WEST KGN
MAN HELD IN LIVITY COKE SHOOTING

Brother of Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke injured in ambush

STORY ON P3
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Dudus’ brother shot

West Kingston man held

TENSION WAS high in the west Kingston and surrounding areas following an early morning attack on Leighton ‘Livity’ Coke, the brother of convicted drug kingpin Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke.

‘Livity’ Coke was shot outside the gate of Hellshire beach in St Catherine by gunmen early Sunday morning.

A man detained by the Greater Portmore Police in relation to the investigation into the shooting of Coke remains in custody.

The man was held Monday after he turned up at the police station to claim a motorbike that was seized by the police in Hellshire following the shooting incident.

Head of Operations for the Greater Portmore Police, Superintendent Leighton Gray, says the police are now doing a case review which includes determining the ownership of the bike.

Superintendent Gray says the man, who is from the west Kingston area, is still being questioned.

Hours after the shooting, police and soldiers took up positions at one of the country’s main public hospitals as doctors there treated the man widely known as ‘Livity’ for gunshot wounds to the right side of his chest and left hand.

A woman who was travelling with him at the time was also shot multiple times and was in serious condition at hospital.

One witness reported that Livity and his female companion had just left a popular restaurant at Hellshire Beach about 2 o’clock Sunday morning when a man travelling on a motorvary drove up from behind and sprayed his luxury sedan with bullets.

According to the witness, a wounded Livity drove away from the scene, but was pursued by his female attacker, who was still firing at the car.

Law-enforcement sources told The Gleaner that he lost consciousness in the Central Village area and had to be assisted to hospital.

Hellshire Beach is a popular spot for seafood, and nervous business owners immediately sought to distance themselves from the shooting incident.

In 2012, Livity was freed of firearm-related charges after he was accused of firing at the security forces during the May 2010 police-military operations in west Kingston to apprehend his brother, Dudus.

Christopher Coke, who was held one month after the operations and extradited to the United States to face drug and firearms charges, is now serving a 23-year prison sentence in a US federal prison.

Mandy Coke, the sister of Leighton ‘Livity’ Coke, says despite the recent attack on her brother and subsequent tension in west Kingston, she is leaving all things in the hands of God.

All is well and we have been coping. With God in the vessel, all is well”, Sandy said. A Christian of seven years, Sandy says despite the developments, peace will be still.

Security stepped up their presence at the Spanish Town Hospital after Leighton ‘Livity’ Coke was admitted after he was shot outside the gate of Hellshire beach by gunmen early Sunday morning.

Members of the Mobile Reserve, and the Jamaica Defence Force are assisting the west Kingston police.

Lawyers among professionals on US-Ja scamming radar

A NUMBER of Jamaican attorneys who United States (US) authorities believe are helping lottery scammers hide their ill-gotten gains could be swept up in the wave of extradition requests that American prosecutors are preparing to unleash on the Jamaican Government.

That is the word from an American official in Jamaica who confirmed last week that several local attorneys are the subject of federal investigations in the US because of their suspected ties to persons involved in the deadly mul-timillion-dollar advance fee or lottery scam.

The lawyers are among the wider network of persons being investigated.

Joshua Polacheck, counsellor for public affairs at the US Embassy in Kingston, declined to go into details about the investigations but warned that some of the cases involving Jamaican attorneys are at the ‘pre-extradition’ stage.

“I’m not sure if they know they are under actual federal investigation, but they know who they are,” Polacheck told The Gleaner.

“The attorneys facilitating the scammers, they know themselves. I’m sure they know that “he underscored.

The disclosures by Polacheck came as a surprise to newly elected president of the Jamaican Bar Association, Jacqueline Cummings.

She acknowledged that the association has not had any formal discussions about how attorneys should interact with clients who are facing lottery scam-related charges and does not see the need for it.

“Lottery scams are a relatively new phenomenon, but the same principles and ethics must be applied as with other any other crimes,” Cummings reasoned.

On Wednesday, Joshua Polacheck told reporters that Jamaican and American law-enforcement agencies were jointly pursuing some 5,000 lottery scam investigations and that between 300 and 500 cases were at the ‘pre-extradition stage’.

The announcement came as eight Jamaicans, including Police Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Jason Jahajah, were being loaded on to an aircraft at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston last Friday, April 28, to be extradited to the US.

Some of the eight persons who are being extradited to the United States on lottery scamming charges.

Xam-An Morgan was escorted by one of the United States marshals towards the plane.

and his co-accused, Daric Palmer, Alrick McLeod, O’Neil Brown, Dahlia Hunter and her son, Kazrae Gray, Kimberly Hudson, and Xam-An Morgan faced a judge in Bismarck, North Dakota, and were “processed into the federal system”.

They are each charged with one count of conspiracy and attempting to commit wire fraud, 48 counts of wire fraud, 15 counts of mail fraud, and one count of money laundering.

According to prosecutors in North Dakota, the eight were part of a criminal organisation led by another Jamaican – identified as Lavigic Willocks – that used an advance fee or lottery scam scheme to fleece nearly 80 elderly American citizens of $385 million.

The attorneys facilitating the scammers are preparing to unleash on the US.

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Conference to examine issues facing Black Canadians

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Toronto, ON: SOME LEADING black scholars, community members, and activists will gather in Manitoba this month to consider the history and contemporary issues of African Canadians as Canada gets set to mark its 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The 2017 Black Canadian Studies Association biennial conference will be held May 11-13 at Brandon University in the province under the theme, “Blackness, Indigeneity, Colonialism, and Confederation: 21st Century Perspectives.”

Organisers note that: “The government of Canada intends to mark the nation’s 2017 sesquicentennial as “the grandest national birthday in a generation.” What, however, does this celebration mean for African Canadians once enfranchised or free?”

The conference will explore the achievements, challenges, contributions, histories and futures of African Canadians at Canada’s 150th anniversary.

Historians, Afia Cooper, James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Barrington Walker, associate professor at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, are the keynote speakers.

Asked about the definition of “indigeneity” in the theme, Professor Walker said in this context it refers to the people who are here before non-Indigenous contact.

“And part of the challenge, I think, in this context is thinking through what the relationship of people of African descent is with the people who were here first, in terms of the long histories and in terms of our relationship with the colonial state.”

The professor said, like some, he struggles with the historical significance of the 150th birthday of Canada.

“I think on the one hand there are some people firmly in kind of a nation-building camp of Canadian history and they will say that what’s really significant about the birthday for people of African descent is that we have a place in the long story of Canada’s founding as we are. And the other, they know that ‘for other folks the history of blacks in Canada is more complicated than that in a lot of ways as well because of our history of slavery and our history of oppression in the Canadian context and the fact that Black labour went hand in hand with the dispossession of aboriginal people to help found a white settler colony.”

TROUBLED

Professor Walker is more troubled by the triumphalist nation-building story because of the history of blackness in Canada.

“Not that we shouldn’t celebrate those folks that a lot of people like to call pioneer but I think we have to be a little more critical,” he said, suggesting that with a critical lens, the full range of blackness in Canada can be taken into account.

Walker notes that achievements and ‘firsts’ are important but people need to ask what came before celebrating the 150 years.

“What kind of work is that celebration doing in terms of an ongoing colonisation project and how can we as black people critically interrogate our place in that colonisation project?”

Gervan Fearon

He notes that this is an on-going colonisation project because the 150 from the standpoint of a lot of aboriginal folks is “an on-going articulation of that old colonial project. This place has been around a lot longer than a 150 years, this is a civilisation that dates back a lot further than 150 years. In a lot of ways it’s an insult.”

Professor Walker’s address on May 12 is entitled “Blacks and Social Order in North America’s Urban Landscape.”

He was thinking about the long history of African Canadian peoples and violence in the North American context and thinking through “how older stories and older trajectories of histories of violence have links with what they can tell us about our contemporary more current-day stories of the regulation, the control, the surveillance of blacks in urban spaces.”
to be screened May 7

portray a facet of Black female identity, seen through the eyes of a young Haitian woman working in Paris in 1966, as a Dior fashion model and actress, “explored Bethune.” In Paris during the early 1960s, Bethune had a significant presence in the younger Black expatriate intellectual circle. His friendships included James Baldwin, William Gardner-Smith, Sumner Art Taylor, Dexter Gordon, Richard Wright’s widow, Helen, and their daughter, Julia. His poetry and fiction were first published by Presence Africaine. And he interacted with Francophone writers such as Aimée Césaire, Leon Damas, Alouise Diop, all seminal advocates of ‘Negritude’ — a Pan Africanist stance for anti-colonial, anti-racist literature. For both his films Bethune attracted moral and material assistance from the legendary Dutch filmmaker Joris Ivens and encouragement from Senegalese filmmaker Sembene Ousman.

One of his most treasured memories is Bethune’s friendship and mentorship with Langston Hughes, which spanned Paris, New York and Africa’s Tanzania. Hughes even penned a poem in dedication to him.

Bethune’s literary work as a writer has been featured in several Black Arts Movement literature. He has written several books that were included in Langston Hughes’ anthology _The Best Short Stories by Negro Writers_, poetry in Black Fire, edited by Larry Neal and Amiri Baraka, and an essay on Malcolm X in Europe in John Henrik Clarke’s _Malcolm X: The Man and His Times_.

Lebert “Sandy” Bethune, was born in Kingston, Jamaica, has taught at SUNY and a Masters in Anthropology & Education from Columbia University. He resides in New York City with his wife April and their daughter Simone. He is currently preparing a new collection of his poetry for publication later this year.

For more information on 34th New York African Film Festival, contact: http://www.africanfilmny.org

Black children biased with stereotypes

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

Toronto, ON

"Why is it important is because it has political, legal and social definitions that are applied to a person, which by perception, may eliminate choice. Does that make sense?" said McLeod.

Essentially saying that Black people self-sabotage themselves because of their “broken belief system,” she said.

Black people have lost their way due to past traumatic slavery syn-drome/disorder that today’s remnants of their enslaved ancestors are still suffering from. “We’ve got to begin by breaking a dysfunctional belief,” said McLeod.

She spoke about the “Situation of African Oppression” described as having no power, no identity, but no idea how to express it, the “Control Theory” described as “it doesn’t matter whether it’s out come is or is not attainable, the perception of control determines if you have the ability and the confidence to produce the desired results.

McLeod recalled that as a teacher in Arkansas, she came home from a day of teaching at school and her auntie was waiting for her and asked, “Kim, how are your kids going to do this year?”

“Isn’t everybody going to pass?”

McLeod answered with, “I can’t let them pass if they don’t know the material. I can’t let them go on if they don’t get it.”

"Why even bother? Why even try?" the teachers and students say, replied, “Then I guess you better make sure that they get it then.”

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"Isn’t everybody going to pass?"
Remittances are not faceless, Mr Trump!

OP-ED
CURTIS WARD

On March 30, 2017, Congressman Rogers (R-AL) introduced H.R. 1813, the Border Wall Funding Act of 2017, which, if enacted, would double the current funding and signed by President Donald Trump, would provide 2% for all remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Mr. Rogers’ bill was co-sponsored by Republican colleagues. The Bill has been referred to the relevant House Committees for consideration.

As members of the immigrant community, members of the Caribbean Diaspora must oppose this worrisome legislation. Donald Trump: Taxing Remittances to build your Wall is a scam! I am outraged, the Caribbean Diaspora is outraged, all decent and kind people are outraged, and all Caribbean governments should be outraged. It is not enough to merely monitoring the progress of the proposed legislation. Action is required to make sure this monstrous Bill does not become History.

Congressman Rogers, Mr. President, the Caribbean Diaspora must partner with other remitters in diaspora groups to prevent Congress from sending H.R. 1813 to the President’s desk. There are friends in Congress willing to work with us.

Congressman Rogers’ Press Releases sought to confuse or deceive the American public as to which group of immigrants are most affected by H.R 1813, by referring to “illegal immigrants” and annual remittances received by Mexico “and countries south of our border.” However, the provisions of H.R. 1813 are unequivocally applicable to all LAC countries – they are all listed. He also made it clear that his legislation “will have no adverse impact on the economic growth and provide new incentives for remittances to continue to flow.”

So this is not just about the Wall Mr. Rogers, this is about common decency, morality, and human rights. Remittances must be made tax free and not just to the immigrant community to provide to your family taxed to build President Trump’s Wall?

Remittances put food on their table in a poor country has the opportunity to prevent Congress from sending H.R. 1813 to the President’s desk. There are friends in Congress willing to work with us.

Remittances are sent to feed, clothe, and provide a home loved ones of immigrants. Remittances make a difference whether or not a recipient parent or grandparent becomes homeless. Remittances determine whether a child in a poor country has the opportunity to receive a basic education, and to provide a home loved ones of immigrants. Remittances put food on their table in a poor country has the opportunity to prevent Congress from sending H.R. 1813 to the President’s desk. There are friends in Congress willing to work with us.

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Scammers target NIS pensioners
– Lobby calls for swift probe

JOVAN JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

THE POLICE are to ‘swiftly’ probe reports that criminals are scaring elderly Jamaicans out of their National Insurance Scheme (NIS) benefits – often, their only source of income – by pretending to be representatives of the scheme. The reports have come from a number of senior citizens in various parts of the island.

Trevor Nairne, the artistic director of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC), says he was ‘shocked’ at the reports.

“Some of these persons are pretending to be employees of the NIS and have been approaching pensioners, allegedly claiming that their pension rates are to be doubled and requesting that pensioners transfer their money to the NIS,” said Nairne in a statement.

Jean Lowrie-Chin, the founder of the Caribbean Community of Retired Persons (CCRP), has said.

Lowrie-Chin said that church groups and other community organisations should help in the public education campaign. They (pensioners) will need protection and we are certainly going to be putting out press releases and notices to the general public. We want to call on the relatives of these elderly folks to guide them and look out for them.

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

Weekend flood bill hits J$492 million
– Could grow significantly, says McKenzie

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES put the cost of the damage from last weekend’s floods at J$492 million, and Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie says it is likely to grow ‘significantly’.

McKenzie had to also fend off criticisms of a premature report to grow ‘significantly’. McKenzie says it is likely and Local Government Minister

Deborah, the cost of the damage from last weekend’s floods at J$492 million, and Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie has said.

Preliminary estimates of damage to parochial roads in three communities in east Portland has been put at J$18 million.

The events were disclosed, on Wednesday May 4, by parliamentary assistant to the minister for local government, Owen Nore, who said, “Although there was no serious damage done to houses and agriculture, the road network was badly impacted.” He added, “The four days of heavy rainfall also resulted in multiple land slip-

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Jamaica And Italy: A relation on a firm bedrock of tradition

THE EDITOR, SIR:

JAMAICA IS renowned worldwide for its natural beauty, its music and the warmth of its people. Each year, thousands of tourists, to include over 60,000 Italians, flock to this beautiful island, seeking calm and tranquillity feelings that are often lost in today's hectic world.

This is my second visit to Jamaica as the Italian Ambassador. As I travel around this island, I am impressed by its rich and diverse cultural heritage and environment, also testify by the many students from different parts of the Caribbean at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, and by the performance of its economy that has grown steadily over the last seven quarters.

This economic reality has appealed to Italian investors in the hospitality sector and beyond. Through its subsidiary, J.Wray & Nephew, Campari one of the top players worldwide in the premium spirits industry is now one of the largest employers on the island. In 2016, Gruppo Campari’s products in Jamaica alone represented around 250 billion Jamaica dollars (of the Group.

In 2016, Gruppo Campari’s products in Jamaica alone represented around 250 billion Jamaica dollars (of the Group.

THE IMAGES splashed across the Jamaican press on Thursday, April 27 were simple yet extraordinarily graphic: eight Jamaican in handcuffs and leg chains being led by US Marshals to a United States government aircraft for extradition to America to stand trial for fleeing scores of elderly Americans of million dollars. If, as the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, those published by this newspaper repeated and reinforced an old story, of whose harm Jamaicans know only too well, but which we seem incapable of fixing.

The proximate issue is the so-called lottery scam, under which Jamaican fraudsters gain the confidence of mostly old, vulnerable persons, who are convinced of having won lottery or sweepstakes, but who have to pay taxes or other fees before receiving their prizes. The victims are often made to pay fees until their resources are exhausted. This scam is estimated to pull in upwards of US$300 million annually.

REPATRIATING WEALTH

Many Jamaicans have, up to now, viewed this variety of fraud and extortion as largely a victimless crime. Those who were defrauded, it is assumed, were people in rich America who were repatriating wealth to supposedly poor, oppressed Jamaican youth. In that sense, it was a balancing of the scales of history in the context of colonialism.

Except that this explanation or justification skirts two important points, apart from the moral one of blinding ourselves to the reality of the real victims. One is of the crime spawned in Jamaica from the lottery scam as perpetrators shoot and kill each other over the sharing of spoils for possession of demographic data about intended victims. The second is how this absence of empathy dulled imagination and, therefore, awareness, that it would only be a matter of time before a variant of this scam reaches Jamaica? as has apparently begun to happen with reports of retired people being fleeced of their pension benefits.

Herein lies the greater significance of those images from the Norman Manley International Airport. America’s aim, according to Mr. Polacheck, is to “ensure that this criminal scourge” affecting US citizens “is taken care of”. The perpetrators “will see justice inside the United States”.

This newspaper has no problem with that. Or with the fact that sovereign states, by treaty, offer each other assistance in criminal investigations and extradition. The issue, however, is what happens when the victims are not Americans or other foreign nations, as is the case with the emerging circumstance of Jamaica’s National Insurance Scheme pensioners.

The fact is that these are law-enforcement and criminal-justice responsibilities that can’t be entirely outsourced. This week’s events are another howling reminder of the need for an urgent fixing of these broken arrangements.

Here’s another forum for you to share your views with Jamaica and the rest of the world.

Send a 150-word commentary on this topic to: The Gleaner Company Ltd., P.O. Box 40, 7 North Street, Kingston; fax to 1-876-922-6223 or email overseas@gleanerjm.com.

MEMO

Embassy in Kingston, pointed out that there are as many as 5,000 of these cases being investigated in the USA, of which around 300 will, in short order, have extradition requests. Delroy Chuck, the justice minister, has promised to sign the extradition orders as fast as they come, “once they are in order”. No stalling, as was the case with drug runner Christopher Coke in 2009-10. America’s aim, according to Mr. Polacheck, is to “ensure that this criminal scourge” affecting US citizens “is taken care of”. The perpetrators “will see justice inside the United States”.

This newspaper has no problem with that. Or with the fact that sovereign states, by treaty, offer each other assistance in criminal investigations and extradition. The issue, however, is what happens when the victims are not Americans or other foreign nations, as is the case with the emerging circumstance of Jamaica’s National Insurance Scheme pensioners.

The fact is that these are law-enforcement and criminal-justice responsibilities that can’t be entirely outsourced. This week’s events are another howling reminder of the need for an urgent fixing of these broken arrangements.
Jah Jerry Foundation’s 5th anniversary scholarship fundraiser was held on Friday, April 21 at Country Kitchen Restaurant. In the photo are (from left) back row: Irwine Clare, Rev. Pierre-André Duvert, Rev. Samuel Vassel, Rev. David Steele, Andrea Steele, Lowell Hawthorne, Vincent HoSang, James Haynes. Seated (from left) Angela Vassel, Elourdes Duvert; Ann-Marie Grant; Staceyann Gordon; Sadraine Gordon and Pat Chin.

Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, with seven-year-old Kristen Lobban, a student at Garret Park Elementary school in Maryland, who was the Ambassador for the day on Thursday, April 27, 2017. Kristen who is daughter to Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Jamaica Marsha Lobban and Lieutenant Colonel D.C Lobban, participated in the annual “take your child to work day” with her mother.

Chief Liaison Officer for Central Labor, administrator of the Jamaica overseas work programme in Washington DC, Clayton Solomon (centre), passed away on Monday, April 24, 2017. He is seen here with members of his staff (from left) Corey Townsend, Sheldon Brown, Caswell Russell and Glendon Moore at a reception at Embassy of Jamaica in Washington DC.

Chief Development Bank Executive Director, Jerry Butler; Managing Attorney at Global Law Firm, Simone Williams and Pauline Williams, at the Caribbean USA Relations Forum hosted by Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia, on April 26 at Sidley Austin law firm in Washington DC.

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The bank of Jamaica is reviewing proposed remittance fees

Western Union reviewing proposed remittance fees

**STEVEN JACKSON**
Senior Business Reporter

**UN**ITED STATES-BASED financial services company Western Union has indicated that it is reviewing a proposed two per cent tax on remittances sent from the United States to Jamaica and 41 other countries to be used to pay for a wall at the US border with Mexico.

The tax is outlined in a bill currently before Congress to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act. The company is currently reviewing the proposed bill.

The tax is expected to raise $450 million per year and the bill would require Western Union, which acts as the money transfer company’s agent in Jamaica, to pass the tax onto the customer, increasing the cost of remittances.

In its response facilitated by Don Wehby, group chief executive officer of GraceKennedy Limited, which acts as the money transfer company’s agent in Jamaica, Western Union added that “remittance tax legislation has broad implications. The need to move money reliably and through formalised channels is important and has never been more relevant to consumers and businesses.”

Some experts have indicated that the proposed tax could increase informality. Yet others see the tax as making traditional remittance methods less competitive against rival online methods, including PayPal, Payoneer, Bitcoin and other new money platforms.

On March 30, the United States Congress introduced the bill to impose a fee for remittance transfers to Jamaica and other foreign countries to fund the building of the border wall proposed by President Donald Trump.

Lasco Financial Services, agent for MoneyGram in Jamaica, earlier this week said it views the development of the bill as unfair and one which will increase the cost of providing the service, in the event that it becomes law.

The last action on the bill saw it being referred to the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, as well as the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, on April 21.

It stipulates that if the designated recipient of a remittance transfer is located in a foreign country, a remittance transfer provider shall collect from the sender a fee equal to two per cent of the United States dollar amount to be transferred, excluding any fees or other charges imposed by the transfer provider.

Bank of Jamaica to prepay US$112m certificates of deposit

**THE BANK of Jamaica (BOJ) served the market notice recently of its intention to exercise the option to prepay foreign currency-denominated certificates of deposit valued at just over US$112 million to holders of those instruments in July.

In accordance with the contractual three-month notice period applicable to each instrument, repayment of the principal amount will be made on Friday, 28 July 2017, the Bank said in a release.

“The Bank considers it prudent to redeem these instruments at this time as they feature coupons that are higher than current market rates for similar instruments,” the central bank said.

The prepayment will also inject over US$112 million in US dollar liquidity into the market, it added.

The BOJ said that notwithstanding the three-month prepayment notice, it intended to make an offer to registered holders of these instruments to immediately redeem all or part of the principal amount. That offer is to be made in a separate notice.

**AT ALL-TIME HIGH**

“Jamaica’s foreign-exchange reserves are at comfortable levels,” the central bank said. “The Net International Reserves are currently at an all-time high of US$12 billion. Under the current precautionary stand-by arrangement with the International Monetary Fund, focus is placed on the level of non-borrowed reserves which, at US$1.9 billion, are currently well ahead of the semi-annual targets for 2017,” it added.

The CDs to be prepaid were issued between January and July 2014 and were expected to mature between January 2018 and July 2019. They attracted interest rates of between 5.0 and 5.5 per cent.

In January, the BOJ said it would prepay foreign currency-denominated CDs totaling approximately US$256 million (US$158.6 million and £79 million) to holders of those instruments that month and followed a call notice issued by the Bank on October 25, 2016 in accordance with the terms of the instruments.

The BOJ said then that it would be continuing its regular monthly issues of US dollar CDs.

It also said that when combined with the prepayment, the issues will advance the Bank towards the achievement of its target to reduce the stock of outstanding US dollar CDs to US$600 million by March 31, 2017.
Cedella Marley to launch cannabis cookbook

Cedella Marley, the first-born daughter of music legends Bob and Rita Marley, has authored a cannabis cookbook titled One Love taken from one of her father's hit songs. She is also a designer, singer and entrepreneur.

"She guides readers on the questions they should ask at dispensaries, offers insights on today's more potent weed, demystifies the process behind controlling the dosage of cannabis in edibles, and shares a collection of more than 75 Caribbean-inflused, cannabis-boosted recipes," added the blurb, which also shares advice on how to use marijuana as a beauty scrub, for hair treatment and yoga meditation.

Last February, the Marley Group of Companies, backed by a venture capital firm, licensed its name to create Marley Natural, a United States-based company which sells herb and accessories. Another Marley sibling, Damian, launched his own cannabis line called Stony Hill, which raised US$780,000 in capital.

STEVEN JACKSON
Senior Business Reporter

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JSE MARKET TRADE SHEET

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Douglas Baldeo – the 13-year-old who is making waves

Sharon Gordon
Contributor

Dancer, singer, and actor, Douglas 'Dougie' Baldeo turned thirteen on April 19, but unlike most thirteen year olds, he was working on his birthday. The teenager is currently touring with Grammy-nominated artist, Deborah Cox in the remake of The Bodyguard, the Musical.

Baldeo plays Fletcher, son of the lead character, Rachel Marron played by Deborah Cox. Currently playing at the Sacramento Community Center in California, the musical has been touring for the past four months after opening in at the Papermill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey.

Reviewers have repeatedly likened Baldeo to a “young Michael Jackson” many claiming they “see the spirit” of the pop icon in the young performer.

Baldeo continues to shine in his role in the Bodyguard, the Musical having won the hearts of theatre-goers from Nashville to New Orleans to Atlanta to Philadelphia. With another twelve months to go, Dougie might well be celebrating his fourteenth birthday on the road again.

For Baldeo, “it’s been a whirlwind experience”, his mother, Tamika Benjamin said, adding that “it’s been a big adjustment” for both of them.

“Dougie, has been thriving in the show and enjoying the experience of working with Grammy-nominated R&B star, Deborah Cox,” the Jamaica-born mother of two smiled and added, “Watching him shine on that stage with the likes of Deborah Cox makes me beam with pride.”

Baldeo has is the grandson of Forensic Social Worker and Death Penalty Mitigator, Carmeta Albarus, who authored The Making of Lee Boyd Malvo, TThe DC Sniper and founder of FURI, the Family Unification and Resettlement Initiative which works with Deportees in Jamaica. She says, “She is her grandson’s biggest fan.” But so are his three grandaunts and numerous cousins who have supported Baldeo from his early years as a dancer.

His received rave reviews for his role as “Young Lola” in the Tony Award winning, Broadway hit, Kinky Boots.

O’Jays and Temptation Review to perform at Mother’s Day concert in Brooklyn

The KINGS Theatre in Brooklyn will be the venue for a Mother’s Day concert featuring The O’Jays with Special Guest the Temptation Review featuring Dennis Edwards, on Sunday May 14.

For the past 50 years, the O’Jays have produced a string of hits that are considered to be masterpieces to this day.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers will rock the house for their fans on Mother’s Day. The O’Jays singing their many hits will remind us all why mothers should be appreciated and respected every day, not just Mother’s Day.

Edwards was the first new Temptation to enter the group after their “classic five” heyday, when he replaced David Ruffin as lead singer in July 1968.

Tickets can be purchased through www.ticketmaster.com or at Kings Theatre Box Office between 12 noon - 5 pm. For further information contact Jammin Events at 718.282.8041.
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Keller Williams real estate franchise now in Jamaica

NEVILLE GRAHAM
Business Reporter

The world’s largest real estate franchise, Keller Williams, has awarded a permit to St Ann-based Meldam Realty to operate offices in Jamaica under the American-based company’s name. Chief executive officer of Meldam, Rory Marsh, said the company will serve as the regional operating principal of KW Jamaica. Meldam will rebrand into a Keller Williams franchise, and according to Marsh, the process began in February this year to strike a balance between what his 45-year-old company represents and what Keller Williams has brought to the table.

He said that “because Meldam has been around for more than 40 years, we are trying to keep the connection but eventually Keller Williams Jamaica will be the dominant name”.

Nine real estate professionals – representing the full complement of Meldam, which has been operating mostly on Jamaica’s north coast – will initially make the transition into KW Jamaica. With the franchise, Keller Williams will have agents all across the island, with the first offices being in Harbourton, St Andrew, and Coconut Grove in Ocho Rios, St Ann.

Marsh said that over the projected two-year transition period, he expects to grow the sales force to more than 50 agents, adding that the franchise arrangement represents a big opportunity for his team.

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 (8,396.00 ft²). Floor to ceiling clearance in the factory is 21ft at eaves.

Operational facilities include:

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- Docking and Loading Bay Equipment
- Utilities and Support Equipment
- Boilers & Standby Generator and Waste Water Treatment Plant System

The CO2 Building is 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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Rory Marsh, chief executive officer of KW Jamaica, at the company’s office in Ocho Rios, St Ann.

March said that over the projected two-year transition period, he expects to grow the sales force to more than 50 agents, adding that the franchise arrangement represents a big opportunity for his team.

EXTENSIVE REACH

“The real value is in the systems that they bring and their extensive reach into the North American and European markets,” he said. “Several members of the Jamaican diaspora work for Keller Williams in North America. The head of the Canadian branch of Keller Williams is a Jamaican. One of the most successful franchise owners in Keller Williams in West Palm Beach, Florida is a Jamaican,” Marsh added.

Along with a team of business and investment principals, he will oversee the implementation and expansion of Keller Williams systems, models and agent-centric culture. The Millionaire Real Estate Agent, written by Gary Keller, has served as Meldam Realty’s training manual since 2011.

“The Keller Williams culture of caring for agents and extensive training is well known. When considering expansion, the Keller Williams model was the most attractive,” said Marsh.

“The basic Keller Williams philosophy is to give the agents more so that the agents can do more. The agents continue to grow their business and take care of their clients,” he added.

Marsh is a Realtors Association of Jamaica member and recently won the St Ann Chamber of Commerce’s Young Entrepreneur Award. He says he has been associated with Keller Williams for more than five years and the association has been paying dividends.

“I began using some of the same principles outlined by Gary Keller in his book, Millionaire Real Estate Agent. By following the principles, Meldam Realty has increased its sales each year with the same amount of agents. Now that Keller Williams is the largest real estate franchise by agent count in the world, it is only prudent that we formally take advantage of the synergies,” he said.

Austin, Texas-based Keller Williams Realty, Inc is the largest real estate franchise by agent count in the world, with more than 800 offices and 154,000 associates across the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. In 2017, Training Magazine named Keller Williams the number one training organisation across all industries worldwide. It had sales of over US$8.273.6 billion in 2016 and paid out to agents US$154.4 million in profit share. Marsh says a lot of time was spent on both sides to get the right fit.

“It is about two years that we’ve been doing due diligence on each other, and I am sure, like on my side, they were trying to make sure that they had the right partner. For them, it is not about just selling a franchise, it is about establishing and protecting their brand,” he said.

Marsh says that since the launch of Keller Williams Jamaica in the United States, there have been more than US$1 billion in listings and this is expected to continue to increase “once the company is officially launched in Jamaica within another six weeks (or) by the end of May”.

Rory Marsh, chief executive officer of KW Jamaica, at the company’s office in Ocho Rios, St Ann.
**St James**

**Mobay to host int’l vocational conference**

MONTego BAY will host the Third International Conference on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the Caribbean from May 10 to 12 at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa.

The conference, themed “TVET for Sustainable Regional Development,” will be attended by local, regional and international officials of key government ministries and agencies as well as private-sector organisations.

The primary objective of the conference, which was launched during a press briefing at the University of the West Indies’ (UWI) Mona Campus, on Wednesday April 26, is to create an advocacy platform for integrating sustainable policies in regional TVET policies, practices and programmes.

**St Catherine**

**Wheelchair repair centre opens in Portmore**

THE PORTMORE Self-Help Disability Organisation Mobility Centre, which repairs and customises wheel chairs and other mobility aid for physically disabled persons, was formally introduced to the public recently.

George Thornton of the Combined Disability Association welcomed the centre which he said should advance the whole some development for the disabled. He said the United States Agency for International Development and the Jamaica National Foundation partnered in the setting up of the centre.

**Manchester**

**Home for ex-military personnel refurbished**

THE CURRHEY Home for ex-military service men and women has been refurbished by the National Housing Trust and The Jamaica Defence Force.

Founded 59 years ago, the refurbishing exercise resulted in improvement to accommodation, bathroom and recreational facilities as well as the installation of solar panels.

Speaking recently at a ceremony to mark the end of the refurbishing process, Chief of Defence Staff Major General Rocky Mead underscored the importance of maintaining the home.

“We recognise the service that the ex-service men have provided and their sacrifices. The ex-service men have provided their blood, sweat and tears as well as the installation of solar panels,” said Mead.

**St Thomas**

**Lay Magistrates group relaunches charity to help the homeless**

Lay Magistrates of St Thomas as part of their observation of Lay Magistrates’ Month relaunched its Good Samaritan Programme, which sees members bathing, feeding and grooming the hair of a number of homeless people in and around Morant Bay, Thursday April 20.

A medical team from the Morant Bay Hospital also rendered assistance to the homeless.

**Hanover**

**Woman, children living in abandoned school need help**

A 35-YEAR-OLD mother of four children ranging in age from nine to 18 years and who have made an abandoned school premises at Senior district their home, has through The Gleaner appealed for help.

Without a job and desperate to tackle ‘any manageable task’, she says she is reeling from the impact of looking after herself and children and concerns about their safety especially at the ant-infested school premises. She may be reached at 1876-261-4059.

**Kingston**

**J$70m expansion of the Early Childhood development centre**

GROUNDS were broken on Tuesday April 25 for the J$70 million expansion of the the Stimulation-Plus Early Childhood Development Centre (STIM-PLUS) at Ossend Close premises in Rockfort. The centre caters to the disabled.

The expansion embraces the construction of seven classrooms, bathrooms, physiotherapy rooms, administrative offices, a sickbay and specialised play area.

Funding is being provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under the Social Protection and Labour Programme aimed at improving human-capital outcomes for the poor.

**Kingston**

**Over 300 participate in girls’ technology conference**

MORE THAN 300 students from 30 schools participated in Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Day conference at The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel Thursday, April 27.

One of the principal objectives of the conference was to encourage the girls to not just be users of but to become creators of technology. The Ministry of Science Energy and Technology in collaboration with the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), were the driving force behind the conference.

**Islandwide**

**Police vehicles will soon be using LNG**

THE PROCESS to retrofit police vehicles to allow for the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) will commence within the next 30 days.

National Security Minister, Robert Montague, says the procurement of the conversion kits to facilitate the process has been completed.

“Ten cars are to be converted, starting within the next 30 days,” he told Parliament in his contribution to the 2017/18 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on April 26.

Praised for its clean quality LNG brings major improvement to air quality and public health through the reduction of emissions in the environment.
The 27th annual Jamaica Ocho Rios Jazz Festival, starts May 27 and runs through to June 4, with a new Opening Day jazz venue/jazz village in the form of the FDR Hotel and Spa in Runaway Bay, St Ann. Festival Director, Myrna Hague Bradshaw, announced the dates and lineup during the recent launch of the event at New Kingston’s Courtyard by Marriott hotel.

"We are delighted to be working with FDR hotel for the first time," she said. "Not only have they shown a tremendously positive disposition to the event, they have put together a fantastic package, and we look forward to a greatly enhanced event."

Bradshaw also acknowledged the Moon Palace (Jamaica Grande) resort, also in Ocho Rios and the Somerset Falls attraction in Portland, for their respective involvement in the week of activities. She further thanked all the sponsors and partners for their role in keeping the festival alive and for helping to fulfill the vision of founder, the late Sonny Bradshaw, in educating youth through music.

This year marks the return of a Souvenir Publication, the first since 2010, through a partnership with publishers Candlestone Inc (from the US) and an all-girls band, Le Birrette (from Italy), as well as Jamaican vocalists Tony Gregory, June Lawson and Marjorie Kay.

South African jazz legend, Lorraine Klaasen - no stranger to Jamaica - is a late addition to the programme.

Following the Opening Day on May 27 at FDR, the events shifts to Kingston Harbour the following evening, where the Jazz Cruise, a successful innovation last year, returns, as does the Portland concert, which this year takes place at Somerset Falls, also on May 28.

On that date, the Moon Palace resort will host the first of its free performance sessions for their guests, which will continue of Tuesday (May 30) and Thursday (June 1). On Tuesday, the Ocho Rios Shopping Centre is the scene for another public interaction, while the Mico University College hosts a Jazz Seminar/Workshop to be conducted by festival director, Myrna Hague Bradshaw.

Two evening Jam sessions – no cover charge – will unfold at Kingston’s Alibi lounge, which is already building a reputation through its weekly ‘cocktails and Jazz’ series (Wednesdays). The Alibi sessions will be on Wednesday (May 31) and Friday evening (June 2), beginning around 7 p.m.

The big closing day will unfold at Hope Gardens come Sunday, June 4, featuring the full line-up of acts.

Jazzfest 2017 heads to FDR

Myrna Hague-Bradshaw (2nd right), festival director, the Annual International Jamaica Ocho Rios Jazz Festival, pose with her festival partners (from left) Marcia Lawrence, Co-ordinator of the Portland/Somerset Falls leg of the festival; Maureen Smith, Jamaica Tourist Board and Tishawana Davidson, FDR, public relations manager.

In addition to the Jamaica Big Band, the line-up this year includes the Grand Beat (from Denmark), Project Grand Slam (from the US) and an all-girls band, Le Birrette (from Italy), as well as Jamaican vocalists Tony Gregory, June Lawson and Marjorie Kay.

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Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange (2nd left) ; Rev. Robin King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Trudy Deans, Jamaica’s Consul General to New York are engaged in conversation with Dr. Stephanie Coney, (left) founder of Stop the Violence Alliance Incorporated, following the North East USA Launch for the Jamaica 55 Calendar of Activities in Philadelphia on Friday, April 28.
Considering prospects in Canada

Dedre S. Powell

Canada

Dear Ms Powell,
I am a final-year student at the University of West Indies. I am studying accounting and I would love to live in Canada as the job prospects here in Jamaica are looking dimmer each day. I heard that people with degrees can apply to become citizens. I have an uncle living in Ontario and he says that he would be happy to help. How do you suggest I go about completing the process if it’s viable?

- H.O.

Dear H.O.,
A degree in accounting could chart a successful career path for you in Canada. Canada is one of the many countries that provide attractive career and social advancement to highly skilled and educated persons, who wish to become permanent residents and later citizens.

This is provided that individuals are willing and able to satisfy requirements set by Immigration and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

There are several steps that you can take to realise your goal. You may become eligible to submit an application under the Express Entry System, a points-based immigration system that manages applications under the Canadian federal economic immigration programs such as the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), Canadian Experience Class (CEC) and the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

The system is designed to select individuals who are eligible to immigrate to Canada based on their education, work experience, ability to integrate and make a valuable contribution to the Canadian economy.

Individuals are selected based on the number of points that they can get based on their skills, work experience, language, education and other factors such as a qualifying job offer and nomination from a province.

Each applicant is given a comprehensive ranking score and placed in a pool with other qualified applicants. IRCC then selects individuals from this pool based on the scores. If selected, IRCC grants an invitation to apply for permanent residence.

This is a highly competitive pool and therefore your goal is to maximise your scores to increase your chances of being selected.

You did not provide details of your age, marital status and work experience, or whether you are currently finishing a bachelor’s or master’s degree. To qualify under any of these programs you will need to have a minimum of one year’s continuous work experience or the equivalent of 1,566 hours in the same job within the past 10 years. This job must be at skill level O, A, B of the Canadian National Occupational Class (NOC).

Usually this skill level is managerial, supervisory and certain trades such as chef, cooks, bakers and butchers.

Another important step is to provide evidence of your language ability. There are two English language tests available. They are the International English Language Proficiency System (IELTS) and the General Training Examination. This is offered at the UWI. You will be tested on your reading, writing, listening and speaking. You should aim to maximise your score by trying to get no less than 8.5 for each category.

HOW TO BECOME CERTIFIED

You may also sit the Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Programme (CELPIP) exam in Canada. If you are fluent in French you should sit the French language examination known as the General Test d’évaluation de français (TEF). This is offered at the Alliance Francaise office in Kingston and throughout Canada.

Since your degree is from a non-Canadian university you will be required to get an educational credential assessment report (ECA) from one of the authorised organisations. You are required to provide a transcript for them to evaluate whether your degree is equivalent to a Canadian certification. Do not worry about whether your degree will qualify as the same job within the past 10 years.

How to apply for a re-entry permit that would allow your husband to reside outside the States for up to two years and is in some instances renewable for a second two-year period.

Applying for the re-entry permit, timing is important as you must be inside the US when the petition is filed, but the applicant can leave and return when it is time to be fingerprinted. The timing can be scheduled with minimum time away from Jamaica to accommodate the process.

Surrendering the green card is done with the form I-407 and can be submitted in person to the US Embassy in St. Andrew.

- Dahlia S. Powell

A degree in accounting could chart a successful career path for you in Canada.
HORACE AND Hillary Morgan, a Jamaica-born couple based in Florida, have teamed up with Drs Kiran and Pallavi Patel to help hundreds of Jamaicans access critical eye surgeries. The Morgans, through their foundation, Mind Body and Soul Health Ministry, have been supporting residents of St Ann for several years through medical and evangelical missions. Morgan is a native of Alexandria in the parish. For their most recent mission to the island, the philanthropic couple decided to focus on eye surgeries in order to save the sight of persons suffering from eye conditions. Morgan’s aunt is blind and she wants to save persons from the same fate. They reached out to Dr Patel’s Family Foundation, which agreed to help. And, thereafter, cataract surgery was made with the Mandeville Regional Hospital where some 257 cataract surgeries were performed, free of cost, recently. The team, which performed the cataract surgeries in Mandeville, have also done similar operations in South Africa and Zambia, Kenya, and since 2010 have done 750 operations in Jamaica.

In addition to the eye surgeries, Dr Patel and his wife are providing support for the upgrading of the Alexandria Health Centre.

“I will be spending US$800,000 to upgrade the dental and pharmacological units,” Dr Patel said at the recent post-cataract surgery clinic in Mandeville. “The rural communities will be our focus; we want to give those people technologically advanced, cutting-edge care, including the use of telemedicine to maximise the use of the facility, so that people do not have to travel several miles for health care.”

Born in Zambia to Asian Indian parents, Dr Patel’s philanthropic work is well known in Tampa, Florida, where he resides with his family. Over the years, he has donated millions of dollars to health and education initiatives. Hillary Morgan is a nurse practitioner who was recently nominated as Florida’s Nurse Practitioner of the Year.

The Ministry of Health has developed a comprehensive assessment of all the primary care clinics across Jamaica and has used the information to launch the “Adopt a Clinic” initiative. Forum attendees are invited to share in this effort for the express purpose of service improvement at the facilities island-wide.

The Jamaican delegation includes representatives from Ministry of Health and Wellness, Regional Health Authorities, University of the West Indies, Health and Welfare Foundation, Kingston Public Hospital, May Pen Hospital, St. Ann’s Hospital, Noel Holmes Hospital, the Medical Council, Diabetes Association of Jamaica, and the Jamaica Cancer Society. Each delegation will get the opportunity to tour various hospitals in New York City as well as meet with their leaders to begin meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Nurse instructors from area hospitals will also have the opportunity to meet with the Director of the University of the West Indies School of Nursing to start the engagement process.

Additional sponsors are needed to help us cover airfare and accommodation costs for the Jamaican delegation. Your much needed contributions can be made payable to: The Organization for International Development (OID) and mailed to: 739 East 230 St., Bronx NY 10466.

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EVENTS LISTINGS

CANADA EVENTS

Walk Good fundraiser - the JCA’s 35th annual walkathon will be held on Sunday, May 7. 5k or 10k routes. Walk, jog, run or cycle! Pledge forms are available for the Jamaican Canadian Association or online at jcaontario.org/walkgood or Sandra Whiting, Chair, 416-573-1375

Internationally-acclaimed activist, author and scholar, Angela Davis, will be the keynote speaker at the Human Rights Forum held by the Canadian Labour Congress on Sunday, May 7, 6:30 p.m. The CLC’s 28th Constitutional Convention will be from Monday, May 8 to Friday, May 12 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto. canadianlabour.ca/about-clc/conventions

Black Canadian Studies Association biennial conference will be held at Brandon University in Manitoba, May 11-13, under the theme: “Blackness, Indigeneity, Colonialism, and Confederation: 21stCentury Perspectives.”

For details about the conference, visit https://www.brandonu.ca/bcsa/.

NEW YORK

You are invited to the 7th Annual Barbara M. Simpson Scholarship Dinner, Thursday, May 11 from 6 pm - 11 pm, Eastwood Manor Catering Hall, 3371 Eastchester Road, Bronx. For further information contact

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JAMCCAR Annual Mother’s Day Luncheon, May 13th, Town & Country Caterers, 922 Route 9W, Congers, NY; 11:30 AM; Contact: Millicent 91 7-562-6771, Carol 845-729-9416.

You are invited to Charlemont HSPSA Pre-Mothers Day Brunch, May 13th. Visit www.charlemonthighschoolfoundation.org for more information and to purchase tickets; or call Samanta 547-765-5684.

Mico Old Student Association invites you to their 42nd Annual Spring Scholarship and Awards Banquet, on Sunday May 21, 2017, 3:30 pm-8:30 pm at Glen Terrace Catering Hall, 5315 Avenue N Brooklyn NY 11234. For further information call Esther 718-614-9349 or Ruth 914-275-6659

Paschal Blue Boleros of the St. Catherine High Alumni Association Northeast, are requesting publicity of our upcoming annual fundraiser luncheon scheduled on June 24th, 2017 at Plattdutsche Park Caterers in Franklin Square, Long Island, New York.

CHICAGO

You are invited to a Community Town Hall sponsored by The Jamaica Consulate, May 20th from 10 am - 3 pm, Redemption Way Church of God, 9545 Collfax Ave., Chicago.
Riu Reggae mourns a mentor

Federson McIntosh
Senior Gleaner Writer

M I N U T E S B E F O R E E N D I N G mourns a mentor, who was a mentor to many young people. Federson McIntosh said to her, “Don’t worry about me. I will be fine.”

He proceeded to pray with the nurse, but by the time he reached hospital, he succumbed to the injuries he had received during an accident while doing a routine check that they were doing.

One of two men who McIntosh supervised chimed in, remembering his boss as a fun person who he had never seen before.

Motivator

“He was my motivator, he encouraged me and kept me on track,” said Darren Myles.

His colleague, Richard Somers, spoke of a man who taught him how to be a man. “He was a teacher who passed on information by example. He taught me electrical work, plumbing, and opened up my mind to knowledge because he believed in succession planning,” said Somers, heaping praise upon his mentor.

Unwillingly accepting their loss, Somers said that in the last few days, a great deal of emphasis has been placed on the men who remain alive after the accident, as well as his staff, who have received counseling. Hotel guests who were relocated to other properties have returned since the resort resumed operation last Sunday. The hotel has since been renamed Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida, while the others who needed surgery were relocated to other properties.

“Each year, we would train together for the run. I hear he is still training, however, we never got a chance to train together,” said his training partner, Somers.

Police Commissioner George Quallo, who, along with Commissioner George William, is in charge of the Constant Spring Police Station, was during the mélée, which reportedly started after police tried to arrest an accused robber.

Leighton died leaving two sons, an eight-year-old and a two-year-old child, who is mother of his older child, Spanisha, is not sure how they are going to survive without him.

“When I heard, I said it couldn’t be him. It must be a dream, and then I started to think about what he used to say to me,” Spanisha said. She and her family had to drop their son, herreaction was one of denial.

For McIntosh’s common-law wife, Deidre Clarke, there will never be another man who will love her the way she loved him. “I will never be able to love like this again. I have lost the only person I was ever part of,” she told The Gleaner, adding that he was like their two-year-old son and dedicated time to him.

Clarke described her late soul mate as trustworthy, godly, honest, and a person who he had never seen sad.

DOUBLE BLOW

Police stoned as second cop succumbs to criminals’ bullets

RYON JONES
Staff Reporter

MEMBERS OF the police force spent the weekend mourning as news spread that a second colleague had died from injuries he received at the hands of marauding criminals loose in the society.

The cops were still coming to grips with the death of Constable Leighton Hanson, who was fatally shot on Constant Spring Road last Friday, when word came that Detective Sergeant Dale Thompson, who was assigned to the Kingston Central Division, had died from injuries he received several months earlier.

To compound the pain of the cops, pictures of Hanson’s body on the ground on Constant Spring Road were being circulated on social media, some that was condemned by Police Commissioner George Quallo.

Regina Hanson sat on her veranda flipping through the pages of an incomplete album of images of her son, Leighton, who was killed while trying to arrest an accused robber.

The album chronicled Leighton’s early years, with images of him graduating from Bridgetown High School to him acting at a Christian youth camp. But the album had space for more happy memories, now which, will never be captured.

Regina went through immense pain giving birth to her only child, who was born premature, weighing only four pounds and 10 ounces. But that pain was nothing compared to what she was feeling now that she’s 34-year-old ‘baby’ has been cut from her life forever.

“The pain is even greater now that I had to spend six weeks in the hospital and do a C-section,” Regina recounted. “He was so small they had to give him to me on a pillow to hold, but he grew up so fast.”

According to Regina, giving birth to

Overcome with grief, Spanisha Hanson (centre), wife of Constable Leighton Hanson, clutches her son, Alex, while head of the Constant Spring Police Station, Superintendent Jacqueline Green gives a comforting word at the late cop’s Portmore, St Catherine, house yesterday.

Leighton was the only member of distress he caused her prior to last Thursday when news reached her of his murder.

A PEOPLE PERSON

“He was always giving some joke. (He was) a person who grew up learning to talk to people so much he had the words and the knowledge of the society,” added the grieving mother.

Regina said that she is hearing of her son’s passing, she was at the Half-Way Tree Transportation Centre and overheard a discussion about a policeman who had been disarmmed and fatally shot by a man he was trying to arrest.

“Immediately, Leighton just came in front of me, and I said, ‘Duh, Lord! Don’t let him be it’,” Regina told The Gleaner.

When everyone got word that it was in fact her son, her reaction was one of denial. She cried out, “No! My child can’t die!”

She continued: ‘And I started to cry. My pressure went up, and at around nine o’clock, I had to be rushed to the doctor and was put to sleep.”

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Another side of Penns

See highlights from the 123rd staging last weekend.

Diane Gordon decked in the full Jamaican colors is flanked by her friends, Juliette Brown and Beverly Watson as they strike a pose for our cameras at the Penn Relays.

Sports Minister Babsie Grange addresses the large gathering of members of the Diaspora at the team Jamaica Bickle awards ceremony on Saturday at the Penn Relays.

To the delight of hundreds of spectators, in a carnival like atmosphere, two dancers entertain the crowd as they perform the latest Jamaican dance moves in front of the Grace Kennedy tent at the recently held Penn Relays.

President of Caribbean Food Delight, Vincent Hosang OJ (center) and his daughter Sabrina Hosang-Jordan present a cheque for $10,000 to the CFO of Tema Jamaica Bickle Lance Clark at its award ceremony on Saturday after the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jamaicans turn out in large numbers to enjoy the Penn Relays.

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

Photos by Derrick Scott
Local colleges give respectable Penns showings

WHILE MOST attention from a local standpoint was on the high school teams at the Penn Relays which ended on Saturday in Philadelphia, it was also on outstanding performances from local college teams in both individual and relay events.

Over the past few years, the University of Technology took the fight to their American counterparts, winning several championship events, but this time around, pride of place went to the St Catherine based GC FOSTER College, that had their best ever result at the Carnival. The Maurice Wilson coached team walked away with two Championship of America titles, winning the sprint Medley and the 4x100m relays.

Despite not even being placed among the seeded teams in the Men's Sprint Medley finals on Friday, GC won their Heat in 3:15.16 to have the fastest time overall. There was drama, as Penn State, who won the seeded heat, saw their members celebrating and were ready to go to the podium to collect their plaque and watches but had to retreat after finding out that their winning time of 3:17.40 was much slower than GC Fuss's.

GC Foster had their biggest moment on Saturday's final day as their male quartet of Colin King, Everton Clarke, Romario Williams and Chadick Hinds sped to victory in the Men's 4x100m in 39.04 seconds, taking some big scalps, as Oregon was second in 39.10 seconds and Auburn third in 39.12 seconds.

They also had a second place finish in the Men's 4x200m in 1:21.55, as Houston won in 1:21.17.

There was another top three finish in the championships for another Jamaican team in the male division, as Mico University College, appearing on this big stage for the first time, left the meet in fine style.

Competing in the final event on Saturday night, the team from Marescaux Road, which got a lot of support from the Jamaican fans inside the Franklin Field Stadium, ran their hearts out, finishing a close third in the 4x400m in 3:05.76, behind winners Auburn 3:03.19 and Penn State 3:05.69. Auburn was pushed to victory by 2015 Issa Boy's Class one 400m champion Akeem Belinfeld, former St Francis’ College, who ran a relay split of 44.85 seconds, and Nathan Allen, the silver medallist then at St Jago, who ran the anchor leg for Auburn.

The members of the history making Mico team, were Javere Bell, Marco Jago, who ran the anchor leg for Auburn, Doodnauthang, Omar Thompson and Jamari Rose.

The University of Technology (Utech) also had a consolation victory, winning the College 4x100m in 39.96 seconds. Utech’s Ronald Levy had the best individual showing, as he continued his fine form this season in the 110m hurdles. He showed that his win in the event over Olympian Hanalei Parchment two weeks ago was no fluke, as he captured the College Championships of America event in 13.33 seconds.

Levy’s teammate Michael Campbell was second in the men’s College Championships 100m in a wind aided 10.09 seconds while GC Foster College’s, Marzel Miller had a consolation victory, winning the College 100m in a wind aided 10.09 seconds. Miller also had a consolation victory, winning the College 100m in 13.33 seconds.

The University of the West Indies’ Carlington Munion was victorious in the consolation high jump finals for College Men, after clearing the bar at 2.12m.

R.G.
Jamaica ends level in USA Vs World

RAYMOND GRAHAM
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA SHARED the spotlight with their United States counterparts at Saturday’s USA vs World Relays segment of the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, winning three relays. Victories for Jamaica came in the Women’s 4x100m and the Men’s and Women’s 4x400m relays.

It was the quartet of Christiana Williams, Kerro Stewart, Gayon Evans and Elaine Thompson who won first blood. Despite the United States’ Morolake Akinosun having a slight lead on anchor, she could not hold on as Olympic champion Elaine Thompson brought loud cheers from the Jamaican fans by overtaking her opponent very early to give Jamaica a win in 42.25 seconds as USA finished second in 42.42 seconds with USA Blue taking third on 42.90 seconds.

Thompson was happy for her team winning the event. “Going to the World Relays in the Bahamas last weekend was a good motivation for me as that gave me a big boost for the season and knowing that I came here to anchor for Jamaica I was ready to do well,” said Thompson, who stated that she is looking forward to the Doha leg of the IAAF Diamond League meet next weekend.

The United States drew level in the next race as their men’s Red team won the 4x100m in 38.87 seconds with Jamaica finishing second in 39.01 seconds with the Dominican Republic getting third in 40.32 seconds. Members of the Jamaica team were Kevaun Rattray, Oshane Bailey, Kavean Smith and Jevaughn Minzie.

Rattray, Oshane Bailey, Kavean Smith and Jevaughn Minzie.

Members of the Jamaica women’s team who won the USA versus the World 4x400m metres event at the Penn Relays last Saturday. The women are holding their commemorative watches. Jamaica won the event in 3:28.32. From left: Damaane Loney, Shericka Jackson, Stephanie McPherson and Janieve Russell.

Men’s 4x400m relays to draw even. A gallant anchor leg from Olympian Fitzroy Dunkley which saw him making up a 10m gap to overtake the United States’ Calvin Smith, inches from the finishing line, gave Jamaican their first win in this event since 2005, in 3:03.14. The United States was second in 3:03.25 with third going to the Bahamas in 3:03.82. Other members of the winning team were Martin Manley, Leford Green and Jermaine Gayle.

Jamaica closed off with a good win in the Women’s event as the team included Olympians Shericka Jackson, Janieve Russell and Stephanie Ann McPherson and rookie Damaane Loney, as they won in 3:28.32 ahead of the United States second in 3:29.30, as both Bahamas and Nigeria failed to finish.

Continued from 24

Jamaica Under-17 Football team eliminated from World Cup

ANOTHER JAMAICAN Football team has failed to qualify for a World Cup tournament. The Under-17 team on the weekend were eliminated from the qualifying competition in Panama when they lost to Mexico 1-5 on Saturday in a game they had to win to progress.

The Jamaicans rallied against El Salvador in game 11 to take the lead in the match before El Salvador equalised. But then Jamaica lost to the left-back and was eliminated from the World Cup.

Polacheck

No visa for 21

ROBERT BAILEY
Gleaner Writer

TWENTY-ONE ATHLETES from John Mills and Constant Spring Primary and Junior High Schools were recently denied US visas to compete at the Miami Classics, which will be held at Miami Dade College in June.

Coaches from the affected schools yesterday complained that their athletes are devastated after they were denied visas by the United States Embassy in Kingston, recently.

“What I have asked the most director from overseas is to do is to get the head consulate here because I think it is unfair and it is an injustice to the little ones,” said John Mills coach, Ransford Spaulding.

DEVASTATING

“I think that when you have the youngsters training so hard, and they turn them down (at the Embasssy), then it devastating for these kids,” Spaulding said.

Since then, however, Thompson has become the one to beat, especially after her exploits in Rio where she became the first woman in 28 years to win both the 100m and 200m.

The Prefontaine Classic is the third meet in the Diamond League series which begins in Qatar next Friday.

Jamaica Under-17 team going through their paces in a recent training session. which undermined the players’ confidence.

The senior team, the Reggae Boys, also were eliminated in the qualifying rounds for the next World Cup 2018 in Russia. In 1998 Jamaica went to the World Cup in France for the first time but are yet to make another appearance in that competition.

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MULTIPLE MEDALS FOR COMBINED TEAM IN OLYMPIC-STYLE FIGHTING

Jamaica’s combined martial arts team recently made a successful return to World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) Olympics-style fighting, flying home with a medal-laden squad from the Ultimate Taekwon-Do Challenge in New Jersey.

THOMPSON TO HEADLINE PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

(NEW YORK, (CMC)) - Reigning Olympic double sprint queen, Elaine Thompson, will headline the 200m event at the Prefontaine Classic.

The 24-year-old Jamaican will line up alongside the likes of Dutch nemesis Dafne Schippers and the American pair of Tori Bowie and Allyson Felix, in what is expected to be a blockbuster marquee event in Eugene, Oregon on May 27.

Please see THOMPSON, 23