CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE Clarke has strongly rebuked President Donald Trump for his “hostile and combative approach to governance”, which she argues is a threat to progress, peaceful co-existence and common decency.

NEW YORK: Congresswoman Yvette Clarke has strongly rebuked President Donald Trump for his “hostile and combative approach to governance”, which she argues is a threat to progress, peaceful co-existence and common decency.

See story on Page 5.
Ja-born legislator wins top post in Democratic Party
A Jamaica-born legislator in New York has won a top position in the United States Democratic Party’s National Committee

Symposium highlights black history in Canada
The Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora, York University hosted the first of its kind Black history month symposium.

JN Bank halts Canadian dollar cheque processing
JN Bank customers who conduct transactions using third-party cheques denominated in Canadian currency, particularly pensioners, will no longer be able to process those transactions through the bank.

Insurer to stand trial over non-payment of $34m surgery claim
Jamaica’s courts have determined that an overseas insurance provider that baulked at paying out the full medical claim for surgery that was billed at the equivalent of J$39 million can be sued in this jurisdiction by the surgeon.

US$150m expansion project to boost port competition
A hefty US$150 million has been earmarked by Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited (KFTL) to significantly boost the container capacity at the port and to increase the maximum boat size able to access Port Bustamante Limited (KFTL) to significantly boost the container capacity at the

Trelawny JPs overwhelmed, more needed
Despite the expressed desire of Jamaica’s justice minister, Delroy Chuck to have one justice of the peace (JP) per 100 persons in Jamaica as early as possible, the parish of Trelawny is woefully out of sync with the minister’s expectations. Trelawny’s custos, Paul Muschette, who took office on March 18, 2010, has commissioned 30 new JPs. Last November, the custos told The Gleaner that he hoped to have 80 new justices installed in 2017, but so far there have been no new appointments.

Resident of Blenheim, the birthplace of Dr Fritz Pinnock, deputised for Leader of Government Business Senator Ruel Reid, who piloted the bill, also deputised for Leader of Government Business Senator Kamina Johnson-Smith, who was absent. The bill was passed with 26 amendments in front a gallery filled with students and lecturers from the Palisados, Kingston-based institution. Dr Fritz Pinnock is slated to become the first president of the university.

Maritime institute gets multimillion-dollar boost
The Maritime University (CMI) is to be strengthened to the tune of $310 million for technological equipment, which will, in turn, enable the institution to deliver best-quality training in border protection-related areas. By way of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Universal Service Fund (USF), an agency of the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology, the sum will cover the procurement of equipment for a national maritime port operations simulator training centre, a multipurpose laboratory to form a regional training centre and a geographic information system centre.

Agriculture minister Karl Samuda
Samuda denies pork glut despite high production
Agriculture Minister Karl Samuda has described the oversupply of pork on the local market as evidence of self-sufficiency in the production of the fresh pork by Jamaican farmers and not a glut, as reported this week.

Insurance company to stand trial over non-payment of $3.4m surgery claim
Jamaica’s courts have determined that an overseas insurance provider that baulked at paying out the full medical claim for surgery that was billed in Canadian currency, particularly pensioners, will no longer be able to process those transactions through the bank.

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The picture of a little girl walking along the bad road that leads to Blenheim, the birthplace of Sir Alexander Bustamante helped to spur Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie into action.

Water shortage, bad roads, unemployment in Blenheim
Residents of Blenheim in Hanover say that bad roads, water shortage, and a lack of employment opportunities are squeezing the lifeblood out of the community and its sister districts, Richmond and Cacoon.

One resident of Blenheim, who gave her name as Marsha, says she was disappointed at what she said was the scant regard being paid to the area by the relevant authorities, despite it being the birthplace of National Hero and founder of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) Sir Alexander Bustamante.

The picture of a little girl walking along the bad road that leads to Blenheim, the birthplace of National Hero, Sir Alexander Bustamante helped to spur Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie into action.

Falmouth Hospital’s ‘World Cup Theatres’ near completion
The operating theatres at the Falmouth Hospital in Trelawny, which were constructed to coincide with the staging of the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup hosted in the Caribbean, are now set to become operational in another six weeks.

The theatres, which were projected to transform the 63-year-old hospital into a world-class facility when ground was broken some 10 years ago, were put into a state of readiness following the recent injection of $22 million for upgrading work.
Former mayor of Mt Vernon hailed
Ronald Blackwood dead at 90 years

Lester Hinds
Gleaner Writer

FORMER MOUNT Vernon mayor, Jamaica-born, Ronald A. Blackwood is dead. He was 90 years old.

Mayor Blackwood died in Florida where he retired after leaving the Westchester county city where he served for 11 years as mayor. He was buried on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held Thursday, March 2, in Mount Vernon at noon.

Mayor Blackwood was the first black to be elected mayor in the entire state of New York. As news of the former mayor’s death spread, tributes poured in.

Jamaica’s Consul General to New York, Trudy Deans, said that the passing of Mayor Blackwood leaves a void in the Mount Vernon family, the Jamaican community and the entire immigrant communities.

“Mayor Blackwood showed through his dedication to service and his commitment to bringing the lives of the residents of Mount Vernon what can be achieved by immigrants who migrate to the United States,” she said.

Deans said that Blackwood was a pioneer and an innovative thinker who found creative ways to improve the lives of Mount Vernon residents through affordable housing, economic development and better educational opportunities.

INspirational

“Mayor Blackwood’s life of service should serve as an inspiration to other immigrants. His life and accomplishments can serve as an example of how you can achieve your goals while striving to improve conditions for your fellow citizens and the community at large,” she said.

The current Mayor of Mount Vernon, Richard Thomas, said Mayor Blackwood served the city of Mount Vernon with “distinction and honour.”

“His commitment to education lives on through the Ronald and Ann Blackwood Scholarship programme which continues to provide financial support to Mount Vernon High School graduates.”

He described the late former mayor as a leader and a politician. He was a man who worked with grace and dignity, said Mayor Blackwood, pointing out that he promoted job opportunities, affordable housing and crime fighting measures.

Former Mayor of Spring Valley in Rockland County, Jamaican-born Allan Thompson, described Blackwood as a trail blazer.

“He set the pace for a lot of us who thought that pursuing a political career would be a difficult goal. He was a special calling” said Mayor Thompson who worked closely with Blackwood in the New York Association of Mayors.

Thompson said that it was Mayor Blackwood who encouraged him to enter politics and run for office.

The post of Mayor in Spring Valley was New York State Supreme Court Judge, Jamaica-born Sam Walker, who was first appointed an Associate City Court Judge in Mount Vernon by Mayor Blackwood in 1968, said that Blackwood made “all of us proud.”

“Evey day you can see his vision being realized throughout the city. He never forgot his Jamaican roots by providing opportunities for so many of us in his administration,” said Judge Walker.

The Judge said Mayor Blackwood had great vision for the city of Mount Vernon and it was an honour to work with him.

Walker noted that his judicial career was launched because of his appointment to the Mount Vernon courts by Mayor Blackwood.

Former Mount Vernon police detective, Marie Bell-Mack, who became the first Jamaican-born woman to enter that city’s police department under Mayor Blackwood, described him as a true leader.

She pointed out that the former mayor encouraged every member of the city’s police department to serve the community by example.

“As a Jamaican he represented the Mount Vernon diverse immigrant community well,” she opined.

Former City Council member, Una Clarke noted that Mayor Blackwood made a significant difference through his commitment to public service.

“I was grateful to have met him as his advice helped during my years as a New York City Council member,” she said.

Long time Mount Vernon resident, Seyphon Mair, said Mayor Blackwood was “a common man of uncommon proportion who has left a lasting legacy in the City of Mount Vernon and the entire immigrant community.”

Born in Kingston, Blackwood migrated to the United States at the age of 23 and settled in Mount Vernon. After obtaining a degree in management from Iona College, he entered public service in 1967, first as an elected member of the Westchester Board of Supervisors. He was later elected to the Mount Vernon City council where he served for 15 years, the last 4 as Council President.

In 1976 he became acting mayor following the death of the then incumbent mayor.

After being deprived of the nomination to run for mayor on the Republican Party ticket, Blackwood switched parties becoming a member of the Democratic Party. In 1994 he secured the Democratic Party’s nomination to run for mayor.

Blackwood won the election and served for 11 years after winning re-election on three occasions. He did not seek a 4th term choosing instead to retire.

During his tenure as Mayor, Blackwood brought millions of dollars to the City through federal, state and private investments in affordable housing as well as building the Sandford Boulevard retail complex. The city also built a new police/court complex during his administration, which is named for him.

His commitment to education lives on through the Ronald and Ann Blackwood Scholarship programme which continues to provide financial support to Mount Vernon High School graduates.

As the Connel General said “He was truly a man of the people.”

Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon, New York, Ronald Blackwood.

Jamaica-born Mayor of Mt Vernon, New York, Ronald Blackwood, was sworn in, in a colourful ceremony, on New Year’s Day at Mt Vernon City Hall, he is seen taking the oath of office with Mrs Blackwood beside him. Administering the oath of office is Harold L Wood, Justice State Supreme Court, and beside him Mayor Blackwood’s daughters.

INFORMATION

The Public is invited to a free immigration town hall question and answer session set for Saturday, March 11, 2017, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Exchange Park Recreational Center, 2771 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30034.

For further details please contact:
Celt: 876 999 1327 • 876 791 3603
Congresswoman Clarke launches attack on Trump
Critises the President’s divisive and hostile politics

New York, NY

CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE Clarke has strongly rebuked President Donald Trump for his “hostile and combative approach to governance”, which she argues is a threat to progress, peaceful co-existence and common decency.

Speaking at a Town Hall at Union Temple in Brooklyn last week, Clarke outlined a litany of woes that has befallen the nation under Donald Trump’s watch, and vowed to resist his “policies of division, hatred and repression”.

To coordinate her opposition she has adopted the hashtag #BrooklynResists on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and has called on the community to be part of the mass movement of resistance to Trump’s policies.

“Brooklyn resists because we are a diverse community that keeps faith with our neighbours... because we believe that every individual, regardless of their gender, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or status as an immigrant has the right to full participation in this civil society.” Clarke said.

She further said that he has been a “government by dysfunction” and questioned the very legitimacy of Trump’s presidency given the roiling controversies of his campaign’s Russian connections and possible Kremlin interference in the American elections.

“I have called for a full investigation of the Russian intrusion and disruption of the 2016 election because we have a right to know where Donald Trump’s loyalties are based as well as the loyalties of his subordinates,” she told the town hall.

INVESTIGATING THE PRESIDENT

She has signed on as a co-sponsor of Rep Jerrold Nadler’s resolution of inquiry directing the Department of Justice to provide the House of Representatives with information relevant to an inquiry into Trump’s conflict of interest, ethical violations, including the Emoluments Clause and Russian ties, as well as those of his associates.

Clarke charged that the President lies with reckless abandon to the American people, catering in falsehoods and “alternative facts” while declaring war on a press that is attempting to hold him in check.

She also denounced plans by the White House to cut federal funding to a number of cultural programmes including the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities which provide critical public resources to celebrated institutions like the Brooklyn Museum, the Brooklyn Public Library and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, among many.

The Democratic Congresswoman was equally critical of her Republican colleagues who have largely failed to challenge the President on his outrageous acts. She urged Americans to engage their elected leaders and hold their feet to the fire on actions that stand in the way of human dignity and democratic principles.

But despite all this, Clarke said, she remains hopeful, noting that the nation has confronted and overcome tyranny before and will do so again.

She says communities must continue to organise and “act up” and let their collective voice be a counter force to Trump’s fury.

Also participating in the town hall forum were representatives from the legal, and healthcare professions and other non-government agencies.

The Congressional town hall was one of several which took place across the US last week as elected representatives returned to their districts to seek counsel and get feedback from their constituents at a time when the nation remains divided in the wake of Trump’s assumption of the presidency.
Racism in education examined

EDDIE GRANT
Gleaner Writer

TORONTO, ON – A problem which occurred in Peel recently, when a Black school trustee in the York Region District School Board called a Black parent the ‘N’ word, was the focus of the annual Black History Month symposium.

The theme of the two-day symposium was the Evolving Meaning of Blackness in Canada: ‘at the juncture of its 150 years since Confederation’. The Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora organized the symposium at Founders Assembly Hall at the university and comprised of academics, students, Community organizers. Those present included Kelle Roach, civil rights lawyer, Judge Michael H. Tulloch, Ontario Court of Appeal, Rinaldo Walcott, professor, York University, Barrington Walker, historian. The panel discussions of two-days included topics: Critical Histories of Blacks in Canada, the Education of Black Students and the Inequitable Schooling System, Black Community responses to the Justice System and Re-imaging Canada’s Future with Blacks.

‘The issue of blackness ... is it African Canadian, is it Black Canadian, is it Black people, is it coloured people, is it people from the Diaspora,’ said Jean Augustine. ‘And so, I am looking forward to tomorrow and some of the discussions in the sessions that will happen around our topic of blackness.’

LONG HISTORY

Augustine added that Black people have been on this side of the Continent for over 400 years, “and that I would be the first Black woman to be elected to the parliament of Canada in 1993 says something about our presence ... and so again, this issue of political engagement,” she said.

Keynote speaker Professor Anthony Stewart of Bucknell University, Pennsylvania spoke about spectacle, civic participation, immigration stories and the fight with a focus on Canada and the United States of America (USA).

Stewart is Canada-born and taught at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia for 17 years before moving to the United States in 2013.

He said Americans fight over many competing stories of their nation. It appears to be the national commitment of being an American to do so.

‘A lot of what happened on the night of November 8, 2016, we are being told now, resulted in part, at least, of too many who voted in record numbers in 2008 and 2012 simply opting out of the fight in 2016. Maybe they mistakenly thought the fight was over. We are now reaping the result of that opting out,” said Stewart.

Canada, according to Stewart, by contrast, is a country with very few national stories that are less fought over, yet the stories are quite assumed, that if these national stories do not reﬂect back at the people, which a shame.

He said the Canadian quiet response suggests that in the interest of some national preference for cohesion, one is not able to draw attention to the inadequacy of that national story and how one’s experience living as a Black person in Canada does not cohere to the national myth.

“In Canada, because people are rarely heard from in the public square, who are paying the price for this story of national cohesion the reasonable conclusion to be drawn and continues to be drawn is that the story is just, the story is not accurate, the story is true. There is nothing wrong with the national story, we’re being told, the problem is with you,” said Stewart.

“Confederation is the child of decades of active European colonization of a land and its previously established nations,” said Professor Celia Haig-Brown, associate vice-president (research) at York University who sent greetings on behalf of Robert Hache, vice-president, Research and Innovation.

“I would like to extend a special welcome to the Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine. We in the faculty are thankful for the university’s support of this wonderful event,” said Dr Sarah Barrett, associate professor in the Faculty of Continuing Education at York University who sent greetings on behalf of the Dean.

Keynote speaker, Anthony Stewart of Bucknell University at the Evolving Meaning of Blackness in Canada’ symposium on February 17, 2017 at York University.

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

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, 485 Dunn Street, Kingston with telephone number (876) 922-1500.

Dated the 20th day of February, 2017
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**Contact Information:**

Phone: 920-5474/920-5479 (Ext. 5473)  •  Fax: 920-5477  •  Email: LReid@atlpension.com

**Note:**

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Security minister weighs in on US immigration clampdown

JASON CROSS

LAWLESS JAMAICANS living in the United States (US) are being warned by National Security Minister Robert Montague that they will be sent to prison upon their return if they disrupt the US coastline.

The minister was speaking at the US Embassy's handover of 200 patrol bicycles and two training simulators for defensive driving as well as firearms to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) at the National Police College of Jamaica in Twickenham Park, St Catherine, last week.

"We want to remind those who want to come back home and wish to break the law that the JCF does monitor such activities, and if you step across the line, you will be taken back to Montague stressed.

Trump has repeatedly expressed a desire to remove millions of undocumented immigrants from the US, which could see an unknown number of the approximately 67,000 undocumented Jamaicans living in the US returning home.

Montague urged those who want to leave over to obey the laws of the land in which they reside.

"We want every Jamaican to be assured, those living here and those abroad, that Jamaica is your abiding coast and there is always a place for you in this country. We urge you if you live overseas, you are to obey the laws of the land you call home, but remember, if you have to come back, we will welcome you," he said.

Montague also announced that two coastline patrol ships had been procured and would go into operation soon, especially as the country braces for the possible impact of mass deportations.

"Maybe, just maybe, we are going to see an increase in Jamaicans coming home, and here we have to make sure that God has been good to us and we were able to trade in our three ships, and paying the difference, and very shortly, we will be commissioning the two ships to help secure our borders," the security minister said.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) at the National Police College of Jamaica in Twickenham Park, St Catherine, last week.

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The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) at the National Police College of Jamaica in Twickenham Park, St Catherine, last week.
Who’s engaging Herbert Gayle?

FOR ANYONE who followed Herbert Gayle’s dissection in this newspaper of the pathology of crime in Jamaica, the recent flare-up in homicides will seem inevitable. It is almost seven years since the shock of the security intervention in Tivoli Gardens ushered in a one-third decline, over the next three years, in murders. And Dr Gayle contended in his articles that shock therapy, such as the Tivoli experience, in the absence of something more, was unsustainable. Jamaica has not done that more. Or, not sufficient of it.

“Once the homicide rate surpasses 30 per 100,000 (Jamaica’s is 50/100,000), it requires luck and extreme muscle to get positive results within a five-year cycle from the application of force,” the University of the West Indies (UWI) social anthropologist wrote in a February 2 article. “For instance, the Tivoli invasion was so massive that it created a trench in homicides between 2010 and 2014. Yet, the 2015 and 2016 homicide data show that pre-Tivoli violence is again our reality.”

Tivoli Gardens was the redoubt of powerful crime boss and political protector Christopher Coke, whose private militia barricaded the community and engaged in coordinated attacks on government property as part of their effort to resist Coke’s arrest and extradition to the USA. In the fighting, one soldier and 69 civilians were killed, several of them, according to the findings of a commission of enquiry, extrajudicially.

PACIFICATION OF CRIMINALS

The pacification of criminals that followed that episode hasn’t lasted. Murders increased 20 per cent in 2015, followed by another 1 per cent jump last year. The big issue, according to Dr Gayle, is a failure to address, comprehensively: the problems that lead to dysfunction in Jamaica, not least the more than 120,000 young people aged 14-20 who are neither in school nor in jobs.

But Gayle has argued that while both sexes are at risk, the crisis is primarily among boys, a large proportion of whom are being socialised for gangs and crime. Boys, he reported, are three times as likely as girls to be brutally beaten in homes, they represent up to 95 per cent of children who are killed, and are more likely to be killed than women and girls combined.

Boys, also, are three times more likely than girls to be consistently hungry and undernourished, they suffer greater neglect by their fathers than girls; they are expected to, and do, drop out of school when the family faces economic crisis, are more quickly to be sent to reform homes than girls, and up to a quarter of all working-class or inner-city dwelling boys hustle on the streets.

We had been made to believe that a twin attack against crime, on the social and police-justice fronts, would have been reflected in the Budget for the new fiscal year as part of the Government’s economic growth strategy. There is, indeed, a J$2-billion, or 39 per cent, increase in the allocation for cash transfers to poor families under PATH. We, however, do not yet discern a coordinated, strategic plan of, say, enhanced apprenticeship schemes, with in-housing to firms who hire/rent young people, or an expanded National Youth Service, involving the military. Nor do we see a substitute to create, without the intense violence, the environment of the post-operation Tivoli.

In this regard, the Police Pacification project in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro may provide a model.
Have a great week!

CHANGE OF FORTUNE

How One Determined Immigrant Built His American Dream

Autobiography by VINCENT HOSANG with Alex Lee

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For all those who do not believe that the world is their oyster, this one is for you. Maybe you have lost hope in your dreams. Your list of reasons why you cannot make it is long. It is convincing. Even, heartbreaking.

Change of Fortune will change your outlook. Step into the shoes of one man who had none of life’s traditional advantages, and yet conquered his dreams with sheer faith, determination, and hard work. If you are ready for an old-fashioned leap-of-faith story, sit back and take a long, cool drink from the pages of this remarkable memoir. And then ask yourself, “Why not me?”
JN Bank halts Canadian dollar cheque processing

TAMEKA GORDON
Business Reporter

JN BANK customers who conduct transactions using third-party cheques denominated in Canadian currency, particularly pensioners, will no longer be able to process those transactions through the bank.

The newly launched commercial bank stopped processing all Canadian dollar third-party cheques drawn on Canadian bank accounts effective February 20.

In a note to its customers, the bank advised the change is “due to changes in our banking arrangements in Canada.”

“Our local bankers have indicated that they will not accept third-party cheques,’ JN Bank told Gleaner Business via email.

’JN is not happy with the decision, however, we have no option at this time. We are working to find a solution for our members and customers,” the bank said.

Third-party cheques are those issued by a person or entity as payment to another.

Going forward: “The only Canadian currency cheques that will be accepted by our bankers are cheques that are payable to JN Bank Limited,” Pensioners and who receive payment from the Canadian government “and other parties will be affected,” JN Bank said. The impact will be felt by less than one per cent of its members, it added.

JN transitioned from a building society this month, but remains owned by its members.

The bank said measures are being taken to restart the acceptance of CND third-party cheques, but in the meantime, it suggests that customers should have payments wired directly to their JN Bank accounts.

“Alternatively, members may make arrangements for payments to be made to a bank account in Canada and set up standing orders with their Canadian bank so that their payments can be transferred from their Canadian bank account to their JN Bank account automatically,” the bank added.

Press on whether the change was another effect of the fallout from foreign correspondent banking relationships, the bank did not comment precisely. It attributed the problem to its “local banks.”

Correspondent banking issues have plagued local financial houses in the last few years.

JN has felt the impact in its Cayman Islands and United Kingdom markets.

Last July, then as JNBS, it collaborated with Victoria Mutual Building Society to provide options for their clients. The partnership was cobbled after their UK banker gave notice that it would cease to do business with the Jamaican societies, both of which have operations in the UK.

In August, JN further partnered with Citibank to facilitate funds transfers and pension payments for its UK clients who were affected by the fallout of correspondent relations with its UK banker.

JN’s remittance service in Cayman also hit a snag last year when the Cayman National Bank gave notice that it would close the bank’s accounts in a bid to rid itself of the perceived exposure to the money-transfer market, which is considered by foreign banks to be at risk for money laundering.

MCPHERSE THOMPSON
Assistant editor - Business

JAMAICANS COURTS have determined that an overseas insurance provider that balked at paying out the full medical claim for surgery that was billed at the equivalent of £34.8 million can be sued in this jurisdiction by the surgeon.

Bupa Global, which is based in the United Kingdom, initially agreed to pay the claim, but that was before it was presented with the bill. It ended up honouring just 12 per cent of the surgeon’s invoice.

Dr Roger Hunter, who operated as a consultant at Medical Associates Hospital, filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court two years ago to force payment of the rest of his bill — a case that Bupa attempted to get the court to throw out. Justice Brian Rylies refused Bupa’s application, which means the insurer will have to answer for its decision.

Earlier this month, the Court of Appeal upheld the lower court decision that the lawsuit should proceed. It also ruled against another application by Bupa that the Jamaican court had no jurisdiction to try the claim.

One of the lawyers representing Bupa, Alexis Robinson of the firm Myers, Fletcher & Gordon, said the substantive case will now proceed in the Supreme Court and, if necessary, address spine-related medical complications in 2014.

Before the surgery, Bupa provided written pre-authorisation and agreed to pay for the treatment, but later declared it would only meet costs that are medically necessary to treat the condition.

UNREASONABLE COSTS

Hunter subsequently billed Bupa £221,700 (about $38 million), but the insurance provider honoured just £36,900 (around $4.8 million), and refused to pay the balance on grounds that the costs were unreasonable.

The patient also refused to compensate Hunter for the rest of the bill. In January 2015, the surgeon sued Bupa and the patient in Jamaica’s Supreme Court for the outstanding sum of $194,800, which then translated to $34 million in local currency. Bupa was served with the claim in May of that year after Justice Carol McDonald-Bishop granted permission to Hunter to serve the claim outside of the jurisdiction.

The patient filed a defence to the claim denying liability for the bill. Bupa challenged Edwards’ ruling on jurisdiction and served its own Supreme Court application, but Justice Brian Rylies ruled to strike out the claim. The insurer’s appeal to the higher court was also unsuccessful.

Appellate judge Marva McDonald-Bishop noted that Hunter’s argument, that as a consultant to Medical Associates, the hospital was merely the facilitator for the surgery and not the service provider, has given rise to issues that needed to be ventilated in a trial.

McDonald-Bishop said the fact that Bupa had directly paid Dr Hunter and not Medical Associates raises the question as to whether Bupa had a binding undertaking to pay the doctor his fees and not the hospital.

McDonald-Bishop said that Bupa attempted to get the court to throw out the case as to whether Bupa had a binding undertaking to pay the doctor his fees and not the hospital.

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

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TTEENNAAAEEKKAA  GGGORRRDDDOOONNN
Business Reporter
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HEFTY US$150 million has been earmarked by Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited (KFTL) to significantly boost its container capacity at the port and to increase the maximum boat size able to access Port KFTL in a bid to ease the flow of goods into Jamaica and ease congestion, as well as to facilitate faster excavation of the channel.

The Kingston Container Terminal expansion project is scheduled for completion in December 2018, with the total dredging, which spans Port Bennett and Port KFTL, to be finished in June 2019.

This project is critical, it’s about competition with other ports in the region and we need to be able to accommodate the larger, new Panamax vessels going through the new navigation locks of the Panama Canal. Most of the work is to deepen the existing channel to accommodate a million cubic metres of dredged material that is removed and dumped offshore at a selected site,” said Olufisayo Tetrod, chief executive officer of KFTL.

Tetrod also said the project would generate work for the region’s 300 to 400 direct jobs for Jamaican workers, while adding that KFTL has recruited and trained in excess of 100 employees since July 2016, with another 100 to follow.

In addition to targeting dredging depths between -18.5m for the access channel and -15.85m for the port, KFTL will be refurbishing the facility with state-of-the-art cranes, as well as the erection of a new quay wall 3.8km in length.

Chris Baert, project manager of SOCARCO, the company contracted for the dredging, said the project was vital for both the economy and movement of containers.

‘All major ports in the Caribbean are expanding because they’re expecting bigger vessels. The difficult part with the dredging is cleaning up, but we haven’t experienced any problems. The pump we are using is the biggest dredge pump in the industry. In an hour, we removed 14,000 cubic metres of mixture for the upper capacity,’ shared Baert.

Horace Chang, minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, emphasised that all other agencies of government would be aligned to ensure the project would be overall success.

‘Trading is the way to go for a small island state, and this is something that will take advantage of our geographical location,’ he said.

Aurelien Deleoisy (left) project director, Kingston Container Terminal showing off some of the work already in progress to Dr Horace Chang minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation on Tuesday February 21, 2017.

THE BANK of Jamaica (BOJ) is implementing a three percentage point adjustment in the cash reserves and liquidity of deposit-taking institutions that deposit-taking institutions are required to hold against foreign currency liabilities.

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THE RESURGENCE of Sizzla Kalonge will get another solid boost on March 11, when he headlines the Nine Mile Music Festival, South Florida’s biggest and longest running reggae roots festival, now in its 24th year. The festival will kick off the 2017 spring season of annual music festivals in the region, which includes Calle Ocho Latin street festival, Jazz in the Gardens soul festival and the Ultra Mega dance music festival all in the month of March.

Sizzla will be joined by DMX, Capleton, Charley Black, Keisha Turner and Julian Marley on the concert, which has since added top-flight rapper Rick Ross and Top DJ Mavado to the line-up. Another major act is expected to be added before the Saturday, March 11 date.

Sizzla’s resurgence in Jamaica since 2013 finally spilled over in the US last August when he performed at the Revolution Downtown Fort Lauderdale, some 10 years after his last performance in the US. That tour, which included stops in Orlando and New York, was received with overwhelming support from reggae and dancehall fans.

BUZZ EXPECTED

Sizzla will, in fact, be reunited with the festival on which he has performed before, and is expected to create an extraordinary buzz for the event this year, not only because of his long absence, but also for his deep catalogue of hard-hitting compositions, and his proven ability to excite fans with his live performance. BBllaacckk WWoommaann  aanndd  CChhiilldd, MMoouunnttaaiinnss  AArroouunndd  JJeerruussaalleemm, JJuusstt  OOnnee  ooff  TThhoossee  DDaayyss, PPrraaiissee  YYee  JJaahh, and TToo  TThhee  PPooiinnttare among his chart topping hits.

Not to be outdone, bad boy rapper DMX will also create a major buzz of his own, making this year’s Nine Mile fest one of the most buzzworthy in recent times. DMX has had one of the most extreme careers any artiste during his time. A

fter riding high for several years as one of the most talented and highly rated artiste in the business, he was to have a precipitous fall from grace due to non-music related transgressions, which included incarceration, mostly minor, and lengthy probations. However, so huge has his musical impact been, that his fans have never really left him, and have shown tremendous support for him during his attempts at rehabilitation.

In his deep raspy style, DMX has delivered strongly with hits such as UUpp  iinn  HHeerree, and WWhhaatt''ss  MMyy  NNaammee, behind his several albums, including IItt''ss  DDaarrkk  aannddHHeellll  iiss  HHoott, TThhee  GGrreeaatt  DDeepprreesssiioonnand  FFlleesshh  ooff  MMyy  FFlleesshh.

Capleton, who has played the anchor role for the festival, formerly known as the Bob Marley Music Festival, will return in his familiar role. Capleton also has a massive catalogue of hits, and will only be matched by Sizzla as far exciting stage performance.

Capleton has been consistently making hits since the mid-80s, in various styles to include ##11  oonn  tthhee  LLooookk  GGoooodd  CChhaarrtt, DDeemm  NNuuhh  LLiikkee  MMee, RRaaggggyy  RRooaadd, TTooppppaa  TTiinnggssand his international hit TToouurr.

This will be the second year since the return of the festival to the historic Virginia Key Beach on Key Biscayne.

Part of the tradition of the festival is to collect canned foods for charity in Miami, for which patrons have overwhelmingly subscribed. The event was founded by the late matriarch of the Marley family Cedella Marley Booker, Mother Bee, with the promotion still under her name, Cedella Marley’s Smiling Island.
Artefacts from archaeological dig feature early Black community

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

TORONTO, ON: An exhibition featuring artefacts found during an archaeological dig of the new Toronto courthouse site in 2015, which uncover the history of the Black community in the 1800s will rotate in the rotunda at City Hall over the next few years. Mayor John Tory made the announcement at a Black History Month reception he held at Toronto City Hall on February 22.

The excavation recovered tens of thousands of artefacts related to the site’s history as part of John’s Ward, or “The Ward.” The site was inhabited partly by prominent members of Toronto’s early African-Canadian community and was home to refugee slaves who escaped via the Underground Railroad in the mid-19th century. Many families of Irish, Chinese and Russian-Jewish descent also settled on this block up until the mid-20th century.

Due to the artefact collection’s size, variety and degree of preservation, the archaeological assessment of the new Toronto courthouse site has provided an unprecedented level of insight into Toronto’s early multicultural history. As part of the work, archaeologists recovered and documented artefacts including: leather shoes, women’s hosiery, perfume, nail polish bottles, smoking pipes, children’s toys and ceramic kitchenware. Additionally, the foundations of a British Methodist Episcopal church and several residential buildings and businesses were uncovered.

Mayor Tory told those gathered at City Hall that there are greater things to come where the artefacts are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGING CONTRIBUTION

Councillor Michael Thompson, who emceed the event, said Black History Month was created to acknowledge the contribution of Black Canadians to the development of Canada.

He noted that the contributions made by people of colour are often overlooked and the celebration helps to set the record straight.

“As the most diverse city in the world when we talk about Black history we’re not saying that this is history that only blacks need to understand. That narrative would be too narrow, we’re saying it’s the history that everyone has to understand.”

Thompson noted that Toronto’s Black community has deep roots in the history of the city, highlighting that Toronto’s first taxicab was designed and built by an escaped slave from Kentucky, and that in 1893 William Hubbard, a black man, was the city’s alderman.

Historian and author, Karolyn Smardz Frost, introduced her new book, ‘Steal Away Home’, which took her ten years to write and tells the story of Cecilia Jane Reynolds, an African American slave who escaped when her owners visited Niagara with her.

Photo by Neil Armstrong

Jean Augustine with Toronto councillor, Michael Thompson at Mayor John Tory’s Black History Month reception on February 22 at City Hall.

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Reynolds lived in St John’s Ward, and the foundation of her first home was unearthed in the excavation of the site that for many years was a parking lot.

Jean Augustine, the first Black woman elected to the Parliament of Canada in 1993 and whose motion in the House of Commons resulted in Black History Month being celebrated, pondered the way forward for the Black community.

She said as Canada celebrates its sesquicentennial, “It’s important for us to ask the question, we’ve come thus far, we’ve here at 150 Canada, where and how do we go forward and how do we go forward as a Black community? What is important for mayor and council, what is important for province and legislators, what is important for institutions and those who make decisions, what’s important for them to do to help us move forward with some of the situations that face us as Black Canadians, Canadians of African descent in this city.”

Augustine said there are some concerns that the community needs to see addressed as it moves ahead and “to ensure that the bright young people in our midst get what is necessary to move them forward.”

Nikki Clarke, president of the Ontario Black History Society, and Ehren Cory, divisional president of project delivery at Infrastructure Ontario, also spoke at the event.

Jamaica-born poet, Nadine Williams, read her poem, “The Fabric of Our Being,” which concluded with the lyrics, “it is a hard road to travel and a mighty long way to go.”

The event was co-sponsored by Infrastructure Ontario and the Ontario Black History Society.

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

TAMARAC, FL: The City of Tamarac recognized outstanding contributions by persons of colour at a City Hall ceremony, commemorating the month of February as Black History Month (BHM).

The initiative was introduced by newly elected Commissioner Marlon Bolton, a Jamaican and the first person of colour to serve on the city government.

“I had the pleasure of leading the first Black History Month Proclamation for Community Service’ initiatives and successfully secured Bishop Dr Henry Fernandez and Elaina Norlin, as the very first recipients”. noted Commissioner Bolton during an interview with The Gleaner.

Bishop Dr. Henry Fernandez
is the senior pastor at the Faith Center Ministries that has hosted many community events including the Jamaican Independence Church Service. Elaina Norlin is a senior staffer at the African Research Library.

Both Fernandez and Norlin serve Tamarac residents in their capacities daily and their contributions are invaluable.”

Commissioner Bolton said.

In a statement marking the occasion, he noted the changing make-up of the City, now being home to more and more people of colour (African Americans and Hispanic). “They are to be celebrated too.” Bolton added.

Bolton says he plans to lead similar initiatives in the future that will further position Tamarac as the community that embraces diversity.

AUBREY CAMPBELL
Gleaner Writer

TAMARAC, FLa

During Black History Month, we celebrate the Black community’s rich heritage & long history of contributions to Canada.

Mitzie Hunter, MPP
Scarborough-Guildwood

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Scarborough-Guildwood
During Black History Month, we celebrate the Black community’s rich heritage & long history of contributions to Canada.

Community Office
4117 Lawrence Ave E, Unit 109 | 416-261-2787 | MitzieHunter.mpp.co@liberal.ota.org | www.mitziehunter.onmpp.ca
VM Money Transfer Services Limited (VMTS), a subsidiary of the Victoria Mutual Building Society, has opened its first brick-and-mortar outlet under a planned build out of a chain of money shops.

VMTS Chief Executive Officer Michael Howard says the company, which previously only operated through agent locations, is to add other outlets throughout the year.

Howard was, however, tight-lipped on the locations now being scouted, citing competition in the market.

The investment to set up the outlet ran into the millions, he said, but again declined to specify the capital expenditure.

Located at Heritage Mall in Spanish Town, St Catherine, the new VM Money Express Shop will complement the existing VMTS subagent network islandwide, the mortgage banking group said in its media release.

The decision to add the outlet came after market research, which Howard said highlighted a need to better deliver the services provided by the money-transfer outlet.

“What we realised is that some of our sub-agents have challenges in acquiring cash and having cash all the time. Because some of them are supermarkets and hardware stores, it’s also not the safest of locations for the customers. So, we decided to open locations that are considered very safe and convenient,” she said.

Over the years, customer feedback also indicated the company needed to create additional distribution channels “for us to be better able to provide more of the services they require,” VMTS said in its release.

VMTS operates from 70 locations 55 subagent locations and 15 which are branches.

The VMTS Spanish Town outlet opened as a pilot on January 23 and will be the model on which the upcoming locations are fashioned.

“The response from the Spanish Town residents has been excellent, to date. We have now moved to being officially open and the next move is to expand our VM Money Express outlets in the next few weeks,” Howard said.

Three staff members have been added to man the location, Howard said, though five can be accommodated. “So we have room for growth where that is concerned,” he added.

The Money Express Shops will offer cam-bio services, retail distribution of phone cards, distribution of government payments, and agency banking, which allows customers to do deposits and withdrawals, among other services, Howard said.

VMTS became a MoneyGram agent in 2015, a service that the money shops will provide.

The official opening of the Spanish Town location will be done in partnership with MoneyGram International, VMTS said.
ACROSS THE REGION

**BARBADOS**

Central Bank governor fired

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (CMC): LESS THAN 24 hours after the Appeal Court lifted the injunction the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, Dr. DeLisle Worrell has been fired.**

His attorney Gregory Nicholls, confirmed that his client had received correspondence on Friday terminating his services.

Worrell was appointed for a second five-year term in October 2014 after he was initially appointed on November 1, 2009. However, Nicholls has warned that the matter is far from over since Worrell intends to challenge the minister’s right to dismiss him at the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) the island’s highest court.

The 72-year-old Worrell is expected to issue a statement later on Friday.

On Thursday, the acting Chief Justice Sandra Mason, who along with Justices Andrew Burgess and Kaye Greenidge presided over the four-hour long hearing, dismissed the case in which he challenged the right of Finance Minister Chris Hindkyer to force him out of office.

The Court of Appeal lifted the six-day injunction that was preventing the Minister of Finance from removing Worrell from his post as one of the leading decision-makers on economic policies in the country.

Immediately following the lifting of the injunction, the Court then denied another application made by the Governor’s lead Attorney Gregory Nicholls, to have it extended in order for the case to be taken to the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Court is scheduled to give reasons for its decision to remove the injunction on Friday March 3.

**BERMUDA**

Lower-wage earners get tax break in billion-dollar budget

**HAMilton, Bermuda (CMC): FINANCE MINISTER Rob Richards unveiled a billion-dollar (US) Budget on Friday, offering tax cuts to lower-paid workers but increasing the tax rate for big earners in this British Overseas Territory. Taxes on alcohol, tobacco and fuel are to rise.**

Announcing the fiscal package in the House of Assembly, Richards said payroll taxes for the lower-paid would be cut over two years. Financial sector firms such as banks, insurance companies and money service businesses will be hit with a new Financial Services Tax in April in a bid to spread the tax burden.

Fees for permit companies, those incorporated elsewhere but which do business in Bermuda, will rise sharply. In addition, tax breaks for hotels, restaurants and casinos will be withdrawn completely in the coming financial year.

The House heard that the budget for the next financial year would be US$1.17 billion, including current account spending, capital spending, debt service and sinking fund contributions - US$19 million lower than the current financial year.

Richards said it was estimated that government revenue would be US$14.6 billion in the 2017-18 financial year, with current account expenditure, excluding debt and sinking fund payments, of US$10.6 billion.

**ACROSS JAMAICA**

WESTMORELAND, ST ELIZABETH, MANCHESTER

Funds allocated for drought relief

THE MINISTRY of Local Government will be allocating J$40 million to provide potable water to residents of drought-ravaged Hanover, St Elizabeth, Westmoreland and Manchester, who have been feeling the impact of sparse rainfall.

According to Minister of Local Government Desmond McKenzie, who made the announcement, the relief effort will complement the primary response being carried out by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation which has portfolio responsibility for water.

ST JAMES

Ground broken for 1,500 one-bedroom units at Friendship

PRIME MINISTER Andrew Holness on Friday February 24 broke ground for the construction of 1,500 one-bedroom units at Friendship. The National Housing Trust and the private sector entity Friendship. The National Housing of 1,500 one-bedroom units at Friendship.

Holness on Friday, February 24 broke ground for the construction of 1,500 one-bedroom units at Friendship. The National Housing Trust and the private sector entity Friendship.

MANCHESTER

Cross Keys High students salute cops

STUDENTS OF Cross Keys High School, as part of Students’ Council Week, honoured police personnel recently for their service to the community. The students presented them with a banner with commendations: a cake, bottles of wine and a plaque.

ST JAMES, ST THOMAS, ST MARY

Montego Bay to get new fire station

FIRE SERVICES in three parishes, St James, St Thomas and St Mary, are to get a boost according to the Estimates of Expenditure before Parliament.

Barnett Street in Montego Bay is to benefit from a new fire station, which will be constructed next year. Two pumpers trucks will also be acquired, detailed designs of the Yallahs and Port Maria Fire stations are also to be completed.

KINGSTON

Family of murdered Indian national call for thorough investigation

THE FAMILY of a 23-year-old Indian national, who was shot and killed in the island, is calling on both the Indian and Jamaican government to ensure that there is a thorough investigation of the murder.

Media reports here said that the family of Rakesh Talreja, who was shot in the chest and killed during an armed robbery at his home on February 9 are unwilling to believe that the circumstances surrounding his death.

They have written to the governments of both countries demanding a thorough probe and claiming that there are several problems with the official version of his death. The police say they are searching for four men in connection with the crime which also resulted in the injury to another unnamed man at Talreja’s home.

Police said they are working on the theory that the Indian national and a friend had bought jewellery from a store in Kingston and drove home where they were attacked.

© CMc

ST JAMES

Art and Craft exhibition staged in Negril

THE WORK of some of the country’s finest art and craft creators was on display on Thursday and Friday 15-16 February at an exhibition at Woodstock, Negril.

According to Kushhart Jamaica CEO Ryan Morrison the exhibition provided the opportunity to showcase some of Jamaica’s best Craftmakers and woodcarvers as well as afford art lovers the opportunity to secure excellent additions to their collections.

HANOVER

Mount Peto Primary School gets computer laboratory

MOUNT PETO Primary School in Hanover has been provided with a computer laboratory. Minister of Energy Dr Andrew Wheatley said on Friday, February 17.

The laboratory will serve also students from other schools and the community. The Universal Service Fund and the Mount Peto Community Development Committee partnered to make the laboratory a reality.

TRELAWNY

Falmouth to lead way in sustainable tourism

PALMOUTH HAS chosen to start activities to celebrate the designation of 2017 as United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The curtain will come down on these activities with a United Nations World Tourism Organisation Global Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre from November 27-29.

A member of the students’ council body at Cross Keys High School presents police officers in the community with tokens.

Contributed

Desmond McKenzie

HANOVER

Barnett Street in Montego Bay is to benefit from a new fire station, which will be constructed next year.

Two pumpers trucks will also be acquired, detailed designs of the Yallahs and Port Maria Fire stations are also to be completed.

**KINGSTON**

Using culture to enhance science with students

SCIENCE GENIUS Jamaica, an educational programme focusing on local culture and music to stimulate a better appreciation of science among students was launched on Thursday February 23 in Kingston.

Initiated Jamaica National Building Society Foundation, Science Genius Jamaica is inspired by the work of Professor Christopher Rimdin, of Teachers’ College, Columbia University, New York.

The foundation is introducing the concept in collaboration with Rmdin.

In this February 12, photo, the work of urban artist Yulier Rodriguez did not emerge from the artistic landscape of US$923.4 million. The foundation is introducing the concept in collaboration with Rmdin.

In this February 12, photo, the work of urban artist Yulier Rodriguez did not emerge from the artistic landscape. But the 27-year-old artist, whose full name is Yulier Rodriguez did not emerge from the artistic landscape. But the 27-year-old artist, whose full name is Yulier Rodriguez did not emerge from the artistic landscape.
Steiffens’ ‘Family Acid’ – A love letter to Jamaica

KIMBERLEY SMALL
Gleaner Writer

Born simply from a passion for the reggae sound, and scene, 75-year-old archivist and curator, Roger Steffens, says he will never retire. Over the past four decades, Steffens has evolved from a travelling hobby photographer into the premier reggae archivist. His work has culminated and resulted in the release of eight books, collated through his 44-year-long ‘reggae obsession’. Steffens recently released the latest of his publications called The Family Acid: Jamaica.

Steffens describes the work as an 8 x 10”, full colour, hardcover book: “The Family Acid: Jamaica, is my love letter to Jamaica, illustrating 40 years of travel throughout the island and some of the major figures I’ve encountered both professionally and privately,” Steffens told The Gleaner.

“I’ve visited more than 30 times since 1976, circumnavigating the island in the process, from Negril to Back-o-Wall, Port Antonio to Mandeville, always with camera in hand,” he said.

According to Steffens, early viewers of The Family Acid: Jamaica have commented that the book captures the real Jamaica, rather than just a series of ‘touristy’ pictures. “Between the abundant nature and the fearless use of colour, both in dress and shelter, the images fill my heart with respect and exhilaration and I feel honored that the folks at the Rock House have given me the opportunity to share these precious views with my Jamaican cousins,” he said.

The first 250 copies of a first edition of 2,000, receive a free booklet with captions for each of the pictures. The Family Acid: Jamaica, is available at the Rock House Hotel in Negril, which is currently hosting a small exhibit of Steffens photographs in its lobby.

ARCHIVE FILLS SEVEN ROOMS

To date, Steffens has completed eight books about the Wailers and on Jamaican music history and culture, “including two that I feel will have a long life. Bob Marley and the Wailers: The Definitive Discography, the only true discography ever undertaken for Jamaican artists, with all the recording and personnel information, matrix data and session dates that a college textbook requires,” he said.

The other book, So Much Things To Say: The Oral History of Bob Marley, will be released on July 1, by W . W . Norton. Steffens told The Gleaner, that the book is the result of four decades of research into his Bob Marley’s life and works, which took the last 15 years to organise and write. The book has interviews with 74 of Marley’s closest associates, along with interviews with Bob himself.

Steffens watched The Harder They Come, then bought the film’s soundtrack, as well as the Wailers’ first foreign album, Catch A Fire, released by Island Records. In June 1976, three years later, Steffens made his first trip to Jamaica, just as then Prime Minister Michael Manley, declared the National State of Emergency. “I went to Kingston to find records by the artistes I was most attracted to,” he said. Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer, Alton Ellis, Ras Michael and the Sons of Negus, Slim Smith, the Heptones, the Mighty Diamonds, Joe Higgs, Phil Chen, Johnny Osborne and Junior Marvin, are just some of the reggae acts Steffens listed as being the ‘dearest friends of his reggae obsession’, and subjects of his archived materials. “They have enriched my life and made me want to alert the world to their greatness,” he said.

The archivist revealed that his reggae archives have grown to fill seven rooms of his home in downtown Los Angeles, and are destined to become a museum. “People have come from all over the world to see and use them, dozens of books have been researched here, many films use footage I’ve preserved. Jamaicans are the most enthusiastic visitors, surprised that so many of the one-of-a-kind treasures are in California and not back home,” a sentiment he shares.

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

Dear B.N.,

I am a Jamaican-born citizen of Canada. My sister died recently, leaving my niece. I would like to adopt my niece as currently, she is staying with a friend who I am paying to keep her. Can you please guide me with the steps to adopt her and take her to Canada? How long would this take? Do I need a lawyer, or are there just online forms I can fill out? What documents will I need?

B.N.

Dear B.N.,

I'm sorry to hear of the loss of your sister, and I commend you for taking steps to assist your niece. Inter-country adoption can sometimes be a challenging process as you will be required to work with government agencies in Canada and in Jamaica to get approved.

While you do not need a lawyer to assist you in the process, I strongly recommend that you get one as the process is not a simple completion of online forms. As part of the application process, you will get an adoption order from the courts in Jamaica which state that you are the permanent parent of your niece. You did not mention your niece's father. Is he alive? If he is alive and a fit and proper father you may have a challenge. You should discuss this with him before taking further steps. If he is not alive or not known, you will need to provide documents to substantiate this fact.

OVERTWELMING PROCESS

How old is your niece? You should note that under Canadian immigration laws, she will need to be under 18 years.

The process requires you to work with your provincial or territorial adoption central authority to explain the requirements for inter-country adoption and international standards. They will assess your eligibility to adopt a child. If approved, they will grant you a letter of no objection.

Some people find this process overwhelming. Therefore, I recommend that you meet with a lawyer and take the following documents:

1. Birth certificate for yourself, your sister, and your niece.
2. Sister's death certificate.
3. Details about your personal immediate family coding your financial ability to take care of your niece.

Documents may include marriage certificate, citizenship card/certificate, job letter, notice of assessments / tax returns, proof of ownership of home and permits.

This last is not exhaustive as you will be assessed on your eligibility as a sponsor. As you reveal the details of your case, your lawyer will advise you of the additional documents required.

Deidre S. Powell

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

TRUMP LAYS OUT ROUGHER APPROACH TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump the presidential candidate made no secret of his desire to crack down on illegal immigration, but once elected, he repeatedly offered varying interpretations of just how tough he would be in the White House.

Now a pair of enforcement memos from Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly lay bare exactly what the Trump administration plans to do and how many of the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally will be targeted for deportation.

The short answer: a lot.

A look at some of what the policy memos say the government will do:

SEND IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER ILLEGALLY TO MEXICO — EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT MEXICAN

A border security memo calls for the use of a long-standing but obscure U.S. law to send some immigrants who have crossed the border illegally back to Mexico even if they are from other countries.

The law it cites don't include details on how or if the U.S. can force the Mexican government to allow foreigners to wait in that country while U.S. officials decide their fate. Historically, the U.S. has jailed and tried to deport foreigners from countries other than Mexico, while Mexican nationals could be easily and quickly sent back over the border. The proposal is likely to come up in discussions this week in Mexico among Kelly, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the Mexican government.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

One of Kelly’s memos directs the Homeland Security Department to stop providing some legal protections to child immigrants caught crossing the border alone if they are reunited with their parents or runaways in the United States. The protections generally allow for those children to have their case decided by a judge, but the new policy would likely subject them to fast-track deportation proceedings that don’t require a judge’s approval. The policy also calls for the government to investigate the immigration status of those parents or guardians and any possible criminal activity connected to bringing the children into the United States.

Immigration advocates decried the effort to target parents of child immigrants who they say are largely fleeing violence in Central America.

Kelly’s memos say the government will do.

Trump lays out tougher approach to illegal immigration

One of Kelly’s memos outlines that criminal immigrants will be a top priority. But that category is broad and includes anyone convicted, arrested or suspected of a crime. That means any criminal arrest or even a traffic violation can lead to deportation.

One of Kelly’s memos also calls for more jails. The government currently has the space and money to jail 34,000 people at a time. Congress will likely have to approve tens of millions of dollars for new construction and staff for the facilities or fund contracts with private prison companies.
Chairman of the Youth Upliftment Through Employment (YUTE) programme, Joseph Matalon, is calling for business executives in the diaspora in the United States (US) to support the programme, aimed at rescuing some of Jamaica’s less fortunate, in particular, among the young people living in the inner-city communities.

Matalon was visiting the US to meet with members of the diaspora to seek support for the YUTE initiative, which has, among other things, provided tangible benefits for more than 2,000 at-risk youth since its inception in 2010.

The Youth Upliftment Through Employment programme was conceptualised and developed by the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica in 2010 following the joint military and police incursion in Tivoli Gardens that brought the country to a standstill.

The first stop for Matalon was to Washington, DC, where Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks hosted a dinner at the official residence, with influential Jamaican-American business leaders from the DC Metropolitan Area. The opportunity was used to inform the group about the work being done by YUTE, as well as to seek feedback to and insight into possibilities for collaboration and assistance.

He told the wide cross section of leaders of business executives that violent crime in Jamaica was largely attributed to the youth, over 25 per cent of whom are unemployed.

He said that there was a direct correlation between unemployment and crime, which, he noted, was costing Jamaica approximately J$63.2 billion, or three per cent of the country’s GDP.

He said that the programme aims to increase job opportunities for 10,000 poor, vulnerable, and low-income young people in the 17-29 age group, 50 per cent of whom must be women. This he aims to do by broadening the quality and relevance of training programmes and employment systems for vulnerable young people in the country.

Matalon seeks support for J’can YUTE in Washington, DC
KPH nursing graduates make donation to hospital

KINGSTON PUBLIC Hospital last week received a donation of some 476 sheet sets from graduates of the KPH nursing school. The sheets were distributed to patients on all 15 wards in the hospital.

The coordination of the sheet delivery was done by Marjorie Ming, lecturer of the Caribbean School of Nursing (UTech), supported by some of the nursing students and hospital staff.

This sheet donation project was initiated by Dorothy Moss, a nursing graduate of KPH, who had visited the hospital and saw patients lying on unmade beds (mattresses) due to a chronic shortage of sheets.

Moss shared this observation with the members of the Graduation Class of 1966 and to celebrate their 50th Anniversary, they launched a sheet drive, aiming to collect 550 sheets.

“We would like to thank the Facebook respondents, friends, relatives, well-wishers, and several Florida-based organizations including: Food for the Poor, Adult Bible Fellowship at Grace Fellowship, Hummingbird of Grace and Women of Grace at Grace Fellowship, West Palm Beach, Caribbean Association for Community Involvement, Jamaicanas of the Palm Beaches, Olivet Gospel Church in New York, donors from the KPH Nursing graduates of 1966. Karell Brett, the volunteer administrator and Marjorie Ming, the Jamaica coordinator.

Others involved in the project include: Pat Y. Broderick-Wilson, Ruehla Johnson-Leesie, Barbara Adams-English, Grad and Group leader, KPH Graduates of 1966. "The Spanish Court Hotel in Jamaica also responded to our appeal and provided 200 sheets; we thank Spanish Court Hotel and their gracious agent Mrs. Imelda Chin for this donation.

The project was deemed timely and welcomed by the staff and patients of Kingston Public Hospital. They have expressed sincere gratitude and look forward to continued cooperation.

EVENTS LISTINGS

In celebration of International Women’s Day, OCASI launches a new graphic novel, “Telling Our Stories: Immigrant Women’s Resilience” on Thursday, March 2, 5:30-8pm at Women’s College Hospital, 76 Grenville St., Toronto.

The 9th annual Viola Desmond Awards at Ryerson University will be held on March 6, 5-8pm at POD252 (reception and gallery walk), the awards ceremony starts at 6pm at POD250. Open to the public.

International Women’s Day Toronto 2017 Rally and March starting at the University of Toronto Medical Sciences Building, 1 King’s College Circle on Saturday, March 11. Rally at 11 a.m., King’s College Circle; march at 1 p.m., and fair at 2 p.m. at Ryerson University, 55 Gould St., Toronto.

The Women’s Committee of the Jamaican Canadian Association presents its annual International Women’s Day Celebration on Sunday, March 12, 2-5 pm at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. Keynote speaker: Sandra Whiting, speaker, storyteller and event host. Call 416-746-5772. jcawomenscommittee@gmail.com

NEW YORK

KCOBA, St. Hugh’s AA, and St. Hilda’s AA 7th Annual Winter Affair; March 11th, Adria Hotel, Bayside, NY; 9P-2A; Contacts: KCOBA - Cllk: 917-971-3945, St. Hugh’s - Alba: 917-459-2076, St. Hilda’s - Lorna: 16-640-7978


Holmwood Past Students Association NY Chapter invites you to Penn Relays Fund Raising Dance, Saturday, April 1st, from 9 - 2 pm, C. W. Mixon New Life Center, 112-50 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village. For additional information/tickets, call 973-220-1256 / 646-239-6718.

Edwin Allen HS Alumni Assn Mid-Atlantic Chapter 2017 Spring Dinner Dance Gala, April 8th, Verdi’s, 680 Old Country Road, Westbury, NY, 7P0P - 2A; Contact: Briscoe 516-729-2549, Collin 301-466-4137.

Joe 917-607-8808

JCOBA NY Awards Gala and Film Screening, April 8th. For more information: www.thegriffys.org

SATHS AA NE Annual Spring Fundraising Fete, April 8th; 9P - 3A; Royal Chateau. Rosedale, NY; Contact: Peter 917-449-0357.

Westwood OGA Tea Party, Fashion Show & Silent Auction, April 8th; Grace United Methodist Church, 21 S. Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY; 2P - 5P; $35 pp.

Save the Date Jah Jerry, Inc. 5th Anniversary Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Friday, April 21, 2017 at elegant Country Kitchen Restaurant from 8:00PM-12:00AM.

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FACTS

1. In 1960, 476 sheets were collected for patients.
2. The project was deemed timely and welcomed by the staff and patients of Kingston Public Hospital.
3. The coordination of the sheet delivery was done by Dorothy Moss.
4. The sheet donation project was initiated by Dorothy Moss.
5. The project was deemed timely and welcomed by the staff and patients of Kingston Public Hospital.

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to normadelle.rose@gleanerna.net (USA) or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
In Loving Memory of
Eliti Maud McLaren-Henry
Miss Elti, Dear Elt, Evangelist Henry
May 04,1914 - March 10, 2007

It has been 10 sad years since God called you Home. We miss and Love you always.
Loving remembered by: Children- Deloris (Harold), Hillary (Carl), Joseph (Veronica) and Eva. Grand and Great grand Children, 2 Neighbors, Neice, other relative and friends.

The urn bearing the remains of Angelo Laurence.

Angelo Laurence

A man for all people

TAMARA BAILEY
Gleaner Writer

MANNINGSTOWN, Manchester:
uring a lively yet equally tran-
quility for Thanksgiving service at the Andrews Memorial United Church on Saturday, February 18. Friends and family of the late Angelo Laurence gathered to bid their final farewell.

Many knew him for his sarcastic humour, witty personality, deep involvement in community development, and the fervency with which he offered tributes.

He was the voice of the people, and he took pride in making sure that their concerns received the kind of public attention that they deserved. This was his calling, ...,” said Custos of Court of Justice, Courtney Morgan.

... He always extended himself to provide coverage to various entities, even as he battled colon cancer. According to Dionne Jackson Miller, president of the Press Association of Jamaica, Laurence was a man of his word.

MEMBERSHIP FELT

She relayed that though Laurence was not in Kingston, where the PAJ is based, he made his membership felt, so much so that when the association fell on hard times due to financial constraints, Laurence made a commitment to stand a percentage of its bills every month for two years.

Unusual hero, giant of a man, media mogul in his own right, journalist pionner, and very straightforward were just a few of the attributes repeated throughout the service by those who offered tributes.

His colleagues sang his praises as they reflected on how much he enriched their lives.

... He always extended himself to help others. He was always seeking to diffuse a tense situation by injecting some humour ... he was more concerned about providing a service beneficial to his community than acquiring wealth ...,” said Glendon Baker as he presented on behalf of TVJ correspondent Courtney Morgan.
GOING FAST!

Townhouses & Bungalows still available!

2-BEDROOM HOMES AT
The Vistas
at Runaway Bay

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The Vistas at Runaway Bay is the place to make your home! Ideally suited for returning residents and growing professional families, The Vistas at Runaway Bay has all the amenities you need for comfortable living on the North Coast.

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Design Features:
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- Open floor plan design with large living room, dining room and kitchen
- Internal washroom
- Walk-in closet
- Covered car port
- Front porch
- Granite countertops
- Ceramic floor tiles
- UPVC windows

Unit area: 1,248.6 sq. ft.

2-bedroom townhouse duplex units
Design Features:
- 2 en-suite bedrooms (upper floor)
- Open floor plan design with large living room, dining room and kitchen
- Pantry
- Powder room (ground floor)
- Internal washroom
- Sitting room
- Covered and open balconies
- On-site parking
- Upper level planter
- Walk-in closets
- Linen closet
- Granite countertops
- Ceramic floor tiles
- UPVC windows

Unit area: 1,306 sq. ft.

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KKR retain Russell despite ban

**Robert Bailey**

*Gleaner Writer*

**BANNED JAMAICA and West Indies all-rounder André Russell says he was not surprised by the Kolkata Knight Riders decision to retain his services for this year’s Indian Premier League (IPL) competition.**

Russell received a one-year ban from the Independent Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel last month after violating the World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) whereabouts rules.

The 28-year-old Russell failed to file his whereabouts on three occasions in 2015, akin to a failed drug test under WADA guidelines, and is barred from playing both international and domestic cricket until January 31 next year.

Russell told The Gleaner in an exclusive interview last week that the Knight Riders have decided to retain his services.

“It just goes to show that once you have been doing well for a team and you build a relationship, you become a part of a family,” said Russell. “They have retained me and I am happy for that, and I am just looking forward for 2018.”

“Kolkata Knight Riders... for the past three years, I have been playing my cricket there, I have been performing well for them over that period of time,” said Russell.

**SUPPORT**

He added that he has received a lot of support from the Knight Riders owner and his chief executive during these tough times.

“Everyone came together and said that going through these worrying times, they are going to make me comfortable and get this out of my head, so that I can relax, train and do what I want to do. (I can) have a good time with my family for this one year and make sure that when I come, I am fully fit and ready to roll,” Russell said.

However, he noted that he is not sure whether he would be attending any games in the IPL this year.

“It is not finalised yet because there are a lot of things that I can’t do when it comes to my ban, it’s hard because I am not even allowed to go into the changing rooms, but we will see what happens when it gets to that time,” Russell said.

The IPL runs from April 5 to May 21.

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**FIFA set to stage meeting in Jamaica**

**JAMAICA HAS been selected by the FIFA to host 14 member associations from the Caribbean for a workshop during the period March 1-4.**

The meeting is aimed at outlining details of the FIFA FORWARD Programme. This is a new thrust initiated by FIFA President Gianni Infantino under which member associations receive increased funding for development. All the rules and regulations surrounding this programme will be outlined.

Presidents and general secretaries from the member associations of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, US Virgin Islands, and Turks and Caicos are expected to be in attendance.

Veron Mosengo-Omba, newly appointed director - member associations and Development (FIFA), and Mr Solomon Mudege, manager development programmes (FIFA), will be the lead for FIFA.

There will also be other representation from FIFA and CONCACAF. President of the Jamaica Football Federation, Captain Horace Burrell, will extend opening remarks on March 2.

The sessions will take place at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel.

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**MoBay United hire another foreign coach**

Marc Stamp

*Gleaner Writer*

**REIGNING RED Stripe Premier League (RSPL) champions Montego Bay United (MBU) have hired the former coach of URL club Cleveland City Stars, Rod Underwood, as technical adviser.**

Underwood, who is already in St James with the club, will be in charge during the Caribbean Football Union (CPU) Club Championship group stage, scheduled for March 1-5 at the Montego Bay Sports Complex.

He joins the club in a mutual agreement. Details were not revealed.

President of MBU Orville Powell said that they need an experienced football technician heading into the CPU Club Championship.

“We are going into the CPU and I think we need the experience to guide us forward. We were trying to get him (Underwood) for over a year and now he is available,” Powell told STAR Sports.

“Looking ahead, we are making changes and the new direction will be revealed in the next couple of weeks,” Powell disclosed.

MBU are scheduled to host Group C, and will play against Grenades of Antigua and Barbuda on March 1, then face Elite of the Cayman Islands two days later, and close against Barcelona Athletic on March 5.

With regards to the preparations for the next week’s group stage in the second city, Powell said: “We are on target to host the good leg in St James.”

“Now is our third year in the tournament, so we should be better prepared to advance from the group stage and quality for the CONCACAF Champions League next year,” Powell concluded.

This is the fourth foreign coach the team has hired in the last five years.

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**Atkinson appointed head coach at New York State University**

**JAMAican Olympian Janelle Atkinson has been hired as head of women’s swimming and diving coach at the State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook.**

Atkinson, who previously worked as assistant coach at the University of Connecticut, Fairfield, was announced on Monday, February 20.

Atkinson spent three seasons in Connecticut working with both the men’s and women’s swimming and diving programmes.

“I’m beyond thrilled and excited to be appointed to lead this programme,” Atkinson noted on the university’s website.

“The high level of excellence this athletic department has achieved is certainly something I look forward to contributing to in the future.”

Stony Brook’s women’s programme has been on competitive hiatus since the 2012-2013 season because of critical maintenance renovation to university pool.

Atkinson, who competed in the 200-metre and 400-metre freestyle at the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics, also spent four seasons at Wright State University coaching the distance programme, as well as directing the institution’s fundraising swim lesson programme.

Most recently Atkinson worked as an EBPW coach at the 2016 Rio Olympics in Brazil.
Pembroke Hall's Manning Cup football team.

A GROUP of 13 players and three officials from the Pembroke Hall High School will leave the island this Friday for the 12th Annual Banoeka Soccer College Showcase at the Northwest Complex in Apopka, Florida in the United States, from March 4-6. The team is scheduled return on March 7.

The full squad of 18 players was not able to make the trip because seven players and assistant coach Levi Monroe were denied visas. Nevertheless, Matthew Brown, the school’s sports manager is confident they can still win the tournament and claim a few of the many scholarships on offer.

“We did have issues with visas. Our assistant coach (Monroe) was turned down and about seven players were denied visas as well. Luckily, we had other players with visas, that we could use as substitutes. But some of the students we really wanted to bring, we couldn’t. Also our head coach (Andre Burke) was having a problem, but they called me from the embassy and asked me a few questions about him and then they granted him a visa.”

“Confident of Victory”

“We are the first (Jamaican) school’s sports manager is confident they can still win the tournament and claim a few of the many scholarships on offer.”

“Blake”

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Morgan Blake, who has been a mainstay of the Jamaica men’s 4x100 metres relay team, was back to full fitness. He told The Gleaner: “I feel very good about this victory as coach Glen Mills has been doing different things with me in my training and I think that’s working.”

He was looking forward to the season.

Other members of his team were: Jason Rodgers, Zharnel Hughes and Jevaughn Minzie.

The relay performances follow the sharp sprinting of Double Olympic Champion Elaine Thompson, who despite the athleticism season just beginning, has twice run personal best times in the 60-metres sprint since January. The Gibson McCook relays are highly anticipated on the track calendar in the build up to the Isha Grace Kennedy Boys and Girls ‘Championships’ at the end of next month. The meet produced a number of competitive relays with defending school girls champion Edwin Allen suggesting they will be difficult to beat. Their opponents coming in the Class Three 4x100 metres which they still need to get qualified to the 44.56 in the Class One 4x100m.

They played Cuba in the final friendly on Tuesday, February 28.

Jaron Francis of Akron track club anchoring His team to victory in the Mens club 4x400 meter relay final at the Gibson McCook relays.
Yohan Blake, teams record world leading times at Gibson Relays

Back on form

Yohan Blake piloting the Racers Track Club to victory in the 4x100 metres for men's clubs and institutions at last Saturday's Gibson McCook Relays inside the National Stadium.

Please see Blake, 23

The athletics season is off to a promising start in Jamaica with three world leading times being recorded on Saturday, February 25, in the Puma Gibson McCook relays at the National Stadium.

Please see Blake, 23