanding across the region and are currently evaluating multiple markets, including Jamaica, but we have no additional information to share at this time,” said Alisha Damodaran, senior manager for corporate communications at Starbucks.

It suggests a deal is yet to be struck despite persistent talk locally that the first coffee house was imminent. However, it’s also the first time Starbucks is confirming interest in Jamaica.

Starbucks currently has 42 stores across Aruba, The Bahamas, Curacao, Puerto Rico, and its newest market, Trinidad and Tobago, where a partnership was struck last year. Each market is operated by a licensed business partner, said Damodaran. In Trinidad, that partner is Prestige Holdings Limited, which opened its first store in San Fernando last August.

Starbucks already has a buying relationship with Jamaica for its exclusive line of reserve beans. The chain has been supplied with beans over the past seven years by local coffee producers such as Wallenford Estate and Amber Estate for consumption in North America and Asia. “It continues to be a customer favourite here at our Starbucks Reserve Roastery in Seattle and our Reserve bars in the US, Canada, China and Japan,” said Damodaran via email.

Damodaran’s comments follow information from separate sources in the coffee sector that the chain was showing interest in Jamaica. The sources said two separate operators within the hospitality sector are seeking to partner with the coffee chain on a franchise agreement, but both entities have denied negotiations.

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Email: leroy_chambers@jmmb.com

LOT 88 KILMARNOK WAY, "THE ALMONDS" PART OF MOORELANDS ESTATE (BLOCK B2), MANDEVILLE MANCHESTER

Property is a vacant lot of approximately 1,972,332 square Meters (21,230.24 square feet) and is part of the subdivision of Moorelands Estate (Block 82) Mandeville, Manchester.

LOT#7, BURKE SUBDIVISION, LAND PART OF KNOCKPATRICK, MANCHESTER VOLUME 1439 FOLIO 607

Property consists of split level residence containing six bedrooms (inclusive of Basement), four bath rooms, living and dining rooms, laundry room, single car garage with electronic shutters.

Lot area approximately 12,625 .85 square feet and building area of approximately 2,898 square feet.

LAND PART OF FARM DISTRICT (SOUTH OF MANDEVILLE & SOUTH EAST OF OLD ENGLAND) MANCHESTER VOLUME 1464 FOLIO 727

Property consists of split level residential dwelling, comprising Master Bedroom complete with walk-in closet and ensuite but h room wit h Jacuzzi and other sanitary amenities.

Three bedrooms with closets, two bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen with granite counter tops, Linen Closet, Front, Side & Rear Porches, Single Car Garage with electronic shutters.

Land Area approximately 1,092.74 square meters (11,762.04 square feet), building area approximately 338.06 square meters (3,635 square feet).

MAKE US AN OFFER. ALL REASONABLE OFFERS WILL BE CONSIDERED
Have a great week!

Contributed
Jamaica’s Consul General Franz Hall (centre), special guest at the 22nd annual Charity Gala of the Food for the Poor in Boca Raton, with (from left) Massimo Tarquini and Paige Petrone, Samantha Mahfood and Chief Executive Officer (FFP), Robin Mahfood.

Members of the Cedric Titus High School Alumni Association, New Jersey chapter at their annual Valentine’s Gala held in New Jersey on Saturday, February 11.

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VM Unit Trust acquires The Towers

Neville Graham
Business Reporter

VM WEALTH Unit Trust has acquired The Towers at Dominica Drive in New Kingston from Cable and Wireless Pension Fund, which first put the building on the market more than eight years ago to disappointing results.

The acquisition was the first purchase by the unit trust’s new property fund, according to Rexworth Burchenson, deputy CEO of Victoria Mutual Wealth Management Limited.

Burchenson also heads Prime Asset Management Limited, a company that provides pension-management services for the Cable and Wireless Pension Plan. Prime and VM Wealth are members of the VMBS group.

However, he said despite his two hats as CEO of Prime Asset and Deputy CEO of VM Wealth, the transaction was above board and done along strict guidelines.

The property went on the open market and the trustees looked at a lot of bids from many high net worth individuals and institutional investors and they chose us because ours was the most attractive,” he said.

The VMPrime executive was impressed with the value of the transaction, saying that VM Unit Trust paid “J$1 billion-plus” for the property. Titles Office records show that VM Unit Trust paid “J$1 billion-plus” for the property. Titles Office records show that VM Unit Trust paid “J$1.38 billion.

“We have a capex programme that we’re finalising to be rolled out over the next five years. It will deal with things like the look and feel, and the aesthetics. That will include the lobby and a few other areas,” Burchenson said.

“It’s too early to say what we’re going to do, but we do know that we want to reposition the building. It is a very attractive property in New Kingston and we want to bring it back to what it was in the 1980s,” he said.

VM Unit Trust was launched in September 2016. It has five products on the market – four bond funds and one equity fund, all denominated in US dollars.

“The property fund is its sixth offering. Our property fund was created in a drive to provide a range of portfolio options to our clients based on their needs and risk profile,” said Burchenson “We are in the process of finalising major efforts to build out this portfolio while allowing some diversification into other segments of the real estate market.”

VM Wealth Management joins five other fund managers in the unit trust market, the others being Barita Unit Trust, JMMB Fund Managers, NCB Capital Markets, market leader Ragicro Investments, and Scotia Investments.

The most recent data published by the Financial Services Commission valued the sector at more than J$146 billion by assets under management at March 2016.

Burchenson said VM’s equity portfolio was “the best-performing equity fund in Jamaica with a return of 16 per cent up to December 2016.”

“What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
February is Black History Month recognizing the social, cultural and economic contributions of Black people and people of African and Caribbean descent. The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) believes that Black History Month must also be a time to reinforce the collective resolve of Canadian workers to be active and present in progressive movements to challenge racial discrimination, end systemic racism and dismantle the barriers preventing the full and equal participation of all people of colour.

Black trade unionists in Canada have long fought to end discrimination in our society and workplaces, and have played a central role in securing legislative changes to promote human rights for all. The struggle for equity and equality continues.

Black Canadian workers continue to face differential labour market experiences. Workers of colour in Ontario are more likely to work for minimum wage and, on average, earn only eighty-one cents on the dollar. For radicalised women, the situation is dramatically more unfair. People of colour are also over-represented in precarious, temporary, and low-wage work. As a result, radicalised families continue to be two to four times as likely to live on incomes below the low-income cut off and, in some communities, one out of every two radicalised children are living in poverty.

We are at a critical time when racial profiling, racially motivated ‘carding’ and police shootings of radicalised people have spurred incredible public outrage and given rise to a Black Lives Matter movement that has swept North America.

“Challenging racism is about much more than speaking out against prejudice and discrimination when we witness it, it is about confronting systemic racism with concrete government action to remove the barriers to equal opportunity,” said OFL President Chris Buckley.

The OFL is calling on the Government of Ontario to broaden its understanding of pay equity beyond the gender wage gap and make employment equity, in all its forms, a priority for all employers and for every level of government. Further the Wynne Government must make substantive employment and labour law reforms.

We have an incredible heritage of Black activism in Ontario that has challenged racism, prejudice and discrimination and people of all races have an obligation to honour that history by celebrating it and continuing the fight for justice. We must continually renew our commitment to racial equality and justice inside and outside our unions. For the Ontario Federation of Labour, this means re-committing ourselves to the work our activists do to foster racial justice, and equal justice to building a fair and just society. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), Canadian Labour Congress and OFL will co-sponsor a community forum, “Empowering Our Community: Politicising our Struggles,” on February 27, from 6 to 8:30pm at United Steelworkers Hall in Toronto.

Learn about the history of the Black Sleeping Car Porters, the double legacy of racism and sexism facing Black women in politics and the story of Viola Desmond and other brave anti-racist activists who refused to accept inequality.

Three National Film Board of Canada films: Sisters in the Struggle, The Road Taken, and Journey to Justice will be screened recounting these struggles following by a discussion on the current struggles facing the community with the objective of developing strategies to makes our voices heard through political action.

A community-based discussion to help shape the political action work of the CBTU, OFL and CLC. The OFL represents 54 unions and one million workers in Ontario.
A look into the complexities of mother-daughter relationship

SOPHIA FINDLAY
Contributor

Claudette (Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah) has just returned home from Montreal after 3 years; she heard her mother, Daphne (Ordena Stephens-Thompson), was sick.

She scolded her sister, Valerie (Allison Edwards-Crewe), for not telling her sooner because she would’ve been there for her, even to cook. Daphne likes her rice and peas traditionally made.

Valerie, the middle child who lives closer to home and to their mother, tries to be the glue in the family though her life is unraveling.

In a nutshell: Daphne leaves to secure a better life abroad and the children are left with the mother’s mother in Jamaica. They reunite years later but not before Daphne marries and has a third daughter, whom they think the mother prefers but it’s not so.

ISSUES

The play’s theme digs in the issues of abandonment, felt by the two girls when they were left behind at ages 5 and 7; Claudette being a lesbian daughter to a mom who is grounded in the church, plus she is childless, a situation that is remedied later in the show; Valerie, who is living the ‘dream’ life with a white ‘workaholic’ husband and is childless too; teenage pregnancy and a dead sibling, Cloe (Beryl Bain), who is visible to the audience but not to her family.

The storyline, beautifully written by Canadian playwright Trey Anthony, is compelling and the drama played out poignantly by the entire cast. So, bring your tissues to see, How Black Mothers Say I Love You, for it’s going to be worth you getting tickets but good luck with that, as it’s constantly sold-out, even this second time around at the Factory Theatre, in Toronto.

“I come from a legacy of black mothers who left their children. My grandmother left her children in Jamaica and went to England and was separated from them for 6 years. My paternal grandmother also left her children in search of a better life. Both of my grandmothers were poor women mothering in less than ideal situations.”

We take the occasion of Black History Month to recognize and salute the African American community whose historic accomplishments have expanded opportunity for all Americans

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Ten facts on the history of radio in Jamaica

Radio is a vital part of Jamaican life. From daily talk shows to newscasts, radio is by far the most popular medium for news and views in Jamaica. In fact, Jamaica has been at the cutting edge of developments in radio in the Caribbean region and Commonwealth since the technology’s very inception. Through RJR, Jamaica was the first country in the British Commonwealth to broadcast regular scheduled programmes on the FM band. Here are 10 facts you probably did not know about radio’s history in Jamaica:

1. Jamaica has a population of 2.8 million people. Of that number, over 2 million are said to be radio listeners.

2. In 1939, the first broadcast was transmitted via a short-wave “ham” operated unit from the Seaview Avenue home of John Grinna. The call sign was VP5PZ and offered wartime news and information for a half-hour once a week.

3. VP5PZ became ZQI when, in 1940, Grinna negotiated with the colonial government to set up a station that with greater frequency and variety of broadcasts. It did not get more than 100,000 listeners because of the relatively high cost of radio sets.

4. On July 9, 1950, commercial radio broadcasting began in Jamaica when the government granted a licence to the Jamaica Broadcasting Company (JBC), a subsidiary of the British Rediffusion Group.

5. What we call RJR today started off as Radio Jamaica and Rediffusion Network.

6. In the early 1950s RJR distributed some 200 “little brown radio boxes” (rediffusion boxes) to communal locations (police stations, schools, shops) so that more Jamaicans would have access to radio information and programming.

7. By 1954 over 57,000 Rediffusion sets were in use and over 285,000 Jamaicans were confirmed radio listeners (a major increase from the 75,000 in 1947).

8. 1951 ushered in wire radio service – meaning that transmissions were sent from a central station. Users had to be a rediffusion subscriber, paying three-pence a day.

9. Popular Jamaican radio personalities like Louise Bennett and Ranny Williams, Alma Mock Yen, Radcliffe Butler and Roy Reid got exposure that helped them launch their careers from appearances on Radio Jamaica and Rediffusion Network.

10. When radio programming started, it was formatted after the BBC, but that was eventually Jamaicanised and evolved until the variety we have today emerged.
An award-winning film about the massacre of 11 African-American soldiers – The Wereth Eleven – was shown at the Progressive Women’s Association on February 15 as part of a Black History Month programme by the Harrison County Historical Society.

The Bert Ends tells the story of 11 members of the US Army’s all-black 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were separated from their fellow troops during World War II’s Battle of Bulge and found themselves in a town called Wereth, Belgium. The 11 hid there from German SS troops, but were eventually found, tortured, then murdered.

The story of the Wereth Eleven went largely untold for nearly 50 years.

Kip Price, who spoke before the film was shown February 15, wants to change that. A member of the Friends of Wereth, Price has made it his goal to try to get this story to as many people as possible, making sure these veterans are remembered.

“They were (prisoners of war) at first after the battle. As they were POWs, a British plane came by and fired at the SS troopers. During that chaos, 11 soldiers escaped and ran through the woods,” Price explained. “They were only able to grab two rifles, and through the woods they went. There was snow up to their knees, bitterly cold. They walked ten miles to try and find help. They became known as the Wereth Eleven.”

One of the Wereth Eleven was a West Virginian James Aubrey Stewart of Piedmont in Mineral County.

Price grew up in Piedmont – next door to Stewart’s nephew and four doors down from where Stewart himself had lived.

“Charles Stewart, who lived next door, he didn’t know the truth until (an investigative reporter) came and told him,” Price said. “And it just broke him down after all those years.”

“Story is absolutely tragic, but in the same way, inspiring,” said Crystal Wimer, executive director of the Harrison County Historical Society.

She said showing the film to the community for free is important because the story of the Wereth Eleven deserves to be told.

“Think it’s important to get his story out there,” Wimer said. “It always helps to get more stories of African American history in the public because they had lives, they contributed to our American story and deserve to be recognised as part of that story.”
ACROSS JAMAICA

JS$500 million for road repair in four rural parishes

A SUM of JS$500 million has been allocated for the rehabilitation of 104 kilometres of road in Trelawny, Clarendon, Manchester and Westmoreland, the Estimates of Expenditure before the House indicated. “Work will be carried out under the Rural Road Rehabilitation II project being implemented by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.”

St James

Approximately 2,000 residents of Norwood to receive land titles

“THE DELIVERY of titles is part of the continued efforts by the Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ) to deliver full ownership land titles to thousands of persons across the island. This Norwood development brings to an end the period of waiting by some residents, as long as 26 years and more, for their titles.”

Westmoreland

Residents participate in environmental sensitisation session

STUDENTS, PARENTS and teachers participated in an environmental sensitisation day earlier this month organised by the Negri Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPRT) at the Sheffield Community Centre.

Triggered by World Wetlands Day on February 2, and under the theme, ‘Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction’, participants engaged in a full day’s activity focusing on preserving the environment.

Parents and teachers also participated in a quiz while other offerings included essay and poster competitions.

Jamaica Career Enhancement programme

Students taught Cosmetology to enhance skillset

APPROXIMATELY 20 students of this parish are being taught cosmetology skills through the Jamaica Career Enhancement Programme. The course is being offered in partnership with HEART Trust/NTA and covers training in chemical hair treatment, hairdressing and wig making. The students will also be taught Manicuring and Pedicuring.

St Mary

Schoolgirls donate baby cradle to hospital

GIRLS OF THE Leo Club at Marymount High School last week presented the staff at the Annotto Bay Hospital with the gift of a cradle for new-born babies. Colourful CEO of the hospital Pauline Steele-Davis welcomed the donation as “really important because we have limited resources so we are grateful and very open to this kind of gesture.”

ACROSS THE REGION

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

School children test positive for HIV

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC

ATLEAST FIVE primary school students have tested positive for HIV and several others have engaged in sexual activities “willingly”. Parliamentarians here have been told.

Appearing before a Joint Select Committee (JSC) of Parliament, officials from the Ministries of Education and Health confirmed that the five students, aged seven to 11, and initially reported last week, were receiving treatment.

They will remain in the system unless their health factors show warrant that they should be removed,” said Dr Quee Quee, Officer in Ministry of Education Darlene Smith, noting that the ministry believes in inclusive education and they should be treated in the same manner as other students.

Addressing the JSC on the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), specialist medical officer Dr Aruna Divakaruni said a significant number of school-aged children had sought the services of the Queen’s Park Counselling Centre.

“Most of them are school children. They have older partners. Most of the time they are abused by stepfathers or a brother or cousin or somebody like that,” she said, adding “others engaged in sexual activity willingly.”

The JSC was told that despite school children engaging in sexual activity and being at risk for various STDs, the Ministry of Health has been meeting with resistance from schools and parents regarding the teaching of sexual education by qualified medical professionals.

Right now we don’t have that arrangement, but a few years back we honestly tried. We sent our trained doctors to schools to teach children, even to teach teachers and other staff members about STDs. I, myself, attended quite a few schools to teach them and to educate them to include awareness of STDs in children, but we faced a lot of resistance from the schools and teachers and even from parents of the children.”

Dr Divakaruni said many parents believed pupils were being educated “too much” about sex and STDs, which would encourage them to go out and engage in sexual activity.

She said efforts were also made to distribute condoms to pupils in order to encourage safe-sex practices, but this too was met with resistance.

Chief Education Officer Harrilal Seecharan said pupils are at present exposed to sexual education at both secondary and primary school levels.

“Within the curriculum, we have a health and family life education programme, and one of the modules within that deals with sexuality and sexual health education. At the secondary level, it is implemented between Forms One to Three. At the primary school it is infused so age-appropriate strategies are used.”

UNITED STATES

US entrepreneurs head to the Caribbean for exchange programme

WASHINGTON, CMC

THIRTEEN United States says 34 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Professional Fellowship from businesses and civil society organisations across the US have been selected to participate in the Reverse Exchange programme, a new component of YLAI.

The US State Department said that US Fellowship hosts will travel to 21 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean “to collaboratively implement entrepreneur and community projects alongside alumni of the YLAI Professional Fellows Programme.

‘These partnerships will strengthen entrepreneurship networks between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean,” the State Department said in a statement.

Last November, the State Department said the YLAI alumni completed five-week fellowships at US start-ups, small businesses, and various organisations in partnership with businesses, community groups and universities.

Through the Reverse Exchange programme, many of the Fellowship hosts will continue to mentor the YLAI alumni in-country to further develop their business or social venture plans, the State Department said.

SOME WOMEN who have been forced to engage in sexual activities have now found the courage to speak out.

“My cousin was abused by a stepfather or a brother or cousin or somebody like that,” she said, adding “others engaged in sexual activity willingly.”

“Significant number of school-aged children have sought the services of the Queen’s Park Counselling Centre. Most of them are school children. They have older partners. Most of the time they are abused by stepfathers or a brother or cousin or somebody like that,” she said, adding “others engaged in sexual activity willingly.”

The JSC was told that despite school children engaging in sexual activity and being at risk for various STDs, the Ministry of Health has been meeting with resistance from schools and parents regarding the teaching of sexual education by qualified medical professionals.
Beres the boss of Valentine’s Day at Woodstock

CLAUDIA GARDNER
Gleaner Writer

Beres Hammond was in his usual fine form as he performed before hundreds of persons at the Appleton Estate’s Signature Nights Valentines event, Woodstock, Negril on Tuesday night, February 14.

At 10:45 p.m., when emcee Ron Muschette announced Hammond’s arrival, describing him as “reggae’s biggest boss,” men and women alike erupted in wild cheers. And as he walked onstage beckoning Hammond to touch them. There were intervals where Hammond danced, jumped and rocked, much to the delight of his fans. They went wild when he appeared on the verge of giving a speech, then said “Negril,” and then laughingly instead sang the opening line of No Goodbye.

FIRST LOCAL 2017 SHOW

Hammond was doing his first local performance of 2017, and according to him, his first in Negril for a long time. And persons from as far away as Kingston trekked across the island to see him. Midway his 80-minute-long performance, Hammond had a surprise artiste for a few minutes in the form of Beenie Man, who sang snippets of Remie and Who Am I (Sim Simma), among others, evoking a hug from a smiling Hammond. At one point when the ‘Doctor’ signalled his intent to exit the stage, Hammond signalled to him to carry on.

Can’t Step a Man and Step Aside were among the favourites which Hammond sang. One Dance was obviously a favourite of the senior patrons, who sang along word for word as soon as Hammond started the introduction. The same happened for She Loves Me Now, Falling in Love All Over Again and La La La.

Hammond was preceded by Ras Minimum, Otis Gayle and Naggo Morris, who also made their presence felt.

Vocalists in the US group Atlantic Starr in an intense moment.

Red-hot concert for Cool Ruler

KIMBERLEY SMALL
Gleaner Writer

IN HONOUR of The Cool Ruler, Gregory Isaacs, his widow June Isaacs has masterminded a concert with Jamaican and overseas star vocalists paying respect to the late, legendary singer.

The inaugural Red Rose for Gregory, initially slated to take place on Sunday, February 12, at the Constant Spring Golf Club, was put off due to rain. The postponement proved serendipitous as, when the concert was relocated to the Karl Hendrickson Auditorium at Jamaica College on Valentine’s Day, members of the crowd created patches of red with their clothing.

Scheduled to start at 8 p.m., the event was again stalled, the organizers citing technical difficulties. The mostly patient patrons intermittently applauded the empty stage, the most polite way to prompt attention from the organizers. The concert commenced after almost an hour’s delay.

Back by Love Parks and We The People Band, reggae artiste Yvad was first to take the stage. Sandwiched between two original songs, was a lukewarm rendition of Isaacs’ Night Nurse. Next was Cat Coore of Third World fame, who offered his songs through the cello. Though Coore initially appeared to have some difficulty hearing his instrument, he quickly found his key.

The veteran played melodies of Isaacs’ songs, to which the audience heartily added vocals. Coore roused the audience into a chorus for his version of Bob Marley’s Redemption Song. A sensational Raya was scintillating with some suggestive and outright sexually instructive songs, then D-Major took the stage to demonstrate impressive vocal range. Atlantic Starr closed the show, but it was the penultimate act that brought the house down.

Rising Stars alumni Chris Martin performed songs from his recently released debut album, Big Deal. Martin’s set included notable hits and then took a turn for the exciting with the introduction of new, raunchy material from the album. He had many of the ladies in the audience on their feet with an old-school medley. The singer delivered classic hits like Big All Around. Bring It On Home To Me. Let’s Get It On and Sexual Healing.

Despite the hiccups, the concert’s organizers expressed their intention to make it an annual event.
Dear Mr. Walker-Huntington,

I would like to find out, based on your profile, in the processing time for the I-130 form the same for both US citizen and legal permanent residents when filing for a spouse?

I know the overall processing time is different, but I would like to know the specific time at the National Visa Center.

Thanks.

O.W.

The processing of the I-130 Petition for Alien Relative depends on the service centre processing the application. The service centres cover different regions of the United States, and which one a person uses is based on where the petitioner resides. There are five service centres in the United States, and they have various waiting times for the different petitions/applications to be processed.

For example, the Texas service centre is currently processing the I-130s for both United States citizens and permanent residents that were filed before July 4, 2016. Once the I-130 is approved, regardless of the filing location, the green card is sent to the National Visa Center (NVC). In the case of a permanent resident filing for a spouse – that petition is in the F2A preference category – the beneficiary has to wait until a visa becomes available. That waiting period is approximately two years for a visa.

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington is a Jamaican-American attorney who practices immigration law in the United States. She is a mediator, arbitrator, and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida. info@walke rhurton.com

A question of time

Day Without Immigrants protest closes many US restaurants

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - This Valentine's Day, Philadelphia's Italian Market was uncommonly quiet. Fine restaurants, where the nation's capital and New York closed for the day. Grocery stores, food trucks and fast-food joints alike closed in solidarity, in a national protest called A Day Without Immigrants.

The boycott was aimed squarely at President Donald Trump, who announced earlier this month that he would begin efforts to crack down on immigration, legal and illegal. Officials said they expected thousands to sit the examination to maximize the points you are awarded under the system.

The English examination results are only valid for two years, so you must check to ensure that your report has not expired.

Individuals are sometimes deemed ineligible if they do not have the required settlement funds, which is based on the number of people living in your family. You should ensure that you have no less than CAD$15,500 in savings or investments before you even consider applying.

If you have a valid job offer, usually supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) report; a provincial nominee. Canadian postsecondary education, and French language examination results, then those factors can improve your scores and ensure that you are deemed eligible.

The key factor to note is that you do not just want to be deemed eligible and admitted into the pool. You want to be selected and given an invitation to apply for permanent residence. Therefore, your goal is to maximise the number of points that you can get. Another important factor is to ensure that you enter your information correctly as a simple error could lead to your profile being deemed ineligible.

Deidre S. Powell is a lawyer, mediator and notary public. Submit your questions and comments to info@deidrepowell.com. Subj ectline: Immigration.

Am I eligible?

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am a professional with over five years of experience, and have been trying to get to Canada for the past three years. I am a Permanent Resident consultant and he said I waited. However, when I submitted the application via the express entry portal, it said that I was not eligible to apply. I do not know who to believe right now and I am very frustrated. Why would my profile be ineligible when I am a professional?

R.M.

The express entry system is designed to give individuals points based on work experience, education, language, age, and other factors. Once you have entered your information correctly, the system will calculate your score to see if you qualify under the Federal Skilled Worker Programme, the Federal Skilled Trade Programme, the Provincial Nominee Programme, or the Canadian Experience Class Programme.

The term ‘professional’ is subject to further evaluation to ensure that you actually qualify under one of the economic programmes. Before you can apply under the express entry system, you must ensure that you are able to satisfy the minimum requirements stipulated by Immigration and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Your education level will be evaluated, along with your job experience.

Acceptable work experience is that which was obtained after you received the minimum educational requirement for the particular job (usually after a degree or diploma). This does not include jobs as an intern or apprentice.

SIMPLE ERRORS

That means that if you have a degree or diploma from a non-Canadian university, you must get your credentials assessed and have a report to show that you have a degree or diploma equivalent to Canadian educational standards. The Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) report is valid for five years. You will also need proof of your language ability, and you will need to have your language results in hand before applying. The acceptable examinations are the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the General Training Examination, and the Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Programme (CELPIP) General Test.

These examinations cannot be done online, so you have to book your examinations to sit them in person. Currently, only the IELTS is provided in Jamaica at the University of the West Indies. You will be tested on your reading, writing, listening, and speaking ability. If you are married, then both you and your spouse should sit the examination to maximise the points you are awarded under the system.

The English examination results are only valid for two years, so you must check to ensure that your report has not expired.

Individuals are sometimes deemed ineligible if they do not have the required settlement funds, which is based on the number of people living in your family. You should ensure that you have no less than CAD$15,500 in savings or investments before you even consider applying.

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JTB hosts Travel Massive in Toronto

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) recently hosted over 85 travel influencers in Toronto, for a Travel Massive networking event. Travel Massive is a global networking group for those in the travel industry. The Toronto chapter is the largest in Canada with 966 influencers in media, blogging, technology and marketing. The monthly gatherings are a great way for travel brands to connect organically with content creators, writers and industry professionals.

The event had a culinary theme, and exposed the attendees to Jamaica’s diverse gastronomic fares, culinary festivals and experiences beyond the renowned jerk cooking. Here are the highlights.

Beyond Jerk dish – jerked chicken and grilled pineapple.

From left: Philip Rose, the JTB’s regional director for Canada, with grand prize winner and travel influencer Laura Berg and JTB marketing communications manager Essie Gardner. Berg won a trip for two to Melia Braco Village.

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US billionaires experience 'Visionaries Summit' in Jamaica

Talk nation building during 'Visionaries Summit'

The 2017 Destination Experience ‘Visionaries Summit’ welcomed several powerful US billionaires to Kingston, Jamaica, for three days of events.

Among the topics discussed were nation building and philanthropy. Now in its third year, the Destination Experience is designed to drive a paradigm shift in the economic outlook of Jamaica and the Caribbean by presenting networks capable of enabling high-level market access that encourages partnerships and investments. The event, which attracts an audience of global business luminaries, innovators, persons of influence and investors, was conceptualized by the entrepreneurial duo Kirk-Anthony Hamilton and his sister, Michele-Anne Hamilton.

Industry leaders, including David Ponton, Michael Roberts, Michael Lee-Chin, Wes Edens, Dr Kingsley Chin, Dr Peter Blair Henry, Alex McKenzie, Sherri Pittman, Dr Normadelle Rose, and Dennis Blake, were nation building and philanthropy panelists.

Omanah Edwards, CEO of Overstock, was among the featured speakers. The company went on to achieve its first full year of profitability in 2009, and in 2016, it posted revenues of US$1.7 billion. Byrne is already invested in the region and made clear his interest in investing in Jamaica.

Jamaica's renowned reggae artiste Reanno Gordon, better known as Busy Signal, who was also in attendance, spoke about the importance of giving back and about his charity, Busy2020 Helping Hands.

De Patrick Byrne (left), chairman of Overstock.com; Kirk-Anthony Hamilton, founder of the Destination Experience; and Dr Sabina Kay, chancellor of Fackman College.
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Japan helping Falmouth locals to benefit from heritage tourism

JASON CROSS
Gleaner Writer

MAKING SURE that the people of Falmouth, Trelawny benefit directly from tourism, the Japanese government, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has committed to empowering the locals by providing a volunteer from the Asian country to impart knowledge on how to develop Falmouth as a sustainable destination.

According to Sandria Watkis-Madden, youth facilitator and coordinator for the Susan Peters Violence Intervention Programme (SIP) in Clarendon, the programme now only has two members of staff who are assisted by volunteers, as lack of funding has curtailed both human and physical resources. “We would want more persons to deal with the students and be able to separate them according to age and the time they are coming in. But we don’t have any staff, because we can’t pay them, so we have to just meet with everybody at the same time,” said Watkis-Madden.

“We used to only take the students on Mondays and Wednesdays, but students are getting suspended every day,” said Watkis-Madden.

The one-on-one therapy session we want them to do, but sometimes we are out of even ink and paper and stuff like that, and the literacy level for most of them is very low, so while we could write on the board and ask them to write it off, they have problems with that.”

Clarendon, once known to be a peaceful and quiet parish, has long lost that reputation and last year recorded the third-highest number of murders in the 19 police divisions across the island, with just over 130 persons killed, included among them children.

“Sometimes there are a lot of big cruise ships that stop here but big tourism companies take the tourists to other places. Local people in Falmouth cannot make money so I want to try to alleviate this negative impact and I want to spread the positive impacts of tourism,” said Tsukamoto, a Japanese volunteer, who has experience as a tour guide from working with a sightseeing train company in Japan, explained the relevance of her mission here in Jamaica, which she said is to build tourism awareness and heritage protection among the people of Falmouth.

“We have a lot of activities that can help students to stay at school, like we have anti-bullying, self-esteem, peer pressure, goal setting, emotional intelligence, childhood, discipline and many other aspects. We still have to just meet with everybody because we can’t pay them, so we want them to do, but sometimes we don’t stop a student if they don’t have it. We still work with them and find a way,” said Watkis-Madden.

Among the success stories coming out of the SIP is Marlon Garret, who, after being suspended from school on five occasions, was sent to the centre as a last resort.

“Sometimes local people are very excited, more than creative tourists. Falmouth has a lot of historic Georgian buildings and Falmouth has great history, like the court house and the parish church,” said Tsukamoto.

“Sometimes there are a lot of big cruise ships that stop here but big tourism companies take the tourists to other places. Local people in Falmouth cannot make money so I want to try to alleviate this negative impact and I want to spread the positive impacts of tourism,” said Tsukamoto.
CAS confirms Carter’s appeal against IOC

THE COURT of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has confirmed that Jamaican sprinter Nesta Carter has filed an appeal against the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) decision to disqualify him from the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games following an anti-doping rule violation.

In a media release, CAS outlines that the arbitration procedure is now in progress and advised that the parties will exchange written submissions after which a panel of three arbitrators will be constituted. This panel will then issue directives regarding the holding of a hearing into the matter and then make a decision after its deliberations.

“The Jamaican sprinter Nesta Carter has filed an appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding the decision issued by the IOC Disciplinary panel on 25 January 2017 in which he was found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. A consequence of such finding was the disqualification of Nesta Carter and the other members of the Jamaican team from the Men’s 4x100m relay at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in which they had achieved the gold medal,” read the CAS statement.

“Nesta Carter seeks to set aside the challenged decision in order for the Jamaican team to be reinstated as gold medalists.”

Carter along with members of Jamaica’s gold medal winning 4x100m relay team have been disqualified from the Games and have since returned their medals to the IOC via the Jamaica Olympic Association.

Expanded Scotiabank-WICB Kiddy Cricket programme launched

EIGHTEEN NEW schools have been added to the Kiddy Cricket lineup, moving the number of participants from 224 up to 242 for the Scotiabank-WICB Kiddy Cricket programme.

The 2017 programme was officially launched at Sabina Park on Thursday, February 16. Key stakeholders from the West Indies Cricket Board, the Jamaica Cricket Association, the Ministry of Education and Scotiabank were on hand to welcome the participants.

There has also been an increase in the number of coaches, one for each parish, an adjustment that will allow at least 16 schools in each parish to get special attention during the programme.

According to Phillip Service, West Indies Territorial Development Officer for Jamaica, “with this new structure, we have been able to provide greater quality coaching to more boys and girls, improved assistance in the cricket skill development of young cricketers, as well as to have a closer link with the schools in the programme”.

Scotiabank Kiddy Cricket started in Jamaica in 2001 and has exposed thousands of young children to the game in a modified form, where they play ten overs per match consisting of ten persons per team. Since its inception, numerous players have gone on to represent their countries and the West Indies.

Some former Kiddy Cricketers of note in Jamaica are Brandon King, who now represents Jamaica and Jermaine Blackwood, who plays for the West Indies at the highest level.

BEARING FRUIT

The preliminary-round matches are scheduled to run from February 20 to March 20. Teams comprising both boys and girls, will compete to be named in the top eight. These top eight schools will playoff at the Scotiabank Kiddy Cricket Festival, scheduled to take place on April 9.

Billy Heaven, president of the Jamaica Cricket Association, endorsed the expanded programme. Heaven said it has been bearing fruit with several alumni now playing at the highest level.

Scotiabank is the exclusive sponsor of Scotiabank Kiddy Cricket and the official bank of West Indies Cricket. According to Hope McMillan-Canaan, manager of public and corporate, Scotiabank at yesterday’s launch of the 2017 Scotiabank/WICB Kiddy Cricket programme at Sabina Park. Looking on is Billy Heaven, West Indies Cricket Board director and president of the Jamaica Cricket Association.
Foster, Farr impressive at Isaac Henry meet

RAYMOND GRAHAM
Gleaner Writer

HOLMWOOD TECHNICALS
Nicole Foster and Wolmer’s Boys’ Jeremy Farr produced record runs in the 400 metres hurdles at the third staging of the S.W. Isaac Henry Invitational meet at the National Stadium.

Foster, a third-place finisher in the event at last year’s Champs and a semi-finalist at last year’s IAAP World Under-20 Championships in Poland, looked flawless as she easily coasted to victory in 58.36 seconds to erase the old mark of 1:00.73 set by Catherine High’s Joynelle Thomas was second in 1:03.47 with Holmwood’s Kwandwa Knight taking third in 1:03.43.

The Class Two boys 400m hurdles will be contested at Champs for the first time this year, and Farr blew away a strong field in winning the event in 54.81 seconds to record the fastest time for the age group so far this season. The previous number one and two in the event, Davion Williams of Kingston College and Calabar High’s Nicqueena Henry, fell at the fourth and 10th hurdles, respectively. Jamaica College’s Tyquai James won his heat in 54.64 for second overall, with third going to Andre Leslie of Calabar. 57.16

Calabar swept the top-three places in the Class One 400m hurdles. Akyeeme Francis led the way with 53.32, edging out Damaine Dixon, 53.33, with Malik James-King ending third in 54.13.

IMPRESSIVE FORM
Holmwood’s girls continued their impressive form this season. They were first and second in the Class Three 400m. Danielle Deere won in a record of 56.44, with teammate Natassha Palmer second in 57.24. Osheena Kerr took Class One in 55.73 ahead of Jezelle Shaw of Spalding High, 56.56. They also topped the 1500 metres and 2000m Steeplechase.

Gary’s girls and boys also triumphed in their events.

Three Hills top St Mary Big Bash cricket

JCA president announces formation of Super League

THREE HILLS Club were the toast of the St Mary cricket fraternity when they claimed the championship trophy at the Maurice Clarke Twenty20 Big Bash awards ceremony held at the Port Maria Police Station on Thursday. Jack’s River were the runners-up.

Richard Francis, the Three Hills star batsman, who cracked a memorable century in the final, was also named the competition’s Most Valuable Player, while the Most Disciplined Team Award went to the Beaches-Sandals aggregation.

Guest speaker at the awards, Jamaica Cricket Association president Billy Heaven, called on the parish associations to change the way they managed cricket in their areas, urging them to develop a more businesslike and professional approach to the sport.

“We need to change the mindset in all the associations and parishes,” Heaven noted. “And to this end my association and parishes,” Heaven noted.

“The need to change the mindset in all the associations and parishes,” Heaven noted. “And to this end my association and parishes,” Heaven noted.

“Super50 Continued from 24

On a pitch of uneven bounce, Barbados who took first strike in the day/night game, overcame a testing middle overs session when the Jamaican spinners threatened, to post 271-9 due largely to Hope’s wonderful batting.

It was Hope’s second century following hard on his first on Thursday at the same venue in the semi-final against the Leeward Islands.

TIGHTENING GRIP
Barbados captain Jason Holder, in a rapid-fire 69 from 47 balls gave his team the badly needed boost with the Jamaican spinners threatening their grip. Jamaican Roman Powell chipped in with two for 27 from three overs while offspinner John Campbell claimed 2-35 off 10 overs.

Winning captain Holder saluted his bowlers. “Our bowlers were outstanding in the tournament all day long led by Ashley Nurse. I thought he was outstanding. Credit must be given to the entire bowling department and also our fielders. I thought we held our catches and put in clinical effort.”

Jamaica in reply, lost wickets at the drop of a hat, losing wickets first against 10 overs, six wickets going two apiece were claimed by fast bowlers Holder; Carlos Brathwaite and Romal Roache, Off-spinner Ashley Nurse, although taking only one wicket, was the tournament’s leading wicket taker with 26 victims.

The Barbadians were particularly pleased with the win having lost to Trinidad in the final last year. They were winning their second final in the competition in four years.

Hope was the man of the match.
LEAD BY a fine 101 from wicketkeeper batsman Shai Hope, the Barbados Pride defeated the Jamaica Scorpions by 59 runs at Coolidge cricket ground, Antigua, to win the Nagico Super 50 One Day championship on Saturday, February 18.

Barbados Pride team members celebrate a wicket.