A woman, who the police say is the mastermind behind last week's attempted extortion of Mandeville business operators and who is believed was living in England, has been arrested.

READ MORE ON PAGE 3.

P6: RIFLE CLUB LOOKS TO EXPEL 10

P3: JC SHINES AT NY ROBOTICS COMPETITION
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Caribbean nationals live in fear as immigration crackdown continues

LESTER HINDS
Gleaner Writer

AUBREY D (not his real name), a Jamaican national who has lived out of status in Florida for the past 25 years, has a good job, is married with three children and till now, has appeared to have lived a rather normal life.

With President Donald Trump ordering a crackdown on out of status immigrants, Aubrey is jittery and has curtailed his social activities, fearing that he could be caught up in any dragnet and deported.

He is not the only one. Many out of status Caribbean nationals are facing similar dilemmas.

While these people may not have committed any crimes or had a run in with the law, immigration attorneys say they could be targeted under the new crack down.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke said that under the President’s executive order anyone, who is out of status in the United States should feel a sense of trepidation.

The executive order is very extensive so I can understand how they can feel this way. It is sending shock wave through the immigrant communities especially if that person has a brush with the law or has been ordered to turn himself/herself in for deportation,

she said.

However, she said that Caribbean nationals with valid visas should continue to travel to the United States. But, she said, that in some cases they may be impacted by extra vetting.

Clarke said that in some cases people’s rights are being violated because of subjective implementation of the executive order.

Head of Caribbean Immigration Services in Queens, Ferrine Clare said that Jamaicans and other Caribbean nationals have no need to be worried if they have no bro- lon any rules, but they should be prepared for scrutiny.

He said that the rationale for the visits will be looked at closely.

SIGNED WARRANT

-If you travel to the United States and you are given six months and you stay for four months they may look at this as if you have been working in the country in violation of your visa rules,” he said.

He also suggested that Caribbean nationals travelling to the United States should be aware of what information they carry.

People hold signs as they sit on the street near the United States Consulate in Toronto during a protest against US President Donald Trump’s executive order banning citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States on Monday.

Jamaica College robotics team celebrating at a special devotion.

With LIMITED resources and being the only Caribbean country among a number of other nations, members of the Jamaica College robotics team performed exceptionally well at the United States First Robotics Competition, held in New York in February.

The JC boys walked away with a number of sectional prizes, including the Inspiration Award, and the Motivator Award, among others.

Dimario Campbell, president and captain of the team, said despite the many sacrifices, they were overjoyed at the opportunity to represent the Caribbean.

“It wasn’t really much of a surprise because we put in a lot of work. None of this would be possible without our coaches’ help, sponsors and the whole team working together. It is a really good feeling and we are proud that we have not only represented Jamaica College but Jamaica and the Caribbean,” he told THE GLEANER.

As high-school students, we had to manage both schoolwork and robotics. It was very challenging, but the team made it work. Sometimes we are here from as early as 6:30 in the morning and the first place we head is to the robotics lab to get work done. We leave sometimes at 10:11 o’clock in the night, so it was a lot of sleepless nights.”

ONLY CARIBBEAN SCHOOL

Principal of JC, Wayne Robinson, expressed gratitude for the fact that despite some resource constraints, the team persisted and made Jamaica proud.

“It’s a competition which gives opportunities for students, usually for high school. We were the only Caribbean school there competing with other areas of the world. We won a number of awards for our performances. As a matter of fact, we had to merge the two teams into one, because even though both teams moved on to the second round, we couldn’t afford to carry both teams to the next round because we didn’t have the resources to fix one of the robots,” said Robinson.

He said he is hoping that they will be able to qualify for the World Championships in a month’s time.
Contributions of Canadian Black community recognised

Scarborough street named after Jamaica-born Black radio pioneer

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

(SCARBOROUGH, ON) CITY OF Toronto has announced the naming of a street in new Scarborough sub-division in honour of Jamaica-born entrepreneur; Brandeis Denham Jolly.

“IT’s beyond my wildest dreams, an extremely humbling and great honour to have a street named after you in Canada’s biggest city, and especially since it’s a lasting recognition of the many contributions of Blacks to Canada,” says Jolly, 81, who launched his media career in Industry Cove, Hanover, Westmoreland.

Jolly Way is located near the southwest corner of Midland Avenue and Ellismere Avenue, in a residential neighbourhood under development by the Goldman Group.

Temporary street signs for Jolly Way are being prepared, with permanent signs slated for installation when subdivision construction is complete.

“It is most appropriate that approval to name a street after Mr. Jolly has come through today, the last day of Black History Month 2017,” said Councillor Michael Thompson, Chair of Toronto’s Economic Development Committee and someone who was also born in Jamaica, in a press release issued on February 28.

“Mr. Denham [Jolly] has been instrumental in giving voice to the culture, achievements, challenges and aspirations of Toronto’s Black and Caribbean communities when few channels for such messages were available.”

In his long and distinguished career, Jolly published the newspaper, Contrast, founded and led the Black Business and Professional Association and spoke out on social justice issues as a member of the Black Action Defense Committee.

He launched Canada’s first Black-owned radio station, Flow 93.5, which actively promoted Canada’s Black musicians and provided opportunities for Black Canadians in the radio industry.

**STRUGGLE**

After 12 years, three applications, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) finally granted Jolly and his team of Milestone Communications a license in 2000. In 2005, Flow 93.5 won the Station of the Year Award in the Contemporary Hit Radio category at the Canadian Music Week Industry Awards.

Jolly has served on the Board of the Toronto International Film Festival. He is a recipient of the Black Media Pioneer Award, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Lifetime Achievement Award and the Canadian Urban Institute’s City Soul Award. In 2007, he was presented with a Black History Award from the Markham African Caribbean Association.

Born in Industry Cove, Hanover, the Cornwall College graduate first worked at the West Indian Sugar Company plantation, Frome, Westmoreland.

**EDDIE GRANT**

Gleaner Writer

THE ACHIEVEMENT of blacks in United States and Canada, and their outstanding contributions was the focus of a Black History celebration that was held at Praise Cathedral and Worship Centre in Mississauga on February 5.

The topic was “The Journey Continues, Yet We Rise”.

The event that attracted a capacity crowd, including a host of seniors and officers from Peel Regional, and York Regional Police, Jamaica-born Superintendent Keith Merith was among those in attendance.

In his address, Merith praised the work of Bishop Lennox Walker, senior pastor of the church and his congregation for hosting the event.

Praise Cathedral and Worship Centre has embraced the celebration of Black History as an opportunity to showcase the rich heritage, significant contributions, and outstanding achievements of Black Canadians towards the building of our great nation Canada.”

Merith also noted that the topic of this year’s event “The Journey Continues, Yet We Rise”, speaks of the resilience and progression that the church has demonstrated since its inception. He also talked about the journey.

“As a person of colour, the road to justice and success is not always straight and is always under construction. There are curbs called for unfair work practices, loops called systemic racism, speed bumps called human rights violations, red lights called Canadian Charter of rights breaches. Caution signs called intolerance and flat tires called bigotry and hatred.”

“But if you have a spare Merith said called determination, and an engine called perseverance with insurance called Martin Luther King, Lincoln Alexander Jean Augustine and Barack Obama along the drive, we will reach justice and success, he said.

REMEMBER

Merith ended his address by reminding the audience that the essence of Black History month events is not so much about the singing and dancing, “It is about remembering the past, dealing with the present, and working towards a better future.”

Other speakers in attendance include the Bob Delaney, MPP Mississauga and Streetsville, Jennifer Evans, Peel Regional Police Chief, Bob Mummy Superintendent, Dr. Francis Mpindu, Chaplain, Pal Batoo, Councillor Ward 9, Nokha Roberts, Toronto Ward 9 and 10, and Councillor Sue McPadden.

In her address Evans also paid tribute to the work and contribution the black community has made to this country.

“This year Canada is celebrating its 150 years, and the black community has always been a part of us. Black History is not where we come, but who we are and where we are going, so let us go forward, work together and celebrate the country,” she said.

During the event the audience was entertained by Jassette Haughton and the Praise and Worship team who did a medley of popular Negro spiritual songs, the sanctuary choir team that consists of a group of young students. But the highlight of the entertainment is known as Drum Roll. Most of the dignitaries along with the students were presented with drums, and Nigerian drummer and singer Baba Williams instructed the audience how to play the drums and when to clap their hands as he lead them in singing.

This was a very entertaining segment as all involved had fun.

Bishop Walker who gave the closing address, thanked all for attending, and gave special thanks to the chief, superintendent and the officers for making the event a memorable Black History celebration.

His address was directed to the youth.

“Children get yourself educated,” he said. “It is not how you look but what you brought to the table education.

“Too many of us have settled for second best but always strive to reach to the top. Don’t just settle for a B always go for an A. You got it in you, but you got to fight for it. So parents, fight for your children your black children.”

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

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Frank DaCosta is on an overdrive

SOPHIA FINDLAY
Gleaner Writer

AFTER BEING named Canada’s Number One Nissan Salesperson in 2011, Frank DaCosta is on a roll. It’s wasn’t an easy feat to have sold 260 new and 60 used vehicles then, but he is determined to break his record. So, there is no letting up in dynamism for this remarkable 53-year-old, who hails from Kingston, Jamaica.

To date, DaCosta, a father of four, is the first Jamaican to have won that award. Married to Terry-Ann for the past 24 years, whom he describes as his rudder, DaCosta says that his appetite to satisfying customers’ needs are paramount, as is to take care of his family.

Genevieve Rodriguez is one of his clients for the last 16 years, and has purchased six vehicles from DaCosta to date.

“I drive more than halfway across the city to deal with Frank,” she told The Weekly Gleaner, in a telephone interview.

Rodney said she walked in a Nissan dealership in Brampton, west of Toronto, and DaCosta was the first person to approach her and what she finds appealing about his mannerisms is that he doesn’t profile anyone as everyone is a potential buyer.

“Frank goes above and beyond and has an on-going relationship with his clients,” she said. “I’m driving to Nissan Agincourt in Scarborough, where he’s located now, to do my upgrades. In fact, he must be his top seller; we all travel to where he is because I see a lot of people from Brampton on the company’s Face book page. It’s crazy because every single day it seems like he has sold at least 5 cars.” He is phenomenal, Rodny said.

DaCosta came to Canada in 1993, with his wife. He soon realised that his knack to relate to people was one of his assets.

When a friend of his sister, Angela, told him about a job prospect at a dealership, he jumped at the chance, without ever having stepped in.

“I borrowed a tie from my friend, got dressed and showed up. After a week of training I was placed on the floor to either sink or swim and that first month I sold over 23 cars,” he recalled.

Now, employed to Agincourt Nissan for almost four years, DaCosta credits his interpersonal skills to his formative years, while back home, doing delivery services of goods and ornamental fishes to pet stores.

“I would hope, and think, that talking to customers back then helped with my communication skills. I had even worked as a gym instructor at Spartan Health Club. Just rubbing shoulders with affluent and influential people allowed me to be at ease dealing with clients,” he reflected.

“Coming from humble beginnings gave me the knowledge to relate to the average person and how they would want to be treated.”

His motto: “ Treat people the way I would like to be treated.”

Frank DaCosta

Jamaica scouts for investment in Philadelphia

DERRICK SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

WASHINGTON, DC
PRESIDENT of the World Trade Centre of Greater Philadelphia, Linda Myslivey-Conlin says she is impressed with the stability and growth of the Jamaican economy, adding that now is an excellent time to invest in Jamaica.

“I want to appeal to the business sector in Philadelphia to think about investing and doing trade between Jamaica and us. There is a significant opportunity to increase trade between Philadelphia and Jamaica and I can assure you that all efforts will be made to seize this golden opportunity.”

“This is a win-win opportunity for both Jamaica and Philadelphia,” Conlin said.

She was speaking at a forum on investment opportunities in Jamaica hosted by the US Department of Commerce and the Greater Philadelphia World Trade Centre, in conjunction with the Jamaican Embassy in Philadelphia, on February 27.

Conlin said her organisation would be sensitising the business community about the opportunities available for investment in Jamaica as well as the potential to increase trade between the City of Philadelphia and Jamaica.

In giving an investment overview to top executives of over thirty Pennsylvania based enterprises, Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks outlined the investment opportunities, adding that Jamaica was open for business.

Marks said that the opportunities included the divestment of the Norman Manley International Airport, re-development of Downtown Kingston, Logistic Hub and a number of specific projects related to water infrastructure development, adding that Jamaica was open for business.

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She invited the entrepreneurs to learn more about them and potentially bid on them as well as invest in Jamaica.

Marks was accompanied by Jamaica’s representative to the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) Arthur Williams, IDB’s Executive Director for the Caribbean, Jerry Butler and Minister Counselor for Trade at the Jamaican Embassy in Washington Ariel Bowen.

New community relations officer appointed at the Consulate General of Jamaica in New York

SADRAINE GORDON has been appointed as the community relations officer at the Consulate General of Jamaica in New York. Gordon assumed offices on January 9 2017.

She will oversee community outreach to the network of Jamaican communities across the 33 States in the United States, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

“One of the main lessons I have taken from my years as a Communications Specialist is that, it is imperative to establish and maintain cooperative and beneficial relationships between mutually benefiting parties by adding authenticity, depth and engagement,” Gordon said in a press release.

Gordon said in a press release. Originally from St Mary in Jamaica, Gordon was a constituency executive assistant to Robert Monatgue when he was Local Government Minister.

She was also project manager for the Centre of Excellence.

She also worked at the Transport Authority in Tower Isle St Mary and the N.E.M Insurance Company in Port Maria.

Frank DaCosta

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

Former security minister among whistle blowing JRA members fighting expulsion

ERICA VIRTUE
Senior Gleaner Writer

D
IGHT NELSON, the former minister of national security under the Bruce Golding administration, is among 10 members of the Jamaica Rifle Association (JRA) suspended for allegedly bringing the gun club into disrepute, among other charges.

But the 10 ‘dissidents’ are fighting the charges, with seven of the long-serving members going to court to block their suspension or dismissal.

Letters indicating that disciplinary action would be taken against the 10 were allegedly issued after it was disclosed that they signed a letter to the Firearms Licensing Authority (PLA) expressing concerns about aspects of the management of the JRA.

NELSON INCENSED

A seething Nelson last week confirmed that the letter was suspended, as he pointed to the exchange of correspondence between himself and the JRA and explained why he refused to attend a scheduled disciplinary hearing.

“I did not attend any disciplinary hearing because I did not think I breached any regulation. Can you imagine suspending a former minister?”

“This is gross disrespect. I think they were out of order. I believe I tore up the letter because I was so angry.”

Nelson told The Gleaner.

Among those facing expulsion from the island’s leading competitive shooting venue, is the island’s leading competitive shooting

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Moravian ministers case transfer delayed again

THE CLERGYMEN involved in the highly talked about sex scandal will have to wait another 12 weeks to find out whether or not their case will move to the Home Circuit Court in Kingston. Reverend Dr Paul Gardner and Jermaine Gibson, who appeared before the Manchester Circuit Court this morning, had their bail extended and are expected to return to court Wednesday May 24.

According to attorney Peter Champagnie, the defence presented some documents to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who has requested some time to ventilate them. Gardner and Gibson were charged for sexual misconduct arising from a series of incidents dating back to 2002.

Martin Miller Appointed NHT Managing Director

The board of the National Housing Trust (NHT) has appointed Martin Miller the managing director of the agency. Miller had been acting in the post for more than three years following the dismissal of Cecile Watson. Miller joined the NHT in 1984 and has held several senior management positions over the past 18 years.

His appointment comes as an institutional review to accommodate major changes at the agency. The board of the National Housing Trust (NHT) has started the process to provide psychosocial support for some of the female inmates traumatised by last week’s relocation from the Fort Augusta facility in St Catherine to the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre, South Camp Road, Kingston.

The DEPARTMENT of Correctional Services is to provide psychosocial support for some of the female inmates traumatised by last week’s relocation from the Fort Augusta facility in St Catherine to the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre, South Camp Road, Kingston.

We have some of them resisting initially because this is where they have called home, especially for those who were there for a long time,” Ina Hunter, commissioner of corrections, told The Gleaner.

This is despite constant issues such as mosquito infestation whenever it rained and the threat of inundation whenever there was a threat of a hurricane. In addition, the isolated location created security risks for officers, especially those who had to walk to or from the institution to access public transportation.

Judge rules against admitting recordings in ‘death squad’ trial

LAWYERS FOR the two cops before the court in the so-called ‘death squad’ trial scored a major legal victory on Monday, March 6 when Justice Jennifer Straw ruled that several recordings made by one of the policemen would not be admitted into evidence.

The recordings were made by Constable Collis ‘Chucky’ Brown. They included a witness statement, a letter written to the Commissioner of Police as well as transcripts of an audio recording Brown provided to the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM).

But following submissions by prosecutors and defence attorneys, Justice Straw ruled that the recordings do not meet the standard required for them to be admitted into evidence.

She also noted that the prejudice they would present for the two policemen far outweighed their probative value.

Portland road facing erosion

THE NATIONAL Works Agency (NWA) says it has started work to prevent further erosion of the main road between Orange Bay and Windsor Castle in Portland.

The road, which is part of the North-Coast Highway, was closed on Tuesday, March 7 in the vicinity of the tax office in Buff Bay due to significant erosion caused by the inclement weather.

The agency’s communication manager, Stephen Shaw, says the works agency has started the process to protect the sea wall in order to prevent a complete collapse of the retaining structure.

Shaw says boulders are now being used to assist in reducing the impact of the wave action on the retaining wall.

Female inmates moved from Fort Augusto to South Camp

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Religious bigots preyed on sick mom

THE EDITOR, Sir:

MY MOTHER will not like this letter. And that is why I must write it.

The sad reality is that in Jamaica, there is a crippling silence about the harm fundamentalist religion does to children, and this has caused the harm of doing great damage. To end this carnage we who have been victims must speak up.

My mother has been a pillar of the Open Bible Church for many decades and now she is quite ill. I recently visited with her and she told me that a pastor said that God told him that the reason she hasn’t been healed is because she will not disown me, her gay son.

I was incensed that this person, whom my mother selflessly assisted, should rebrand her kindness with this cruelty. He preyed on my mom’s vulnerability to score homophobic points. Similarly, many other pastors have told parents that their LGBTI kids are biblical abominations who will attract the wrath of God if they are allowed to remain in the household.

This is why some kids as young as 10 years old have been thrown out on the streets and are now living in sewers. Many of them turned to sex with strangers and they are paid extra for condomless sex by men who often have female partners as masks, or wives, for the display of heterosexuality in this homophobic society. This exposes the women, men and children to untold psychological and physical harm.

I have written to this pastor, as well as his supervisor, and the general secretary of the Jamaica Council of Churches about the damaging effects of this hateful theology.

We may disagree about my sexual orientation in the same way that I disagree with the pastor’s choice of religion. But that is no reason to incite the harm of innocent and vulnerable souls.

MAURICE TOMLINSON
Montego Bay PO, St James

Trump just enforcing laws

THE EDITOR, Sir:

EVER SINCE Donald Trump was elected and sworn in as the United States’ 45th president, there has been a lot of demonstrations and rhetoric about some of his policies, especially immigration-related matters that resulted in so many foreigners being blocked, initially, from entering the country.

Because I respect the rights of millions of Americans who cast their votes based on preference or other issues, I am not in a position to elaborate on his role because I strongly believe that, their votes based on preference or other issues, I am not in a position to elaborate on his role because I strongly believe that,

TTHHEE  EEDDIITTOORR,,  SSiirr::

Hoping for YUTE, but wanting more

L AST WEEK, in Washington, DC, Joseph M. Matalon, the chairman of the ICD Group, was busy promoting one of his pet projects, YUTE, or Youth Upliftment Through Employment.

At a dinner hosted by Audrey Marks, Jamaica’s ambassador to the United States, Mr Matalon told Jamaican business people that since its launch in 2010, when he was the president of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), YUTE has trained more than 2,000 young people between the ages of 17 and 29. The plan is to train more than 10,000. This year, the project, initially an initiative of the PSOJ, will merge with the MultiCare Foundation, an ICD-supported charity that works with young people in the arts, music and culture in inner-city communities.

Hopefully, Mr Matalon was persuasive and members of the diaspora who heard his message will support YUTE. The existence and success of projects such as these are in all our interests, especially when there is a seeming lack of a structured programme to confront the crises facing Jamaica’s youth.

It is estimated, for instance, that up to 140,000, or over a quarter of Jamaica’s young people between the ages of 14 and 24 are ‘unattached’. They are neither in school nor have jobs. A hefty number of them are despondently be at risk of being lured into gangs, getting into trouble with the law, or being ensnared into other forms of social dysfunction.

The number grows worse when the cohort is expanded to all under-30s. While the national unemployment rate is in low single digits, for people up to 29, it is over 30 per cent. And even when there are jobs, a large proportion of this group is unsuitable for work. Many lack the discipline and training for the workplace.

BOYS ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM

Yet, even as the problem of unemployment is worse among young women than men, it is boys, according to University of the West Indies (UWI) social anthropologist Herbert Gayle, who face a greater immediate crisis, and ultimately burden the society with the crime that gives Jamaica one of the world’s worst homicide rates – 50 per 100,000 of the population. That, according to Dr Gayle, is well past the rate of 30 per 100,000 at which countries are deemed to be at civil war.

Dr Gayle, in recent articles in The Jamaica Gleaner, reported that up to a quarter of boys in inner-city communities or from working-class homes hustle on the street. Boys in these situations are expected to drop out of schools when the family falls into financial trouble. They are three times more likely than girls to be brutally beaten at home, account for 95 per cent of murdered children, and are killed more often than women and girls combined. Boys are also three times more likely than girls to go hungry or be neglected by their fathers.

The urban social environment provides a conveyor belt of recruits to the gangs that produce a bulk of the country’s criminal violence.

While there has been much talk over many years about such issues, we are yet to develop a sustained, ongoing national strategy to reverse this trend. YUTE is a small but important window of hope.

TTHHEE  NNAA  WWEEEEKKLLYY  GGLLEEAANNEERR
Transport and Mining Minister, Mike Henry with Vice President of the Atlanta Jamaica Association (AJA), Toney Gray at Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta, GA.

Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Nestor Mendez (centre), with (from left) Chief of Staff to the Asst. Secretary General, Ambassador LaCelia Prince, Vaughn Martin, OAS member of staff Ian Edwards, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States, Anthony Phillips Spencer, Jamaican musicologist Dermot Hussey and Jamaica’s Alternate Representative to the OAS, Juliet Hyatt at the Black History Month and International Decade for People of African Descent Symposium at the Hall of the Americas at the OAS on Thursday, February 23.
Chinese will build and could partially own Petrojam

STEFAN JACKSON
Senior Business Reporter

JAMAICA is banking on Chinese capital to transform Petrojam into a more efficient refinery, a deal that could still end up with a third country having a stake in the asset.

For now, Jamaica is vague on what the ownership composition of Petrojam refinery will look like after the expansion project, but it did say Sinohydro would not have a hand in its operation. Sinohydro Corporation Limited will finance, engineer, develop and construct the refinery upgrade at a cost of about US$1 billion.

The Jamaican and Venezuelan state entities, which currently co-own the Kingston-based refinery, are about to enter negotiations with the Chinese state-owned engineering firm to finalise repayment and other terms.

“The parties have not agreed on any equity structure yet,” said the energy ministry, led by Minister Henry. “This task force will have responsibility for finalising the construction and renovation of hotels, residential construction activities and major road improvement projects across the island,” he said.

IMPROVED ECONOMIES

Growth was also attributed to higher levels of business and consumer confidence, and increased employment which supported increased demand, as well as improved performance in the economies of Jamaica’s main trading partners, which supported increased exports of goods and services such as traditional agricultural exports, and hotels and restaurant services.

The positive out-turn notwithstanding, the economic performance was constrained by slower-than-planned execution of government – supported capital projects, and production downturn associated with reduced demand from major purchasers of Jamaica’s crude bauxite, shipping delays, which impacted alumina exports, and temporary plant closure to facilitate maintenance and repairs, said the director general in reviewing the economic performance for the quarter during a briefing in New Kingston.

He said the goods-producing industry grew by 3.1 per cent and was attributable to a 16 per cent expansion in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry; 0.2 per cent increase in manufacture; and 0.8 per cent increase in the construction industry.

The performance in agriculture, forestry and fishing largely reflected the impact of initiatives implemented to spur increased output and improve productivity, an increase in domestic crops, as well as improved rainfall which occurred during previous quarters.

Dr Henry said that during the quarter, other agricultural crops grew by 17.4 per cent with higher output recorded for all nine crop groups.

He said that for calendar year 2016, the Jamaican economy is estimated to have expanded by 1.4 per cent compared with growth of 0.9 per cent in 2015.

The largest contributors were agriculture, forestry and fishing, up 12.8 per cent; electricity and water, up 9.8 per cent; hotels and restaurants, up 2.1 per cent; and transport, storage and communications, up 0.6 per cent.

The trend is projecting growth of one to two per cent for the quarter to March 2017.

Jamaican economy expands 1.3 per cent

MCPHERSE THOMPSON
Assistant Editor – Business

THE JAMAICAN economy expanded by 1.3 per cent during the quarter to December 2016, the eighth consecutive period of growth, reflecting higher output for both the services and goods-producing industries, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) reported on Wednesday.

The key drivers of growth during were favourable weather conditions during 2016, which facilitated higher levels of production in the agriculture, forestry and fishing, and electricity and water supply industries, PIOJ Director General Dr Wayne Henry said.

“It was also reflected in increased hotel room capacity and flight frequency, which facilitated growth in stopover visitor arrivals, as well as major infrastructure works, including the construction and renovation of hotels, residential construction activities and major road improvement projects across the island,” he said.

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"It is anticipated that these discussions will be concluded within the upcoming weeks.”

For more than a decade, successive administrations have been trying to modernise and expand the refinery, but funding remained a persistent roadblock.

A partnership agreement was first signed between Kingston and Caracas in mid-2006 under which both would split the cost 50:50 on what was initially meant to be a US$600 million project to expand the refining capacity from 35,000 barrels per day to 50,000 bpd.

Through PDV Caribe, a subsidiary of PDVSA, Caracas did follow through on the minority acquisition of a stake in Petrojam at a cost of US$63.5 million in 2008, but baulked at the expansion programme.

Over time, the cost of the project has doubled. The environmental report done in 2009 pegged it as a US$758-million undertaking, while the deal being negotiated with Sinohydro pushes it even further – to as much as US$1 billion.

“The project will have several phases and will require extensive groundwork including negotiation of financing, preparation and approval of detailed designs and engineering work, as well as negotiations with prospective suppliers and service providers,” said the ministry.

“Many of these elements are precursors to the commencement of actual construction work.”

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JN Bank introduces online account for members

JN BANK, has introduced online account opening for its members, whose account information is fully up-to-date in accordance with Know Your Customer (KYC) policy, via its new website www.jnbank.in.

The secure, sleek metro-designed site, is easier tomorrow, with a clean, fresh appearance, which allows existing JN Bank account holders to open new accounts online, without visiting a branch of the JN Bank.

"It’s a bold move on our part to provide more convenient services to Jamaicans and to provide our existing members with the level of confidence when doing business with the financial institution," says Maureen Hayden-Cater, managing director, JN Bank.

"It breaks down the fear of going into a bank to complete a variety of document efforts online, as existing members can apply online, at their own convenience," she said, explaining that it also improves the efficiency of the bank’s branches, as we can gradually repurpose frontline employees, to focus on consultative banking activities, which drive member hospitality.

RAISE MEMBER CONFIDENCE

The launch of the new website flows naturally into JN Bank’s focus for its members, whose account information is fully up-to-date in accordance with Know Your Customer (KYC) policy, via its new website www.jnbank.in.

The website also has other smart features, such as its ability to assist users to determine the right savings account to satisfy their financial objectives. They will be directed to answer a series of five simple questions, which include the sum they wish to save, and the tenure.

"The website then suggests the savings products that best suit you to help you to achieve your target or intent," Hayden-Cater outlined, underlining that the inclusion of the feature is a meaningful way of helping persons to find the right products that will assist them to achieve their individual targets.

Users can also calculate the actual interest they will be able to earn on their savings, via its new website, which will significantly reduce the time it takes for members to achieve their objectives by providing information on the right products that will assist them to make better savings decisions, and in their own convenience.

And she noted that soon JN Bank will be expanding its site to allow members, who do not have all their records, such as photo ID and identification, up-to-date with the commercial bank; and also non-JN members, who chose to use it don't have to wait a long time when they enter our banking halls to complete the process," she said.

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Ikan diapora in Switzerland makes contribution to literary workshops

WILTON DYER

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Minister, Kamina Johnson Smith has again praised the value of the Diaspora’s contribution to national development and fully up-to-date in accordance with Know Your Customer (KYC) policy, via its new website www.jnbank.in.

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RBC celebrates Black History Month

RBC PRESENTED thirty scholar-
ships ranging from $500 to
$5,000 to Grade 12 students
cross the country as a part of its
2017 Black History Month
Student Essay Competition.

The bank held its Black History
Month Celebration with a cocktail
reception, announcement of the
winners, and screening of the
Golden Globe Best Motion
Picture, “Moonlight,” at the TIFF
Bell Lightbox in Toronto on
February 16.

As Canada prepares to celebrate
its 150th birthday, RBC asked
high school students to reflect on the
contribution of Black Canadians over the past 150 years
and what future generations can
learn from them.

Thirty winners were chosen from a record-number of entries, including the top three winners.

Khariisa Edwards of Our Lady
of Mount Carmel Secondary
School in Mississauga, Ontario
won the first prize, $5,000 for her
evory called "Paving the Path to the
Future by Lessons from
Josiah Henson.

The second prize of $2,500 went
to Sarah Konennman of Sir
Frederick Banting Secondary
School in London, Ontario, for her
eys about Jumaana H. Muthara
of Kariya and Fawzia B. Ebod
of Kingston. Both girls
received a $500 scholarship from
RBC.

From left: Mark Beckles, head, RBC Insurance Advice Center; Harriet Thompson, vice-
president, RBC Advice Centre; Maya George; Pronoy Chaudhuri; Andrew Yin; Sarah
Konennman; Khariisa Edwards; Kris Depencier, regional president, Greater Toronto,
RBC, Wayne Griffith, RBC regional vice-president.
REGGAE’S WORLDWIDE IMPACT SINCE ITS BIRTH IN JAMAICA 50 YEARS TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC HAS BEEN DETAILLED IN SEVERAL STUDIES, INCLUDING GOOGLE SEARCH DATA SHOWING A TOWN IN POLAND WITH THE LARGEST PER CAPITA INTEREST IN REGGAE.

Trinidad and Tobago’s steelpan also took centre stage in the Washington, DC, event headlined ‘Afro-Inspired Culture in the Americas’ held in the historic Hall of the Americas at OAS Headquarters, where a bust of Marcus Garvey sits majestically.

“The music is exploding in South America and Africa,” Jamaican musicologist Dermot Hussey said of reggae, in a keynote presentation at Organization of American States event marking February as Black History Month in the United States.

In his discussion on reggae and Marley’s role in it, Hussey also spoke about his upcoming publication of ‘An Oral History of Bob Marley’.

Google search data gathered from 2004 to 2015 identify the Poland’s Ostr—da as the top city searching reggae; Hua Hin, Thailand, was fourth; and Cambridge, England, ranked sixth while Kingston, Jamaica, ranked stood at 16th among the top 20 cities, said Hussey, who hosts a reggae program on SiriusXM satellite radio. Hussey noted that in 2016, Brazil, the first non-English-speaking country to honour the iconic Jamaican musician, celebrated its first Bob Marley Day on May 11, the anniversary of Marley’s death in 1981.

Hussey, who now lives in Washington, DC, co-authored the book ‘Bob Marley: Reggae King of the World’ and produced the Marley interview on Marley’s album ‘Talkin’ Blues’, revealed other research showing the impact of reggae music, especially Bob Marley’s, on babies was also successfully demonstrated. He drew on a recent University of Glasgow study and other experiments that underscore reggae’s growth to become “an international music” since its emerged on the scene some 50 years ago. He said as a result, Britain’s Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals plans on installing a sound system in all kennels, “to play Bon Jovi and Bob Marley.”

His persona, his music, and message “are as alive globally as when he lived,” Hussey said of Marley, sharing that today, 36 years after his death, “he’s got 70 million Facebook fans.”

The steelpan, Trinidad and Tobago’s national instrument, “was born in struggle,” asserted Von Martin, host of the long-running Caribbeana program that signed Washington, DC’s WPFW 89.3 FM station on the air in the summer of 1977.

A Caribbean musicology expert and broadcaster who is from Trinidad and Tobago, Martin delivered a fascinating history of steelpan’s emergence as “the product of real suffering and pain but, at the same time, happiness and celebration.” The only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century, developed against the backdrop of the enslavement of African people and colonisation from the 16th century, culminating in the mid-20th century with independence. “Pan was there as an eyewitness – immersed in it all,” Martin said.

The Jamaican Ambassador Audrey Marks was on hand, among many of the member state representatives. OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro welcomed the guests and staff, while Assistant Secretary General Nestor Mendez, whose office organised the event, took ‘A look at Afro-inspired culture in the Americas.’

Cultural performances, including dance and song, as well as cuisine, representing the spectrum of the African presence throughout the Americas, were interwoven into the programme that also featured the official opening of an art exhibition on ‘Afro Life and Culture in the Americas.’
GK headquarters project to hire 150 locals

Chinese firm selected as contractor

T HE NEW headquarters for food and financial services conglomerate GraceKennedy Limited (GK) will provide 180 mostly local jobs during its construction, which has been hired out to a Chinese contractor.

China Sinopharm International Corporation (CSIC) won the bid ahead of three other companies to construct the 10-storey building. GraceKennedy and CSIC signed the contract on February 10, and work began on March 1.

“CSIC met the requirements of a selective tender issued in September 2016. Four bids were submitted, two from local and two from overseas service providers,” the conglomerate said in a release.

An analysis of the bids revealed that Sinopharm was within two per cent of the estimate of the construction cost, as assessed by local chartered quantity surveyors, Berkeley & Spence, added the release.

“The pool of technical experts on the project was unanimous in its recommendation that CSIC be the selected main contractor,” said GraceKennedy, indicating that the technical team included Jamaican firms, International Built Environment Consultants (IBEC), Bob Fowler & Associates Limited, Hux & Lynne Engineering Limited, Beverly Rousoue Interiors, and OMNI Services Company Limited.

Eighty per cent of the labour for the project will be Jamaicans, hired from within and outside the downtown community.

“Over the life of the project, there is potential for up to 150 Jamaican skilled and unskilled labourers to be employed directly or through subcontractors to the project. The contractors will use a maximum of 33 specialists from outside of Jamaica. Any change to the number of external labour needed will require special approvals,” said GraceKennedy’s Group CEO Don Wehby in the company statement.

“The overall cost of the project is expected to be US$25 million with a completion target of November 2018.

COMMITMENT TO DOWNTOWN

“This is an important project and from overseas service providers,” GraceKennedy said in its release.

So far, GraceKennedy said it has spent J$830 million to procure the services of professionals, vendors, labourers and to pay regulatory fees to bring the project to its present state of readiness. Local quarries provided 4,000 metric tonnes of stone for use in the soil-strengthening process.

Additionally, a list of local well-known professional service providers has been provided to the contractors for their review and selection.

“This has been such an interesting project. I’ve learnt a lot about the geology of the area and the extraordinary expertise required for building here. We have spoken with the partners about facilitating tours and other learning opportunities for students of construction and architecture. This construction is a benefit to downtown Kingston and to all Jamaica,” Wehby stated.

For 96 years, GraceKennedy has called downtown Kingston its home. In 2012, the GK Financial Centre was constructed at the corner of Harbour and Duke streets, and in 1997, a new corporate office was developed at 73 Harbour Street. Additionally, through the Grace and Staff Community Development Foundation, two homework centres are run in the Parade Gardens community located on Tower Street and Water/Ladd Lane. More than 340 children receive extra lessons, counselling, mentorship and exposure to science, computer use, music and technology, explained the release. GK plans to retain the homework centres and increase their capacity to serve children over the next five years.

“Grace and Staff is also active in schools within the area, assisting with breakfast programmes and other interventions,” the company said.
Science exhibition well supported by schools

Kingston:

SCIENCE IN the Gardens, an annual event designed to popularise science and technology, attracted over 2,000 students and teachers from a number of schools last month at Hope Botanical Gardens, St Andrew. Organised by the National Commission on Science and the Scientific Research Council, the event featured scientific displays and presentations.

Islandwide

Food for The Poor donates cricket gear

FOOD FOR The Poor has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cricket gear to the Social Development Commission to boost the agency’s community cricket programme.

The items which include 105 bats, 150 stumps and bails, 17 balls, and six pairs of specialist gloves and pads, are to be distributed throughout the parishes.

St Andrew

21 persons graduate from TDPCo programme

SOMETHING SPECIAL in Jamaica’s history will happen on March 1, 2017, when 21 persons graduate from the Tourism Product Development Company (TDPCo) Culinary Skills Training Programme. The celebration will be held at the Olympic Way Hip Strip Initiative being implemented by TDPCo with funding from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF).

Forestry Department requests feedback on its conservation plan

THE FORESTRY Department is inviting Jamaicans to provide feedback on its new forest management and conservation plan following a series of islandwide consultations targeting players from key sectors. The feedback will inform the department as to their programme over the next ten years.

Trelawny, St Elizabeth

60 kilometres of sugar cane roads to be rehabilitated

THE GOVERNMENT will spend J$240 million to rehabilitate 60 kilometres of cane roads between Long Pond in Trelawny and the Appleton sugar factories in St Elizabeth over the next two financial years. The signing ceremony for the rehabilitation was done on Tuesday February 28.

St Andrew

RADA holds farmers’ workshops

THE FIRST in a series of workshops for farmers, aimed at providing the tools and information for cottage industries to transform agricultural production into formal business ventures was held under Tuesday February 28 by the Rural Agricultural Development Agency (RADA) at the Michael Manley Foundation, Hope Boulevard.

J$1billion renovation for Appleton Estate Rum Tour

APPLETON ESTATE Rum Tour, Siloah St Elizabeth, owned by J. Wray and Nephew Limited, is undergoing a J$1.25 billion renovation in a bid to enhance its attraction. Work is expected to be completed by next November.

St Andrew, St Catherine

Informal settlements to be regularised

RESIDENTS OF four informal settlements in St Catherine and St Andrew are to benefit from a J$1.25 billion improvement of their housing conditions. According to Senator Ruel Reid Minister of Education Youth and Information at a press briefing last month, Government will put in place the infrastructure and facilitate legal ownership of the lands.

Haiti

Haitian politician and former presidential candidate Jude Celestin stands with a relative as the ambulance with the body of the late former Haitian President Rene Preval arrives to the Sainte Claire hospital in Petionville, Haiti.

Friday, according to a statement issued by President Jovenel Moise.

The cause of death was not released but Preval had been treated for prostate cancer in Cuba in 2003. Moise said the former president died at his home in the Port-au-Prince district of Laboule.

“I learned with sadness the death of former President Rene Preval,” Moise said on his Twitter account. “I procrastinate myself before the remains of this worthy son of Haiti.”

Former President Michel Martelly, who succeeded Preval, said “Rene, my brother; my friend and advisor; your departure leaves us in shock.”

Preval was elected by a landslide in 1995 as the chosen successor of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and turned power back over to Aristide when he left office five years later after a term marked by political infighting.

His second term, which started in 2006, was marred by the disastrous earthquake of January 12, 2010, which the government said killed more than 310,000 people and displaced more than 1 million. Many Haitians accused him of a fumbling response to the tragedy.

Preval was born on January 17, 1943, in the town of Marmelade in rural northern Haiti. His father, Claude, was an agronomist who served under President Paul Magloire and died during the early years of the dictatorship of Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier.

FEARED AND HATED

Preval earned an agronomy degree from G omnibus Agricultural University in Belgium and later studied geothermal sciences at the University of Pisa in Italy. In 1970, he moved to New York, where he worked as a waiter and a messenger. Five years later, he returned to Haiti and worked at the National Institute for Mineral Resources, according to an official biography.

In 1988, two years after a popular uprising ousted Duvalier’s son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier, Preval returned to Haiti and opened a bakery in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. He supplied bread to an orphanage run by Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest who led a movement to oust the younger Duvalier and later became the country’s first democratically elected president.

Preval became a leading figure in Aristide’s Lavalas political movement, which enjoyed a huge following among the poor and was feared and hated by the tiny community of elites who long dominated the country’s economy and government.

Aristide, by now no longer a priest, was elected president in 1990 and appointed Preval to be his prime minister. A military coup ousted Aristide seven months into his term and the two leaders went into exile.

A US-led invasion restored Aristide to power in 1994 and he was allowed to serve the year-plus remaining in his term. Running as Aristide’s successor, and with his backing, Preval won 88 percent of the vote in 1995 though only a quarter of eligible voters cast ballots.

Preval’s first term was marked by political infighting, with Aristide seen as the power behind the throne. When Preval completed his term in 2001 and transferred power to Aristide, he became Haiti’s first democratically elected president to leave office after a full term.

Preval then moved from politics and spent his time in Marmelade where many other government buildings.

In 2014, Preval handed over power to Martelly, marking the end of the transfer of power from a Haitian president to a member of the opposition.

Preval then left politics and lived quietly at his estate in the mountains above Port-au-Prince and in the Miami area, where many Haitian expatriates live.

His survivors include his third wife, Elisabeth Delatour, and two adult daughters.
“THIS AWESOME country is so full of talent!” declared singer Maria Myrie to her audience on Sunday, February 25. The comment, triggered by the high-quality of the acts preceding hers, elicited an outburst of affirmative comments from the audience. They clearly agreed with both Myrie’s opinion of her fellow performers and her generalisation about Jamaica’s talent.

Myrie was performing on the stage of the gazebo in the gardens of The Jamaica Pegasus, the venue for the past 17 years of the Jazz in the Gardens concerts, staged on the last Sunday of alternate months.

For years now, those concerts have been happily delivering jazz mixed with other forms of music. Now, formally acknowledging the de facto situation, the producers have changed the name of the series to Jazz ‘n Cabaret in the Gardens, and Sunday’s show was the first under the new name.

**SPLENDID EXECUTION**

The concert went splendidly, an indication that the producers Nancy McLean, Ken Nelson and Youlanda Nunez will maintain the high quality of the musical offerings.

Perhaps for the first time, the three producers appeared together before the audience. Shepherded by the emcee, Michael Anthony Cuffe, they gathered for the presentation of two cheques to representatives of two children’s charities. The money came from the proceeds of the show.

Pon Pyah, a band led by musical director Ozou’ne (keyboards), provided the first 15 minutes of toe-tapping, head-nodding jazz; but, Ozou’ne revealed to the audience, only 10 minutes (three tunes) of it had been contracted for. Nevertheless, the ensemble launched into a fourth tune that was as enjoyable as the earlier ones had been, thus proving the band’s competence.

**SPARKLING SET**

No explanation was ever given to the audience, but evidently, there had been a logistics problem, one perhaps related to the non-appearance of a scheduled performer, DJE (pronounced ‘dee-jay’).

Bounced up into the show’s second slot was Tanice Morrison, a singer, said Cuffe, who had performed with Kenny Rogers and the Marley brothers and who was “comfortable with any genre of music”. Her sparkling set showed she deserved the praise.

Dressed in full black, save for a gold bow tie, she delivered five well-received songs along with friendly, relaxed patter. The items were varied and included a reggae gospel song, Lord, Lift Me Higher, the popular, Don’t Make Me Over, a funky version of I Wanna Dance with Somebody, and the poignant Time to Say Goodbye, which she sang mostly in Italian.

Next, the singing group Nexus showed they were even more versatile than Morrison. They moved from mento Die Long Time Oyal and Nekununa, to a spiritual Jesus Is The Rock in a Weary Land to reggae Try Jah Love to a gospel song in an unidentified African language.

After the intermission, guitarist Seretse Small, backed by Pon Pyah, strengthened by three other instrumentalists, delivered the jazz component of the concert with great skill and unflagging energy.

His items included Bob Marley’s Exodus and his own compositions, Ras Kas, written in memory of his father, and P21.

Introducing Myrie, Cuffe said she had ‘one of the most incredible voices’. She certainly did, delighting her audience with every one of her six songs, starting with It’s Only a Paper Moon and ending with I Feel Like Jumpin’.

Her back-up for many songs was Thamar Williams, whose harmonising gave a pleasing dimension to Myrie’s songs.

Cuffe told the audience that next concert in April would be Jazz ‘n Gospel.

from mento Die Long Time Oyal and Nekununa, to a spiritual Jesus Is The Rock in a Weary Land to reggae Try Jah Love to a gospel song in an unidentified African language.

After the intermission, guitarist Seretse Small, backed by Pon Pyah, strengthened by three other instrumentalists, delivered the jazz component of the concert with great skill and unflagging energy.

His items included Bob Marley’s Exodus and his own compositions, Ras Kas, written in memory of his father, and P21.

Introducing Myrie, Cuffe said she had ‘one of the most incredible voices’. She certainly did, delighting her audience with every one of her six songs, starting with It’s Only a Paper Moon and ending with I Feel Like Jumpin’.

Her back-up for many songs was Thamar Williams, whose harmonising gave a pleasing dimension to Myrie’s songs.

Cuffe told the audience that next concert in April would be Jazz ‘n Gospel.
Wisconsin Republicans target sanctuary cities again

Deidre S. Powell

MADISON, Wis (AP) — Republican proposals targeting sanctuary cities that offer protections to immigrants living in the country illegally are back in the Wisconsin Legislature, after a similar effort died last year following an outpouring of opposition.

Two bills, including one circulated this week by the same sponsors as a failed measure last year, attempt to force local governments to comply with federal immigration laws.

The proposals pit law-and-order Republicans against the immigrant community and local officials in the state's largest cities that have declared themselves to be safe havens for immigrants.

The push against sanctuary cities is coming from both the state and federal levels. President Donald Trump in January signed an executive order to withdraw funding from sanctuary cities that decline to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. Trump also reversed many immigration enforcement policies from former President Barack Obama's administration, including focusing deportation efforts on terrorists, criminals and gang members.

The latest bill circulated in Wisconsin to cracking down on sanctuary cities has been mixed.

Last year's bill that blocked police from asking criminal defendants about their immigration status garnered strong opposition from the state's immigrant community. A couple of thousand pro-immigrant demonstrators marching at the Capitol against the proposal.

Even Gov. Scott Walker last year said he was "just fine" with the Legislature not passing the bill. His spokesman did not immediately reply to a message Thursday seeking comment about the latest proposal.

LACK OF SUPPORT

The bill passed the state Assembly last year but died from a lack of enough support in the Senate.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald was not immediately available for comment.

Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, a conservative firebrand who has been outspoken against sanctuary cities, said on his Facebook page that he supports the new bills. His position runs contrary to the Democratic leaders of Madison and Milwaukee.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin last month reaffirmed Madison's sanctuary city status, but said the city does comply with federal detention requests. Madison passed a resolution calling on the Dane County Sheriff to stop reporting immigration status to federal authorities, though it had no legal effect.

A 2013 Milwaukee County Board non-binding resolution called on the sheriff not to cooperate with federal immigration detention requests unless a person has been convicted of serious crimes, is a gang member or is a suspected terrorist.

The latest bill circulated on March 1 for sponsors would prohibit local governments from enacting any ordinances, resolutions or policies that would prevent federal immigration laws from being enforced. It would also require local governments to provide any request made by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain an immigrant who may be in the country illegally.

Law enforcement officials would not be required to ask every person they arrest about their immigration status, but would have to check a person's immigration status, if requested to do so under federal law. Speaker Mike Mikoalsen, a spokesman for the Republican leader, said, "Steve Naas, R-Whitewater. Violators could face a reduction of state aid of up to $6,000 a day."

Democratic Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa, of Milwaukee, said the bill and a similar one by Republican Rep. Janel Brandtjen, R-Menomonee Falls, sends the message that Republicans are "champi- ons for anti-immigrant efforts."

"It will have a chilling effect across the state if it becomes law," Zamarripa said.

Nass and other co-sponsors call the measure a "common sense" proposal to "ensure protection for all Wisconsin citizens as well as those visiting our state. "They cite the 2015 fatal shooting of a woman by a Mexican immigrant in Kenosha County as a precedent. The Francisco County sheriff's office had relied on the suspect earlier that year, despite a request by federal immigration authorities to detain him."

Dealing with abuse

Dahlia Walker-Huntington

UNited states

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington,

I disagree with your article regarding a woman who has been in the US since 2003. She applied for a visa to the US on a hotel work and living programme and was living in the US with her husband. The following year, she got married, and her husband started the filing process. During this time, however, her husband got a divorce and after putting up with him hitting her for a while, she had enough and left. At this point in the filing process, she did her own research, and when she called to find out about her status, she was told they could only give information to the person who started the process. She called her husband but to no avail, so at this point, she is not sure what her status is and what she should do.

Some years ago, she found out that her husband was using her as a tax claim and she reported the matter because she didn't want to be involved in tax fraud seeing that she had been filing her taxes in a different state. As far as she knows, she's still married, and this year will be 13 years. She has a copy of her marriage certificate as well as the receipt from the fingerprinting and biometries. She has been told that she needs to find an immigration attorney, but she is unable to afford the legal fees.

Dear NS,

Your friend has found herself in a situation of domestic abuse. Immigrants become entangled. They enter a marriage in good faith to a US citizen and the spouse becomes abusive to the immigrant and/or their children. It is important to note that abuse is not only physical, but also emotional and psychological. Equally important is that those immigrants who are in abusive relationships need to protect themselves above all else.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed by the United States Congress in 1994 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton and has provisions for battered immigrant women and families. While certain provisions of the VAWA are supposed to be reauthorized by the new American administration, the provisions of the VAWA that apply to immigrants are permanently part of the Immigration and Nationality Act and do not require congressional reauthorization.

The VAWA allows some battered spouses, parents, and children of US citizens and parents and children of permanent residents to apply for residency on their own without the abuser's help or knowledge. The familial relationship between the abuser and spouse must be demonstrated, as well as the abuse. If the relationship is that of spousal abuse, you must show that you lived with your spouse and if not, why not.

LEGAL SERVICES

The process is complicated, and that is why an immigration attorney is highly recommended. There might be non-profit immigrant organizations that can help your relative/resides who might offer free or reduced services to battered immigrants such as her.

She should at least consult with an immigration attorney to find out what has happened with her case. It is still possible that the case is dormant or may have been denied and she placed in removal (deportation) proceedings without her knowledge. It is possible to be deported in her absence.

It is very important for persons such as your relative who have been in the United States for many years in unlawful status, and after previous involvement with US Citizenship and Immigration Services, to seek legal counsel to ensure that they have not been deported. Besides relief from the VAWA, your relative may also be able to remarry and proceed with a new application, or if she has adult US citizens and children, they may be able to petition for her residency.

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington

is a Jamaican-American attorney who practises immigration law. Her practice focuses on spouses, parents, and children of US citizens and immigrants, as well as battered immigrant women and families.
Jamaica commended for its economic initiatives at IDB meeting

Jamaica's representative to the Inter-American Development Bank, Luis Alberto Moreno, urged the IDB to take another look at Jamaica's agricultural sector with a view to enabling small and medium enterprises to gain access to affordable financing, as this was critical to the growth and expansion of the agricultural sector.

Among the topics being discussed included de-risking and correspondent banking, the development outlook for the Caribbean, and the role of the private sector in the development of the Region's agricultural sector.

The Finance Ministers and Governors of the Central Banks of the Caribbean attended 114th meeting of the Committee of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the 45th meeting of the Committee of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Investment Corporation.

Williams is accompanied by Jamaica's representative to the IDB, Arthur Williams.
Jamaican Erna Brodber wins Yale University prize

JAMAICAN FICTION author Erna Brodber is among eight writers who will each receive US$165,000 for winning the Windham-Campbell Prizes offered by Yale University in the United States.

The money is to be used to support the work of the authors. Brodber, who hails from the community of Woodside in St Mary, has been writing for more than four decades. Some of her notable works include Myal (1988) and Nothing’s Mat (2014), where she skillfully uses elements of Afro-Jamaican cultures to convey both the richness of diasporic traditions, as well as the danger of forgetting them.

Another Caribbean fiction writer, Andre Alexis, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago, also received the Windham-Campbell Prize.

The other authors are from the United States, Ireland, and New Zealand.

English language writers from anywhere in the world are eligible for The Windham-Campbell Prizes. Recipients are nominated confidentially and judged anonymously. The call that prize recipients receive from programme director Michael Kelleher is the first time that they have learnt of their consideration.

The awards will be conferred in September at an international literary festival at Yale University, celebrating the honoured writers and introducing them to new audiences.
Remembering Iris Campbell

FAMILY AND friends gathered at the First Presbyterian Church in Mt Vernon on Saturday, February 25, to say farewell to Iris Campbell. She was loved as a woman of great character, caring, kind and a true leader.

In describing her Aunt Iris, Hugh Campbell said she was ‘the glue’ that kept the family together. She was a strict disciplinarian who strongly believed in hard work and excellence. She never shied away from a difficult task, even in her advanced years, and always strived to impart the importance of a good education as a path towards success.

Her grand-niece, Melanie Campbell, spoke about cooking lessons, and especially learning to cook rice and peas. She recalled that her Aunt Iris, after taking her to the store to purchase the needed ingredients, instructed her to use freshly grated coconut to make the dish. And, while grating only a piece of the coconut, her arms grew tired. Aunt Iris – then in her 80s – took over and grated the coconut with ease, leaving Melanie – then in her 20s – speechless.

Iris was born on July 28, 1923 to James and Maud Rios. 3 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rental $1500, available.

Iris Campbell

Slain Green Pond High student buried

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
Gleaner Writer

TEARS FLOWED freely as relatives, friends and well-wishers congregated inside and outside the Kings Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mount Salem, St James, on Sunday, March 5 to say their final farewells to 15-year-old Green Pond High student Shineka Gray, one month after her murder.

Gray, who resided in Mount Salem, was a poor student at Green Pond High School, was found dead on February 1, with multiple stab wounds, three days after she was reported missing. She had been seen in Montego Bay, leaving the funeral of a former schoolmate.

Gray’s classmates from Green Pond High and from the Plastic Road Seventh-day Adventist Temple Apostolic Faith congregation, where she was a member, performed tributes in speech and song. Other tributes came from family members, friends and neighbours, members of the church community, and political representatives.

Refuge Temple Apostolic Faith Sunday school teacher Mark Hamilton remembered Gray as a loving individual, and lamented the nature of her passing.

“Sheinka came into the world without a hitch. She had a keen sense of people... she was a bubbling pot of love,” said Hamilton. “February 1 was a dark day, as all of our fears came to reality. It is still an unbelievable act, but one that we have to accept. Regardless of the situation, God is still in control.”

In the meantime, Michael Ellis, principal of Green Pond High, made a call after the service for parents to be more active in how they raise their children, to prevent a recurrence of incidents such as Gray’s murder.

“I feel we have done an injustice to our children, and we need to start parenting them in a better way. I feel that we are too permissive in many ways; I honestly don’t feel we have taken this thing called parenting as we should,” said Ellis.

What we need is a renaissance of what we call traditional values and attitudes. I strongly believe that we ought to be more intentional about how we raise our children, and I am a strong advocate for what I call primitive godliness. We cannot raise our children without God in their lives, otherwise, this is going to happen again.

Michael Ellis (at podium), principal of Green Pond High School in Montego Bay, St James, presents a tribute during the funeral for slain 15-year-old student Shineka Gray, at the Kings Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mount Salem, Montego Bay. Also featured are other members of staff of the Green Pond High School.
On a mission to beat cancer

Dorothy Satchwell and the MistyBlue Foundation offering support and care

ADRIAN FRATER
News Editor

DOROTHY BATCHWELL, the president of the MistyBlue Cancer Care Foundation, is a woman on mission – a relentless drive to help persons battling cancer beat the disease through education and treatment.

“The Cancer is something that Satchwell feels she must confront. She has seen her best friend succumb to breast cancer; watched her sister battle the same disease, and has had to spend time comforting another friend, who lost her husband to the ‘Big C’. Satchwell, who was based in England when she witnessed the impact of cancer on those around her, had her personal encounter when she returned home to Jamaica and was ‘on top of the world’, having secured a consultancy job.

“To say it was an inconvenient time would be an understatement. Having just battled a difficult period of depression, I had given up my career overseas to return to my birth country to relaunch,” said Satchwell.

“I found the ideal consultancy job and applied with great confidence of securing the job. I did get the job offer, but during that same week I also got another confirmation... I had breast cancer.”

While getting medical attention, Satchwell recognised how expensive it was for the treatment. She also noted that in Westmoreland, where she was based, had one of the highest incidences and mortality rates of cancer, with no specialist equipment or personnel at its only public hospital.

Satchwell immediately decided it was time for action.

“I opted to have my treatment in England, where the National Health Service (NHS) provided free treatment and support,” said Satchwell.

Knowing that not every cancer patient in Westmoreland would have the options she had, Satchwell decided to establish an organisation that would partner with persons fighting the disease.

In March 2015, she registered the MistyBlue Cancer Care Foundation as a non-profit organisation offering social entrepreneur outreach while providing innovative cancer-awareness education, nutrition awareness, diagnostic and preventive screening.

“The foundation’s official launch was on July 16, 2015, and it has since hosted eight health fairs across the parish of Westmoreland,” said Satchwell.

“Screenings were done for cervical, prostate and breast cancer, HIV, syphilis, heart disease and diabetes with BGL blood pressure and blood glucose sugar testing.”

CANCER AWARENESS

“We have also impacted the parish with cancer awareness, prevention education and nutrition presentations in schools, churches, social clubs and corporate offices,” said Satchwell.

With MistyBlue now an integral part of the medical landscape in Westmoreland, other services on offer are in great demand, hence the need for more resources.

To that end, a major fund-raising event, the MistyBlue Cancer Care Inaugural Fundraising Banquet, is being planned for April 1 at Bandala Whitehouse European Village & Spa in Westmoreland.

“The event is being held to raise funds towards purchasing a CT scanner for the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital,” said Satchwell.

“A CT scanner is a crucial piece of diagnostic equipment in the detection and treatment of cancer and other critical medical conditions. The equipment costs US$300,000, and US$40,000 annually for insurance.”

Justice Zaila McCalla, the chief justice of Jamaica, and Dr Alfred Dawes, the senior medical officer at the Savanna-la-Mar hospital, will be the keynote speakers at the banquet.

An appeal is being made to corporate Jamaica and individuals to collaborate with the MistyBlue Cancer Care Foundation by offering sponsorship and to purchase tickets for the event at US$150 for premium tickets and US$100 for standard tickets. For further details, contact: dorothybatchwell@mistybluecan.com

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THOUGH SHE will be stepping down as president of the Central Alabama Caribbean American Organisation (CACAO), Pauline Ford-Caesar says she will ensure that the organisation expands its borders to provide top-class service to students.

“After six years, I will be stepping down as president. I am not leaving the organisation, however. The aim is to expand our outreach to students, because we are meeting more and more students. I have already identified who will be the student coordinator and she will be the one who will communicate with the students, make sure they are OK, make sure they have what they need, and make sure that they are not running into problems here.”

Pauline Ford-Caesar
Mayor of the City of Birmingham, Alabama, Dr William Bell and Pauline Ford Caesar at the United Negro College Fund dinner in Alabama.

JODI-ANN GILPIN
Gleaner Writer

HER NON-TRADITIONAL story is about following a childhood passion for service. Pauline Ford-Caesar, a daughter of Jamaica, went ahead and made her mark in the city of Birmingham in Alabama, United States, to which she migrated many years ago, establishing the Central Alabama Caribbean American Organisation, which, over the years, has aided international students in adjusting in addition to celebrating the Caribbean’s presence in the city.

Having left Jamaica at age 15 as a student at the Gaynstead High School in Kingston, Ford-Caesar told The Gleaner that she has contributed innovative and dedicated leadership to the civic life of Alabama for more than 20 years.

Her leadership has brought Birmingham together in celebration of many cultures and has shared the accomplishments of the city with an international audience.

“It’s really to be a resource for Caribbean students who come here to go to school. We give scholarships and we try to get people involved with whatever is happening in the community. I take a very hard stance on our reputation; our involvement with whatever is happening in the community. I take a very hard stance on our reputation; our reputation is very solid,” she said.

PERFECT WAY

“It was the perfect way for me to use my skills and what I was good at to bring something to birth that I am passionate about anywhere which is my Caribbean culture. My dad is from Cuba but my mother is a ‘raw-born Jamaican’ who is very passionate about the country, and I grew up with that,” she said.

Her sterling work and dedication has led to recognition and appreciation from various leaders in the city, including the mayor, Dr William Bell. She was also recently nominated for the Outstanding Woman Award. Through the six-year-old organisation, she has been able to add to the cultural fabric of the city through events such as the screening of the Jamaican documentary Akwantu at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, in addition to hosting successful Caribbean festivals at Railroad Park and the Boutwell Auditorium, among other events.

“We got to know the mayor and he is a solid supporter, because he saw that we weren’t playing. I really have a servant’s heart and whatever I do I has that element of giving back, based on the principles that my mother instilled in me,” said the trained communications specialist.
THE JAMAICA All Stars versus Brazil All Stars match at the National Stadium on Friday, March 3, saw the generation of players from the 1998 World Cup Campaign, teaming up with the upcoming generation of Jamaican talent, like Alex Marshall, Gregory Messam Jr, Chevon Stewart, Jahwani Hinds, Zhelano Barnes, among others to take on the illustrious Brazilians. The older counterparts were impressed by their young peers and believe the future of Jamaica’s football is bright.

Former goalkeeper Aaron Lawrence, who pulled off a spectacular save to deny Rivaldo the equaliser from a free-kick with the last kick of the game, said it was an opportunity for the younger players to learn from them. “This is why we work (the game), to teach these kids and show them how to play football. When most of the seniors came off, the game got faster. When we were out there we were passing the ball down the lines, give them the chances and put them away. We talked to them and let them know they should learn from us and learn off us and I think they are going to do well, they are ones for the future, they will do well,” he said.

LIVINGSTON SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

ANDRE VIRTUE, managing director of Ballas International and organiser of the Brazilian All-Stars and Jamaica All Stars exhibition games which was played at the National stadium on Friday, March 3, was elated at the prospect of hosting one of these exhibition games at least every two years.

Virtue said organising the event was a major challenge and at one stage, he thought it would be a total flop because of the late announcement. However, he said that he is committed to the development of Jamaica’s football, especially at the grass roots and believes the country need more inspirational projects like this to motivate its youngsters and aid development.

“We spoke about bringing the Brazilians here for a while and you have to start somewhere, so we did this one. The fact that we were able to bring people like Rivaldo, Dunga, Edmison, who are world greats was just fabulous. The country needs more things like this, and maybe every two years we’ll do something like this,” he said.

“It was extremely hard, very challenging, and without corporate support, it wouldn’t be possible. But we don’t do these things for the corporate sector. We are really committed to football development and bringing people together,” he continued.

SHORT WINDOW

“It was a very short window for us to pull it off and we reached out to corporate Jamaica, and most of the responses were in bad timing so I was not sure that we could pull it off.

“But we have to do things like this to develop our football, and corporate Jamaica needs to get more involved in development projects like this. So I implore corporate Jamaica to get more involved in projects like this and we will take it from there,” Virtue said.

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

Ballas seek biennial exhibition match

Fair finale for Jamaica in Badminton Int'l
Fast-forward to Penns with Edwin Allen 4x800

Edwin Allen, winners of the Girls open 4x800 metres relay at the Gibson McCook relays.

— But I know the complete four that will eventually mature into the top team when it’s necessary.”

Holmwood had beaten Dyke’s team at the Central Hurdles and Relays, Dyke revealed that he is programming his team to peak at Penn. Met with the suggestion that his 4x800 team could speed this season, he said, “I definitely think so and I’d be disappointed if we don’t win the UK championship.”

The Gibson McCook victory snapped a two-match losing streak. Holmwood had over Edward Allen. While he acknowledged that his rivals are very good, Dyke reported: “I normally start the season like that, especially in the 4x8 – touch and go and feel out persons

HUBERT LAWRENCE
Gleaner Writer

SOME OF our high-school coaches are already thinking about the 123rd staging of the world-renowned Penn Relays. In fact, Michael Dyke of Edwin Allen High School has been planning for the Penn 4x800 metres since the start of the year. After a fine run by his team last Saturday, his plans may have to be upgraded.

Edward Allen and Holmwood improved their season’s best by approximately eight seconds but lost. Grant boycotted the Edwin Allen success with her strong second-leg run of two minutes 09.1 seconds.

If Dyke’s January projections are anything to go by, his team’s performance at Gibson McCook would have been a surprise. Asked then if his 2017 unit could challenge the Penn Relays record of 8 minutes 37.71 seconds set by Vere Technical in 1991, he said, “I don’t think it will be that easy to run that fast with this team.”

He added, “But I’m optimistic, and anything is possible.”

He was right. Asked in January how fast the team would run at the 41st staging of the venerable Jamaican relay event, he said, “Well, we are in about 8.50, thereabouts, based on our preparations and where we’re at.”

However, he thought 8.50 would be a good time for us at the Gibson McCook Relays,” he concluded.

Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addition to the record held by Vere, Edwin Allen and Holmwood are the fastest three schools in Penn 4x800 history. In addi...

Injury, dropped catches undermined Windies – Nurse

ST JOHN’S, Antigua.

ASHLEY NURSE believes the loss of Shannon Gabriel to injury, coupled with a series of dropped catches, helped push the West Indies to their second defeat in three days to England here Sunday.

West Indies were held to 225 all out in the second One-Day International of the three-match series, and England then recovered from 124 for 1 in the 25th over, to pull off victory with 10 balls remaining in the game.

Speedster Gabriel, who removed Sam Billings without scoring to the second ball of the innings with a single run on the board, limped out of the contest at the Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium with a side strain after sending down just three overs.

“We had 225 to defend and be a bowler short is a really tough job,” off-spinner Nurse told reporters.

England appeared to be cruising on the back of opener Jason Roy’s aggressive 52 but was dismissed saw five wickets fall for 37 runs as West Indies clawed their way back into the game.

However, Joe Root top-scored with 90 not out and Chris Woakes stroked an unbeaten 68, the pair adding 102 in an unbroken seventh wicket stand to see England to victory.

West Indies were left only with seven wickets at stumps and the hosts required 91 runs off 15 overs to win.

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ENGLAND WIN ODI SERIES

ENGLAND ON Sunday March 5, wrapped up the three-match One Day International (ODI) series when defeated the West Indies by four wickets to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium in Antigua.

Scores: West Indies who batted first made 226 all out from 47.5 overs England 226 for 6.

The final game is scheduled to be played

Please see WINDIES, 23