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*Transfer up to $10,000 CAD with no additional fee. CIBC foreign exchange rates apply. A Global Money Transfer transaction counts toward your allowable transaction limit; bank account transaction fees may apply. Must have a CIBC chequing, savings or personal line of credit account to send a CIBC Global Money Transfer. **Most transfers are completed by the next business day; however, some transfers require 2 to 3 business days to be completed. CIBC Cube Design & ‘Banking that fits your life’ are trademarks of CIBC. All other trademarks are owned by CIBC.
Mt Vernon police named in $15M wrongful death lawsuit

LESTER HINDS
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK: A NOTICE OF claim seeking $15 million in the wrongful death of 13-year-old Shamoya McKenzie has been filed against the city of Mount Vernon and the Mount Vernon Police Department and first responders. Filed by Stephen Drummond of the law firm Drummond and Squillace, PLLC, the suit seeks $10 million for the wrongful death of McKenzie and $5 million for loss of service, companionship and society arising from the death of Shamoya.

The suit was filed on February 27, this year.

Claimants are claiming wrongful death, pain and suffering, loss of future earnings of the claimant, Shamoya McKenzie, and all damages to which claimant is entitled by way of law and statute.

According to the suit, the ongoing gun violence in Mount Vernon and given that it was New Year’s Eve and there were no ambulance on duty, Mt Vernon police department officials have declined comment on the matter.

Shamoya McKenzie, a rising basketball star and honour student, was killed on New Year’s Eve last year when gunfire erupted on the streets of Mount Vernon. One bullet pierced the back windshield of her mother’s car in which she was traveling and struck Shamoya. She later died.

The police have since made an arrest in her death.

Drummond said that Shamoya’s family intends to hold the city of Mount Vernon accountable in her death.

Foreign Minister backs Audrey Marks over Giuliani meeting

WILTON DYER
Gleaner Writer

MINISTER OF Foreign Affairs Kamina Johnson Smith has backed under fire ambassador to the United States of America, Audrey Marks for meeting with former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani recently.

Upset members of the Jamaican Diaspora had reacted negatively to the meeting which was posted on Marks’s Facebook page.

Former congresswoman, Una Clarke, a strong voice of criticism, had said she was “outraged and disappointed” by the meeting between Marks and Giuliani.

While she did not know the nature of the discussions between Marks and Giuliani the mere fact that the meeting took place was a “disservice to Jamaicans in the Diaspora.”

She said that because of policies pursued by the Giuliani administration; when he was mayor, many young Jamaican men in New York were slapped with criminal records, which led to their deportations.

She said that if Jamaica was looking to develop strategies to stem crime and violence in Jamaica there is a lot of expertise among Jamaicans in the Diaspora that can be drawn on.

Reacting to a request from The Gleaner for a response to the issue, Minister Johnson Smith defended Marks’s action using a similar approach as Marks had done in the Facebook post.

In a written response, she said: “One of the principal functions of an Ambassador is to build relations with Jamaica’s international partners at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

“As the world seeks to adapt to new and emerging global realities, we must continuously seek new ways to engage our partners, to deepen and expand our mutual understanding and co-operation activities, which will redound to the benefit of Jamaicans, both here and abroad.

“Our Ambassadors are positioned strategically to navigate the ebb and flow of shifting bilateral and global priorities to ensure that our partnerships remain current and dynamic. Jamaica’s relationship with the USA is a long-standing, multifaceted and mutually beneficial one and must undergo the same dynamic process.

“Johnson Smith ended.

Marks in her post had said that the public role of the ambassador is to seek opportunities “to engage with the US administration and its citizens to lobby, negotiate, and

Patrick Ewing

Ewing is the new head coach for Georgetown University

PATICHT EWING is going home, to Georgetown University.

Ewing, a hall of fame basketball player, was hired to be Georgetown’s new head basketball coach. He replaces John Thompson the third who was dismissed as head coach of Georgetown after another losing season and increasing calls for his ouster.

Ewing becomes the first Jamaican to head a major US university basketball programme.

Ewing, 54, becomes only the second hall of fame to become a head coach of his alma mater.

In a statement released by Georgetown, Ewing said his four years at Georgetown were the best of his life.

“Georgetown is my home and it is a great honour for me to return to my alma mater to serve as the next head coach,” the statement continued.

He said that he has been preparing to be a head coach for many years and he could not wait to return to “hilltop”.

Since retiring from the National Basketball Association as a player in 2002, Ewing has worked as an assistant coach for four NBA teams, the Orlando Magic, The Houston Rockets, the Washington Wizards and the Charlotte Hornets where he was assistant head coach.

Ewing had a stellar playing career at Georgetown where he led the school to four final four rounds winning the national title in 1994.

He was drafted number one overall by the New York Knicks where he spent almost his entire career as a professional basketball player.

He holds many records as a New York Knick and was named one of the top 50 basketball players of all time. He is also a two-time Olympic gold medal winner in basketball.

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

Toronto, ON:

Do Black Canadians called on to confront consumer racial profiling?

FRANCINE BUCHNER

Toronto, ON: R. Klopp Hope, executive director of Careers Education and Employment Centre for Young Black Professionals, gave back to his supporters and volunteers and community changemakers with a first-ever gala on Saturday, March 26 at National Events Venue in Toronto. The Minister of Children and Youth Services, Mitzie Hunter, was in attendance at the gala, and reiterated the need for CEE’s mission to advance the economic and social development of Black youth, so as to overcome the multiple barriers that they face with cultural relevant programs and services. “I just want to say, thank you, for what you are doing to help young people here in the province of Ontario. There is so much work to be done,” said Minister Coteau. He said further, “People have to have opportunities, but I think there is an economic imperative there. We are not maximising our full potential as a province.”

CEE’s programs and services focus on Black youth 18 to 39 years of age.

“I commend the CEE Centre for

NEIL ARMSTRONG

Toronto, ON: CONSUMER RACIAL profiling (CRP) is a growing phenomenon. Black Canadians have experienced a public awareness campaign has been trying to focus on the issue, with Ontario Human Rights Commission and Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, and Tomee Sojourner leading the way.

Sojourner, who is of Jamaican heritage, founder of Prevent CRP in Toronto, is doing her second master, in law focusing on this issue at Osgoode Hall Law School. On May 11, she will be making a presentation, “Shopping at the Intersections: Gender and Consumer Racial Profiling” at the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School.

One of her focus areas is what happens when someone confronts a business to say that they feel that their rights are not being respected as a consumer. She is also interested in the legal framing of these issues. Sojourner says people are more comfortable talking about “Shopping While Black” or “Dining While Black.”

On March 27, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission launched a free online course dealing with consumer racial profiling. In 2011, it released what was then the first report in Canada “to address the issue of the experiences of customers and how they are treated by staff in retail and service establishments in Nova Scotia.”

“More often than other ethnic groups in Nova Scotia, Aboriginal people and African Nova Scotians say they are treated poorly when they shop for goods and services,” the report said.

YOUNG RADICAL

Sojourner’s interest in this started over 15 years ago when she worked as a security guard and had some personal experiences as a radicalised young black woman.

She was told, informally by a security supervisor that she needed to follow black youth. The graduate law student thought it was really fascinating that particular communities and groups to which she belonged were being targeted for surveillance.

She said if a complaint was brought forward, her experience and what she heard from other people, is that they were not treated as though they deserved to be heard, listened to, and believed.

In her legal research, she is trying to understand the human rights law through the Human Rights Code to assert if it is efficient in dealing with these matters.

She is interested in the outcome of peoples’ experiences when they have been profiled.

The Minister of Children and Youth Services, Mitzie Hunter, was in attendance at the gala, and reiterated the need for CEE’s mission to advance the economic and social development of Black youth, so as to overcome the multiple barriers that they face with cultural relevant programs and services. “I just want to say, thank you, for what you are doing to help young people here in the province of Ontario. There is so much work to be done,” said Minister Coteau. He said further, “People have to have opportunities, but I think there is an economic imperative there. We are not maximising our full potential as a province.”

CEE Centre for

SCHEER

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CEE Centre for

Black Canadians called on to confront consumer racial profiling.

YOUNG BLACK PROFESSIONALS FOR ALL

Toronto, ON: What would you like us to focus on? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

In 2015, the Ontario Human Rights Code states that: “Every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to services, goods and facilities, without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability.”

The Code prohibits infliction of that right and if it is infringed anyone can file a human rights complaint with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

RACIALLY PROFILLED

The case of McCarthy v. Kenny Tan Pharmacy Inc. where in 2011, Mary McCarthy, a black woman from Fredericton, New Brunswick who was in Toronto studying to do her PhD, was racially profiled by a store employee at a Shoppers Drug Mart in the city is one of the cases that Sojourner is examining for her thesis.

In 2015, the Human Rights Tribunal ruled that McCarthy was targeted as a shoplifter because she is black. It ordered Shoppers Drug Mart to pay her $8,000.

“After McCarthy v. Tan, which was presented as evidence in that particular case, it says do not approach somebody based on race or any other characteristic, you have to have a ground and reasonable suspicion,” says Sojourner.

She said what became an issue was the individual employee making a determination based on informal policy that if they found someone they would directly approach the individual before they left the store. A theft doesn’t occur until after the person leaves the premises.

Sojourner says the case of McCarthy v. Tan, as well as others, such as R v. Khogali, are the cases she is examining as part of her thesis.

In Ontario, Section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code states that: “Every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to services, goods and facilities without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability.”

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Celebrity Chef fundraiser concludes on delectable note

O N SATURDAY, March 26 the United Achievers’ Club organized its 20th Annual edition of the Celebrity Chef fundraiser at Auditorium of Century Gardens Recreation Centre in Brampton.

Meals were served from a selection of 32 delectable dishes. The Chefs who participated were Tayo Adedayo (Get Grill Corp.), Kwame Afriyie (Golden Throne Restaurant), Alex Battick, Bryan Bennett, Carole Browne, Colin Browne Jr., Rose Courtyard (United Achievers’ Seniors’ Group), Al Public (Foster Foods Canada), Winston Franklin (JK’s True Love Catering), Courtney Guy (Catering), Michael Kong, Shaun Lang (Executive Chef), Doreen Manning (Bake Queen), Benjamin McDonald (University Student), Lester McDonald, Malik Morgan, Jai Naraine, Bertrand Yuen (Staple TV), Neil Ramkurun (Tropical Wave Escape Restaurant), Hugh Randolf, Lucinda Stoley (President, United Achievers’ Club), William Smith, Carl Thompson, Dave Vuasue (Professional Entertainer), Dale Williams (2006 winner of the Year and author of Caribbean Cooking Made Easy) and Karlos Willey (Jamaica House Kitchen).

MEN WHO COOK

The 26 Chefs included four women who were invited for the second time to give a spirited challenge to the “Men Who Cook.”

Entertainment included performances by Daniel McDonald, Sir John A. McDonald School student (Steel Plan) and Dave ‘Comfort’ Vassell.

The National Anthem was sung by Naomi McDonald, Agnes Taylor People’s School student. The encore was Richard BroJoe Gordon, from CUIT 89.5 FM and the DJ was Mr. AL.

Among the guests were Ken Mayhew, President and CEO bringing greetings from the William Oster Health System Foundation, Dr. Herbert Brill, Corporate Chief of Paediatrics at William Oster Health System, Chef Jennifer Evans and her spouse, as well as a contingent of officers from Peel Regional Police and the Peel Services’ Board, Councilor Jeff Lynam, Trustees Robert Crootor, Harkirk Singh, Rick Williams and Kathryn McDonald and representatives from various supporting organizations (such as Congress of Black Women of Canada, Brampton and Mississauga chapter, Malton Black Development Association, United Achievers’ Community Services, Inc. and the Walnut Foundation). The Club welcomed the Ontario government's first Black Minister as year presenting sponsor and its representative, Sean Morris (manager at the Brampton Main Street branch).

The United Achievers’ Club thanks all guests, volunteers, chefs and key judiciary figures [Dr. Winston Isaac, Althea Cooke, David Maylor, Randall Myers, Austin Nurse and Dr. Matthew Wokee] for their contribution to the success of the event.

The beneficiaries of the fundraiser are the United Achievers Club scholarship recipients and the Peel Regional Police Community Services’ Board (Youth Cell Disease Support), WOHS.

The Chef awards were:

APPETIZERS

Winner: ‘Comfort’ Vassell – Caribbean SOB – Saltfish-Okra

ENTREES

Winner: Winston Franklin – Jerk Chicken Lasagne

SALADS

Second place: Shaun Lang – Bacalao Salad with Roasted Pepper and Tomato Salsa

Third place: Alex Battick – Buffed Pasta Shells

SOUPS AND SALADS

Winner: Doreen Manning – Doreen’s Super-delicous Vegetarian Soup served with Festivals (Black bean and split pea soup)

Second place: Courtney Guy – CG’s Longonyi Kale Mango Salad

Third place: Michael Kong – Real Jamaican Pepper Pot Soup (Callaloo Soup)

Shrimp

SECOND place: Shaun Lang – Shrimp and Okra with Roasted Pepper and Tomato Salsa

Desserts

Winner: Dale Williams – Bajan-Style Bread Pudding with Whisky Sauce

Second place: Carl Thompson – Mini Cheesecakes topped with candied cherries, fresh blueberries and blackberries

Third place: Shaun Lang – Vanilla Quinoa Pudding with Strawberry Banana Mousse

THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE: Courtney Guy

CCEELLEEBBRRIITTYY  CCHHEEFF  OOFF TTHHEE  NNAA  WWEEEEKKLLYY  GGLLEEAANNEERR

The winners receive awards in six categories, yearly.

This year’s categories are:


The theme, ‘Beyond Excellence’ is set to assure that each of us can grab hold onto; it is with this mindset that will allow us to achieve more as individuals and as a nation.

This is how we tap into our unlimited potential, states Michelle Richards, Chair of the Harry Jerome Awards.

The award winners are:

– Rev. Dr. Audrey N. James (Lifetime Achievement Award),
– Harriet Thornhill (Youth Achievement Award) and
– Dr. Iverton Gooden (Trailblazers Award)

– Keith Spence (Professional Excellence Award)
– George Prempong (Business Award)
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– Gabrielle Fletcher (Academics Award)
– Dr. Barbara Trieff-Deane (Diversity Award)
– Niyi Usman (President Award)
– Chris Campbell (Volunteer Award)
– Andre Do Graace (Athletics Award)
– Ron Cunningham (Community Service Award)
– Dr. Cha-Young Daniel (Technology and Innovation Award)
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York University to investigate York Lanes incident

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

TOOORONNTTOO,,  OONN:::

York University’s Canada’s third-largest university, is conducting an independent investigation into a recent incident that was made public by video in a Facebook post of the York United Black Students Alliance (YUBSA) page.

On March 25, YUBSA reported that on the morning of March 24 a “community member arrived at the scene of Shoppers Drug Mart where they found a young black student on the floor outside the doors of the store in obvious pain due to an injury he sustained by a Loss Prevention Officer hired by Shoppers.”

“An altercation ensued prior to their arrival in York Lanes. A young man who was hired by Shoppers Drug Mart and dressed in plain clothes tackled the student. What resulted was the student’s leg being twisted at a 90-degree angle,” it said.

In an emailed statement on the incident, York University said, “On March 24, we became aware of a suspect for attempting to steal a product at Shoppers Drug Mart and an individual acting in a manner where they had no jurisdiction to enter the store. The person was carrying out own investigation into the matter. York University has procedures in place in order to ensure the safety of our students; however, these procedures were not followed.

“Instead of Toronto Police Services being called the LPO executed their own brand of justice where they had no jurisdiction to do so. They are not paid to place their hands on folks who come in and out of the stores they are hired by,” the students’ group said.

UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING

It said York Police arrived at the scene but were unable to do anything to support, talk, de-escalate or interact with the student despite being equipped with the means necessary to protect its students.

Excalibur, the university’s newspaper, reported that according to Constable Victor Kwong, Toronto Police Service “attended the scene after a loss prevention officer, or LPO, attempted to arrest a suspect for attempting to steal a bottle of pop.”

Franklyn (left)
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PUBLISHED
THERE WAS a time when a running commentary on human trafficking was forgotten until the next annual enactment of laws and successful prosecution – public awareness and punishment. We are now more aware of human trafficking than at any other time, due in part to global ranking of countries on the combined GDP of the countries of the Caribbean and Central America. This is a good place to start. Most trafficking takes place across national borders and Caribbean countries may be serving, unwittingly, as transit if not destination countries. Airline workers at the check-in counters and in-flight attendants are well positioned to detect human trafficking if they are properly trained to do so. The training of individuals with daily contact with the travelling public to spot human trafficking is important and a good place to start, so are public awareness programs on the nature and indicators of the crime.

The likely victims are predominantly women and girls, but boys are also trafficked. Sexual exploitation and human slavery are predominant ends of traffickers but human organs extraction is also known to take place. The financial gains to criminals are enormous – $150 billion annually which far exceeds the GDP of most countries in the world, and several times the combined GDP of the countries of the Caribbean and Central America.

PUNISHMENT

Political will, a well-informed civil society, appropriate laws (relevant and specific to the crime), anti-trafficking trained and focused (targeted and committed) law enforcement capacity, and a prosecution system in which results in punishment which matches the heinous nature of the crime are needed in all societies, the Caribbean included. Many Caribbean countries with limited and under-resourced law enforcement and prosecutorial capacities have struggled traditionally to deal with more common criminal activities and uncoordinated murder rates, thus paying scant attention to human trafficking.

There are a few encouraging signs however, in recent months, in particular of reports of arrests of individuals engaged in human trafficking. It should be noted, the low arrests and conviction rates of perpetrators of this crime is not a reflection of the prevalence of the crime or absence of human trafficking in these countries. Rather, it is a reflection of the lack of capacity across the entire society and of law enforcement to recognise the crime. Before being able to solve a problem one must first recognise there is a problem. Only then can solutions be found. It is equally important that the problem is discernible and can be identified. Public awareness of the key identifiers of human trafficking is a good place to start. Most trafficking takes place across national borders and Caribbean countries may be serving, unwittingly, as transit if not destination countries. Airline workers at the check-in counters and in-flight attendants are well positioned to detect human trafficking if they are properly trained to do so.

The training of individuals with daily contact with the travelling public to spot human trafficking is important and a good place to start, so are public awareness programs on the nature and indicators of the crime. There is a plan in place to do some anti-human trafficking training in Jamaica by Airline Ambassadors, Inc. (AAI), an international NGO recognised by ECOSOC (the United Nations Economic and Social Council). AAI is a major trainer of airline workers around the world on how to recognise and prevent human trafficking. AAI has trained over 5,000 individuals in over 52 training sessions. I am pleased to be associated with AAI and involved with this initiative to bring its training program of airline and cruise ship workers to Jamaica. Similar initiatives for anti-human trafficking training programs may be possible in collaboration with interested Caribbean countries in the future.

Training of individuals to recognise, report on, and thereby help to prevent human trafficking is only one of several initiatives required to prevent human trafficking. However, it is one of several critical elements in preventing human trafficking. Each country must also deal with the social and economic factors in the household which cause young girls to fall prey to inducement by sexfarious actors in the human trafficking business. Civil society must join with governments to ensure child protection and safe and nurturing environment. Public awareness is the responsibility of all of society, including the schools and churches, two institutions which have significant footprints in Caribbean societies.

Ambassador Curtis A. Ward is a former ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations.
Justice minister signs order to extradite eight alleged scammers to the US

THE FINANCE Minister Audley Shaw is stressing that the increase in property taxes in most cases is less than would have been expected based on the increase in property values. He says this is because while property values have gone up the Government has slashed the property tax rate. Shaw notes that rates have been moved from between 1.5 and 2 per cent to the much lower range of rates between 0.8 per cent and 1.3 per cent. He says as a result, about 35 per cent of taxpayers will pay either less property tax or see no change in their obligation. However, another 65 per cent of taxpayers will see an increase in their tax obligation. Meanwhile, Shaw has emphasised that mechanisms are in place for people who wish to challenge the valuation.

Property Tax increase below expectation in most cases – Shaw

Justice minister signs order to extradite eight alleged scammers to the US

ERIC VIRTUE
Senior Gleaner Reporter

A STANDOFF between the Ministry of Health minister and a lobbyist of the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) has forced the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) to defend its research methodology which provided data suggesting increased ganja use among adolescents since possession of two ounces or less is no longer a criminal offence.

On Wednesday, March 29, Health Minister Dr Christopher Tufton responded sharply to criticisms from CLA Director Delano Seiveright that the ministry and some of its officials were the biggest pushers to efforts to legalise ganja in Jamaica. The NCDA provided data to the MOH for The Gleaner story titled ‘Ganja babies’.

The MOH in a release Wednesday said it would not rescile from its stance on ganja.

It is unfortunate that a member of the NCDA, described as a lobbyist in your story, ‘Ganja lobbyist suspicious of NCDA data’ on Sunday, March 25, 2017, would question the integrity of the NCDA’s impeccable history. Through the work of the NCDA, Jamaica is only one of the few countries in the region to conduct substance use and misuse studies,” the report said inter alia.

“I am the minister of health, not a paid lobbyist for any narrow cause. I am asking that the agencies and ministry personnel who have provided me with advice on this matter have done so based on sound data analysis and in the interest of public health,” said Tufton to The Gleaner.

“Errant to think I would meet with, and listen to all contending views, however, unwise to address the comments, Seiveright is not backed by any viable health data that many, including well respected members of the medical community, view as highly questionable and out of sync with current realities globally,” said Seiveright.

Continuing he said: “It is disheartening that our leadership at the Ministry of Health is allowing Jamaica that has such a powerful image in the ganja space to fall even further behind Israel, Germany, the Netherlands, Uruguay, Canada, the United States, Portugal, and other countries. Broader factual viewpoints are needed and ganja-health policy needs to be rescued.”

The NCDA defended the research methodology stating that it routinely partners with regional and international agencies for technical support and funding to conduct surveys among the general population. It pointed to research done in 1989, 2001, and 2016, as well as specific target populations, including secondary school students in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2014, incarcerated adults in 2014, as well as specific community-based studies. NCDA named several organisations and specific populations from which data are gathered.

MOH backs drug watchdog in weed clash

DE LA HAYE

STEVEN TUFTON

MOH backs drug watchdog in weed clash

De La Haye

organisation led by another Jamaican man, Lavrick Willocks, that used the five or lottery scam scheme to defraud 80 elderly victims of approximately US$5.6 million.

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Good Move, Fitz Jackson
THE EDITOR, Sir,
IT HAS always been a general lamentation among persons who are disenfranchised from the political system, the political class, the so-called ‘Babblers’ and the would-be political leaders, that the people of Jamaica are not being represented adequately, that their voices are not being heard, that their concerns are not being addressed.

In my view, so where is the OUR in all this? This has sometimes occurred as there is a semblance of hope indicative in the intent of MP Fitz Jackson to make amendments to the Banking Services Act to allow for the regulation of bank fees. This is a good move, as it redounds to the benefit of those who are punished for simply participating in the formal economy through the banks. This intention has so far borne much fruit as four commercial banks, specifically NCB, CIBC, First Global and Scotiabank, have suspended the charging customers for dormant accounts.

Such a move proves that the interest of the Jamaican people is at the forefront of at least this legislator; and a resurgence of hope should follow on the part of those that are disadvantaged in the political system.

ALAN JOHNSON
Lance959@gmail.com

Ganja train heading for deadly precipice
THE EDITOR, Sir,
REGARDLESS of the many learned Jamaicans who support the idea of making ganja accessible to all and sundry, I will remain one of the few who believe that the path we have taken on the ganja freedom train is one that bodes no good for our young people.

Having lived in New York for several years, I saw first-hand what early use of ganja does to young people: it robs them of their freedom, and robs them of their potential. Several of the young men ended up in the mental wards of Kings County Hospital. Today, those men are leading marginal lives in those places.

What I have observed is that many of these learned persons who have embraced ganja use with open arms were raised in homes where the use of the drug was not permitted. If their parents were around today, they would hang their heads in shame.

These people see nothing wrong in watching our youth rub out the palm of their hands on ganja and damage their brain cells so that they cannot ever become productive members of society.

Is it that these people have become so cold that they cannot see the dangers posed to our young people? Maybe what they need to do is to interview our teachers to find out how they are faring in educating the young people who are entering classrooms high on ganja. How comfortable are these teachers having such disruptive students around? Are they progressing? How does their behaviour affect the ones who are serious about their education?

In the end, it will be the greed of gain that will destroy our country. But as we jump on the bandwagon for medical marijuana, and as we follow the rich countries in the widespread use of this drug, please bear in mind that we don’t have the capacity to provide the treatment that our ganja-smoking young men and women will need in a little while from now.

Wherever we go with the decision on ganja’s prominence in our country, let me thank those who have spoken out about our folly.

Hats off to Dr Winston De La Haye and Health Minister Chris Tufton.

P. JACOBS
pat442s@gmail.com

The combed beef iceberg
THE EDITOR, Sir,
IF BAD corned beef is really being imported and sold in Jamaica, there may be other shoddy products being imported and sold that have escaped the scrutiny of our local watchdogs.

Last year, I got an electrical mosquito zapper (made in China) which worked fine, but it just got it and I threw it in the garbage bin the following day because it stopped working. Utter crap! I bought a portable water heater at Rapid True Value in Jamaica train heading for deadly precipice. The Gleaner Company Ltd., P.O. Box 40, 7 North Street, Kingston; fax to 1-876-922-6223 or email: overseas@gleanerjm.com.

THE JAMAICAN Government has had to make some tough choices in its latest Budget. And there is growing consensus among the population that the election promise to raise the income tax threshold to $1.5 million is the big factor driving these difficult choices.

Jamaicans are fast learning that an idea that creates the false impression that it will instantly provide a solution could, in fact, imperil the economy. This is a crippling Budget, which has little incentive for stimulating the economy.

We firmly believe that taxes should be used to grow the economy by offering to the productive sectors pro-growth incentives that encourage expansion and innovation. The massive increases in property taxes will hinder many small businesses from moving forward. The tourism sector has already signalled that these increases will be disastrous for some operators.

Homeowners, many of whom are struggling to pay their monthly commitments, will be unable to pay these new taxes. And it also pushes the dream of home ownership farther away from young working people. The real estate sector is already reacting negatively to these new measures.

Officials of the National Land Agency have been trying to explain how the new property values have been calculated, but this offers no comfort to the overburdened and overtaxed homeowner.

Over the years, Jamaica has not had the benefit of a smart tax policy that seeks to spread the burden evenly. The last major tax policy reform was carried out in 1991, and even though expert minds have been put to work on new measures, there has been no significant move to adapt the bulk of recommendations.

TAXING CONSUMERS
Instead, there is continued reliance on consumption taxes, which means that persons who smoke cigarettes, consume alcohol, and buy fuel to operate motor vehicles are taxed repeatedly, year after year.

Sadly, despite this annual parade of finance ministers trotting out bigger tax packages, we have not seen the concomitant spike in growth-inducing measures or significant fixes, generally, to public infrastructure problems.

While sacking the lifeline out of the consuming public, governments have only recently exercised the sort of fiscal discipline required to curb expenses and prioritise spending. There are, indeed, two sides to every ledger – the expense side and the income side. The practice in Jamaica has been one of borrowing more, so that the problem of debt repayment will fall to future generations.

It is predictable that people will protest new taxes. However, in general, citizens understand that taxes are a necessary fact of life because revenues are needed to provide all the services that they desire in their communities. But if they cannot pay and get away with it, there are many who will ignore their obligations. The question is, what is being done to get tax dodgers to comply?

As more people rail against the new property taxes, the Government is apparently listening. Information Minister Reid has said that based on the public outcry, Cabinet is going to take another look at the property tax regime, which is due to go into effect on April 1.

Once again, the population feels like it is being punished by a tax policy gone awry. Surely, we can build a new economy, but Government needs to be courageous and creative. Can Mr Holness’ team summon this courage?

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

Hey buddy, I'm sure you appreciate the $1.5M TAX BREAK!

PICKPOCKET!
Have a great week!

(From second left) Ella Baldon, head of consumer marketing, Hero CPL cricketers Carlos Brathwaite and Samuel Badree, Nestlé Country Manager Michel Beneventi and Hero CPL Commercial Director Jamie Stewart with Nescafé brand ambassadors (at left and at right) at the launch of the partnership between CPL with Nestlé in Port of Spain on March 29.

Ayanna Gregory (left), daughter of comedian, activist, humanitarian Dick Gregory receives Certificate of Appreciation from Negril Education Environment Trust (NEET) Founder and Chairman Winston Wellington. Gregory performed at a graduation for youth enrolled in the NEET programme that teaches youth the proper use of electronic computer tablets. The graduation ceremony was held at Westender Inn in Negril, on March 26.

Mr and Mrs Baldwin Huie looking splendid on the red carpet at the Calabar/ Kingston College fund raising dinner in Washington DC.
GK goes hunting for food asset in Germany

G RACEKENNEDY is planning to go deep overseas, toward Europe, with the pending acquisition of a food distribution business. But while GraceKennedy Group CEO Don Wehby confirms the target acquisition is in financial services, he would not go further, saying market disclosure rules would not allow him to reveal any new details.

GraceKennedy is a Jamaican food and financial services conglomerate with tentacles in various parts of the world, but the group has been far more adventurous with food, with reachings into the United Kingdom and Europe, North America, and the African continent. Its financial investments have so far been concentrated in its home market and the wider Caribbean. The link between the UK and mainland Europe looks to have got a lot more tenacious, now that the trigger for Brexit has been pulled.

GraceKennedy owns a food manufacturing business in the UK. On Wednesday, Wehby said the deal that GraceKennedy is attempting to strike in Germany is part of its efforts to recast how it does business with members of the European Union, now that the UK will no longer be a gateway to those markets.

“That thought process was really driven by Brexit and various trade agreements, and we are growing so fast that we’ve had to have the team doing some due diligence,” Wehby said.

State-backed financial plan, NFIS, to protect the vulnerable

McPherson Thompson
Assistant Editor — Business

MINISTER OF Finance Audrey Shaw urged ministries, departments and agencies engaged in the development of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) to commit to its execution to protect the financially vulnerable and underserved.

The NFIS is meant to create an enabling environment for Jamaicans to save, invest, do business and obtain relevant financial products and information, he said.

The strategy is the output of 15 ministries, departments and agencies as well as the private sector and non-governmental organisations, said Shaw at the launch of the NFIS, following the inaugural meeting of the National Financial Inclusion Council on Wednesday, March 29.

Establishment of a financial inclusion council to implement the Cabinet-approved umbrella financial inclusion strategy for the period 2016 to 2020 is a new structural programme under the International Monetary Fund stand-by agreement with Jamaica to be implemented by the end of March 2017.

The NFIS has four pillars — financial access and usage, financial resilience, financing for growth and public sector credit to MSMEs to 11 per cent, at minimum, by 2020.

The strategy for consumers calls for an increase in the number of adults making electronic payments from 39 per cent of the population to 50 per cent by 2020. A pilot programme is being developed to test electronic payment of PATT benefits to around 500 beneficiaries.

All approved electronic retail payment service providers have been approached to demonstrate the functionalities of their products and we expect that the pilot will commence in April,” Shaw said.

File
Don Wehby, Group Chief Executive Officer, GraceKennedy Limited

GK goes hunting for food asset in Germany

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Don Wehby, Group Chief Executive Officer, GraceKennedy Limited
Easter as a Christian celebration

DEON BROWN
Gleaner Writer

EASTER IS the most sacred festival on the Christian calendar. It commemorates the resurrection of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The holiday is full of symbolism and hallowed traditions. But in many countries, alongside the ancient Christian customs are the secular celebrations that complement, compete and sometimes override the religious observances.

Easter, it is believed, derived its name from the Anglo-Saxon god, Ois, of the dawn and spring – Eastre. Because of its pagan origins there are some Christians who prefer the term Resurrection Sunday or Resurrection Day rather than Easter.

The Christian holiday commemorating Christ’s resurrection coincided with the Teutonic springtime celebrations, and the religious and traditional observances over time became intertwined.

Easter doesn’t have a fixed date. In the Northern Hemisphere, it is observed on the first full moon following the first day of spring. As a result Easter can fall any time between March 22 and April 25.

It marks the end of Lent, a traditional time for fasting and penitence, and therefore observes the end of winter and the start of spring. For perhaps all of these reasons, Easter for most people represents not just new life and salvation that comes with the Resurrection, but good times and good food as well.

The mourning, comes the joyful celebration and after the dark, comes the light.

HOLY WEEK

The week leading up to Easter Sunday is called Holy Week. It begins on Palm Sunday which marks Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, a glorious day when he was welcomed by a crowd waving palm branches days before his crucifixion. Palm Sunday is a huge part of the Christian celebration during Easter week, and it is especially enjoyed by children who look forward to participating in this ancient custom.

The Thursday before Easter is called Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday. It commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus broke bread with his disciples and washed their feet. It is the basis for the revered ceremony called the Holy Eucharist or the Holy Communion in the Christian faith. It commemorates the life of Jesus and his supreme sacrifice with the consecration of the bread and wine.

The term ‘Maundy’ comes from the French word, ‘Mande’, meaning ‘command’ or ‘mandate’. It refers to the command given by Christ at the Last Supper where he urged his disciple to “love one another as I have loved you”.

Good Friday or Holy Friday observes the day of Jesus’ crucifixion. It is marked not just by mourning but deep thought and reflection. Special services are usually held in churches worldwide as Christians consider the beatings and suffering Jesus endured before dying on the cross at Calvary hill. Jesus’ death and resurrection are the anchoring planks of the Christian faith. Hence the Easter period is approached with great reverence and love.

THE CROSS

The Cross is the revered symbol of Christianity. It is the sacrosanct image of the crucifixion story. The cross on a hill tells of the suffering and crucifixion, and the promise of salvation as a result of the Son of God’s sacrificial death. It is emblematic of the triumph of good over evil, of victory over death. As noted in one biblical passage: “… death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)

Calvary’s Cross – the full meaning of Easter – is the celebration of life eternal through Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour.

C’bean Easter traditions

THE CULTURAL customs surrounding Easter are mostly similar across the Caribbean. However, in some territories, there are degrees of variation as traditions are given a local flavour.

Caribbean nationals are largely devout followers of the Christian faith and therefore observe Easter with solemnity and prayer. But they are also equally observant of some of the old time rituals, some of which are quite unique to the region. While these customs may not be practised on a large scale by Caribbean people, they certainly remain a part of popular lore.

Caribbean Easter traditions

THE BLEEDING TREE: In Jamaica, it is believed that if you cut the physic nut tree on Good Friday it will bleed a reddish fluid that is likened to the blood of Christ as He is pierced in the side. Tradition holds that the sap oozes from the tree between 12 noon and 3 p.m. This golden three-hour period, from the tree between 12 noon and 3 p.m., is at its peak around Easter. It is at this time with children and adults observing the day as one of silence, rememberance and atonement.

The physic nut tree is said to be similar to the tree used in the crucifixion.

EASTER BUN: These are the Caribbean take on English hot cross buns which the Islanders would have been introduced to during the period of slavery and colonialism. As time went by, these buns were modified to West Indian taste and are now the most popular food item during Easter. In Jamaica, the eating of bun and cheese is a much anticipated treat of the Easter holiday. Bakers and merchants can hardly keep up with the demand. It’s a big boost to businesses, highlighting the commercial aspect of the holiday.

KITE FLYING: It perhaps has to do with the high, cool winds of spring but kite flying, a popular pastime year-round in the region is at its peak during Easter.

Annual kite-flying festivals take place on Easter weekends in countries such as Bermuda, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts/Nevis and Grenada. According to local legend in Bermuda, a Sunday school teacher attempting to explain the ascension of Christ to his young students, launched a kite with the likeness of Christ, and thus began a long Easter tradition on the island.

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

Gleaner Writer

What stories would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

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Recipes for Easter

Zucchini lasagna rolls

**INGREDIENTS**
- **Cheese Filling**
  - 8 ounces cheddar cheese
  - 4 ounces mozzarella cheese
  - 3 tablespoons parmesan cheese
  - 2 tablespoons fresh flat leaf parsley
  - 1 tablespoon fresh basil
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
  - 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)
  - Black pepper to taste

**Other Ingredients:**
- 2 large zucchini cut lengthwise into 1/4 inch thick slices
- 1 turkey sausage, cooked and crumbled (optional)
- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**CHEESE FILLING**
Pulse all the ingredients and blend until smooth. Pour into a bowl and refrigerate for 30-60 minutes.

**Grilled Zucchini**
Heat a grill or grill pan to medium high heat. While the grill is heating, slice the zucchini lengthwise into 1/4 inch thick planks. Spray with cooking spray or brush with oil both sides of the zucchini planks, then sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place the zucchini on the hot grill and cook for about 2 minutes on each side or until the zucchini is soft and pliable. Remove from the grill and cool until they can be handled.

**ASSEMBLING THE ZUCCHINI LASAGNA ROLLS**
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray a 10.5 x 7” casserole dish or similar size with cooking spray.

Spread a 1/4 cup of the marinara sauce evenly over the bottom of the dish.

Blot any excess liquid off the cooled planks of zucchini with paper towels. Spoon about a tablespoon of the cheese filling onto one side of the zucchini and spread it into an even layer. Sprinkle a few of the cooked sausage crumbles on top of the filling. Roll up the zucchini and place them seam side down in the casserole dish. Top the zucchini rolls with the remaining marinara sauce and shredded mozzarella cheese. Bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes or until the cheese is melted and bubbly.

Cream of breadfruit soup

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 tbs. butter
- 3 tbs. flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cups boiled breadfruit
- 1 tsp. sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chopped escallion for garnish

**METHOD:**
1. Melt butter and fry onion in it.
2. Add flour, salt, pepper and sugar and cook well.
3. Add milk slowly, stirring well. Stir until smooth and thickened. Combine breadfruit with mixture, stir well. Simmer for 5 minutes, garnish with chopped escallion and serve hot.
4. Serves 4. The cream of breadfruit soup tends to get very thick, you can add a bit more milk if that happens.

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*Rev. Rosenda James*  
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NLA pushes new anti-property fraud service to diaspora

THE NATIONAL Land Agency (NLA) last week unveiled its new online anti-property fraud service, Property Watch, to some 5,000 Jamaicans living in Canada who attended the inaugural JN Group Expo, organised by The Jamaica National Group. The event, held at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton, brought companies in its subsidiary holding company, the JN Financial Group, government agencies and real estate developers and construction companies together to provide a one-stop information centre for Jamaicans in Canada and others seeking to invest in Jamaica.

There are a lot of reasons for Jamaican in the Canadian diaspora, who when they return to Jamaica, they sometimes find their property occupied by somebody they do not know, or their title has been transferred,” said Lor-Ann Thompson, director, business services at the NLA.

Thompson said that is the reason for the agency’s design and launch of its newest service to property owners.

Registered out that, in many cases, the nature of the frauds are identity theft committed by relatives or persons known to the owner.

Registrar of Titles Cheriese Walcott noted that although the numbers are not alarming, the issue is one of concern for the NLA.

“However, once it is enough for us to have a problem,” she said.

The service is available for registered properties only; and can be accessed by owners, their personal representatives, or attorneys by registering on the agency’s website at www.nla.gov.jm and paying a subscription fee.

Once registered, persons whose property become subject to fraud will be notified by text or email when a transaction has been lodged against the certificate of title or multiple certificates of title. The victim must then respond within 48 hours to indicate whether they are aware of such a transaction.

“You can go to court to address the problem, but the cost of going to court is expensive. Therefore, if we can ‘catch it’, we will alert you that something is amiss about your property. And then you can advise the registrar so that we can put a stop to it,” Thompson said.

NATIONAL Land Agency (NLA)

NO CLAIM TO ASSETS

Without Jamaican citizenship, Omar’s children would have no claim to his assets in Jamaica. Moreover, if his children die without leaving wills, the property will pass to his nearest kin or relatives living in Jamaica. Under Jamaican law, nationals living overseas can only inherit estate matters in Jamaica. Although he has lived in Canada for more than three decades, he has maintained assets in Jamaica, and, therefore, ensuring that his family and children are properly documented as Jamaican citizen, he opines, simply makes good economic sense.

“I have assets in Jamaica, and, if and when my children are born, I want to leave it to them,” the meticulous planner, who declined to give his full name, said as he moved around the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency’s (PICA) booth at the JN Group Expo in the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton, Ontario last Saturday.

He was among some 5,000 Jamaicans living in Canada who poured into the Convention Centre to access information about the financial products being offered by the JN Group, and collect printed material for further details, and advice to secure investments in Jamaica.

NATIONAL Land Agency (NLA)

Former Carbonated Beverage Bottling Facility to include Factory/Office Building and Plant & Equipment

The Main building of 6,108.696m² (65,754.00ft²) accommodates factory/production facilities at ground floor and office area at first floor of 780.00m² (8,396.00ft²). Floor to ceiling clearance in the factory is 21ft at eaves.

Operational facilities include:

• Reverse Osmosis Plant
• Storage Tanks and Vessels
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The CO2 Building of 197.975m² (2,131.00ft²) and has maintenance, welfare, waste water management and electrical facilities. An open plan shed of 185.433m² (1,996.00ft²) is attached to this building.

Land area is 12,142.997m² (130,707.225 ft²) or 3.0006 acres.

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NATIONAL Land Agency (NLA)

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Stars ‘R’ Us wins on Champs night
Surprise as Beres Hammond closes off performances

MEL COOKE
Gleaner Writer

A BOUT THIS time the green-and-black clad men of Red Hills Road were in the early stages of celebrating their 2017 Champs victory at the National Stadium on Saturday night, a large audience was cheering for The Jays’ refrain of ‘yaho’ at the Rainy Williams Centre on Hope Road. Most of the venue’s few remaining empty blue seats were taken by the time explosions of colour from fireworks at the National Stadium were within sight of the audience at Stars R Us. The sound did not carry, though, not with the consistent music and spontaneous cheers for performers at the vintage series.

The appreciation continued through performances by Ernest Wilson, Dennis Walks, The Silvertones, Patrick Buddo (who opened the show’s second segment singing to recorded tracks), Ken Boothe, Admiral Bailey, Johnny Clarke, Yellowman, George Nooks and Josey Wales.

PATIENT AUDIENCE

To cap off a good night, there was a surprise cameo by Beres Hammond, who MC Rob Clarke described as ‘the chairman of the board’ (a title used for American singer Frank Sinatra). Members of the audience went closer to the stage and were patient at the obvious lack of a prerun. They also went closer to the stage and were patient

The audience at Stars R Us.

with tunes, Silver Words and Everything I Own among the songs that created a choir

The Silvertones

of colour from fireworks at the National

from his merino, Blueberry Hill and Three Nights a Week keeping the audience happy.

Clarke’s query about the audience’s well-being was answered positively, Move Out of Babylon among his tracks that hit home. From Tribal Way to Ride Out The Storm, George Nooks led a singalong and Josey Wales incorporated stories into his performances of Love Triangle and Beldi, among others. Mutabaruka played recorded music during intermission and, at the end, sent the audience dancing out of Rainy Williams to Murder She Wrote.

MARCIA ROWE
Gleaner Writer

HIGH ENERGY and a variety of musical genres helped to mark the 40th anniversary of the University of the West Indies’ UWI Panoridim Steel Orchestra. The fourth of six shows scheduled for the weekend, was held on Saturday Titled Panfest 2017, The 40th Journey: Steelin since ‘77, the audience was given an amazing musical ride. They were guided by a pool of mixed-faculty musicians, who performed with conviction, thrilling the almost-full house with fancy choreographed footwork and arm twirls that created a web of musical magic. In turn, they were treated with continuous applause from the appreciative audience.

Dennis Henry was among the audience. He said his appreciation for the ‘pan’ came as a result of studying in Trinidad. “I tell you, they compared very well,” he told The Gleaner.

SHOW’S SEGMENTS

The well-executed show was divided into two segments. Part one began with Panoridim Jam Medley and was followed by a splendid rendition of one of the audience’s favourite. 1 Will Survive. The players continued with a more

Electric performances at UWI Panoridim

soaring performance to Dancehall Medley, and a few reggae and pop. Part one ended with the classical piece, Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major (1st Movement), performed by a small group.

After a short break, the pan players returned to their sparkling pans. Some pans were hoisted on medium-height legs, while others, which needed no support, were placed in the upstage areas of the Sir Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts, UWI Mona.

The performance in this section was no less than before, the spectacle intensified. It started off with black costumes that replaced assorted colourful ones worn in the previous half. But it was the use of masks, hats, and white and green stoles around the players’ necks that made the segment memorable. Lights and other special effects enhanced the lively and beautiful sounds of selections such as Masterblaster, Toco Band, and Different Me.

The absence of an MC contributed to the innovativeness of the programme. Instead, there were two not-so-convincing, but entertaining – ‘Time Travellers’ (Hayden Hamil and Jilleen Pearson) travelling on a ‘time machine’ while providing some background information on selected items. Without a doubt, the UWI Panoridim Steel Orchestra’s 40th anniversary was a fulfilling experience.

Marcia Rowe
Gleaner Writer

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Yellow fever advisory issued for travellers to Trinidad and Tobago

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC): THE MINISTRY of Health has placed restrictions on travellers coming from six countries in the wake of outbreaks of the Yellow Fever.

The Health Minister said effective March 22, travellers coming from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Suriname will be required to show documentation in their respective countries proving that they have been vaccinated against yellow fever before they are allowed to travel to this country.

Minister of Health Terrence Deyalsingh said this has become necessary in order to prevent an outbreak of the virus in Trinidad and Tobago.

The virus normally spreads in what is known as a jungle or sylvatic cycle, with transmission between mosquitoes and monkeys. It is common among red howler monkeys native to forests in the twin island republic.

Deyalsingh said while most citizens of are vaccinated against yellow fever from a very young age, there are still thousands of people who are yet to be immunised.

The Health Minister added that the people most at risk of contracting yellow fever are those who go into the forests where infected monkeys may reside.

He said it was, therefore, imperative that hikers, farmers, hunters and other people visiting or living near the forests be vaccinated.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) says there has not been an outbreak of yellow fever in Trinidad and Tobago since 1979.

Meanwhile, stakeholders at the Piarco International Airport, including the Immigration division, have been advised on the enforcement of the new requirements from the Ministry of Health.

Immigration officers have also been trained in the use of a decision tool to guide the verification one process of travelers to the country.

Regional carrier, Caribbean Airlines, has advised passengers to liaise with travel agents for a list of vaccination requirements before their scheduled departure.

The Yellow fever virus is found in tropical and subtropical areas in South America and Africa.

The virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Yellow fever is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings, laboratory testing, and travel history, including the possibility of exposure to infected mosquitoes.
SUZIE Q to host GOSPEL show on CIN CH 73

Kingston, Jamaica: Popular Media personality, Paula Suzie Q Bonner, is spreading the message of God in New York with her new Gospel programme Susie Q Gospel Trail, which premieres on CINTV Ch 73 and Voo Ch 26 on April 9 at 1 p.m.

The programme aims to highlight the best in Gospel music in Jamaica - featuring top gospel artists like Kevin Downswell, Jermaine Edwards and Stitchie, as well as produce various gospel events in Jamaica.

Known over the years for her popular programme Video Alley Reggae Top Ten, Suzie Q has built a solid reputation as one of the leading ladies in the Reggae Music industry. Video Alley Reggae Top Ten has aired on CINTV and television platforms in Jamaica for over 10 years, highlighting the hottest reggae artists, concerts, festivais, and showcased a top ten reggae chart each week.

Now embracing the Christian faith, Suzie Q hopes to reach the audience in New York with what she describes as her “purpose and true calling”. "Her recent transformation coupled with her love for the media and the music industry has led Susie Q to produce and host a gospel programme as she believes there is a need to promote “The Gospel” and bring hope and inspiration to many," she added.

Stephen Hill, CEO of CIN, is enthusiastic about Suzie’s return to the CIN line-up as “there is a huge need to promote ‘The Gospel’ and support the Union of Jamaica Alumni Association’s fundraising efforts through the mega raffle. Suzie Q has built the most effective fundraising tool. This year, 29 schools participated out of 48 member schools. Collectively, they raised more than $250,000 USD to benefit their respective schools back home. For a list of all winners, visit www.ujaauus.org.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEGA RAFFLE RAISES $250K

New York: The Royal Chateau Banquet Hall in Queens, New York was packed on Saturday, March 18 where many friends and associates came out to support the Union of Jamaica Alumni Association Mega Raffle.

According to UJAA President, Lesleyann Samuel, “The mega raffle, which is the brainchild of former UJAA president, Anton Tomlinson, remains the highlight event on the UJAA calendar.”

She added, “I am pleased with the effort and spirit each school puts into securing sales for the mega raffle. It’s quite awesome.”

Each raffle ticket cost $5.00. In addition to the main prizes, there were lots of surprises for lucky guests in attendance.

However, folks who purchased raffle tickets did not have to be present to claim their prize which consisted of a first prize trip for 5 days and 4 nights at a Resort in the US Virgin Islands including airfare, second prize consisted of 3 days and 2 nights at a Las Vegas Hotel Casino including airfare, third prize was a laptop computer and printer; 4th prize was $1,000 cash; 5th prize was an iPad and the grand prize was a 2017 Toyota Camrey BE.

Union of Jamaica Alumni Association has been hosting the popularly supported Mega Raffle for 21 years and during that period of time, they have raised millions of dollars to assist with education in Jamaica. The various alumni association find the mega raffle to be one of their most effective fundraising tools. This year, 29 schools participated out of 48 member schools. Collectively, they raised more than $250,000 USD to benefit their respective schools back home. For a list of all winners, visit www.ujaauus.org.

ASHE PLANS EXPANSION TO TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Stereita Grizzle
Gleaner Writer

The ASHE Company is eying expansion as it gets ready to launch a new performing arts and cultural group in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). In a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Tourism, Ashé’s executive director, Conroy Wilson, and its artistic director, Michael Holgate, will be taking a group of six trained professionals on the trip to the Turks and Caicos Islands to perform for school children and to bring the ASHE brand to the island.

The department has recognized a need for a functioning group similar to that established by ASHE in Jamaica, to perform for school children in the TCI. The ASHE plans expansion to Turks and Caicos Islands is in store, as the expansion to the Caribbean was always an intention for our founding artistic director, Joe Robinson,” said Wilson. “Ashe is set to begin the audition process for the formation of the new group on March 30. Auditions are set to start in South Caicos before moving to the other islands: North Caicos, Middle Caicos, Providenciales, and Grand Turk. After the selection process, the new members will be trained in the performing arts as well as education, using ASHE’s RIC (Recreation, Involvement and Commitment) methodology Training will take place in the TCI. Following the completion of the audition process, the new performers will be put on a performance of an original production. It will be the first time that the ASHE performers will be shown to a live audience anywhere.

ASHE is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and according to Wilson, big things are in store, as the expansion to the Turks and Caicos Islands is only the beginning.

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EVENTS LISTINGS

CANADA

Mawenzi House and A Different Booklist present 'A Night of Great Poetry and Reception' with Natasha Kanape Fontaine, George Elliott Clarke and Charles C. Smith on Thursday, April 6, 6:30pm at A Different Booklist Cultural Centre, 777-779 Bathurst St Toronto. Free Admission

April 7-8: A Different Booklist Cultural Centre Open House, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with a twist – Bring your own ribbon to cut. Formalities: April 7 at 7pm. Open House: Friday, April 7 at 6pm. Saturday, April 8 at 11am. Call 416-538-0889

For anyone thinking about running in the upcoming 2018 elections and don’t know where to start, the JCA’s Political Advocacy Committee presents ‘So You Think You Can Run’ on April 8 at 11am. Proceeds to benefit the Scholarship & Community Development Fund. Info: 305-302-5365

Must Laugh Production present the big play God Over Obeah at the Coral Springs High School Theatre, 2701 West Sample Road, Coral Springs, Florida, Sunday, April 16, 6:30 pm. Info/Tix:954.661.0892

Tell us what’s happening in your community or organization. Email us at extraeditor@gleanerna.net

Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators presents its 3rd annual Provincial Conference and AGM ‘Re-Imagining Education: Inspiring Leaders & Fostering Community to Achieve Powerful Outcomes’ on April 21 & 22 at York University, 4700 Keele St Toronto. Featured speakers include: Mitzie Hunter, Ontario’s Minister of Education, and Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, York University. https://onabse2017conference.eventbrite.ca

Black males needed for interviews. What happens when Black Boys are expelled or excluded from mainstream school? ‘The Effect of School Exclusion on Canadian Black Males’ Identity and Trajectory.’ Young men, ages 18-28, who have attended a School Expulsion Program in the GTA. To find out more, email camisha@gmail.com or call 647-694-9212/647-833-4221. Feedback will be used in a York University School of Social Work PhD research project.

NEW YORK

Jah Jerry, Inc invites you to the 5th Anniversary Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Friday, April 21, 2017 at elegant Country Kitchen Restaurant from 8:00PM-12:00AM. For further information call (212) 470-5655.

Team Jamaica Bickle will be hosting its 4th Annual fundraising Breakfast, April 22, 2017; 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. St Luke’s Episcopal Church – 222nd Street and Barnes. For further information contact Karen Robinson: 646-498-9816.

The Organization for International Development (OID) invites you to their Annual Fundraising Luncheon, Sunday, April 23rd at 12 noon, Greentree Country Club, New Rochelle. For further information, contact Dr. Roy Streete (718-652-3978) or Carol Biersay (718-525-5606).

UAA Penn Relays Bus Ride Fundraiser – Saturday, April 29th – 2 buses: BUS ‘A’ – Bklyn/Queens/LI Border; Green Acres Shopping Ctr; BUS ‘B’ – Bronx Bay Plaza/Cu-Op City. Event ticket optional. For further information contact Wilbert Davis: 917-697-3097; Donovan Wilson: 917-972-5502; Sharon Wynter: 646-388-2479; or Marlene Clarke: 917-499-1869;

KCOBA invites you to their 34th Annual Reunion & Awards Dinner at Antun’s, May 6th, Queens Village, Queens, NY

Alpha Tri-State NY Alumnae Association – South Florida presents their Family Fun Day at the C B Smith Park (Pavilion 6), 900 N. Flamingo Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida, Saturday, April 8. Info: 754.229.9490

Further information call 917-668-8201 or email: presidentialphatristate@gmail.com.

JAMCAR Annual Mother’s Day Luncheon, May 13th, Town & Country Caterers, 922 Route 9W, Congers, NY; 11:30 AM; Contact: Millicent 917-562-6771, Carol 845-729-9416

Jamaica Ex-Police Association – South Florida presents its 25th Annual Ball at the Woodlands Country Club, 4600 Woodlands Blvd, Tamarac, on Saturday, April 15, at 8:00 pm. Proceeds to benefit the Scholarship & Community Development Fund. Info: 305-302-5365

Tell us what’s happening in your community or organization. Email us at extraeditor@gleanerna.net

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 My Mother

Roslyn Barnes

“Miss Barnes” who departed this life on April 8, 1998

“Time has turned away the edge of grief, But memory lingers in every breath, But God who knows his reason Has called her to eternal rest”

Sadly missed by: son Tony, Grandchildren Tony, Jr. and Vanessa, daughter-in-law Marta and other relatives and friends.

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IN CHAMBERS

IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF JUDICATURE OF JAMAICA

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.

WHEREAS I have been instructed by Robertson Smith Ledgister & Co., attorneys at law, to file an Acknowledgement endorsed with Notice to Appearance whether in person or by your agent or by your Attorney-at-Law, as the case may be, it is hereby notified that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed in the Honourable Court by Lloyd George Smith, Esquire, as Applicant, and Evely Ann-Marie Smith, as Respondent, in the Parish of Manchester.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF JUDICATURE OF JAMAICA

IN THE PARISH OF MANCHESTER

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.

WHEREAS the said Certificate of Note and Judgment dated the 8th day of March 2017, 2017 filed in this Honourable Court, has not been complied with.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF JUDICATURE OF JAMAICA

IN THE PARISH OF MANCHESTER

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DeSilva soars in the Middle East

JODI-ANN GILPIN
Gleaner Writer

TWO YEARS ago, Royanne DeSilva had no idea where Qatar was. Today she lives there, having received an amazing opportunity to become a flight attendant.

DeSilva, who grew up in May Pen, Clarendon, said that she has had to acknowledge the fact that her job consists of more than just serving passengers, in addition to embracing various culture changes.

“I have always embraced the idea of change, so it was not difficult for me. There is so much beauty in the Middle Eastern culture — the food, the language and the traditions. However, not being able to wear shorts and a merino to the supermarket because of the dressing standards gets annoying,” said the past student of the Belair and Glenmuir high schools.

“Of course, (the job entails) serving tea and coffee and occasionally cleaning of toilets, but there is so much more. As cabin crew, we have responsibility for human lives at 30,000-plus feet high. If a pregnant lady goes into labour or an elderly person has a heart attack, we have to respond. Therefore, our training is intense, especially in safety and first aid. It is pretty multifaceted,” she continued.

DeSilva also said that her philanthropic endeavors in Jamaica have helped her to be more grounded and to develop an interest in social expansion. She credits the Angels of Love Jamaica charity for the satisfaction that she gets in being philanthropic. It is a passion she is still determined to pursue in the future.

“I studied economics because I want a career in social development. It still is one of my dreams to work with the United Nations. That was how I originally planned to travel the world but this opportunity came up, hence I went with it. Nevertheless, studying business definitely fueled my entrepreneurial spirit,” she said.

Royanne DeSilva is proud to be a member of the Jamaican diaspora.

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DeSilva in Paris, France.

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Royanne DeSilva is proud to be a member of the Jamaican diaspora.

“The world is our oyster. There are thousands of Jamaicans in the Middle East working as pilots, cabin crew, engineers, teachers, designers, entrepreneurs, beauticians, managers, and the list goes on. Simply search on the Internet for job openings and you will be surprised to see yourself packing a suitcase by the next month. Life is limitless, so get out there and show them why we are indeed ‘likkle but tallawah.’”

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Congratulations to our associates who compete in Special Olympics events, as well as those who volunteer with this incredible organization.
Calabar's 110m hurdles title a 'triumph' for former star

Calabar's 110m hurdles champion De'Jour Russell and record breaker DeJour Russell says despite all the speculations surrounding the seriousness of his injury coming into the championships, he was never badly hurt.

The powerful sprinter had an injury setback just a couple weeks ahead of the championship, but overcame that mishap and stormed to victory in record time in the class One 110m hurdles at the just concluded ISSA-GraceKennedy Boys and Girls' Athletics Championships.

"Talk about my injury was always speculation. It was nothing serious, it wasn’t that severe, but people can talk. That’s the least to me. I just went out and gave my best and did what I had to do, and I give God thanks for the victory," he told The Gleaner.

He revealed that his coaches stopped him from participating in the 100m and the 4x100m just to keep him as fresh as possible for his target event.

"The reason I boycotted the 100m is to get more rest, so I could go out and execute even better in the hurdles. I wasn’t expecting a record, I know I would have to give maximum points to my team, and that (record) came off. I didn’t race in the 4x100m for about three weeks, so that was like a sharpening-up race for me but I am thankful. It must be God’s work.

"Boasting a combination of one of the best coaching set-ups in the island and excellent support system, winning ISSA-GraceKennedy Girls’ Championship coach Michael Dyke, reacts with little surprise to Edwin Allen High’s fourth consecutive title at the National Stadium on Saturday.

Dyke, however, with five championships under his belt as a coach, is expecting the light blues to continue dominating their female rivals in coming seasons.

"Well, anybody would want to continue winning, and we have a structure that will enable us to continue winning once we continue to get the support we have been getting from the staff and principal. We have one of the best coaching staff anywhere in this country," a confident Dyke told The Gleaner.

The Frankfield, Clarendon-based school’s depth was too much for their main rivals.

Edwin finished top again with 316.5 points, beating all challengers like Hydel in second, who they beat by 60.5 points, despite making mistakes and losing a number of points in events they previously dominated.

"This year, we had a lot of experienced girls in the team, and I think based on the challenges that we have had, if it wasn’t for the experience, probably we would have faltered, but those girls helped to motivate and lift the team, and despite the challenges, were able to keep them off," Dyke said.

The other top five teams in the standings were St Jago High, Jamaica College was third on 246, St Elizabeth Technical High second with 245, and Holmwood Technical with 125.5.

"We ensure that we put structure in place. And if you have that, it will go well with the athletes, and it will materialise in our favour," he continued.

"I am excited at this time, very happy due to the fact that we came here to defend our Girls Championships title, and we have done it successfully.

"It was somewhat challenging in the initial stage, but the girls stuck to the task and did what we expected of them," he said.

Edwin will head into a break after the upcoming celebration dinner to express gratitude for its athletes and parents in the near future.

Calabar High’s De’Jour Russell (left) winning the Class One 110m hurdles in a record 13.21 seconds. Ogeonsina Bernard (right) of Jamaica College was third and Rashad Broadhead (centre) of St Jago High placed sixth.

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CHAMPS HIGHLIGHTS

St Jago’s Jahvel Granville sets a new record of 12.9 in the 100m hurdles class 3 finals.

Calabar High celebrates winning the 4x400m relay, the final event, which saw them overtaking Kingston College and successfully defending their Champs title.

Kevona Davis of Edwin Allen (left) wins the 200m girls’ final from Joanne Reid of St Jago.

St Jago taking the girls’ 4x100m Class 4 event.

Ari Rodgers points to the Kingston College supporters after winning the boys’ 5000m Open event.