JAMAICANS SUPPORT CALL FOR MEREDITH’S EXPULSION

... Senator to respond this week

TRUMP FIRES JAMAICAN WHITE HOUSE CHIEF USHER

– PAGE 3
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Radigan’s murder bloodies Ja’s image in the US

COREY ROBINSON

A JAMAICAN, who heads the Criminal Gang Homicide Division in the Los Angeles Police Department, has described the October incident which left alleged Jamaican gang leader Robert 'Radigan' Davis dead in LA as the bloodiest gang shooting he has ever seen.

Peter Whittingham, who spent almost 10 years in the Jamaica Constabulary Force before migrating to the United States in 1983, says the shooting reinforced the feeling of many persons that Jamaicans are vicious.

"That incident was the single most violent homicide I have ever seen," he told The Gleaner.

Four persons were killed and 11 others were injured following a reported clash of gangsters in a makeshift Jamaican restaurant in the West Adams District, Los Angeles.

According to Whittingham, who is leading the probe, investigators have evidence that the killers will be nabbed. He said one man was arrested and charged in connection with the shooting after his identity was placed on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s list.

HIDING IN JAMAICA

While the police are hunting several other suspects and Whittingham said investigators are not ruling out that they may be hiding out in Jamaica. "It won’t be long before we will have other persons. This is a case that I am paying close attention to," said Whittingham, who is from Canterbury in Montego Bay.

"I will not discuss where exactly we think they (suspects) are at this point. We believe they may well be in Jamaica. We cannot rule that out. I can say it won’t be long before they are caught," he added.

He noted that criminal acts in the US create a lasting and damaging impression of Jamaicans in people’s minds, and many residents of Los Angeles have not moved past (Oxygen) and provided guidance on matters of furnishing, art and decor, wrote the Washington Post.

Oxygen told the BBC that she had no comment to make about her departure. Another report quoted her as saying, "I think it’s best if the White House appointed her."

The Gleaner featured Reid in a 2011 article. She was born in Trinimonty, St Thomas, and attended the Excelsior High School in Kingston. She became a front-office trainer at the Half Moon hotel in Montego Bay in 1978.

The Gleaner had spoken with her sister, Fiona Shaw-Davis, who said her entire family was elated by the appointment, but not surprised, having watched Reid excel in the hospitality sector over the years.

"She is a black woman and she wanted her next job to be in the government service of the United States," said Shaw-Davis.

The deadly Rimpau Street incident which left the former dance hall ‘big spender’ Radigan dead.

The shoot-out reportedly started when two Jamaican gang, believed to have organised criminal networks on the island, squared off.

Whittingham said he is saddened by the negative impressions people have about Jamaicans overseas and this has made him decide to take on the case personally.

"I became personally involved in that because that was not just a black-eye for Jamaica, it goes to the root of how people see us. That incident validated the viciousness by which people see Jamaicans, when it is really not so," he told our news team.

According to Whittingham, although Jamaicans now operating in the US are not as active as the ‘Shower Posse’ in the 1970s, that along with factions from Belize, continue to be trouble groups for the cops. These gangsters are mainly involved in marijuana and cocaine.

Whittingham, who was once a ward at the Alpha Boys’ School, described the Jamaican youths to avoid crime, punishment and the international organised crime.

“There is hope, you just have to readjust your three things that are positive and to let things regard your character, credibility, integrity be the foundation of your life. Everything will build upon that,” said Whittingham, as he pointed to several Jamaican-born security officials within his circle in the US.

TRUMP

Continued from 1

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Reid is the first woman and second African-American to serve in the position after a career in hospitality.

The BBC, in its report, quoted spokesman Sarah Huckabee Sanders as saying, “She is no longer employed here at the White House. She left on very good terms and we wish her the very best.”

“It is simply more than the transition of staff,” Huckabee Sanders added in a statement.

According to the White House Historical Association, the chief usher’s role includes overseeing “comfort, maintenance, remodelling, food, as well as the administrative, fiscal and personnel functions.”

The committee has recommended the expulsion of Senator Meredith, a power it has as a parliamentary privilege to discipline its members, and as a consequence, was not just a black-eye for Jamaica, it goes to the root of how people see us. That incident validated the viciousness by which people see Jamaicans, when it is really not so," he told our news team.

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Coalition concerned about inadequate mental health and addiction services

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

A COALITION of concerned members of the African Canadian community is calling on the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) to “sta-bilise, expand and fully resource” the Substance Abuse Program for African Canadian and Caribbean Youth (SAPACCY) at the institu-tion.

It also wants CAMH to build a strong strategy and plan to address mental health and addiction issues facing members of the African Canadian community, to build respectful and transparent partnerships with the community, and to establish a representative..

African Canadian consultative body to assist in guiding this work and to bring credibility to the process.

The coalition recently held a town hall meeting at Scarborough Civic in Toronto to discuss its con-cerns.

“CAMH’s mission is to serve the most marginalised and stigmatised people in our community and our society. It’s in our DNA. If any members of our community are not receiving the mental health treat-ment they need, it’s part of our organisation’s duty to address it,” says CAMH in response to the mat-ters raised by the coalition.

The coalition is concerned about the diminution of SAPACCY, Canada’s only public funded ethn-o-specific mental health and addic-tions program for African-Canadian Youth.

Among its concerns are: the “over-representation of African-Canadian clients in clinical pro-grams at CAMH, the lack of leader-ship and appropriate response to address anti-Black racism at CAMH, serious gaps regarding CAMH’s clinical environment, and poor treatment of African-Canadian clients in CAMH’s clini-cal care.”

The coalition also pointed to the “lack of African-Canadian represen-tation on the board of trustees and senior leadership of CAMH, and deaths and over-restraint of African-Canadian men in the care of CAMH.”

CAMH says it is dedicated to advancing health equity at CAMH “recognising the fact that anti-black racism has led to a dispro-portionate burden of discrimina-tion toward our African and Carib-bean origin communities.”

The coalition recently held a town hall meeting at Scarborough Civic in Toronto to discuss its con-cerns.

While the coalition is concerned about the diminution of SAPACCY, CAMH says it is keenly aware of the way that the social determi-nants of health impact different groups in the society.

“CAMH says SAPACCY arrived in CAMH in 1999 and has had stable funding and staffing for many years. In 2015, CAMH made changes to its board, Youth and Emerging Adult Program “to better link SAPACCY with the other CAMH youth addictions and mental health services, providing youth with more options for care and support. The result has been a two-fold increase in the number of youth served by SAPACCY. In addition, CAMH serves this population through our Urgent Care Service, Emergency Department, and our partnerships with walk in youth clinics in the community.”

Regarding enhancing diversity at the board and senior leadership level, enhancing diversity in the board and senior leadership level is an impor-tant area of focus for it.

To do this, CAMH is working to bolster our understanding of the clients we serve. We can’t fully address the issues of unequal access to health care on our own, but we’re firmly committed to working in partnership with the African and Caribbean origin communities and health service providers, among others, on sus-tainable solutions. Some aspects of the solutions will be delivered through CAMH, many others will require system enhancements and support from all levels of govern-ment.”

CAMH says since June of 2016, a number of its leaders and board of trustees have been meeting with representa-tives of organisations from the African and Caribbean communities and have been corre-sponding with them on an ongoing basis about the SAPACCY program.

The coalition says SAPACCY has gone from a 6-person staff team with strong internal leadership and championing, prevention and community engagement programs, collaborative partnerships and util-ising an Afro-centric, anti-racist framework, to a one-person team with no formal presence or part-nership in the community.

However, CAMH says the staffing and resources at the SAPACCY pro-gram are not being reduced, but instead they have actually increased the number of clients seen.

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In 2015, CAMH made changes to its Child, Youth and Emerging Adult Program “to better link SAPACCY with the other CAMH youth addictions and mental health services, providing youth with more options for care and support. The result has been a two-fold increase in the number of youth served by SAPACCY. In addition, CAMH serves this population through our Urgent Care Service, Emergency Department, and our partnerships with walk in youth clinics in the community.”

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SAPACCY is an important component of the prejudice and discrimination experienced by these communities.

CAMH says it is dedicated to advancing health equity at CAMH “recognising the fact that anti-black racism has led to a dispro-portionate burden of discrimina-tion toward our African and Carib-bean origin communities.”

In response to the matters raised by the coalition, CAMH says it is dedicated to advancing health equity at CAMH “recognising the fact that anti-black racism has led to a dispro-portionate burden of discrimina-tion toward our African and Carib-bean origin communities.”
THE CARIBBEAN Chinese Association (CCA), has donated funds to help with the drive, he accompanied HHJF on a trip to the island.

"Some of the other interesting things that we are working on include the building of a vocational school. One of the things in the Caribbean is that the trades aren’t really well trained; they kind of learn by doing," Li said. 

"I have been involved with this amazing team since 2002 when I was asked by the director of nursing services of the Princess Margaret Hospital to work with the team for the week they were there. Since then I have been associated with almost every clinic the team has had, and it has been a pleasure working with them." 

Li said that the team’s visits are eagerly anticipated each year by residents, as well as hospital staff. And, it was quite common for people to stop at the Nursing Administration’s office to request information regarding the clinic, or to ask when the glasses will be ready.

"On behalf of the Princess Hospital, family and friends I would like to thank you for your generosity, your persistence and your vision," Brown said.

Among those addressed at the annual event were: Verna Andrade, president; Adaoma Patterson, president of the Jamaican Canadian Association and Al ease Taylor, Consul at the Consulate General of Jamaica.

"We’re committed to an enhanced focus in this area," it said.

"It’s exciting to see how far we have come," said Karl Hale, president of the Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation, at the Caribbean Chinese Association 40th Anniversary Gala.

"We can’t wait to start work," said Hale.

"We are always trying to improve. Health equity research studies have indicated that black and other racialised groups tend to access services at a later stage, when symptoms may be more acute, and there is a need for better access to community-based services."

"The institution said together with community members it worked on a funding proposal that could have allowed them to acquire additional SAPACCY staff who would work at two community-based health clinics in underserved areas of the city."

"This would have augmented the existing SAPACCY services at CAMH. While the proposal was supported by some community partners, others had a different vision with a desire to expand SAPACCY within CAMH."

"We are disappointed that we weren’t able to reach an agreement on a common path forward, but we remain dedicated to advancing health equity at CAMH for all those we serve. At the same time, we recognise the fact that anti-black racism has led to a disproportionate burden of discrimination toward our African and Caribbean origin communities and are committed to an enhanced focus in this area," it said.

"People look at luxury storefronts at the Manzana de Gomez Kempinski five-star hotel in Havana, Cuba, Monday, May 8. Along the bioculture galleries of the Manzana’s ground floor, THD Caribe and CMX – host the luxury brand along with Cuban stores selling lesser-known but still pricey products aimed at Cuba’s small but growing upper-middle class, like $6 mini-bottles of shampoo and sets of plates for more than $100."

"The organisation was formed 25 years ago to assist and support patients, primarily those at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Eastern St Thomas, and later at hospitals in Portland and St Mary."

"The mission of the association when it was established in 1977 was to assist Caribbean Chinese immigrants assimilate into Canadian society but has since broadened its mandate."

"The mission of the association when it was established in 1977 was to assist Caribbean Chinese immigrants assimilate into Canadian society but has since broadened its mandate. Clifton Li, president of the association, announced that in that in addition to the CCA’s support, three other schools will be built.

"We have also adopted the motto of ‘Changing Lives. Creating Possibilities. Affording Opportunity’, we are excited by this project and look forward to establishing a helping hands Jamaica Foundation (HHJF)."

"The CCA to be even possible, it takes a village."

"It said with regard to claims of over-representation in the inpatient community or specific outcomes, “the state of socio-demographic data in hospitals is still emerging, and the current state of reliable data is weak."

"We have been engaged organisations like DiversityCity to support the search and we are working hard to enhance our process.”

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Curtis Ward

**PILLAR COLUMNIST**

I LIKE good news. I welcome any news that indicates, even marginally, that Caribbean integration is on the right path. It is a sad fact that good news on Caribbean integration has been a rarity. There has been a great deal of dissatisfaction with the rate of implementation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME). One major issue is lack of full implementation of the free movement of nationals of CARICOM member states in the region.

It is natural that the two most populous CARICOM states, Haiti and Jamaica, would have the largest number of their nationals travelling throughout the region. Does that mean nationals of Haiti and Jamaica by their sheer numbers are likely to face greatest scrutiny and barriers to regional travel? With regard to Jamaican nationals, there have been vexing issues related to the treatment meted out to them by the immigration services of Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago.

Perhaps there is no denying that large numbers of Jamaicans, as well as Haitians, seeking entry to these two countries may be doing so for economic reasons. After all, Barbados and T&T were reputed for many years as having the strongest economies in the Caribbean region, which generally leaves important questions unanswered. Is it that there may be deficiencies in the data on which decisions are made and conclusions reached. Motives for the desired outcome is also a consideration when evaluating the data collection and processing of data. As Caribbean states (also applies to all countries and regions) we need to be vigilant and curious about the motives of our governments, especially when data is used to influence perceptions and opinions. How and for what purpose data is collected and the motive of this obviously positive report, however, is always useful and necessary to cast aspersions on the veracity of the data.

The Emerald Awards Ceremony, the WGE and the new data on which decisions are made leaves important questions unanswered. How and for what purpose data is collected and the motive of this obviously positive report, however, is always useful and necessary to cast aspersions on the veracity of the data. We need to be vigilant and curious about the motives of our governments, especially when data is used to influence perceptions and opinions. How and for what purpose data is collected and the motive of this obviously positive report, however, is always useful and necessary to cast aspersions on the veracity of the data.
Holness inducted into UWI’s Honour Park

The Honour Park was established in 2005, to celebrate graduates who are former or current CARICOM heads and prime ministers. However, ahead of the induction of Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Keith Rowley, earlier this year, The Gleaner brought it to public attention that Holness, who is a graduate of the institution, was not recognised.

UWI has since apologised, indicating that it was an oversight.

Among those who attended the ceremony are former prime ministers Edward Seaga and Bruce Golding, Opposition Leader Dr Peter Phillips, Government ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and individuals from the public and private sector.

J$3.5b health fix

Gov’t dips into NHF purse to pay for major sector overhaul

EDMOND CAMPBELL
Senior Staff Reporter

JAMAICA’S HEALTH sector is to undergo a major overhaul in the next two years, with the Government sourcing J$3.5 billion from the National Health Fund (NHF) to repair, replace, and upgrade critical infrastructure across the country.

Health Minister Dr Christopher Tufton says the Government is taking a proactive approach to prevent a collapse of the country’s health infrastructure, stating that the problems bedevilling the Cornwall Regional Hospital in St. James are symptomatic of how “we generally approach the maintenance of health infrastructure”.

The hospital was faced with a crisis earlier this year as anxious times from the air conditioning unit severely affected both staff and patients at the institution.

All outpatient services have been relocated, and up to 600 patients are receiving medical care from other locations while the main building is being investigated and repaired.

Tufton, in his contribution to the Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives last week, said that the money taken from the NHF would not affect its viability. He pointed out that the fund has $10 billion in reserves, and a government-commissioned KPMG study has shown that with a withdrawal of J$3.5 billion, the entity would be able to meet its obligations for up to 10 years, all other things being equal.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

“What is important is that we cannot continue to limp along with an outdated infrastructure and pretend that we are able to respond to the health challenges our people face. We have to do something, and we have to do it now,” Tufton asserted.

He noted that given pending reforms, the ministry was ‘comfortable’ that the revenue streams would be improved.

The health minister also reported that the Government was working to complete plans to establish a national health insurance scheme (NHIS) by year end.

Consultants from the World Health Organisation and the Pan American Health Organisation have already produced a report looking at NHIS options for Jamaica.

“We are now in the process of recruiting another international consultant who will work with the committee that has been established to drive the deliverables of an NHIS,” Tufton said.

While indicating that the Government had no intention of reversing its policy of universal access to health care for all Jamaicans, Tufton noted that Jamaicans should contribute to their health costs if they are in a position to do so.

Major fire devastates Westwood High School

THE WESTWOOD High School in Stewarts Town, Trelawny was the scene of a major fire on Tuesday night, May 2.

“The call came in that a section of the school’s compound was on fire shortly after 10 p.m.” said Roland Booth, a deputy superintendent at the Trelawny Fire Brigade.

“One unit responded, and it was joined at the scene by firefighters from Brown’s Town and St Ann Bay.”

Firefighters battled to contain the raging fire which gutted the kitchen, dining room, changing room and storeroom at the 135-year-old all-girl school.

While the firefighters were not able to save the buildings that were destroyed, they were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the adjoining structures, which, like the gutted areas, are constructed from a mixture of wood and concrete.

There were no reports of injuries, however, some students suffered from breathing disorders affected by the thick smoke which engulfed the compound.

“It was somewhat frightening, especially when we were told to vacate our dorm rooms and move to another building,” a 10-grade boarder who is now safe at home in Montego Bay, St James told The Gleaner. “We are naturally very sad about this because Westwood is our home away from home.”

Arrangements are underway to determine the cause of the fire.

The administration, which is headed by principal Karen Francis, took a decision to suspend classes and called in parents to retrieve students who are boarders at the institution.

While normalcy, especially for the boarders, is unlikely anytime soon, since the kitchen and dining area have been destroyed, the principal said arrangements would be put in place to facilitate the upper-school students, who are currently preparing for external examinations.

“We will not be able to facilitate all the students just now,” said Francis. “The board will meet and short-term plans will be put in place for the other students.”

Efforts to get an estimate of the damage proved futile, but expectations are that the overall cost will run into millions of dollars.

Investigations are also under way to determine the cause of the fire.

Westwood, which is one of the nation’s oldest and most illustrious high schools, has produced a number of outstanding past students the likes of Wyrolyn Gager, a former editor-in-chief at The Gleaner, and distinguished educator, Dr Angela Samuels-Harris.
LETTERS

No client of mine has ever confessed to murder

THE EDITOR, SIR:

I SEE where Patria-Kaye Aarons is ‘raining’ on lawyers in her column of Tuesday, May 2, 2017. But she should stick to her forte, the women’s’ case, not since she didn’t go to law school, let me help her.

Clients instruct attorneys, and it is the attorney’s duty to present those instructions on their client’s behalf.

Defence attorneys investigate their instructions and the Stop-the-case notices if there is an accomplice that would prevent them from representing their client as required by the rules of ethics. It would serve Ms Aarons well to read those canons.

In my 41 years, I have never had a client confess to a wanton murder. They may say ‘I shot him, but...’ That but may turn out to be a defence. No attorney will fight an unfightable case.

It is the norm to fail to do investigative journalism that make court proceedings a big contest, as so-called facts are misrepresented to the public, which makes an acquisitive appearance to be some magic act. If journalists publicise from an informed position, it would not be so. It is the media who label attorneys ‘big lawyers’.

It is no sleight of hand or trick that results in an acquittal, and we certainly are not lawyers because we wish to ‘share in the spoils’, or ‘duel for bragging rights’. And by the way, many ‘big lawyers’ do free work.

NO COMPLAINTS

Regarding lottery scramblers, there are no complaints in Jamaica. Most of the complaints are made to prosecuting authorities in the United States by their citizens, and not to our position.

The persons charged with scamming in Jamaica are those held by the police with paraphernalia that would indicate their involvement. But they are most time the small fry. Ms Aarons, what about the business people from whom expensive, worthless checks are bought in cash. Are they taking scammer money?

This is how Jamaica can reduce crime.

■ No child should be expelled or allowed to drop out of school.

■ All Jamaica’s children need to be fully and properly educated.

■ Government needs to identify and give incentives to young people to pursue those professions needed to advance the country.

■ Proper parenting programmes need to be a priority.

■ Address the problem of Jamaican mothers who are facilitators of crime. Absentee fathers, too, must understand that they need to play a vital role in the stability of their children’s lives, or they will not live with them.

■ Small-business loans should be more available.

■ The private sector must open the way to more jobs.

■ Emphasis should be placed on private prison rehabilitation so that recidivism is reduced.

VALERIE NBITA-HOBSON, QC
Kingston

US attack on lawyers derogatory

THE EDITOR, SIR:

I TAKE strong exception to an American official in Jamaica casting aspersions at the profession that I hold dear. To entertain suspicion of several local attorneys’ involvement in the deadly multimillion-dollar advance fee, or lottery scam, does not justify the derogatory statement that could cause lawyers looking askance at each other, and members of the public wanting to know who they can trust with their business.

The legal profession in Jamaica exists to uphold the rule of law as a foundation for our democracy. If there are facts that lead to evidence of wrongdoing, these must be followed to a lawful end. What is discomfiting is for the representative of a friendly country to fire a shot across the bow of a friendly neighbour that has no potential for a nuclear response as is seen elsewhere.

NEED FOR ACTION

Lottery scamming is a two-faced monster that marside both countries – one more so than the other. I call it greed. Where there is need for change and corrective action, both sides must say it begins with me.

Naming the payment of money by a euphemism such as ‘advance fee’ does not launder the crime of reaping where you did not sow. It condemns him that gives and him that takes.

Perhaps the American official can tell us the profession of those who were fleeced. Otherwise, with friends like these...?

FRANK PHIPPS (QC)

THE WEEKLY GLEANER

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

Send your 150-word comment on 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.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT AN AFFRONT TO JUSTICE

W...E FORCED AGAIN TO INVOKE OUR OFTEN-USED ADAGE AND TIME-TESTED PRINCIPLE: WHAT IS WORSE THAN FORMULATING BAD POLICY IS IMPLEMENTING IT.

The danger this time is the proposal by European Athletics for the global sport to wipe out all world records, for track and field events, set prior to 2005. The IAAF will likely vote on the idea at its congress next summer.

The intent of the suggestion will likely gain the sympathy of people who have an appreciation for the value of the painful, hard work of athletes who perform cleanly an attempt at drawing a line under the scandals that wrecked the sport in recent years over drug cheating.

In that regard, 2005 is not an arbitrary date. It marks the time when the global athletics began storing athletes’ urine and blood samples for possible later testing for drug violations as technology develops.

But what European Athletics has proposed is not only a lazy fix, but a potential breach of natural justice that would penalise those athletes who achieved records that mark contemporary athletes, those athletes who achieved records in the era of doping, without the help of banned drugs that actually were ahead of detection.

What is worse than formulating bad policy is implementing it.

The legal profession in Jamaica exists to uphold the rule of law as a foundation for our democracy. If there are facts that lead to evidence of wrongdoing, these must be followed to a lawful end. What is discomfiting is for the representative of a friendly country to fire a shot across the bow of a friendly neighbour that has no potential for a nuclear response as is seen elsewhere.

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

May 11 - 17, 2017

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

CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

Have a great week!

Sports minister, Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange, and Jamaica’s Counsel General to New York Trudy Dean, at the 123rd staging of Penn Relays at University of Pennsylvania’s Franklin Fields in Philadelphia on Saturday, April 29.

Contributed

From left: Dave Myrie, principal with honourees: Rev Wayne Haughton, executive director of The Academy Charter School; Devon Hussett, President Award; Rev Canon Abner Powell, Chaplain; Lennox Graham, Team Jamaica Coach; R. Perry Bloomfield, President; Nick Perry, assemblyman at Kingston College Old Boys Association of New York 34th Annual Reunion and Awards Dinner, Saturday, May 6 at Antun’s in Springfield Village.

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

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From the Management & Staff of Champion Bakery

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Happy Mother’s Day

Photo by Neil Armstrong

Dylan Boyd, a graphic design student with his fashion line, Neu, at OCAD University’s 102nd Graduate Exhibition in Toronto. With him is his mother, Camille Boyd, left, and grandmother, Cecile Pinnock, on the opening day of the exhibition which ran from May 3-7.
Noranda owners sign agreement to sell Jamaican-mined bauxite

THH NEW owner of Noranda’s bauxite plant in Jamaica, DADA Holdings LLC has announced that the deal has been reached with a third party marketing firm to sell its bauxite mine in Jamaica.

In a press release on Friday, May 5, DADA Holdings said Noranda entered into a “take or pay” third party marketing arrangement with the London-based Concorde Resources to sell bauxite mined in Jamaica.

DADA Holdings said Noranda also signed a long-term exclusive take-off agreement with Concorde for all smaller grade alumina produced at its Gramercy, Louisiana, facility. Noranda’s CEO David D’Addario says the deal with Concorde will “reduce the costs of its bauxite.

DADA Holdings LLC became the owners of the Noranda bauxite plant in St Ann after it purchased the assets of parent company Noranda Aluminum Holding in November last year for US$644.4 million.

The company filed for bankruptcy court judge in 2015 gave the go-ahead to Noranda Bauxite Limited to pull out of its loss-making, long-term contract to supply Jamaican-mined ore to Sherwin Alumina Company.

Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2014.

Next leg of highway impact businesses in six towns

THE 291-page addendum, commissioned by NROCC and prepared by the Harbour Engineering Company, was handed over to the concessionaire China Overseas Engineering and Construction Company last month to hear their concerns, said Stephen Shaw, director of technical services at NROCC.

Shaw told The Gleaner that the highway should increase business and housing along the corridor and thereby provide opportunities for those affected.

“No, this will increase business activity. We are carrying the highway towards the southern coast of the island where half the population lives. This highway will provide reliable route and this route will aid in economic activity for whatever activity is done,” said Shaw.

It’s part of the planned US$168.4million, 20-km road project, which will cut up to 50 minutes off the journey from Kingston to St Ann’s Bay.

The communities that will be affected include Clarendon Park, Osborne Store, Toll Gate, Porsa, Scott’s Pass and Melrose Hill Bypass, according to the newly published addendum to the Environmental management and assessment (EIA) for the highway project, referred to as 1C, from May Pen to Williamsfield.

The alignment is a part of the Highway 2000 Sandy Bay to Williamsfield leg that received an environmental permit in 2007.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

“The previous EIA high-lighted several potential impacts that mitigated against the feasibility of the proposed route. As such, NROCC has subsequently reviewed the alignment,” stated the document.

The highway proposes to have two lanes with a speed limit of 110 kilometres per hour, running south of the major settlements at Four Paths, Osborne Store, Toll Gate and Clarendon Park, and then 80km/h in the hilly terrain between St Thomas’ Falls and Williamsfield.

The entire Phase 1C alignment is 19.5km in length,” stated the document, while the original designs had estimated the stretch at 27km.

In 2004, Highway 2000 opened its first leg to become Jamaica’s fastest road. It stretches from Caymanas in St Catherine to May Pen, Clarendon, and consists of 46 kilometres. The second leg, totalling 10.5km from Sandy Park to May Pen was completed in 2012. Those concessions are held by NROCC, which will now operate and commercial are the main land uses, can be changed which greater access,” reasoned the addendum.

The project is scheduled to be completed within 36 months after the commencement certificate has been issued, it said.
Tourism earnings reach US$1 Billion over past four months

JAMAICA'S TOURISM earnings raked in a record US$1 billion over the past four months, said tourism minister Edmund Bartlett.

“We have never had a winter season like this before, certainly not US$1 billion in earnings,” Bartlett said.

Bartlett further stated that the 13 per cent increase over the corresponding January-April period last year was nothing to scoff at, adding that this is something that the ministry expected to happen.

“In every single area in both arrivals and earnings, for both cruise shipping and stopover, there has been an increase, right across the board,” the tourism minister declared.

“We are, however, not going to sit on our laurels and be complacent. We have commitments from the two biggest cruise companies – Royal Caribbean and Carnival – that we will continue to get their flag ships, designating us as one of the true first-call destinations.”

Bartlett said he was also comfortable with the fact that key stakeholders have been buying into the vision, pointing to significant investments not only by the Appleton, Chukka and other entities in building and upgrading attractions.

“We also have a significant amount of hotel rooms coming on stream in both the Trevelyan and SR Ann areas, and we are also starting to make inroads in both the Asian and African markets.”

**FORWARD EXCHANGE TRADING SUMMARY**

**Trade Date:** Monday, May 8, 2017

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<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Volume</th>
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<td>Other</td>
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**10-DAY MOVING AVERAGE RATE:**

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**JANET SILVERA**

Senior Gleaner Reporter

Peter Moses hired as GK Consultant

GRACKEENED GROUP CEO Don Wehby has snagged the services of retired banker Peter Moses, who has been hired as a consultant for the financial group and will eventually take on the chairmanship of the conglomerate’s commercial banking business, subject to regulatory approval. Whiteley on Tuesday indicated that he considered the hire a coup, saying Moses, who at end of March, wrapped up over 40 years of service to Citibank Jamaica, could have had his pick of assignments.

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@KidneyForJeanie
Kidney Campaign

Dear Family, Friends & Valued Customers,

I am in urgent need of a kidney. I have been on the transplant list at New York Presbyterian Hospital for four years now. A living donor kidney is my best and safest chance at a longer and healthier life. I have developed lesions on my legs that are painful and bring me great discomfort.

As I continue to give back to my community, I am reaching out to all of you. I am asking for someone who is healthy and willing to donate a kidney to me. Please consider this donation as your gift of life to someone in need.

If you would like to become my living donor, please call the number below to schedule an appointment to find out if you are eligible. You may visit my website or @kidneyforjeanie Facebook kidney campaign to fill out the online questionnaire or to download the forms. Medical exams related to kidney donation will be at no cost to you. Mention you are signing up as a potential donor for Jeanette HoSang.

New York Presbyterian Hospital
Transplant Department
212-305-6669
jeanettehosang.com
Facebook.com/kidneyforjeanie

It brings me hope when I hear someone took their time to get a blood test to see if they are a match, but it is very disheartening to be contacted by someone who is looking for compensation in various forms. I must stress it is illegal to accept compensation for donating a kidney.

Even if you choose not to become a living donor, you may register to become an organ donor through your state’s Department of Motor Vehicles or go to organdonor.gov. I am one of many people waiting for a transplant. Many die waiting for an organ. Your life could save up to eight lives.

Yours Truly,
Jeanice

Royal Caribbean Bakery
Caribbean Food Delights

Happy Mother’s Day

Royal Caribbean Bakery and Caribbean Food Delights celebrate all the Mothers & Mothers-to-be for the wonderful contribution they give every day nurturing our youth for the future.

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jerkqzine.com
914.699.9898 (Retail)
caribbeanfooddelights
/royalcaribbeanbakery
/thecaribbeanfooddelights
/fivefingers

Scholarships in Memory of Brian HoSang

Every Mother’s Day, we celebrate our moms, as well as, the life of Brian HoSang who lost his life tragically in a motorcycle crash nine years ago.

Brian was very proud of his Jamaican Chinese heritage. He was studying Business Management & Marketing in college and was an enthusiastic member in the family business. He was a generous and caring person to anyone he encountered.

His legacy lives on as The Vincent HoSang Family Foundation continues to give scholarships, in memory of Brian HoSang, to students entering college or at the college level with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. For more information, visit our website at vhff.org.
Adventures of an endless summer holiday

AMITABH SHARMA
Senior Copy Editor - Overseas Publications

LIFE, PUR some of us, as we have come to experience it, has all the ingredients of a journey, which at every step unravels the unknown, intertwined with twists and turns and unexpectedness.

The story of Amanda delves into some of those mysteries, seen through the eyes of an eight-year-old, a little girl who is trying to find innovative ways to 'blend in' with her siblings, all boys, and be one of them.

In a setting that is close to nature, beyond the realms of the fast-paced, gigabytes-encased, smartphone-obsessed existence, no Boy Like Amanda exudes the simplicity of life among nature and a step back in time, like grandma’s place in the countryside, where one could climb the trees, splash in the stream or ride the bicycle? fun in its most pristine form.

Hope Barnett takes us on this summer holiday, most of the adventures coming from her childhood experiences.

“A lot of the stories in the book happened to me,” she says.

“Growing up in Runaway Bay in St Ann, we used to go down from the back of the house to the sea and go fishing.”

TRIALS AND MISSES

The adventures related in the book sprinkle a healthy dose of factuality in this fictional account.

Through the eyes of children and the main character of the book, Amanda, one gets insight into the social fabric of being a girl who, and through trials and misses, stands her ground to gain the respect of her peers.

Set in rural Jamaica, on the island’s north coast, Amanda’s story follows the children, the excitement they experience wandering among nature, and oft poignant yet amusing chains of events.

Though a children’s book, Barnett subtly, yet firmly, highlights interpersonal relationships, dealing with a perceived identity crisis, innovating, and in the process, grabbing attention across age groups. It might make one reminisce if such a thing happened in one’s life at some point in time.

Amanda’s story revolves the fond memories that many of us as adults have of our summer holidays and tells of the summer adventures of a group of children. The story follows the children as they create their own fun like kite flying, riding bicycles, going fishing, and picking mangoes, among a myriad other activities.

Living with four brothers, aged between five and nine years, Amanda has to be innovative, at times she is confused, trying to piece together the jigsaw puzzle called life, which for a girl of her age, is to have maximum fun and be accepted by her siblings as ‘one of them’.

Life, as the story tells, is how you make the best of it, with whatever you have. Growing up in a family with meagre resources, Amanda does not have a wide variety of things to keep herself busy. This fuels her desire even more to be herself, being the only girl and having no company, she is determined to be among her brothers, though she is constantly jeered at and discouraged by her eldest brother, Phil, who is painted as a mean-spirited character.

MISHAP

Amanda has to blend in yet stand out among the boys, and her brothers reluctantly include her in their adventures; but as circumstances would have it, there is a mishap waiting to happen. Bruised by an indomitable spirit, a doting father, as well as her first crush, she manages to force herself into the group and join the boys on a few adventures. Amanda, however, is challenged to endear herself to the group as whenever she finally gets a chance to tag along with the boys, she somehow always seems to end up in some kind of mishap.

Amanda meets Stephanie, a girl in the neighbourhood, who comes from a ‘well-to-do’ family and who comes to stay with her grandparents for the summer. A friendship is developed, and in the process, a new set of adventures unfold.

No Boy Like Amanda has also been endorsed by the Children’s Advocate of Jamaica as ‘a novel perfect for children’ and ‘...a must-read for children and their parents’.

The book has won the Book Industry Association of Jamaica 2011 Publisher’s Award for ‘Best Children’s Chapter Book’ and was selected by the Jamaica Reading Association (JRA) as the official book for National Reading Week 2013.

It was also used by the Jamaica Library Service in its 2014 staging of the National Reading Competition and was the featured book of the month for April 2016 for TVJ’s children’s programme Kids Say.

No Boy Like Amanda, like the meandering symmetrical pathways in the countryside, takes the reader on an unforgettable and never-ending summer holiday.

Title: NO BOY LIKE AMANDA
Author: Hope Barnett
Illustration: Pete McDaniel
Publisher: Becky T Books, Kingston, Jamaica

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

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See how we serve you at publix.com/service.
Sagicor tests the market ...

Weighs two options for Seymour property

STEVEN JACKSON
Business Reporter

The 4.25-acre property owned by Sagicor at Seymour Avenue in the Golden Triangle of St Andrew, Sagicor Property Services Limited will decide by year end whether to sell or develop land it owns at Seymour Avenue located within the upscale zone known as the Golden Triangle, notwithstanding the for sale sign mounted on the property.

Sagicor will sell the property if it gets the type of offer from a developer that it finds irresistible, but it is also not ruling out the execution of its own near decade-old plan to build townhouses there, if the bids for the property disappoint.

Currently, there’s an ongoing redesign of the original concept of the development, which was to build town houses for high-income individuals. Now its target will be middle-income buyers, in a nod to the realities of the real-estate market and the affordability of housing.

“Sagicor holds two parcels of land on Seymour lots 23 and 33. The lots sit on some four and a quarter acres of development lands within proximity to schools, offices, retail shops, malls, hospitals and gardens. Miller said the property is already garnering interest from prospective investors. He also said targeting middle-income individuals would better position the project for rapid sale of the units, as Sagicor would develop it under the 4.25-acre property itself. “We are still looking to do the development, but if we get a good offer, we would sell,” he said. Sagicor, then Life of Jamaica, bought the lands at Seymour Avenue in 2007. It subsequently disclosed plans to develop around 52 two-bedroom apartments and 23 three-bedroom town houses on the 4.25-acre property, which it would sell for US$6 million to US$40 million each. The estimated investment at the time was $1.6 billion. In 2015, Sagicor got approval for two real-estate projects on Seymour Avenue, the smaller of which is expected to get off the ground by early 2016, but is yet to break ground.

VALUE NOT DISCLOSED

Under the Powers of Sale contained in a Mortgage At our Auction Room situated at 1 Tremaine Road, Kingston 6.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the Powers of Sale contained in a Mortgage Our Auction Room situated at 1 Tremaine Road, Kingston 6.

Wednesday May 31, 2017
at 10:00 a.m.

NO. 693 SPANISH TOWN ROAD

KINGSTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

KINGSTON 11

VOLUME 931 FOLIO 212

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

Operational facilities include:

• Reverse Osmosis Plant
• Storage Tanks and Vessels
• Packaging Plant Equipment
• 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.

PM promises houses aplenty to rid Jamaica of squatting

PHUME MINISTER Andrew Holness is promising to make home ownership so easy and affordable that there will be no more squatting in Jamaica.

A large part of the problem we face is that communities pop up overnight without proper planning and we are not going to continue the haphazard development of our country, we are going to build housing solutions that are affordable,” Holness said on Friday as he broke ground for a new housing development in the Clarendon Gardens Housing Scheme in Birds Hill Claremond.

City center settlements cannot continue because disorderly settlement breeds crime and violence and social disorder. It makes it difficult to bring services to your communities. One hundred fifty new homes will be constructed in the first phase of the development, but will later expand to 200 units. The first phase is set to be completed in 18 months.

“Squatting issues that exist now exist because we have not put in place the effective mechanisms to build communities and housing to meet the housing demands that exist,” the prime minister stressed.

He said the government’s strategy is to build so many houses that people will have real opportunity to own their home instead of capturing a piece of land.

Ground has been broken for some 5,000 housing solutions so far this year.

In the first months between January and May this year, the NHT would have broken ground for more housing starts than it did for 2009 to 2015 and we estimate 5,000 housing starts by the end of this year which will be more than the last six years combined,” Holness said.

He added, “The value of the greenfield property now up for sale was not disclosed, but real estate experts say it is worth between US$8 million and US$9 million.” It would sell somewhere in that region, if selling the land without any appeals, said LaMaison Property Services’ Edwin Wint last Friday.

Wint also theorised that the redesign of the project to target middle-income buyers would likely result in a reduction of the number of three-bedroom units in favour of two-bedroom residences. That would put the property in the ‘sweet spot of the market’, he told The Gleaner.

Towards the end of 2015, Digicel sold a five-acre lot in the Golden Triangle to Sandals Resorts. The acquisition price was never disclosed, but Digicel only struck a deal for the property after it had cut the listing price from US$8 million to US$6 million.
Some 486 JP applications being considered

APPLICATIONS FROM 486 persons in the last financial year wishing to become Justices of the Peace are being considered by government, which is seeking to increase the numbers of JPs.

Justice Minister, Delroy Chuck, making the disclosure in his Sectoral Debate presentation in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, May 2. He said strengthening JP numbers was also the need to deepen public involvement in justice reform process at the community level. Some 439 JPs were commissioned last year.

Plans to establish National Human Rights Institute

The Ministry of Justice is working on establishing a National Human Rights Institute during the current fiscal year. The institute will be part of the network of institutions charged with protecting the rights of nationals. Justice minister Delroy Chuck announced on Wednesday May 3 during his post Sectoral budget presentation.

“We are expecting a significant input from our overseas partners, because they see this as an important step and I believe, certainly over the next few years, that we will get a great deal of support from our international partners,” he added.

JCF gets black box kits to analyse accidents road accidents

THK Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has been given two Black Box kits to ensure that they are able to better investigate and analyse traffic accidents.

“I want to see the black box fully utilised to determine the cause of traffic crashes, and I am advising motorists that there are going to be consequences for their actions,” transport minister Mike Henry said on Thursday, May 4 as he spoke at the launch of the UN Global Road Safety Week.

The black box facilitates investigations into traffic accidents by recording inputs from the vehicle sensors.

In Jamaica last year, 979 persons were killed in road crashes and the figure for this year is 110.

Justice Ministry reviews laws for updating and penalty breaches

THE JUSTICE Ministry has embarked on a review of all Acts and Regulations to ensure that penalties for breaches are in line with current realities.

Director of the Legal Reform Department, Maurice Bailey, told a post-Sectoral Debate press briefing that Attorney General and Justice Minister Delroy Chuck, on Wednesday May 4 that additional pieces of legislation will be brought up. He informed that three officers have been assigned to undertake the review.

Two court cases recently entered the public domain when convicted persons paid insignificant fines following their convictions for breaches.

Hanover Parish running out of cemetery space

THE HANOVER Parish Council is searching for land to use as a cemetery as the parish is running out of cemetery space, says Dehaney Dinham, councillor for the Sandy Bay division.

Updating The Gleaner on the situation, Councillor Dehaney - Dinham of the Sandy Bay division said the Council and the National Environment and Planning Agency had visited several sites and a site near Mosquito Cove, which was being discussed, could be selected.

The Sandy Bay cemetery had been ordered closed by the parish council which is now seeking to establish a replacement cemetery as the existing one has reached its capacity.

Other burial sites were running out of space.

The council has control of 10 cemeteries in the parish, the largest being the 12-acre Locera Cemetery. Municipal cemeteries are also located in communities such as: Caccoon, Chester Castle, Haughton Grove, Coonass Cove and Cauldwell.

Some cullers were simply not supplying enough lionfish to make it a viable option for restaurants without additional imports.

“We’ve been doing this for seven years and we have never refused to buy a locally caught lionfish. Divers are not seeing as many lionfish here as they used to, and we are not getting the same supply. We can’t just take it on and off the menu.”

He said the US$5-a-head price in Cayman is already twice the price of fish imported from elsewhere in the region.

Some divers such as Steve Broadbelt agree that imports are necessary and says the country’s culling efforts have been extremely successful, and far fewer lionfish are being seen on the islands’ reefs than was the case three years ago.

“It is still important that we keep culling. They are like weeds in a garden. You can’t let up or they will start taking them off the menu, then the customers will lose interest and we will have a bigger problem.”

He added that importing lionfish from the Caribbean region actually helps the Cayman Islands in the long run.

“We are getting on top of the problem on our own reefs, but there is a regional problem that needs a regional solution. If we don’t have effective culling all over the Caribbean, they will keep coming back.”

The final test is begun in Dominica on May 10.

Kingston and St Andrew

KSADHF Limited now operational

THK Kingstonand St Andrew Development Foundation(KSADHF) has been launched.

A non-profit non-governmental organisation with the objective of leveraging human, economic, educational and cultural development and improve the quality of life of the residents of the parishes was launched on May 3 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in St Andrew.

The foundation’s goal is also for Kingston and St Andrew to provide a platform for capacity building for the people of both parishes about economic and social changes through culture, business, heritage, trade and sports.
HAPPY
Mother’s
Day

The Original
Jamaican Style
Cocktail Patties

We Celebrate the Inspiration, Dedication & Commitment
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Detroit pub denies green card as acceptable ID

DETROIT (AP) — A UNIVERSITY of Michigan gradu- ate said she was denied service by a Comerica Park waitress and bail- bar park manager who refused to recognise her US government- issued green card as proof of age. Paulea Matinde, 25, said she was attending a Tigers game with her husband last week when they tried to order drinks at the stadium. ‘The waitress never reported,’ Matinde, who is from Zimbabwe, said her federal perma- nent resident ID and her foreign photo ID were rejected before security escorted the couple from a pub in the park.

“This is xenophobia and discrimina- tion,” Matinde said.

A spokeswoman for Delaware North, the park’s concessions con- tractor, said the company limits the acceptable forms of govern- ment ID to ensure compliance with regulations on alcohol service.

“Do I need his mother’s consent?”

Do I need a police report?

**Dear Ms Powell,**

I WANT to apply to live in Canada and I was told that I will need to have police records from all the countries that I’ve visited. I attended school in the USA and only spent three summer vaca- tions with my aunt in Canada and returned to the USA each time. I also went on a youth pro- gramme in the UK. I visited Canada again a few times since. Do I need a police report from all these countries? How would I go about getting the reports? Do I need to have these reports before I apply?  

-B.E.

**Dear B.E.**

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) may require police records from individuals who are applying for permanent residence, study permit, work permit or some temporary resident visas, if the individual is over 18 years old. IRCC usually requires police certificates or clearance certificates from any country or territory where you have spent six months or more since the age of 18. This is to ensure that you are not a security risk to other indi- viduals in Canada.

If you visited Canada for a total of six months or more, albeit only on summer vacations, you will need to submit a police certificate from Canada. To obtain a Canadian, certified criminal record check that would be valid under express entry, you must follow the procedure listed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on the website www.rcmp.gc.ca. It may be difficult to obtain this document from outside Canada, therefore I recom- mend that you apply for this document on your next visit to Canada.

If you are unable to visit Canada, you should obtain fingerprints with the official forms used by the RCMP. The forms are available on the website. To submit the application electronically, you will need to contact one of the accredited private compa- nies listed on the RCMP website, so that they can process the collection of your fingerprints in order to obtain a Canadian-certified criminal record check. Only accredited fingerprint companies are allowed to submit fingerprints to the RCMP’s Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services and to conduct searches of the National Repository of Criminal Records. You will find a helpful guide on the RCMP website.

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

You indicated that you went to univer- sity in the USA, although you may have spent summers elsewhere, therefore you will be required to provide an FBI clearance certificate from the USA. Visit the FBI website at www.fbi.gov/services/ ojs/identity-history-summary- check.

Request an “Identity History Summary”, also known as a criminal history record, or a rap sheet. To do so, you will need to download and complete the applica- tion form, get fingerprints done in the required forms, pay the fee either via credit card or submit a certified cheque. This package should be sent to the address found on the FBI website.

There is a list of FBI-approved channelers or private businesses that may submit the application on your behalf. If you choose to use a third party, you should ensure that the company is approved by the FBI before submitting your confidential information. You did not say the length of time you spent in the United Kingdom on your youth programme and how old you were when you visited. However, the same principles apply. So if you were over 18 years old, vis- ited the UK for four months, left for a few years and then returned for two months, you need a police clear- ance certificate from the UK, as your trips there would count as spending six months in total there.

The Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Records Office handles application for police report for Canadian visas. You may submit an application online or via mail. Full details about the required forms and fees may be found on their website. www.acpco.police.police_certificates.aspx

The processing time for these police report, certi- ficates, clearances vary and therefore I recom- mend that you submit an application for these reports imme- diately to avoid delays with your application.

**Deidre S. Powell** is a lawyer, mediator and notary public who is a member of the Jamaican and Ontario, Canada bars. Submit your ques- tions and comments to Email: info@deidrepow- ell.com. Subject line: Immigration. Find her on Facebook: jamaicanlawyer. Tel: 613-695-8777.

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**Do I need his mother’s consent?**

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington

UNITED STATES

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington,

IN 2004, my stepmother had her daughter send her grand- son to live with us in Jamaica. My stepmother subsequently passed away in 2008. However, her granddaughter’s passport expired in 2009. We have since been trying to get his mother’s consent to get the passport renewed, but it has been a bit tedious. Is there anything we can do to get it renewed with- out her?

-D.B.

Dear D.B.

The issuance or renewal of a US passport for a minor (under 18 years old) can be quite an effort. The process is deliberately difficult to prevent parental abduction of children. Generally, both parents are supposed to be present to apply for a US passport for a child. If the application is taking place in Jamaica at the US embassy and one or both parents are absent, there are provisions in place to have the missing parent(s) com- plete a sworn application/affidavit in place of the parent. If one parent is missing, there is also a separate form to request the other parent being attesting to their absence. If you are self- represented as the child, you can apply for the US passport with proof of your legal status with the child.

**SECURE PROOF**

If the child is 16 or 17 years old, only one parent needs to consent and the child can sign their own passport application. Once the child is 18 years old, they can apply for their US passport on their own and the parental issue goes away.

You did not indicate how old the child is in question, but he would be at least 12 years old. Depending on the immediate need by the passport and the mother’s failure to cooperate in the application process, the young man can wait until he is 18 years old and apply for his US passport on his own. In the meantime, try secure his US birth certificate and proof of birth from the hospital where he was born in preparation for the pass- port application at the appropriate time.

**Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington** is a Jamaican-American attor- ney who practises immigration law in the United States; and family, criminal and personal injury law in Florida. She is a mediator, arbitrator and spe- cial magistrate in Brossard County, Florida. info@sealher hutington.com

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**Immigrant students demand votes on college aid bills**

HARTFORD, Conn (AP) — IMMIGRANT COLLEGE stu- dents who live in the country illegally are planning a trip to the state Capitol to call on law- makers to vote on two bills that would open up institutional financial aid to them.

Organisers say about a dozen students will deliver petitions signed by thousands of people to House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz. Connecticut allows students without legal permission to be in the US to pay in-state tuition, as long as they have spent at least one year at a state high school. But they can’t apply for any government money, includ- ing institutional financial aid that’s directly funded by student tuition payments.

Opponents have argued that allowing the students to access financial aid would mean less money for those in the country legally.
Oliver Samuels to headline play in NYC on May 20

Jamaica’s master comedian, Oliver Samuels, returns to the stage in the New York area with a series of performances starting on Saturday, May 20. As lead actor in “Four Can’t Play,” Samuels will be ably supported by veteran actors Ruth Ho Shing, Maylynne Lowe, and Dennis Titus in what is expected to be entertaining and informative shows. With the name Oliver in the cast, laughs are expected.

Though that is true, Samuels, in his shows, have always been in productions that not only capture a particular Jamaican character that is humorous, but have had a more serious underlying theme. “Four Can’t Play” reunites Samuels with writer Basil Dawkins, and directors Douglas Prout and Tono-Kay Dawkins. The play explores the nature of relationships that have a contemporary face, but are as old as relationships themselves.

The producer, as he has been for the past twenty-seven years, is Everybody’s Magazine publisher, Herman Hall. He credits Louise Bennett, whom he says should be a National Hero of Jamaica, for being his inspiration to produce Caribbean theatre.

Performances will open at Brooklyn College on Saturday, May 20th. They continue at York College in Queens on Friday, May 26th, with the final show in the city on Sunday, May 28th, at Lehman College in the Bronx. The production will include one in Poughkeepsie, NY on Saturday, May 27th at the Family Center.

Cultural events contributing to Jamaica’s economy

CULTURE MINISTER Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange has said that cultural events are doing their part to boost Jamaica’s economy. Grange made the pronouncement at the launch of Red Stripe Reggae Sumfest in Times Square, New York City, on April 26.

“The data show that in Jamaica, the creative-economy sectors are making a significant contribution to our national economy. We estimate that the creative-economy sectors, which we also refer to as the creative industries, contribute to nearly five per cent of GDP and generate between 15 and 20 million US dollars in revenue each year,” she said.

Creative economy, which Grange says has become a major item on the development agenda worldwide, include arts and craft, books, paintings, design, digital animation, songs, films, and festivals.

Grange, who is the minister of culture, gender, entertainment, and sport, said that the creative industries would play an important role in the sustainable development plans in Jamaica.

“Understanding the economy of music, culture, and entertainment in Jamaica is fundamental to advancing the prosperity agenda,” she said.

The minister noted that last year alone, local authorities issued 2,748 event permits across the island, all of which attracted fees of varying amounts.

“The dollar figure for 2016 is not yet available, but direct spending in local communities from entertainment events amounted to J$365 million and generated 8,388 temporary jobs,” Grange said, noting that there was a 17.8 increase in the number of events held on the island last year compared to 2015.

In 2015, the 19,297 events staged contributed J$20.2 billion to the Jamaican economy.

She further stated that developing the festival economy to the degree that it is able to strengthen its performance and positioning on the global stage is a major priority in her ministry.

“We are excited by possibilities of exportability or export value of these events, but it is even more urgent for us to develop the local festival economy,” she said.

Greater Interest

Already, many local events are taking an even greater interest in the international audience. Among them is Reggae Sumfest. The launch represents the show’s continued thrust to attract an international audience to the now-seven-day festival. CEO of DownSound Entertainment Joesph Bogdanovich, who took over control of the event last year, said it attracted over 22 million views from 150 countries.

Bogdanovich called for a greater recognition of reggae locally, as it is highly regarded worldwide and has provided much opportunity for members of the music fraternity to earn and share positivity with the world.

“For this genre to be embraced and to flourish in festivals across the world is another big achievement and something we must recognise as recognition for who and what we are in Jamaica,” he said.

Red Stripe presents Reggae Sumfest 2017, kicks off on Sunday, July 16, under the theme ‘Our Music, Our Festival’. It begins with a beach party and moves into the Sumfest Sunset Yacht Party on Monday, July 17. The staple All-White Party at Pier One happens on Tuesday, July 18, followed by Sumfest Blitz on Wednesday, July 19. On Thursday, July 20, Pier One will play host to the exciting Sumfest Heavyweight Clash. The week-long festival closes with a two-night concert showcase featuring dancehall and reggae giants including Sean Paul, Bounty Killer, Buju Banton, Alkaline, Spice, Christopher Martin, and Queen Ifrica at Catherine Hall on Friday, July 21, and Saturday, July 22.
EVENTS

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: 21st Century Perspectives.” For details about the conference, visit https://www.brandonu.ca/bcsa/.

Arts and Culture Jamaica Inc., under the distinguished patronage of Lloyd Wilks, consul general of Jamaica at Toronto, presents the Toronto launch of “Thriving in the Care of Many Mothers,” written by Rosemary Yvonne Borel on Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. at the Consulate General of Jamaica, 303 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto. Call 905-272-5717.

The launch of the book, “Burnley "Rocky" Jones Revolutionary,” an autobiography by Burnley “Rocky” Jones & W. St. G. Walker will be held on May 30, 6:30 p.m. at A Different Booklist, 777 Bathurst St., Toronto. Special guest: George Elliott Clarke.

Consulate, May 20th from 10 am - 3 pm, Redemption Way Church of God, 9545 Colfax Ave., Chicago

NEW YORK

JAMCCAR 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.

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 347-765-5684.

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, 5313 Avenue N Brooklyn NY 11234. For further information call Esther 718-614-9349 or Ruth 914-275-6659

Save the Date: Westwood OGA Ladies’ Night BYOB Fish Fry and Bingo Night – June 2nd.

York Street PSA Annual Fundraiser, June 3rd at the Hilton Hotel @ JFK Airport, 144-02 135th Street, Jamaica, NY; 90-2a; Semi-formal; Contact: Elaine 718-217-5473, Elaine 718-523-4948, Edna 718-464-7577

10th: SATS AA NE First Annual Fish Fry, June 10th, 120-07 228 Street, Queens, 6P unti.

Paschal Blue Boleros of the St. Catherine High Alumni Association Northeast invites you to their Annual Fundraiser luncheon June 24th, at Plattdeutsche Park Caterers, Franklin Square, Long Island.

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)
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multiple settings and
dressed and well done. We didn’t

made sure things were organ-

was still no walkover. He

was also very generous to all

who he encountered.”

In his homily, the Reverend Ulric Wilson encouraged con-
gregants to live an exemplary life while they are alive.

“I encourage you to share

memories with each other.

and Custos of Kingston

Parliament for East Kingston

community. Among those in

attendance were Member of

Parliament for East Kingston

and Port Royal Phillip Prattwell and Custos of Kingston

Headman Fuller.

In her remembrance, Kendra Swaby, Prawl’s
cousin, spoke highly of the

love and respect the former co-owner of Gloria’s

Restaurant showed to per-

sons.

“He highly valued customer

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In his homily, the Reverend Ulric Wilson encouraged con-
gregants to live an exemplary life while they are alive.

“I encourage you to share

memories with each other.

“Dr Delroy Gordon laid to rest

MORE THAN 500 family members and well-wishers packed into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Port Maria, St Mary, on April 30 to celebrate the life and work of the executive director of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC), Dr Delroy Gordon.

The colourful and well-organised service featured spoken tributes from over a dozen friends, relatives, and church members, and local members of parliament Dr Morais Guy and Robert Montague.

Gordon, a former teacher who obtained a PhD in Human Resource Management, was described as an honourable, family-oriented man with a great passion and thirst for knowledge.

“Man of standards

What today shows you is that when you have a good person in your bloodline, you can follow in their footsteps, and shine the light in the darkness for others to see. My uncle was a man of standards, a truthful person, a man of God, and a family man. The reason so many people came out to show their support for him is because he was a man who shared his love. And without love, strength, and courage, you are not a perfect human being, and today was about a remembrance for a great human being,” Hassane Gordon, a niece said.

Minister of National Security Robert Montague giving his remembrance.

Gloria’s co-owner ‘will forever be in our hearts’

IN ADDITION to a packed church, the streets corners and roads in Port Royal were flooded with scores of people in attendance on Saturday May 6 at the thanksgiving service for the life of Cecil Prawl. The service was held at the St Peter’s Anglican Church in the community. Among those in attendance were Member of Parliament for East Kingston and Port Royal Phillip Prattwell and Custos of Kingston Headman Fuller.

In her remembrance, Kendra Swaby, Prawl’s cousin, spoke highly of the love and respect the former co-owner of Gloria’s Restaurant showed to persons.

“He highly valued customer service whether or not you had money. His hallmark was respect and love for others,” Swaby said.

“He was always a humble and genuine person, but he was still no wallower. He made sure things were organised and well done. We didn’t want you to die this way but you will forever be in our hearts,” she continued.

EXEMPLARY LIFE

In his homily, the Reverend Ulric Wilson encouraged congregants to live an exemplary life while they are alive.

“I encourage you to share memories with each other. Cecil is remembered as enjoy-
ing the life he lived and he was also very generous to all who he encountered.”

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Real faith rallies our spirits, so that even in loss, we are still assured that we are never alone and you can always go to Him as a lov-
ing father,” the reverend said.

Ricardo Malhy/Photography

Family members and friends of Cecil Prawl take a last look at the service of thanksgiving.
On Mother’s Day, mothers are feted and pampered and made to feel like queens. Scions and children use the day to show their appreciation for the sacrifices and never-ending work associated with motherhood.

Donna Emanuel of Allerton Mountain, St Thomas, beamed as she spoke of the day her seventh child was born. It was August 2, 2009. The neighbourhood school had been having their Jamaica Day celebrations and she attended in her nine-months of glory. The day was clear in head almost nine years after, as she told The Gleaner every morsel she ate and the songs she danced to.

Feeling the joy of his mother, baby Ralston Augustus Mitchell was born later that day, a beautiful baby boy, capturing the heart of his mother. “He was my second son, I really fell in love with him.” She further explained that she was very excited to have a boy, as her girls stuck to their dad.

Ralston was described as a happy and helpful baby even after he was diagnosed with sickle cell disease. Emanuel, who had another baby shortly after, explained that Ralston was very excited about his baby sister. “He used to try to pick her up and whenever it was time for her to go to bed, he would gather the soap and pamper to help,” she told The Gleaner.

On January 6, 2011, Donna got a phone call that informed her that her son was missing. Earlier that morning, she and her son were on their way to their farm to join their spouse when the journey seemed to be taking a toll on the toddler. She then opted to leave the child with a neighbour. Emanuel says she felt her heart ‘drop’ when her phone rang and the shaky voice on the other end told her that her son was nowhere to be found.

Both parents left the field hoping to meet the baby on the way, as they thought he had just wandered off to meet there, but their stomachs tightened as they reached the neighbour’s house and their baby wasn’t running towards them.

The community joined the search along with the police, but to this day there has been no sign of Ralston.

“We have not seen a piece of clothes, nor his shoes. Nothing at all.” The heartbroken mother said at points she was looking for crows in the bushes, thinking that they would have found a body, but her two-year-old had disappeared without a trace.

The pain has not lessen six years later. “Every day I cry, I think about him. I wonder if I pass him on the road and don’t recognise him.”

Though she is extremely grateful for all her children, she is still heartbroken about her missing child. “It still really hurts and the pain does not get any less.” Emanuel says that she thinks about Ralston daily but on his birthday and days like Mother’s Day she tries to mask the pain with his happy memories, as she still vividly remembers his smile.

God’s Miracle Man

SAGICOR INVESTMENTS Jamaica donated several copies of two inspirational books, God’s Miracle Man: Against All Odds, authored by crash survivor Keith Tucker, to the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre in St Andrew.

In 1996, Tucker was in a vehicular collision which left him fighting for his life. After years of physical therapy at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre, he is much improved, but remains wheelchair bound with physical disabilities.

Tucker’s book is filled with stories of human kindness and parallels to scriptures found in the Bible. It also highlights the extraordinary work done by the team at the Sir John Golding Centre, more popularly known as Mona Rehab.

Tucker’s book may be found at select bookstores.

George Nooks on J$80,000 bail

ENTERTAINER GEORGE Nooks is slated to face the court on May 17 to answer charges relating to breaches of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

The police report that 9 p.m. last Friday, a team was on operation in the Widcombe Heights area when they observed Nooks acting in a manner that aroused their suspicion.

He was arrested and a bag he was carrying searched. The bag was found to contain just under two ounces of cocaine. He was subsequently arrested and charged.

Nooks hit the local music scene in the 1970s as a deejay performing under the name ‘Prince Mohammed’ before switching to singing. In recent years, he has recorded mainly gospel songs, including God is Standing By.

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

ST Ann’s oldest, Eunis Pryce, celebrate 108 years

CARL GILCHRIST

Gleaner Writer

IT WAS a joyous occasion on April 20 when ST Ann’s oldest person on record, Eunis Pryce, marked her 108th birthday in the quiet farming community of Horobridge.

Pryce is the latest family member to reach 100 years old after her father died at 105 back in 2017. A team consisting of persons from the Civic Affairs Committee of the St Ann Parish Council and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security’s National Council for Senior Citizens (NCSC) joined family members to celebrate the occasion with Pryce, taking her gifts to mark the occasion.

Blessed with good health, the centenarian can still see well enough to read without glasses even though her hearing is not the best.

“She’s good; she can still read her Bible and Daily Bread.” The last of her six children, Valda Pryce, said in a telephone interview.

Pryce gave birth to six children, four girls and two boys, but two of the girls have predeceased her. It was Pryce who used to go out to the fields with her husband, then a farmer, to cook lunch for everyone, using produce from the farm.

Winston Brown, councillor for the Borobridge Division, lives in the neighbouring community of Wild Cane and has known Pryce for all his life. For several years, he had been advocating for the Civic Affairs and Community to recognise the centenarian and is happy that it has finally happened.

“He knows her from I was born,” Brown said. He added, “She has always been a humble and loving person, always the first to give you a smile and offer a word of encouragement.”

Pryce’s surviving family members include GGood iiss  SSttaannddiinngg  BByy. SAGICOR INVESTMENTS Jamaica donated several copies of one of their autobiographical inspirational book, God’s Miracle Man: Against All Odds, to vincentiwi (sec- ond left), CEO - Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre. Also pictured are author, Keith Tucker (centre, front); Head of Physiotherapy Susan Harris-Henry (centre, back); Senior Medical Officer Dr Rony Dixon, and Matron Andrea Christie.
not right!

– Blake says no to wiping of world records

RACHID PARCHMENT
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA ATHLETICS
Administrative Association boss Dr. Warren Blake said a proposal by European Athletics to wipe out all athletics world records which exist before 2005 is unfair. Blake has also taken issue with proposed clauses outlining specific meets at which future world records would be recognised, part of what European Athletics said is the “start of a new, clean credibility era” for a sport tainted by doping scandals.

Merlene Ottey’s indoor world record of 10.87 for 200 metres, set in 1995, is among many that is set to be erased. It is the only world record held by a Jamaican female on the International Association of Athletics Federation’s books.

Blake said the proposal implies wrongdoing on Ottey, and others, part, should the International Association of Athletics Federations approve the proposal in July ahead of the August 5-13 World Championships in London, in time to stage what is being touted as the “Redemption World Championships.”

“The concept of removing records in an attempt to reset the history books is more than just Merlene Ottey losing her record,” he added.

FUTURE RECORDS

“It sorta implies that all the previous record holders were in some way cheating. It’s going to remove records that people have earned, without any evidence of wrongdoing. Even if it didn’t affect any Jamaican, I would still have a problem with it. It creates a negative stigma,” he added.

LOCAL BOXER Tawel ‘Lights Out’ Dave has said that he feels he has been treated harshly by the Jamaican boxing fraternity, which includes both officials and fans of the sport.

Blake is currently waiting to hear if an appeal by Canadian fighter Dave Leblond, whom he beat in his opening round Wray and Nephew Contender Series bout three years ago, will result in him being forced into a rematch.

He told The Gleaner that he feels he is not a very liked fighter, because of what he claims he has been put through in his career over the past year.

This includes not only awaiting the appeal, but also having to hand over his match earnings after beating Leblond, as a fine for not making weight, the day before the scheduled fight.

“I’m getting a raw deal,” Dave said.

Dave said that fans at the Chinese Benevolent Association auditorium on the night of the fight were cheering for Leblond by shouting “Canada” did this because they felt threatened by him.

HATE AND FEAR

“The people who booed me, those are the haters. You have people in it that them bringing (favour) and they fear me,” he added.

“I am a danger to them, so if I am out, it may be easier for dem.”

He added that he does not ‘get’ favours from officials.

“I don’t have that relationship (like boxers). Maybe because me a one away guy.”

Jamaica Boxing Board of Control president Stephen ‘Bomber’ Jones declined to get into a debate about whether certain boxers are favoured but spoke about the appeal.

“It’s not the JBBC’s decision to have an appeal, it’s never personal,” he said.

“It’s a matter of having certain rules and everybody abiding by it.”

However, Davis said he will not let the matter rest, but will result in a rematch.

“If they (Leblond’s team) gonna make a big fuss out of it, we take it to court. Because I know I won the fight. They judged the fight in my favour. I’m not supposed to fight a guy two times. I’m not proving anything. I won the fight!”

– R.P.

DAVIS

WILSON’s warning

ANDRÉ LOWE
Sports Editor

MAURICE WILSON, who served as technical director for Jamaica’s team to the recently concluded World Relays in The Bahamas, says he is satisfied with the team’s performance in the archipelago, but is not happy with the team’s performance at the World Relays which began at the Nassau.

Wilson, however, explained that the team’s efforts should be applauded given its composition and the quality competition they faced in Nassau.

Furthermore, Wilson believes that it is unrealistic to expect Jamaica’s golden period of athletics success, which began at the 2008 Olympic Games in London for much longer.

“It is a good time for us to get back down to earth. From 2008, we have been having some glory years, and at some point in time, there has to be some transition. I said before the team left Jamaica (for the World Relays) that once the other countries were to bring more of their seasoned athletes, then it would not be an easy run for us,” said Wilson.

“It was clear that Canada, America and Germany had some of their seasoned campaigners who brought a lot of stability to the performance of their team, so taking all of that into consideration, I think we did very well,” he added.

POSITION MAINTAINED

“First of all, the team maintained its positions from the last World Relays by coming second behind the United States of America. Based on the fact that this year, we were without a lot of our more seasoned athletes, I think the team did extremely well because the team was selected on the athletes who made themselves available,” said Wilson. “Most of these athletes are on a second or third tier ranking in terms of positions.”

Thirty-three of Jamaica’s 77 Olympic medals were mined at the last three instalments which took place in Beijing (2008), London (2012) and Rio de Janeiro (2016) with another 33 of the country’s 110 World Championships medals coming since the 2005 event in Berlin.

Additionally, 15 of the country’s 22 Olympic gold medals came since the 2008 Games, while 24 of the 31 World Championships gold medals won by Jamaica were assured since 2009.

Meanwhile, Wilson expressed disappointment and surprise at Blake’s criticism after the latter suggested that the technical team had to take some blame for the team selection after a blunder on the second exchange between second leg runner Kemar Riley-Cooper and Jeavugn Minzie resulted in a disqualification in the men’s 4x100m heats.

The coach, however, explained that athlete selections were made based on availability, but also agreed that there is a need for more practice sessions ahead of relay events.

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

MAY 11 - 17, 2017
THE NA WEEKLY GLEANER
www.jamaica-gleaner.com
West Indies cricketer Russell's drug case resolved

Reacting to public perception that the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) was on a witch-hunt against West Indies and Jamaican cricketer Andre Russell and in order to protect brand Jamaica, JADCO dropped its appeal in Russell’s drug case on Monday May 8 in Kingston. Russell’s legal team also withdrew its appeal.

JADCO, which had appealed the one-year ban imposed by an independent panel on Russell last January, withdrew its appeal obtaining legal advice and discussions with Attorney General Malahoo Forte, the tribunal hearing on Monday was told. Then Patrick Foster QC attorney for Russell, disclosed a similar action to withdraw his cross-appeal against JADCO which had apparently sought to have Russell’s sentence increased by their appeal.

The offence of a whereabouts violation under the World Anti-Doping Commission (WADO) has a maximum two-year ban and Russell was accused of three ‘whereabouts’ violations in 2015.

JADCO’s appeal had engaged public attention and fanned strong criticisms of JADCO.

“The case is of public importance and we want to get this correct so it was by consultation with the attorney general.”

The appeal was not necessarily to increase the sanction imposed on Russell but to challenge perceived findings.

He said there were sufficient reasons by file an appeal although the panel did not state their reason for imposing the ban but the board felt the panel considered Russell’s conduct when making the decision.

Protecting image

Making his input, Board vice-president Zachary Harding said that the board was on no witch-hunt but is concerned trying to protect compliant athletes and the nation’s image.

“All board members are supporters of brand Jamaica and our image and perception on a global stage. There’s nothing we will ever do to tarnish that.”

Russell’s attorney Foster said that the decision of JADCO to discontinue their appeal led to Russell’s legal team doing likewise.

“My client wishes this period of his life to end. He has about eight months left and can start practising with his team two months before he is cleared, so he is just gearing up to perform with the team and move forward.”

The flamboyant Russell is an important member of the West Indies one-day team and played for them when they won the World Title in 2016.

Records

If the European Athletics Association, through Pierce O’Callaghan, chairman of a task force mandated to arrive at recommendation to address athletics drug problem, was to have his way then all world records before 2005, when blood and urine samples were first tested by the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) would be scrubbed.

“The proposal, according to O’Callaghan would usher in a ‘new clean credible era for a sport tainted by drug scandal’ if the proposal is passed by the IAAF’s council, which should consider it just before the August 5-13 World Championships in London, then the games would be known as the ‘Redemption World Championships’.

But the proposal has triggered mounting controversy throughout the athletics world even as IAAF president Sebastian Coe described it as “a step in the right direction.”

Dissenting voices have rallied against the proposal, calling it unfair and the passing of world record holders, including the president of the Jamaican Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA) Dr. Warren Blake, who described the proposal as unfair.

“It was more than an athlete losing a record, it was an attempt to reset the history books,” he said.

“It sort of implies that all previous record holders have been cheating in some way, its going to remove records which people have been earned without any evidence of wrong doing.” Blake said.

The World indoor record of Merlene Ottey, the former poster woman of Jamaican athletics, who clocked the national best timing of 21.87 for the 200m, in 1993 would be scrubbed, but Blake said even if a Jamaican was not affected by the proposal he would still have a problem with it because of its ‘negative stigma’.

New Standards

O’Callaghan who apologised to world record holders ‘collateral damage’ who would be affected, had also identified new standards to govern the creation of new world records.

A new record could only be achieved if the event was on a list of international approved ones and where the standards of offering comparable technical equipment could be guaranteed. Also the athletes setting the record had to be subjected to an agreed number of doping control tests done before the event.

Blake also shot down this proposal noting that the IAAF already has a stringent list of procedures to ratify records and somebody would have to show him how that list was inadequate in order to ratify a new claim for a world record.

Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake, touted in some quarters as the likely successor to Usain Bolt, dismissed the proposal. “I do not think it is good for the sport and if it is not good for the sport it is not good for Jamaica.”

WICB names 15-member women’s WC squad

West Indies Women (from left) Anisa Mohammed, Merissa Aguilleira, Deandra Dottin and Britney Cooper celebrate a wicket during the first One-day International between West Indies Women and England Women at the Trelawny Multiplex in October last year.

ST JOHN’S, Antigua (CMC):

SELECTORS HAVE included four newcomers in the West Indies 15-member squad for the ICC Women’s World Cup starting next month in England.

Teenagers Trinidadians Reniece Boyce and Felicia Walters, along with Quiana Joseph and Alecia Peters, will join an otherwise experienced unit.

Stafanie Taylor will lead the squad again.

JAMAICA HAS joined dissenting voices in disagreeing with the controversial proposal, which last week shook the athletic world, which is seeking to have all world records prior to 2005 scrubbed in the interest of ‘credibility’ and ‘cleaning athletics’ shadowy drug image.

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