‘I AM NO GANGSTER’
Tesha Miller denies Clansman Gang link

STORY ON PAGE 3.

PONZI SCHEME BOSS FREED
DEPOSITORS STILL HANGING

STORY ON PAGE 7.
Government pays out J$426.4 million for judgment debts

SOME J$426.4 million was paid by the Government towards judgment debts for the 2016-17 financial year, noted Attorney General Marlene Malahoo Forte.

Making her contribution to the 2017-18 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives last week, Malahoo Forte said for the financial year 2016-2017, the Government had originally allocated a budget of J$842.2 million towards the payment of judgment debts, but by the end of the financial year, the amount of J$426,604 million was received for this expenditure.

Nat’l drainage system overhaul under way, says NWA head

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Officer of the National Works Agency (NWA), E.G. Hunter has said that a master drainage study costing nearly US$1 billion, which was completed and presented to the Government little more than two years ago, is currently being implemented on Mandela Highway and Marcus Garvey Drive in Kingston.

The study, which was financed by the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank, identified a number of locations in Jamaica that are susceptible to flooding and recommended remedial action.

Western Jamaica prepares for hurricane season

WITH THE hurricane season starting on June 1, the municipal corporations in western Jamaica are fast-tracking preparations, having recently experienced a period of erratic rainfall, which resulted in flooding in some low-lying communities in the region.

OCG seizes computers as dairy board probe begins

DONALD ELVEY, chairman of the Jamaica Dairy Development Board (JDDB), last week disclosed that the Office of the Contract General (OCO) had begun an official investigation into the Mombasa grass scandal. He confirmed that during a visit to the agency’s office recently, investigators seized computers.

Police nab 10 alleged gangsters in Hanover raids

TEN MEN described as major players in the three criminal gangs operating in Hanover are now in custody after they were arrested in the targeted raids the police have been conducting in the main crime hotspots in the eastern part of the parish.

Jamaicans urged to plant one million trees by 2019

JAMAICANS ARE being encouraged to plant trees to support the ‘Trees for Life’ initiative, aimed at strengthening the island’s diverse flora, and improving its resilience to climate change. The campaign started in October 2016 with a target set for Jamaica to plant one million trees by June 30, 2019. It is being undertaken as part of the Nallahs-Hoges (River) Watershed Project with support from the Forestry Department, National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

Security ministry welcomes IDB study

THE MINISTRY of National Security has accepted a recommendation from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that Jamaica and other Caribbean states must quickly change their crime-fighting strategies if the runaway problem they now face is to be tamed.

The IDB study, released last week and dubbed “Violence with Numbers”, concludes that regional states must redirect their anti-crime efforts in favour of more interventions that are evidence-based and targeted at high-risk individuals and geographic areas, with improved monitoring of police and justice systems.

400m hurdles top Jamaica event at Junior College Champs

A one-two-three finish for Jamaicans in the 400 metres hurdles was the highlight of the recently concluded United States Junior College Track and Field Championships, contested on the grounds of Hutchinson College, Kansas, last week.
UK warns of terror attack in Jamaica

Tourism minister rubbishes advisory

SHANICE WATSON
Gleaner News

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said the British High Commission in regards to what has been published.

ENVYABLE RECORD
“The fact is Jamaica has had an enviable record in visitor safety. As all of us here in the Caribbean, we have had the safest destination in the world for visitors. Indeed, the Caribbean is regarded as the zone of peace,” Bartlett said.

He added, “Jamaica enjoys the highest level of repeat business in the world today. Forty-two per cent of all the visitors who you see on the beach here in Jamaica, have been here at least once before, and that is a huge statement of how safe and secure they feel in this destination.”

The FCO’s updated travel advisory comes after a spate of terror attacks in the UK.

The most recent is the Manchester Arena bombing last Monday, where a suicide bomber killed 22 persons and injured 116 others.

British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.”

However, Bartlett said he will see to have conversations with the British High Commission in regards to what has been published.

In 2010, Miller found himself back before the courts, but this time, he was convicted on charges of illegal possession of a firearm and robbery with aggravation, and sentenced to 15 years in prison after he was found guilty of robbing a man of his motor car.

Miller told our news team as was his defence that he was accused and convicted.

He said he is grateful to Neita-Robertson and attorney-at-law Bert Samuels, who represented him in court, that he was not in the area where the robbery took place and he still cannot understand how he was accused and convicted.

He said he is afraid of trouble and of being accused of crimes he did not commit, and that’s why he fled from Jamaica on two occasions.

“I have personal experiences of being framed for crimes I did not commit,” said Miller as he outlined the times he had to face the court and even spent time in prison.

RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER
He told our news team that he has the utmost respect for law and order and believes that persons should be punished if they are guilty of crimes, but persons should not be framed.

“A person does not have to see you to tell a lie on you. Lies can be told from a distance, and that is what is running away from,” added Miller.

The alleged gang leader noted that between 2004 and 2005, he had two murder cases in the Home Circuit Court which dragged on until 2008-2009 when Queen’s Counsel Valenta Neita-Robertson and attorney-at-law Everton Bird pointed out the flaws and he was freed because of insufficiency of evidence.

“It was a very nervous feeling because it was a man of his motor car. Miller told our news team as was his defence to end up there,” said Miller.

This is why after I was released, I decided that I would not want my worst identification evidence was weak.

“He said he is grateful to Neita-Robertson and attorney-at-law Bert Samuels, who represented him on appeal and were successful in getting him released after the court found that the identification evidence was weak.

“Prison is a dreadful place. I was even tormented in prison and I would not want my worst enemy to end up there,” said Miller.

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The advisory comes from the UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office which compiled a comprehensive list of all the countries in the world, and has provided advice about the terrorism threat levels in each country.

It aims to serve as travel advice to British nationals in light of the recent terror attacks against its nationals. In the review of Jamaica, the FCO stated:

“Although there’s no recent history of terrorism in Jamaica, attacks can’t be ruled out. There’s a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and even spent time in prison.

But according to Miller, who was twice charged but not convicted of murder, he has never been involved in any killings, nor has he ever given orders for anyone to be killed.

He said his name has been called in connection with many acts of criminality because: “I live in a community in which there is always conflict with other communities, so I can only say that I am a victim of guilt by association,” Miller also rebutted reports that he leads the gang that operates one of the biggest extortion rings in Jamaica.

“No one on the face of this earth can look out for possible terrorism attacks in Jamaica.

“I take issue with an advisory which suggests, without specifying, that although we have not had any case of terrorism, their nationals must watch it when they come to Jamaica,” Bartlett said.

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Ontario has one of the best education systems in the world, says minister

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

ONTARIO’S EDUCATION minister, Mitzie Hunter, believes that the province has one of the best education systems in the world.

She says that she has seen how teachers, school leaders, and educators are working every day on behalf of students.

The minister said that she has also seen the brilliance of the province’s students and the fact that they are striving to do their best. This is the kind of culture that she wants to see in schools, one that supports young people to be their best.

“I see our education system from a very wonderful perspective. My goal is to get into one school each week,” said Hunter on the telephone shortly after visiting the John Polanyi Collegiate Institute in Lawrence Heights, recently.

Hunter said that Ontario’s 2016 graduation rates have reached a historic high 86.5 per cent of high school students are graduating within five years - something she describes as a “remarkable achievement.”

This is up more than 18 percentage points compared to the 2004 rate of 68 per cent. The number of students graduating in four years continues to grow and is now 79.8 per cent an increase of more than 23 percentage points since 2004.

“It is due to the hard work of all of our students and their teachers and also the great education workers that we have all of our teachers, our education assistants, even our secretaries, and those who keep our school humming, those custodians who keep it a place of well-being and just keep everything functioning.”

She also referenced all of the of the school leaders principals and vice-principals.

Hunter said that she visited a school in Ottawa in early May, and it was remarkable how that team was focused on students, their well-being and their achievement.

“What that school principal and vice-principal said to me, as well as the school achievement officers, they said that they work to know the names and what is happening to every student in their school. I was very proud to be in that school to see the efforts that everyone was making so that Ontario students get the best education.”

EDUCATION BUDGET

Hunter said that the government is investing in its education budget of CDN$43.8 billion in Ontario’s education system. This is an increase over last year of CDN$849 million.

Much of this is being invested in areas in which the government still wants to see further improvements.

“Much of that is being invested in special education, students at risk, and in areas that we want to see our schools improve even further,” she said.

Hunter added: “I know that we’re preparing the next generation in the best possible way so that they have the skills that they need to move on to pathways in life.”

The government also launched the new Career Kick-Start Strategy as part of the budget, which is aimed at students getting their first job.

She says the new OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program, which starts in January 2018, is one of the most exciting aspects of the recently announced provincial budget.

She underscored that this is the first balanced budget since the global recession and that Ontario is the first province in Canada to step forward with universal pharmacare for everyone under the age of 25.

“Students and students will be able to go to a pharmacy, present a prescription, and receive medication at no cost.

“‘This is an incredible transformative programme and it really demonstrates that our government is investing in people and ensuring that we invest in the health of our people.’

This is part of CDN$47 billion in three years that the government is investing to help in many aspects of health care, including universal pharmacare, she said.

In the budget, the government notes that it is taking action on improving students’ cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development with programmes and services focusing on their well-being and mental health.

Hunter said that as part of this, over the next three years, the government would be investing an additional CDN$449 million to promote and to support the well-being of Ontario students.

“This move forward will transform our education system. We’re going to be working with our education partners because we know that there are many good practices out there in our school boards. So we want to build on that, and we want to ensure that this is integrated across our education system.

Hunter wants to ensure that schools are places of well-being and places that “really look at that whole student, whether it’s physical, cognitive, emotional, or social.”

Dominican Republic airline Pawa to start Jamaica flights this year

SANCTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, CMC
THE DOMINICAN Republic based airline Pawa is scheduled to start flights to Jamaica later this year.

The initiative was as a result of the recent visit of Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

During one of the meetings, both Dominican and Jamaican business leaders urged Holness and President of the Dominican Republic Danilo Medina to begin direct flights between Kingston and Santo Domingo.

While Pawa is yet to announce the start date of flights as well as the frequency, airline officials have confirmed that the route will start operatin in the last quarter of 2017.

According to local media reports, Pawa would become the first airline to fly to the capitals of five countries in the Greater Antilles - Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic with Santo Domingo as the hub.

During recent the recent meeting with Holness, both Jamaica and the Dominican Republic agreed to increase trade, bilateral investment cooperation in tourism and the training of teachers and students.

Holness visited the country on the invitation of the Dominican President.
**ST. GEORGE’S, Grenada, CMC**

**Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell is keeping Grenadians guessing as to when he will announce the date for the next general election that is constitutionally due no later than May 2018.**

There is widespread speculation that the polls will be held later this year. In the last general election, Mitchell’s New National Party (NNP) won all 15 seats in the elections defeating the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the party of then Prime Minister Tillman Thomas.

But as he addressed a public meeting here, Mitchell said he would most likely announce the date after his administration, trade unions and other stakeholders reach agreement on the issue of pension for public officer issue.

He told the meeting that the pension issue is one national issue he wants to see resolved before he calls the general election.

“When the Pension Disqualification Act was enacted in 1983, many of the workers in the public service was dealt an uneven hand, government must come (and) that issue was never dealt with and as a country all of us must take responsibility for this,” he said at the meeting that the closing event of the convention of the Women’s Arm of the NNP.

“In other words the government of the past including NNP will have responsibility, but our people, the trade union movement, the businesses National, all of us are guilty some extent to not having dealt with that issue long ago, he said.

Mitchell told the public meeting that although the Grenada constitution provides for established workers or those appointed through the Public Service Commission, the aim is to have a pension for all persons, including those deemed to be “un-established workers” and who would have worked within the public service for an extended period.

Some trade unions here have said that the Pension Disqualification Act does not affect un-establish workers, noting that under the regulation, any un-establish workers who serves for 15 continuous years shall be provided with monthly ex-gratia payment.

The law also provides for any worker who serves the Public Service for 15 continuous years to receive a pension from Government.

In April 1983, the then People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG) led by Maurice Bishop passed legislation providing for the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) to pay pension based on contributions.

However, the Grenada constitution provides for all established public officer be provided with a pension upon retirement and although the Constitution was suspended by the PRG, the Pension Disqualification Act was never repealed when the Constitution was restored in 1984.

Since then hundreds of public officers have retired from the service without a government pension. The Supreme Court recently ruled that the government pays the pension and that the money received from the NIS is not returned. The matter had been taken to court by the Public Workers Union (PWU).

**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**

**JAMAICA- BORN DC SNIPER TO BE RESENTENCED**

WASHINGTON, CMC

A UNITED States federal judge in Virginia has overturned the two life sentences of Jamaican-born sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, more than a decade after he was originally sentenced as a teenager.

US District Court Judge Raymond Jackson, in a rare move, sent Malvo’s case back to state courts in Chesapeake and Spotsylvania County in Virginia for resentencing.

Malvo was one of two people convicted in the sniper attacks in the Washington, DC region that killed 10 people in October 2002. CNN has reported that Malvo argued in a federal petition that his sentences “did not align with current Supreme Court case law that judges must follow when sentencing juveniles.”

The relevant case law, concerning the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, came down after Malvo was originally sentenced.

CNN said Jackson agreed with Malvo, finding that he had “unknowingly given up his Eighth Amendment rights.”

“There is no evidence in the record to suggest that petitioner was aware of the existence of this right,” he said, adding “his convictions in Virginia for two offenses of murder and attempted murder, are guilty to some extend to not have a government pension. The Supreme Court recently ruled that the government pays the pension and that the money received from the NIS is not returned. The matter had been taken to court by the Public Workers Union (PWU).”

It is unclear when Malvo will be resentenced. For now, he’ll remain in prison, his attorney said.

Lee will remain in jail, actual-ly in prison, as he has a number of other sentences from Maryland, ” attorney Craig Cooley said, adding ”his convictions in Virginia were mere out of, just the sentencing. Imagine the Virginia Attorney General’s office will appeal the ruling.”

“We believe that Judge Jackson’s ruling is consistent with current U.S. laws,” said the United States Supreme Court on these sentencing issues.

Malvo, born February 18, 1985, also known as John Lee Malvo, along with Muhammad committed 10 murders in connection with the Beltway sniper attacks in the Washington Metropolitan area over a three-week period in October 2002.

Muhammad had befriended the juvenile Malvo, and had enlisted him in the attacks.

**HOMELESS CHILDREN**

According to Cooley, Malvo believed Muhammad when he told him that the US$10 million ransom sought from the US government to stop the sniper attacks would be used to establish a Utopian society for 140 homeless black children on a Canadian island.

Malvo subsequently in the United States in 2001 and, in December 2001, he and his mother were apprehended by the Border Patrol.

His mother was deported to Jamaica on December 15, 2002 in the aftermath of the D.C. area shootings.

In January 2003, Malvo was released on a $1,241,500 bond, and Malvo caught up with Muhammad soon after.

In 2005, Malvo travelled to Bellingham, Washington State, where he lived in a homeless shelter with Muhammad.

**ADVERTORIAL**

**Terry Wong strives for excellent customer service**

BEFORE JOINING the Jamaica National Group (JNG) in 2010, Terry Wong owned and operated a pharmaceutical company in Jamaica.

Today, Wong is assistant supervisor of JN Bank in Canada.

As she transitioned from entrepreneurship in the tropics to corporate Canada, Wong loves her journey.

In fact, the petite mother of three boys was determined to boss and maintain not only a priceless relationship with her children but also to her fellow teammates and customers, upon arrival in Canada when she joined seven years ago.

Wong said that she plans to deliver superior customer satisfaction, which she had always received as a customer of the bank.

“I am delighted to be a part of the historic fabric of the JN Group. We’re the only member-only commercial bank in Jamaica, and we do it right,” she states.

She adds, “Wong wants everyone, who comes in contact with the JN Canada Representative Office, to leave satisfied and empowered.

“We strive to be inclusive in the market with our products and services for customers of all ages such as vacation account, mortgages, savings accounts and a safe way of conducting banking and other related business while travelling to Jamaica. We also demonstrate a heartily respect for all of those who want to have a piece of paradise, such as escaping a home or to enjoy the sunshine,” she explains.

This, she says, is applicable to having a pre-approval application for a mortgage in Jamaica. “It is a highly sought after process that enables the prospective buyer to know their financial power when dealing with builders.”

The celebration of diversity in her adopted homeland and catering to Canadians who are JN Bank members, segues effortlessly into that at-home feel of Kingston, Jamaica.

“Our office represents the JN Group in Canada and our objective is to ensure that there is no need to travel to Jamaica in order to complete a transaction request, or pay for costly out of pocket expenses,” she advised in relation to the priority of the Canada Representative Office. Wong reiterates that they have an increased seven-day operation for consistent excellent customer service delivery.

She has a welcoming smile and twinkle in her eyes.
Anti-black racism detrimental to Toronto’s social fabric

JOHN TORY
Contributor

As GOOD as we are striving for inclusion which matches our status as the most diverse city in the world, there still exists anti-black racism in Toronto. It is an ongoing reality in this city and I think that is an important statement for the Mayor of Toronto to make.

While there will be those who will say anti-black racism can never be totally eradicated, this must be our goal in the City of Toronto, because it stands as an obstacle to a truly fair and just city. I understand that members of our city’s Black communities are tired of being asked to have yet another conversation about the lives of their ancestors, their own lives and those of their children. And so we embarked on an initiative to engage Toronto’s Black community in a series of conversations to develop an action plan to address systemic racism, a five-year plan to address systemic barriers across the city.

Instead of writing one more report, we took the many reports that had been written over the past 41 years and put those recommendations in front of people for discussion.

We wanted to know which actions the community, where the most necessary and would make the greatest difference in their lives.

Since January, the City held 41 discussion groups in partnership with community organizations, and drew more than 800 people to share their experiences, their concerns and solutions.

I attended four of those discussions myself. I listened to community members in Renousdale, Jane and Finch, Scarborough, and Weston Mt Dennis. I listened to fathers and mothers, small business owners on Eglinton West, and I went to Black CAP and listened to queer Mt Dennis. I listened to fathers and priorities and their concerns.

I’m encouraged by the results of these conversations and by what I’ve heard from young people.

I heard parents and students talk about the lack of Black teachers. The much higher rates of unemployment experienced by young Black men in our neighbourhoods. The dramatically higher percentage of young Black men in the justice system.

I listened, and I learned. And, last weekend, I was proud to see a Draft Action Plan presented to the public. This plan centres around five themes with 22 recommendations and some 77 actions the City can undertake as key elements in an anti-black racism action plan.

This is a real plan and I am committed to seeing us act on it. I will champion this report at City Council, and I have also identified some specific items that we can get moving on right away.

BLACK CITY STAFF

There was support for an initiative that we engage Black City staff to form a Black Staff Network. This group would identify systemic barriers to career advancement inside City Hall. I will convene a meeting with representatives of our Black City Staff before the end of the month to consider my encouragement for this initiative and the impact it can have.

Secondly, I will take the initiative and make the greatest difference in our city’s Black communities.

Our mission will be to engage Black community members in the provision of anti-black racism training for all City staff.

Additionally, our City government will be taking immediate steps to improve employment and mentorship opportunities for Black youth.

To begin with, our City government has budgeted $300,000 to make permanent a pilot program delivered in partnership with community partners to provide construction skills and digital technology skills training for Black youth aged 18-29, in receipt of Ontario Works, with criminal records.

I hope these initiatives which I can begin to move on right away give you an indication of my intention to lead, and to act.

What I heard most of all in these sessions, and what I hear across the city in many different ways each week is the simple heartfelt desire to have a fair chance and a life in Toronto free from racism and discrimination, a goal we would see as entirely consistent with our shared Toronto values.

Our objective must be no less than to bring an end to acts of discrimination based on racism, an end to stereotyping and marginalization, to ensure systemic changes to eradicate racism, and new beginnings that focus on the opportunity our city represents, opportunity which has often been difficult or impossible for many of our fellow residents to access.

While honestly acknowledging in advance that some issues won’t be easy or instantaneously resolved, I am committed to work within government and work with Toronto’s Black communities to forge a city where our values and goals are matched by reality.

John Tory is the Mayor of Toronto.
Fraud case against former Cash Plus boss collapses

LIVERN BARRETT
Senior Gleaner Writer

OCKLEY COMBIE, a former Jamaican football administrator, was furious as he watched Carlos Hill, founder of the Cash Plus scheme in which he had invested US$10 million, walk out of the Home Circuit Court a free man.

I invested ten million [expletive] dollars and don’t get back a f**k,” Combie, who is confined to a wheelchair, shouted outside the court after prosecutors announced that they were offering no evidence against Hill.

But prosecutors later revealed that even with his mammoth investment — J$729 million at the 2008 exchange rate — there is no record that Combie gave a statement to police investigators probing the collapse of the unregulated scheme.

Paula Llewellyn, the country’s top prosecutor who came under fire immediately after Justice Chester Stemp told Hill he was free to go, said Combie’s situation is the ‘ultimate example of disengagement’ from the judicial process by citizens.

We have to look at the elephant in the room and citizens of this country rather than seeking to berate the prosecution because we were not able to wave the magic wand and provide a conviction.

They have to understand that you cannot get a conviction against another citizen in the criminal courts unless you are prepared to give evidence,” Llewellyn told The Gleaner.

Hill was arrested and charged in April 2008 after the Cash Plus scheme began to unravel. He was charged with fraudulently and attempting to fraudulently induce persons to invest in the unregulated investment scheme which promised investors significant returns on their deposit over a short period.

After a nine-year delay, the trial finally got under way with the selection of a seven-member jury in the Home Circuit Court in downtown Kingston on Wednesday, May 24 but in less than an hour, it was over.

MISSING WITNESSES

Adley Duncan, assistant director of public prosecutions and one of the two prosecutors assigned to the case, revealed that only two of the 16 witnesses down to give evidence had confirmed that they would attend.

“Today, only one person has come to give evidence. Even if we were to put that witness in the [witness] box, we would need to call other witnesses to corroborate,” Duncan said.

He said that testimony would be critical to show that at the time Hill was promising investors large returns on their money, he could not have fulfilled those promises. “People who could say f**ken nah go so,” he underscored.

“We looked at the case and realised that based on the evidence we have, we cannot prove the case,” Duncan said before announcing he was offering no evidence against Hill.

As the former Cash Plus boss left the courtroom, he was greeted by angry persons claiming to have suffered significant losses as a result of the scheme.

“Let me ask you one question, ‘How do you feel?’,” one woman asked him.

“You are a wicked bastard! Look at this man in a wheelchair because of you!” said another woman, referring to Combie.

Outside the courtroom, Hill refused to answer questions from reporters, saying only that he wants to compensate investors. “That will definitely happen, especially now that this is behind me, we can concentrate on that,” he said before being whisked away in a cab.

More than 40,000 investors are still owed some J$1 billion dollars.

Philips said that the discussion “was meant to signal a constant need for quality controls and should not be interpreted as a general disapproval of either the houses or the programme.”

The charity’s chairman, Andrew Mahfood, has rejected claims of termite problems and poor construction. He also said that the proposed increase was justified.

“Our costs of producing the homes have gone up, and we would not want to have to negotiate,” he said.

The project falls under the HOPE secretariat, the entity that replaced the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme. Approximately 4,120 houses have been constructed so far, Mahfood said.

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Call 599-1438

Gordon Harrison

Talks on to redefine rape

DEFINITIONS of rape are becoming ‘wayward’, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck argued, urging that “perhaps, it is time that Jamaica removes that designation from the books and captures it under a general category such as sexual assault.”

He offered the suggestion last week after hearing Children’s Advocate Diahann Gordon-Harrison’s recommendation that the definition of rape be changed to include protection for boys.

Under Jamaican law, rape is the penetration of the vagina with the penis without consent.

Chuck is chairman of a parliamentary committee consisting of some senators and members of Parliament, which, held its fourth meeting since resuming work, Jamaica Daily.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck has argued, suggesting ‘wayward’, that the definition of rape be changed to include protection for boys.

The offence is defined as the insertion of any body part or any object into a person’s bodily orifice.

The definition of rape was born out of the need to criminalise exploitation.

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It is gender neutral, Harrison said, and ‘it covers both boys and girls being potential victims, and it would capture females being charged with that kind of exploitation’.

In February, Chuck gave instructions to law reform teams to come up with the ‘perfect definition’ of rape after the committee received submissions from United Nations representatives here who recommended that rape be defined as ‘against any person’, which includes men and boys, as well as covering ‘other penetrative practices’.

J POVAN JOHNSON
Gleaner Reporter

MEMBERS of Parliament who have attacked Food For The Poor (FFP), claiming that poor-quality houses are being built for poor Jamaicans at unreasonable costs are not ungrateful and should apologize to Jamaica’s largest charity, argue Pauline Currleas, the representative of Clarendon North Central.

‘It is unfair to our national and international donors for us to speak the way we speak about FFP. Neither FNF (People’s National Party) nor JLP (Jamaica Labour Party) governments could do for the people of Jamaica what has been done over the last few years. We need to apologise to Food For The Poor. We must be grateful.’ he told The Gleaner.

A team of members of Parliament has called for a review of ‘to give MPs more say in the selection of beneficiaries’.

Food For The Poor, Jamaica’s largest charity, has received angry li to comments from the MPs, who raise concerns over the quality and cost of building the houses under a five-year agreement that was signed in August 2012.

One thousand two hundred units, each worth J$800,000 (J$882,000), are to be built each year, the deal. Jamaica pays half of the cost of each two-bedroom board house.

Landlord Chambers, director of projects in the economic growth and job creation ministry, told the committee that FFP wants a US$800 increase because of higher prices imposed by overseas suppliers.

Leslie Campbell, the MP for St Catherine North Eastern, argued that the construction of Food For The Poor houses does not have to be so costly. “I can build any one of these units in my constituency for half the price of what is being quoted. There’s absolutely nojustification for us using the State’s money costing J$800,000, or thereabouts”.

“We are the ones being whisked away in a cab. More than 40,000 investors are still owed some J$1 billion dollars.

Phillips said that the discussion ‘was meant to signal a constant need for quality controls and should not be interpreted as a general disapproval of either the houses or the programme’.

The charity’s chairman, Andrew Mahfood, has rejected claims of termite problems and poor construction. He also said that the proposed increase was justified.

“Our costs of producing the homes have gone up, and we would not want to have to negotiate,” he said.

The project falls under the HOPE secretariat, the entity that replaced the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme. Approximately 4,120 houses have been constructed so far, Mahfood said.

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The outrage of Cash Plus

Paula Llewellyn is not on entirely firm ground with her suggestion that people like Locksley Comrie are not entitled to their outrage over the collapse of the criminal case against Carlos Hill, the boss of a dodgy investment scheme that crumpled 10 years ago, leaving thousands of Jamaicans out of pocket to the tune of more than J$10 billion. For, while Mr Comrie, who sponsored investigative stories that implicated the Supreme Court on Wednesday, and others believe that they were cheated out of their money in an investment vehicle that has been likened to a Ponzi scheme, may not have filed criminal complaints or offered evidence against Mr Hill, this newspaper is not convinced that the law-enforcement/trial/judicial system distinguished itself in this matter.

Indeed, it was found wanting. We, of course, appreciate the basis on which the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, which Mr Llewellyn heads, withdrew its case against Mr Hill at the very start of the hearing: Having failed to produce witnesses, and, as a condition of bail, has had to report once a week to the police. The case was postponed several times. It collapsed because crucial witnesses did not turn up, or could not be found, and the Crown felt that it was not reasonably possible to proceed.

0/They have to understand that you cannot get a conviction against another citizen in the criminal courts unless you are prepared to give evidence,” said Mr Llewellyn in her excoriation of people who “berate the prosecution because we were not able to wave a magic wand and provide a conviction.

Fair enough within the specific confines of the case that the DPP took to court. But it is not unreasonable, we believe, if an accounting was demanded of Mr Llewellyn, senior police investigators, and others in law enforcement for the unfolding of this matter.

Handful filed complaints

Cash Plus had an estimated 40,000 accounts and/or investors. A handful filed complaints against the company and its principals, who were charged with 16 counts of fraud. It has not been revealed what was the level of coordination between investigators and prosecutors during the evolution of the case, or if, and when, there were signals that key witnesses had lost, or were losing, interest.

While Mr Comrie and others may not have voluntarily filed complaints against Cash Plus and Mr Hill, was it not possible for vigorous investigators, guided by astute prosecutors, to be proactive in seeking out, and persuading, more among the 40,000 to perform charges and provide witness statements?

Further, given the likelihood, in Jamaica’s history, of gaining interest by witnesses in delayed cases, there are questions about whether more could have been done to accelerate this one.

People will wonder, too, if the fraud charges against Cash Plus/Mr Hill were the only criminal cases that might have been filed. Is it perhaps now moot ? or perhaps not ? whether Cash Plus, or persons connected thereto, fulfilled tax obligations?

Did they meet all requirements pertaining to financial services and related legislation, including those aimed at preventing money laundering in which the state, rather than individuals, would benefit?

The point is that in cases such as these, there may be more than a simple route to justice and the prevention of outrage.
Have a great week!

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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ReadyTV eyes 500,000 subscribers

**Improved public-private partnership rating shows Ja on right economic path**

Jamaica has entered the top five in foreign investment growth ratings, according to Daryl Vaz, minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation. The INFRASCOPE report released by the Economist Intelligence Unit and the Inter-American Development Bank ranked 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean based on their capacity to mobilise private investment in infrastructure through PPPs.

Vaz, who also has responsibility for the energy sector, noted that Jamaica’s meteoric rise to fourth in the index was a huge deal for the country. All across the region, he said, public-private partnerships were viewed as a huge deal for Jamaica’s overall economic trajectory.

“They are a reflection on what we have achieved. They are a reflection on how we are growing as a country, on the business environment in the country,” he said.

Vaz said public-private partnerships were viewed as a huge deal for Jamaica’s overall economic trajectory. He told The Gleaner that the PPP programme was a vital part of the Government’s growth agenda.

“It’s a public-private partnership is something that, while started previous to this administration, is going to be accelerated,” he said.

“We have not yet scratched the surface of the energy and waste-to-energy sectors. And those are two areas that have massive potential for a public-private partnership arrangement. I am sure the respective ministries will be targeting those, as well as the other PPPs that are to be done, not only through the ministries, but also government agencies, some of which are very rich in resources, such as land, and primed for development, which will accelerate and grow the economy,” he said.

Managing Director of the Development Bank of Jamaica, Milverton Reynolds, agrees that the development can only be viewed as a huge deal for Jamaica’s economic growth trajectory. He told The Gleaner that the improved rating has placed Jamaica even more in the market for local and foreign investments and that it falls in line with the Government’s strategy for economic growth.

“This is very significant because we have moved into the top five, and that is huge. It means that, clearly what we are doing in terms of our PPP privatisation programme is working and is being recognised in the region,” Reynolds said.

“The economy is poised. We are really in a position to continue to do PPPs, and we are very central and critical in terms of bringing in investment from the private sector, both locally and internationally, as a way of facilitating growth and creating jobs,” he said.

The index — the 2017 INFRASCOPE survey ranks 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean based on their capacity to mobilise private investment in infrastructure through PPPs.

The report defines PPPs as projects that involve long-term contracts between a public-sector body and a private sector entity for the design, construction or upgrading, operation and maintenance of public infrastructure to deliver quality public services and cover projects in the water, transport, solid waste management and energy sectors.

Jamaica was ranked eight in 2014, up from 13th in 2013 in previous INFRASCOPE reports. The 2017 index covered assessments up to March 2017 in five categories: regulations, investment and business climate, institutions, financing, and maturity.

**READYTV ENTERS THE MARKET AS A CABLE TV COMPANY.**

READYTV entered the market with a 69 percentage rating.

Peru rounded out the top five, at 72 per cent, with Brazil and Colombia at 74 per cent. Brazil is rated third at 72 per cent, with Peru rounding out the top five in four.

Jamaica now has a 71 per cent rating. Germany is rated second at 73 per cent, with the US rated fifth at 74 per cent.

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**Red Stripe to add new production line, more beers**

**STEVEN JACKSON**

Business Reporter

_The Cloud of uncertainty that has been hanging over cane farmers in Trelawny and St James since the shutting down of operations at the Long Pond Sugar Estate is poised to be lifted, thanks to plans to establish a ambitious $100 million makeover to process and package farm produce for the tourism and retail sector_.

The initiative, which was announced at a press conference in Trelawny on Monday, May 22 will shut down the operation of the Long Pond Sugar Estate, which was the last financial year to once again shut down the production line and technology system to handle expected growth in volumes for the next decade.

The current line operates at full capacity since the brewery decided last month to once again make beer, bound for the United States market, in Jamaica.

The new line will allow for the handling of the local and overseas product demand. The company will also implement new inventory and data handling systems to improve sales and productivity.

“Our current line is not capable of supplying the demand for the next three years. Right now, our line is at maximum capacity and we have no room to grow. So we are looking at this line to manage the demand for the next 10 years,” Red Stripe Jamaica Managing Director Ricardo Salcedo said in a _Gleaner_ interview at the Red Stripe brewery in Kingston on Thursday.

Concurrently, the company will consider introducing beers from Mexico and other markets into Jamaica. It is aimed at growing local consumption of beer by offering choices to consumers in a market that trails other regions. So, the beer under consideration, falls within the Heineken group. Red Stripe Jamaica is a 95.78 per cent subsidiary of Heineken.

Nuncio expects to make a decision on new beers within six months. These beers would target Jamaicans looking for variety rather than targeting tourists in the hospitality sector. That’s because tourists are mainly looking for Red Stripe to get that Jamaican experience, he said.

“Bel, which is a Mexican brand, can compete with Corona (the large Mexican beer) in a good way. We are also looking at innovations and there are a couple of international brands, but we should see more variety in the next six to eight months,” said Nuncio.

Last year, Red Stripe announced $3.5 billion, according to its 2016 annual report issued for the annual general meeting of shareholders at the Thursday Kingston brewery.

The funds were spent on maintaining the existing line, new equipment, $400 coolers, new detectors, new bottles and crates, and cassava plant materials.

The brewery now uses cassava as an input for 10 per cent of its beer raw material, which offsets importation. It expects to increase the ratio to 20 per cent by year end, and is on track for the ultimate target of offsetting 40 per cent of importation.

Red Stripe Jamaica now has 1,000 acres for cassava planting. Another 1,000 acres are controlled by independent small farmers from whom it buys the tuber.

“Do we have 2,000 acres that are available to plant and harvest from. This year, we expect to end with 20 per cent of cassava in our beer,” Nuncio said.

Nuncio indicated that the company plans to continue its focus on growing the local market, add new export markets, and staff, saying these aims were the reason Heineken acquired Red Stripe from Diageo Jamaica for $2.5 billion. Despite the growth in exports, the domestic market will remain the largest earner for the company, he added in the long term, said Nuncio.

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**J$100m rescue plan for Trelawny cane farmers**

**MARK TITUS**

Gleaner Writer

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Knowledge through time travel

AMITABH SHARMA
Senior Copy Editor – Overseas Publications

BOOKS TAKE us on a quest for acquiring knowledge, enlightening the mind and opening windows to a world of imagination and endless possibilities, but when these are complemented with objects in person, the resultant experiences can be a walk back in time.

Museums are such a medium, bringing life and the third dimension to paper and ink, urging and inviting one to explore, engage, find answers to some questions and get intrigued — one might feel like time travels in Dr Who, the BBC, produced science fiction series.

May 18 was celebrated as International Museums Day, a day designated by the International Council on Museums (ICOM), and this year’s theme was “Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in Museums”.

“Most countries have national museums that can answer these questions and enable people to learn about and discuss their history and also write their own history,” said Jonathan Greenland, director, National Museum Jamaica. “In Jamaica, we have a string of smaller community-based museums that operate in a slightly different way.”

“Museums offer a neutral space to deliberate about issues of the past,” said Captain Staci-Marie Dehaney, curator of the Jamaica Military Museum and Library (JMML). “They operate as an informal space of learning for both the young and adults alike with an interest in the past.”

Jamaica the rock on the face of Earth has rich, deep-rooted and diverse stories about her past to tell the world, and the museums dotting the island become those story tellers.

“Our mission is to make everybody, especially Jamaicans, but also our international visitors, interested and engaged in Jamaican history,” said Greenland. “It seems essential to us that citizens must be aware of their own history, their family history, their community history, and their national history.

“It (museum) is an essential part of an enlightened citizenry to know where they come from,” he continued, adding that questions like “Where do we come from?” or “What are we?” are important questions that every museum can pose and respond to.

“Jamaican history is absolutely fascinating, so we have a gold mine of material to share,” Greenland said.

According to Dehaney, visitors to the museums are experiencing beyond the physical manifestations.

“Through objects, visitors are transported through the intricate details of the past. Supported by research, these objects tell the stories of the voiceless and oftentimes can be the bridge between an official account and the realities of the past.

“Through the objects displayed in the museums, stories come to life, names get faces curated exhibitions provide the media through which the past can connect with the present.

These interactions, according to the experts, are essential to open the minds of the people.

“Using an artefact, oral histories, and text, we are presented with the opportunity to reconcile matters of the past and make our own conclusions based on the evidence presented,” said Dehaney. “There is something enigmatic and captivating about an object in a museum as they tell many stories.”

WAR TALES

At the JMML, stories of technological development in weaponry, and of the soldiers who used them, stories of their victims and the environment they existed in are told by the objects displayed.

“Through the wear and tear of objects acquired in their active life, we learn so much,” Dehaney said. “Of these silent memories, quietly keeping the secrets of men of war and beyond.”

Greenland said that through the museums, they are seeking to make everyone a “citizen historians”, thoroughly conscious and aware of their own history.

“In order to address this, we use four separate museums: Port Royal, Spanish Town, East Street, Kingston, and National Museum West in Montego Bay,” he said. “We also put on temporary exhibitions, produce catalogues and books, organise discussions and workshops, do outreach programmes; as well as pursue a very active conservation programme.

But, according to Greenland, there is still work to be done to generate the desired interest among the people beyond the school groups.

“We are still working towards having a proper national museum in Kingston that is accessible and exciting,” he said.

The journey continues.

Positive messages for black children

GLENDA ANDERSON
Gleaner Writer

RILEY CAN BE ANYTHING is a 10-page, easy read targeting parents of preschoolers, especially children of colour.

In the narrative, Riley, a young black boy, has a discussion with his older cousin Joe, about what he wants to be when he grows up.

Joe’s suggestions are both fun and real and totally capture Riley’s imagination in what becomes a pep talk for the curious, timid Riley.

The title and recurring refrain — Riley Can Be Anything — reinforces its guiding idea of confidence building and nurturing, positive role models for children.

In fact, author Davina Hamilton, former entertainment editor with the United Kingdom’s Daily Mail newspaper, says that this was her motivation for writing the book.

“The book is targeted at all pre-school children but also seeks to address the conversation about the need for positive imagery for black children,” Hamilton said.

“During my time at The Voice (she worked there for 14 years), I wrote numerous articles and had many discussions about the importance of black children seeing reflections of themselves in literature. As a mother of two, this became important to me on a personal level, hence I decided to write this children’s book, which has a young black boy as the main character,” Hamilton said.

The language is a mix of sight words as well as more complex words, but remains simple enough for a nursery read aloud.

Delivered in poetry form, it is very engaging as it employs rhyming that is both fun and informative for young readers.

“Riley loved his big cousin Joe. There were so many things Joe wanted to know. ‘Like how does honey come from bees?’

And ‘why must I always say thank you and please?’

Considering his options for a career, Riley is intrigued by Joe’s suggestions.

A chef, said Riley.

‘That sounds good. Put do you really think I could?’

Joe said, ‘Your food would be fit for a king.’

‘Riley, you can be anything.’

The central character, Riley is portrayed as a young, black boy. He could be any black child as even the name itself is not gender specific.

His cousin Joe and each professional identified — doctor, jazz player and chef — are also portrayed in the work as black persons.

Riley Can Be Anything will inspire many children to dream, and indeed, help them to find themselves and their story in local literature.

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

A chapter of Jamaica’s history at the Bustamante Museum.

Photos by Amitabh Sharma

A retired bell helicopter and armoured personnel carrier at the JMML courtyard.

Artifacts at the Mona Library.

“Riley Can Be Anything” front cover.

“Work by Denise Huxley. Artwork by Gina Rossa”

TTHHEE  NNAA  WWEEEEKKLY  GGLLEEAANNEERR

www.jamaica-gleaner.com
Ardenne Alumni Association celebrates mothers

SOPHIA FINDLAY
Gleaner Writer

Ardenne does not engage in the practice of streaming or screening students. All students are required to sit a minimum of 8 subjects of their choice at the end of five years.

Ardenne High School’s lunch programme and other initiatives, supported by the past students in Toronto do not go unnoticed as they work fearfully and with excellence. The organisation celebrated its 35th anniversary as an association in Toronto, and Mother’s Day celebration was a part of that recognition.

President of AAA, Denzil Davis said: “Today, in celebrating our 35th anniversary in association in Toronto, we celebrate Gerald Alston’s Day. This is an intentional signature event as this is the main event at their celebration. It represents the journey of women who have become mothers to their own children and other children they have ‘mothered’ throughout their lives... From its humble beginnings Ardenne High School has emerged one of the schools of choice for students from all walks of life... This year Ardenne becomes 90 years old and the celebration has started.”

An award was given posthumously to Margaret Harnett, while Brunshwide Chin got an award for being a part of the AAA for the past 15 years, serving diligently as a public relations officer, lunch programme and secretary for the association.

The guests were treated to the soothing selections of Grandmaster Rosal of Soul to Soul; a sumptuous sit-down three-course meal and live entertainment by Canada-based reggae crooners, Tanja Mullings and Jimmy Reid.

The affable singing sensation recently spoke with The Gleaner from his New Jersey home about his career, his children, and his plans for the future.

Like most American pop/ rhythm and blues singers, Alston had his early beginnings in the church. His family’s denominations are in the Methodist Church and he is still a member in Jersey City, where he now resides. But the smooth-voiced singer said he missed being part of the gospel group, the Soul Stirrers by only a day, having already accepted the offer from The Shirelles.

“I have sung gospel tunes with The Manhattans and I have a gospel CD titled True Gospel, featuring Regina Bell and my son, among others,” said the Henderson, North Carolina native. His dad died in April, but the music he left behind is still prevalent. The music he strives to keep alive is the same as the music he started:

“My music has allowed me to tour the world, from African countries like Ghana to countries in Asia as well as Antigua and other islands in the Caribbean,” Alston said. Throughout his career, Alston has collaborated with other singers, but said he would have loved to do a recording with Andre Franklin, Alston’s childhood friend.

“I came close in 2005, when the American Music Masters honoured Sam Cooke and I was right next to Andre when they were introducing him to tribute,” Alston recalled.

With all the technological and other creative advancements in today’s music industry, Alston remains unimpressed by a lot, but is thankful that some great songs are slowly returning.

“That’s why 50 years on, young people still love our music. We sang about life. We also sang about making love but not as graphic as today. Many of the old songs might not have been chart toppers, but people are still singing them today because of their meaningful lyrics and sweet melodies,” Alston reflected.

To underscore his point, Alston said The Gleaner, that from the current list of female singers, he likes the work of Jasmine Rutherford and Chrisette Michele, whom he said “can really sing.”

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Former Oceana to become a mix of condos, not apartments

Neville Graham
Business Reporter

The redevelopment of the former Oceana Hotel includes plans for four floors of condominiums, which will be put on the market for sale. Another eight floors of the waterfront property will be operated as a hotel.

PanJam Investment Limited said it is yet to hire a developer, but expects full completion of the project in two years. The Jamaican conglomerate owns the waterfront property in partnership with Downing Street Partners Realty of Canada, through an entity called King Church Property Holdings Limited.

“We are probably looking at opening sometime between January and July of 2019,” said PanJam chief operating officer Paul Hanworth.

Hanworth declined to comment on the indicative costs of completing the redevelopment project – dubbing Caribbean Place – saying it could affect ongoing negotiations with prospective inhabitants.

The King Church partners are reported to have invested $1.15 billion in the first phase of redevelopment, which involved removing parking space, mechanical works and readying the ground floor for office rental to the Account Officer Department. The state agency moved into a part of their 50,000-foot accommodation about a month ago.

Hanworth says the really hard slog is to transform the rest of the 12-storey structure – the ground floor is not counted in the 12-storeys – into accommodation for business travelers, a segment of the hospitality market that PanJam believes is underserved and growing in the capital. But they are also targeting persons who want to own a waterfront residence, with condos to be located on the top floors of the building that King Church acquired from the Urban Development Corporation for $388 million.

“We think the other 200,000 square feet should principally be the hotel, but we are also hopeful that we can redevelop alongside the Government and many other stakeholders into a much more attractive tourist destination,” said Hanworth. “Then there would be a natural fit between the hotel and a leisure market.”

They would therefore have a product that is both for business and leisure travel,” he told The Financial Gleaner.

The residential component was incorporated in the project as a way to contain the size of the hotel, which the partners want to limit to 129 to 160 rooms.

“We are saying the top four floors will be a residential condominium-type arrangement which we would sell. We think there would be strong interest locally and among the Diaspora,” said Hanworth. “We also think that there would be strong interest from corporate Jamaica, who may want a downtown condo for visitors,” he said.

SECOND INVESTMENT

Caribbean Place is PanJam’s second hotel investment in Jamaica in the past five years. It is also holding a minor stake in a Miami hotel.

Along with partners from Costa Rica and Trinidad, the property conglomerate developed the Courtyard by Marriott, a 129-room hotel targeted at business travel, which began operating in New Kingston at the end of 2015.

The King Church partners aim to follow that model for Caribbean Place, but so far they are not saying which hotel management company is targeted for partnership.

Those talks, too, are ongoing.

“We are in discussion with our partners and some hotel brands with regards to how we’d want to position it, who would be interested in flying their flag on it, because we think that international branding is important,” Hanworth said.

The partners are hoping to sign off on final designs and budgets, in collaboration with the selection of a developer, by the end of 2017, he told The Financial Gleaner.

Construction and renovation should take another 12-18 months, he said.

Courtyard Kingston was financed with 50 per cent equity and 50 per cent debt from International Finance Corporation and the Inter-American Development Bank, according to Hanworth, who says a similar financing mix and funding sources are under consideration for the Caribbean Place project.

“We have spoken to both lenders, who have signalled a willingness to finance the project both through the construction phase and long-term after completion. We will look at that and entertain input from construction financiers, in the banking sector, and so on,” the PanJam executive said.

Home Purchase Check List

PURCHASING A home is a major milestone that can be costly; the burdensome financial decisions some people make in their lifetime. The key to enduring the process is to be armed with as much information as possible prior to decision making as well as to solicit support from capable professionals. Here are a few steps to consider when purchasing a home and how much resources are needed.

1. Determine what you can truly afford.

The first step is to determine your budget. This is usually the number that you would have to pay in mortgage and living costs. If you are not sure what is realistic, it is always prudent to seek the assistance of a mortgage provider or mortgage broker.

Once you have defined your budget, you should then ensure that you have at least 10 per cent cash reserves for down payment and another 5 per cent for closing costs. It may also be prudent to have additional funds reserved to assist with any needed renovation.

2. Figure which mortgage is best for you and get Pre-Approved.

You have decided how much resources are needed, you now need a mortgage lender with a reputation for good customer service and timely closing. Find out how long the process will take and what the qualifying guidelines are.

Next, decide which mortgage makes the most sense for you. If you are purchasing property in Jamaica in Jamaican currency, it may be more suitable to purchase in Jamaican dollars as opposed to foreign currency. Evaluate the cost of both options and the decision will be to borrow in the currency that you believe will be the weaker currency in the long run.

As for the length of your loan, a 30-year term is generally favoured even if you think you can pay off your home faster. It’s also a good idea to have a mortgage pre-approval at the onset of the purchase as it proves to a seller that you’re a qualified buyer and may put you in a stronger negotiating position.

3. Study types of house and amenities are important.

It may not be typical to find the perfect home within your budget and so you should generate a list of what you absolutely must find in a home and which features are simply nice extras.

Some must-haves might include the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, proximity to hospital and shopping infrastructure. You might also have a strong preference on the amount of outdoor space a house offers, and whether it’s move-in ready.

Another important factor is to determine the type of unit you are interested in and the pros and cons of each type. You may choose to buy a single family or detached unit instead of a town house or apartment, the latter two being in a gated community with their own supporting amenities.

4. Start House Hunting and identify a Real Estate Agent

To start the process of short listing homes, the best option would be to browse online listings of houses for sale as well as the classified listings in the Sunday Gleaner which has now become a staple for house hunters.

Once you are under no obligation retain a real estate agent, you have several potential benefits to working with one. First of all, an agent can provide access to more home options that you may not have access to as well as the benefit of setting up viewing appointments. Since home-buying can be an emotional process, an agent can also act as a mediator between you and the seller.

5. Make an offer

Once you have identified the home that best suits your needs, the next step is to make an offer.

How do you land on the ideal number? While there are no hard and fast rules, you may want to firstly look at other home sales in the area. Next, consider how long the home has been on the market, and how incentivized the home-owner is to sell.

6. Retain an Attorney-at-Law

A number of factors influence the decision as to the Attorney that should be retained and this is generally a personal decision. As with the real estate process, you need to do your research and in particular contact the Jamaican Bar Association if there is any doubt or review the Bar’s web site to confirm that the person you retain does not have any infractions. As for references from other persons who have had positive experiences.

Robert Taylor, Taylor Law, Attorney-at-Law, Unit 16, 80 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica.
restrictions,” James Williams, president of Engage Cuba, told The Herald. Engage Cuba is a coalition of companies and organisations that lobby to eliminate sanctions on Cuba.

The bill would remove all restrictions for US citizens and residents on travel to Cuba, and will authorise associated banking transactions made by travellers. A similar proposal was presented in the US House of Representatives but with fewer sponsors.

Even if the bill is not discussed on the Senate floor, said Williams, it sends a strong message to the White House that there is support for the current policy of engagement.

In a separate move to push the agenda forward, the Herald noted that former US President Barack Obama expanded to 12 the number of authorised categories under which travellers may visit Cuba. However, the removal of all travel restrictions requires an act of Congress.

HIGH TRAFFIC

As a result of Obama’s measures, the number of Americans who travelled to the island soared and Cuban authorities reported 118-per cent growth through March, compared to the same period last year.

In 2016, more than 280,000 Americans traveled to the island, but those who support the current policies fear that travel to Cuba may be curtailed.

Although the review of the Cuba policy is being carried out by different federal agencies and coordinated by the National Security Council, Cuban-American lawmakers US Senator Marco Rubio and Congresswoman Mario Díaz-Balart—who favour the elimination of what they see as concessions to the Cuban government—are playing a significant role in the process, according to the Herald.

“Recognising the inherent right of Americans to travel to Cuba isn’t a concession to dictators, it is an expression of freedom. It is Americans who are penalised by our travel ban, not the Cuban government,” said Flake.

“Lifting the ban on US citizens travelling to Cuba can pave the way to meaningful change by increasing contact between Cubans and everyday Americans, and it is certain to have positive benefits for the island’s burgeoning entrepreneurial and private sector,” he added.

In a statement in support of the bill, the Cuban Study Group, a Cuban-American non-profit organisation that backed Obama’s changes, stressed that the elimination of the restrictions would have a “substantial” effect on the lives of Cubans, especially those who have joined the private sector, according to the Herald.

“Instead of being forced to use the government as an intermediary, hundreds of thousands of Cubans who work in independent restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and a wide range of other service professions would have direct access to US currency,” the group said.

Some 40 companies and associations organising trips to Cuba also sent a letter to Trump asking him to prioritise economic growth and job creation in the policy review, the Herald said.

The letter signers, including former charter flight companies, as well as the American Society of Travel Agents, the National Tour Association and the United States Tour Operators Association, noted the increase in US tourists to Cuba has allowed them to “hire more American employees”, in a nod to Trump’s America First theme, according to the Herald.

“US travellers are the best representa­tives of American beliefs, ideas and values,” said Collin Laverty, president of Cuba Educational Travel, who coordinat­ed the letter. “The Trump adminis­tration should put US companies and travellers in a position to com­pete with Chinese, Russian and Venezuelan influence on the island.”

IMF sensitisation programme off to positive start

The ECONOMIC Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC), the private sector body which monitors the government’s IMF agreements, is reporting positive response to its ‘Pon di Corner’ community sensitisation meetings.

The sessions, which got under way more than two weeks ago, seek to raise awareness among community members about the government’s economic programme.

EPOC co-chair, Keith Duncan, said the objective of the sensitisation meetings is “to ensure that we talk to the people, hear what they have to say and raise their awareness”.

Two meetings have been held to date in Maryland, east rural St Andrew.

Kingston, St Andrew, St Catherine and St Thomas National Children’s Day recognised May 19

MORE THAN 1,000 children were the beneficiaries of special tokens and snacks on National Children’s Day, May 19 by members of the National Child Month Committee (NCMC) in the Corporate Area and neighbouring parishes of St Catherine and St Thomas.

Islandwide

25,200 young persons to be employed under Summer work programme

The GOVERNMENT is to begin a Scoth bonnet pepper programme in North East Manchester in the next few weeks, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Industry.

Commenting on the programme, Cuban-American Thomas J.C. Hutchinson, announced on May 17 during a meeting with Irish Potato Farmers at the Restorr Pentecostal Church in Devon in the parish.

He said the programme would be similar in structure to the National Irish Potato Programme: farmers will receive seedlings and other inputs upfront, with payments being made when crops are reaped.

Under the potato programme, some 1,508 farmers have been involved in the planting of 382 hectares of Irish potato in曼彻斯特 of which 1,925 tonnes have been reaped to date. Overall, 9,421 farmers have planted 990 hectares of Irish potato across the island with 669 hectares reaped producing 10,691 tonnes of Irish potato.
KRYSTA ANDERSON

The best of Pulse set to excite

ACCORDING TO style guru Alexander McQueen, Fashion should be about escapism. So this June, break away from the mundane and escape to the greatest run- way to have ever graced our green shores – Caribbean Fashion Week. 2017. On Wednesday night, sponsors, models, and socialites, all decked out in fashion- able ensemble, gathered at the home of Porsche Jamaica to celebrate the launch of the island's premiere - caribbean Fash- ionweek 2017, boasting top fash- ion designs from Jamaica and the Caribbean, modelled by some of the fiercest ‘strut- ters’ they have had over the years. So from June 7-11, fasten your seat belts, start your engines, and let Porsche and Pulse take you on a ride of a lifetime through the best of Caribbean Fashionweek 2017, check out their website www.caribbeanfashionweek.com.

WARD THEATER

edges towards raising curtains

MICHAEL RECKORD

AFTER DECADeS of strategis- ing, numerous fundraising events and months of sacrifi- ce by staff (who sometimes worked without pay, I was told), it seems the Ward Theatre Foundation's efforts to make the theatre fully functional again are paying off.

Dr Peter Phillips, leader of the Opposition, said that the theatre had been a testament to Jamaica’s cultural vibrancy for more than 100 years and the whole world acknowledged that vibrancy. Olivia Grange, minister of culture, enter- tainment, gender and sport, called the mayor ‘a team leader’, thanked the Government for the substantial amount of money it has given towards the theatre’s renovation, and asked the prime minister for more. Though he joined in the general laughter at the request, Prime Minister Andrew Holness said, “We cannot allow this monument of our culture, of our heritage, to be destroyed” and he longs for the day when world-class performers again appeared at the Ward.

Executive director of the Institute of Jamaica, Vivian Crawford, agreed that Kingston could become the Caribbean’s cul- tural capital. He pointed to the numerous museums and libraries the Institute of Jamaica adminis- ters – the National Library, the National Gallery, the Natural History Museum, the Jamaica Music Museum, the African- Caribbean Institute and Liberty Hall, among other institutions – as attractions for tourists. Another Ward Theatre Foundation director, Cedric McDonald, said a business plan, which would now have to be recast in view of the dollar’s decline, called for an income-generating bar, museum and gift shop.
A nurse considers prospects in Canada

Deidre S. Powell

CANADA

Dear Ms. Powell,

As a nurse in Jamaica with over five years' work experience, I thought I was working in one of the best health systems in the world. However, I'm now considering the possibility of working in Canada. I have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of the West Indies, and I have worked in various hospitals in Jamaica. I am also fluent in English and Spanish.

I understand that Canada has a significant demand for nurses, especially in provinces like Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. The Canadian Nurses' Association is predicting that approximately 10,000 nurses will be needed in Ontario before 2022 to fill the labour shortage.

I have been working as a registered nurse for five years and have experience in various fields, including intensive care, emergency, and obstetrics. I am interested in finding a new opportunity in Canada where I can utilize my skills and knowledge.

I am curious about the process of immigrating to Canada. Is it possible to work as a nurse in Canada if I have previous work experience? How would I go about this process?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

C.L.

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Dear C.L.,

The Canadian Nurses' Association has predicted a significant demand for nurses in Ontario. However, the process of immigration to Canada varies depending on the province.

In Ontario, you can apply for a temporary work permit to work as a nurse. You should have a nursing license in Jamaica and a current registration with the Ontario College of Nurses. The full-time registered nurse base rate runs CAD$30.04 to CAD$30.04 an hour (CAD$50,000 – CAD$60,000 annually).

In Quebec, there are many opportunities available for nurses. The average salary for a nurse is CAD$36.12 per hour. In acute care, experienced nurses are paid approximately CAD$40 per hour an hour (CAD$80,000 a year), and compensation to nurses who choose to live in remote areas can find that their compensation can double. Nunavut nurses' base salary is between CAD$160 and CAD$190,000, plus there is a northern allowance of up to CAD$5,556, an annual special allowance of CAD$19,500, and signing and monthly retention bonuses.

The rules are slightly different if you wish to immigrate to Canada as a Quebec-selected skilled worker. The application must be done in two stages. First, you must apply directly to the Quebec government for a certificate of selection (Certificat de selection du Quebec). Quebec will evaluate your credentials, and once selected and granted a certificate, you may apply to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for permanent residence.

Quebec has its own rules that must be followed. If your application is successful, you will receive an invitation to apply quite quickly. It is expected that by June, an additional 15 points will be awarded to individuals that are permanent residents or citizens of Canada who have adult siblings.

Once you have submitted your completed application, you could receive permanent residence in less than six months.

Nursing is an excellent field, and there are many opportunities available to you here in Canada. You appear to be an excellent candidate for express entry and can garner the required comprehensive ranking scores to receive an invitation to apply quite quickly. In fact, it is expected that by June, an additional 15 points will be awarded to individuals that are permanent residents or citizens of Canada who have adult siblings.

Jamaica

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Deidre S. Powell is a lawyer, mediator, and notary public who is a member of the Jamaican and Ontario, Canadian bar associations. She welcomes your questions and comments to Email: info@deidrepowell.com. Subject line: Immigration.

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Dahlia Walker-Huntington

UNITED STATES

Dear Mrs. Walker-Huntington,

My father has a 10-year green card and it expired about three years ago. He has been living in Jamaica since 2008 after a short visit to the States. As he is the main breadwinner of the family, he decided to remain in Jamaica to care for his family and fulfill his obligations as a father and husband.

He operates a very good business here, so the need to migrate to increase his earnings (as is the norm) was not urgent. He felt that he was better able to take care of his family here.

Now that all his children have become adults, he is interested in renewing his green card. I was researching some information available on the embassy’s website as it regards expired green cards, but I am not quite sure if that information applies to him.

Would the information on the embassy’s website apply to him, and, if not, how should he go about renewing his card for travel?

R.

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Dear R.,

Unfortunately, your father’s absence from the United States for more than 14 years means that he has abandoned his residency and is no longer considered a permanent resident. A permanent resident (green card holder) is to live and work in the US and is subject to losing permanent residency status if the US considers that the individual have not been maintaining their residency. This can happen to someone who visits regularly but who is not domiciled in America. Anyone who is absent from the States for a year or more is deemed to have abandoned his residency, and, certainly, someone who has not been in America since 2003 would not regain his residency.

RETURNING RESIDENT

If a green card holder leaves the US on a visit and because of circumstances beyond his control (that can be documented), e.g. the individual’s illness or that of a close relative, kept him out of the United States for more than a year. That green card holder can apply to come back to the States as a returning resident. He would also have to, among other things, prove his previous domicile in America.

It appears that your father went to the US on his new green card and returned to Jamaica shortly thereafter and never went back to the States in 14 years. He cannot now apply to renew his expired green card because that process includes him being present in the States for biometrics, and he would not be able to board a flight to the US with his expired green card.

If your father has now decided that he wants to reside in the States, he would have to seek a new sponsor to file a new immigrant petition for residency. However, if he only wants to travel and visit the States, he should apply for a non-immigrant visitor’s visa.

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington is a Jamaican-American attorney who practises immigration law in the United States, and family, criminal, international and personal injury law in Florida. She is a mediator, arbitrator and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida. info@walkerhuntington.com

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Subject line: Immigration.

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Email: info@deidrepowell.com. Subject line: Immigration.
Lone female Wailer played integral role in original group

Beverley Kelso remembers being a confidante

Beverley Kelso remembers being a confidante

OR OF the most commonly accepted inaccuracies floating around these days in music circles is that Bunny Wailer is the only surviving member of the legendary Wailers singing group. Beverley Kelso, one of the surviving symbols and cornerstone of the group, is very much alive and well, living in New York. She is not just a surviving member, but a very integral and important part of that set-up that helped to lay the foundation on which the group was built.

Formed as a quintet in 1963 with Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer, Junior Braithwaite, and the lone female, Kelso, she was so important to the sound that the group wanted that when she decided to leave, they struggled to find an adequate replacement to retain that sound. That sound was her high-pitched voice, which, along with Braithwaite’s, provided the harmony that they so desperately needed to blend with the other three members. It was a big blow to the group when both Kelso and Braithwaite left, and being unable to find suitable replacements, they resorted to being a trio.

Speaking to Kelso from her home in New York a little over a week ago, she confirmed that she was a member of the quintet that entered the gates of Studio 1 at 13 Boulevard) on that fate-deciding morning in late 1963 with four members, who she said took care of her and were very loving and kind, “yet no one made any approaches on me. They all respected me”, she said.

Beverley Kelso’s contribution to the Wailers’ legacy takes on added dimensions when one considers that she could truly be responsible for starting the Bob Marley Empire, albeit unwittingly.

Born on April 14, 1948, in Kingston, Kelso was the youngest member of the group, yet she was the confidante. Lester (the name she called Marley) would come and tell me and ask what he should do. He trusted me,” she disclosed to me in the telephone interview. She continued, “So when Lester was getting married, I was the only one who knew. He invited me to the wedding, but I was ill on that day and couldn’t attend. When something happened (Rita’s pregnancy), and Bob was worried, I advised him to check Mr Dodd for assistance.” Kelso gives credit to all the members, who she said took care of her and were very loving and kind, “yet no one made any approaches on me. They all respected me”. She said that she could truly be responsible for starting the Bob Marley Empire, albeit unwittingly.

In a 2004 interview in New York with Colby Graham, author of The Vintage Boss Magazine, Kelso is quoted as saying: “While going to studio from Trench Town, we usually take shortcuts through Ninth Street and The Calvary Cemetery and pass by Rita’s house. She had a baby in her hand and usually waved at us. The others ignored her, but I felt bad as a woman and would sometimes stop to play with the baby. When I caught up with them, they were upset about me stopping with her. One afternoon, I told me that she had a song named Opportunity which she wanted to record. I told Mr Dodd and he said that I should bring her. I rushed back to get her, but she was not ready as she had to find her back-up singers. She later arrived at Studio 1 with a cousin named Constantine Walker, also known as Dream, and a girl who I called Precious. Calling themselves The Soulettes, they recorded the song the following day.” Kelso concluded.

Were it not for Kelso’s actions, there perhaps might never have been a chance meeting between Rita Anderson and Bob Marley. Writing from New York, Kelso said: “I was the lone female Wailer played an integral role in original group Beverley Kelso remembers being a confidante...”
US student wows history fair with presentation on his hero Usain Bolt

COREY ROBINSON
Staff Reporter

WHEN 10-YEAR-OLD Jonathan Middleton of Texas in the United States was asked to prepare a presentation for his school’s history fair and ‘wax museum’, there was no question that his project would feature his favourite runner, Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt

Middleton, the son of two university professors – his father a lecturer in religion and literature at Texas Christian University – loves everything Jamaican, and when his social studies teacher announced the assignment last month, he whipped out his Jamaican flag, spray paint and best Jamaican accent to woo his classmates.

“Everyone loved his project at school. He was required to complete a research paper, give a three- to five-minute speech and prepare a display board. He also had to dress as his character and participate in a ‘wax museum,’” said Jonathan’s social studies teacher, Neely Douglas of Starpoint, the laboratory school of the Texas Christian University.

“When visitors came to the museum, they pushed a button at his display. Jonathan then came to life as Usain Bolt, telling a brief synopsis of his life. He then answered questions from visitors. He received an ‘A’ for his project, the highest grade I give.”

The youngster dreams of visiting Jamaica and meeting Bolt, and after his dad posted images of his project on social media, they went viral, even getting the nod of approval from the sprint superstar himself, who retweeted Jonathan’s achievement.

“Bolt had seen Jonathan’s project on his Twitter feed. He gave his own shout out, ‘Brilliant’,” accompanied by golden clapping hand emojis. Jonathan was fast asleep at this point,” an elated Darren Middleton, Jonathan’s father, told The Gleaner last week.

“But I will never forget his morning joy the next day. His school friends were thrilled. And his teachers were so proud. After all, Bolt’s response was the best lesson.”

The elder Middleton said his son, since birth, has always been exposed to Jamaican culture because of his parents’ jobs. He has been hearing about Rastafari and reggae music from an early age. However, he was enthralled by Bolt’s performance at the Rio Olympics. The family plans to visit the island soon.

Twelve-year-old Jonathan Middleton of Texas in the United States in his full Jamaican get-up.
David Boxer dies at age 71

DAVID BOXER, considered the leading authority on Jamaican art, has died at age 71.

Chairman of the National Gallery of Jamaica Senator Tom Tavares-Finson said that the artist and former curator died on Sunday, May 30 at his home on Devon Road, St Andrew.

He said that Boxer had been battling cancer.

Tavares-Finson said that his death is an “irreplaceable loss” to the cultural landscape of Jamaica. “Jamaica has lost a national treasure,” he told The Gleaner.

Boxer is credited with transforming the National Gallery into the largest and most prominent national art museum in the English-speaking Caribbean.

“He had been able to make certain advances in the appreciation of Jamaican art - the discovery of intuitives and creating a whole schema for discussing intuitives. That, I think, is my primary achievement,” Boxer said last year in a Jamaica Information Service interview.

SOME KEY FACTS ON BOXER:

- Boxer joined the National Gallery of Jamaica in 1975 as director-curatorial and held this position until 1991 when he became chief curator.
- He retired from the National Gallery in 2013.
- Boxer is widely recognised for his scholarship on Jamaican art, particularly on the work of Edna Manley, the intuitives, and early Jamaican photography.

In August 2016, Boxer was conferred with the Order of Jamaica for an “invaluable contribution to the National Gallery of Jamaica and the development of Jamaican Art.”

Boxer was a specialist on the work of Francis Bacon and is the earliest scholar to have written and defended a doctoral dissertation on the famous English artist, highly recognised as one of the greatest painters of the 20th century.

Self-described as “a painter of existential angst and deep philosophical content,” some information taken from the National Gallery.

Former Maroon chief dies at 100

Paul H. Williams

ON TUESDAY evening, May 23 only a few days after he celebrated his 100th birthday, former colonel of the Moor Town Maroons in Portland, Charles L. G. Harris, made the transition into the ancestral realms.

Colonel Harris was a distinguished graduate of Mico College and a former senator. He was the founder of a Badge of Honour for meritorious service, and was bestowed with the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of the West Indies, Mona, in 2006.

He is known as the man who initiated the presence of national hero status for Nanny of the Windward Maroons. His formal presentations in the Senate in the 1970s led then Prime Minister Michael Manley to order cultural and historical research on Nanny of the Maroons, spearheaded by Professor Kamau Brathwaite, a reader at the University of the West Indies, Mona, at the time.

He was pleased and theirs is the desire not to be parsimonious in their expression of gratitude. Wallace Sterling, in his preface to Colonel Harris’ book, The Christtells the Maroons, says, “Colonel C. L. G. Harris is one of the most crossroads of the Americas. By that I mean that at an active 92, he’s at the centre of our current time and walks within himself that which he is.

Harrist says he has always been a Maroon who places himself at the crossroads of the Americas, as a Maroon, at the very centre of our history.

Colonel Harris led the Moor Town Maroons from 1944–1995, when he was succeeded by Colonel Wallace Sterling, who said Harris was a stalwart who gave his time and energy to Moore Town’s development. He was “a giant in his own right,” who contributed to the educational advancement of the Maroon community. Colonel Sterling added.
Sweet Potatoes two ways: Simple and delicious

THE KITCHEN is my happy place, which is a good thing, because I spend a lot of time in it. It seems I’m always either developing recipes, or cooking them for a camera. And then there’s the not-so-small matter of cooking for my husband and four daughters every day. Truly, I love it. But today I’m sharing with you what I make when I’m alone, cooking for one. When I’m by myself, I like something easy to make and comforting; without being juicy. I turn to one of my favourite ingredients that falls lower than the sweet tooth it will satisfy.

Here’s the plan, which involves very little actual cooking. Pour a few bowls with a fork into a sweet potato and bake it until tender (about 50 minutes at 350°F or 8 minutes high in a microwave since it’s just one). Once it’s cooked, slice in half, cut a slit down the centre of each half, and top just the tiniest bit of coconut oil or butter, which will melt beautifully into the hot potato hash.

You can skip this step if you are watching fat intake, but even a smidge of coconut oil adds a ton of flavour. Sprinkle one side with cinnamon and top with fresh fruit and chopped nuts or seeds. Add a drizzle of maple syrup if you are feeling fancy. Sprinkle the other side with a little spice, like chipotle powder; cumin and hot paprika, or curry powder. And then top with dried canned beans, lentils, chopped leftover chicken or shrimp and something crunchy like pepitas or cashews.

Place the two halves on the same plate, and there you have a single-serve meal on the plate. Perfect for Netflix night alone. But you can easily scale the recipe up to include friends, should you decide to invite them.

Sweet Potato Options:

**Serving:**
1 1-hour including inactive baking time
1 medium orange sweet potato
1 tsp coconut oil, divided
Sautée
1 tsp curry powder
1 tsp paprika
1/4 medium banana, sliced
Juice of 1/4 lime

Optional:
If the oven is still hot, place the dessert on the oven shelf to reheat. Place on top of the spinach and squeeze lime juice over the whole thing.

**Method:**
1. Prick the potato skin 3-4 times with a fork and bake until tender, about 50 minutes at 350°F. Slice the sweet potato in half lengthwise, and cut a slit in each half. Divide the coconut oil between the two potatoes and allow to melt into the flesh. Sprinkle the savoury soup on top with the beans, cashews, cilantro and salt. Place on top of the spinach and squeeze lime juice over the whole thing.
2. For the dessert: Sprinkle with cinnamon and top with banana slices, almonds, maple syrup, salt and lime juice.

Janet Silvera

**Pre-Father’s Day fundraiser**

Bronx, New York:
Good Neighbors Community Outreach

The renowned executive chef, Christopher Channer, we drank the wine. Napa Valley gets the best wine. Napa, California, in their ‘Mercedes-Benz kitchen’. I jumped at the opportunity to don an apron, knowing full well that I was going to be in a fashion designer, the event will showcase local designers and give them a unique opportunity for talented fashion designers, the event will be in another city. Since the wines. Napa Valley gets the best wine.

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Janet Silvera
Caricom Netball Club, champs again

Aubrey Campbell
Gleaner Writer

PORT LAUDERDALE, FL.

The Caricom Netball Club (CNC), made a successful defense of the Hazelle Rogers Challenge Trophy at the Saturday, May 20 staging of the United Sports festival at the Lauderdale Sports Complex, Lauderdale Lakes. The theme was, ‘mer State (Florida) Representative ‹ the auspices of Hazelle Rogers, the former State (Florida) Representative - District 86, now Mayor of the City of Lauderdale Lakes. The theme was, Many Islands, One People.

Members of the Caricom Netball Club.

400m hurdles at the top Jamaica event at Junior College Champs

Hubert Lawrence
Gleaner Writer

A ONE-TWO-THREE finish for Jamaicans in the 400 metres hurdles was the highlight of the recently concluded United States Junior College Track and Field Championships, contest ed on the grounds of Hutchinson College, Kansas, last week.

Former St Elizabeth Technical High School (STETHS) star Ozena Williams won the event and was one of seven Jamaican champions at the meet. Williams gave the gold medal to South Plains Junior College in 51.45 seconds.

Fellow Jamaicans Rayan Holmes, the winner of the schoolboy event at Edwards Allen High at the 2016 Penn Relays, and Robin Black followed Williams across the line. They represented South Plains and Western Texas College, respectively, and clocked times of 52.49 and 52.70.

The long-standing STETHS hurdles tradition was upheld in the women’s event as Kimesha Chambers, now of Western Texas, clocked 60.93 seconds to beat her competition.

The other Jamaican wins came from Sanjae Lawrence, Nyska Chunise, Anastaasia Porrester, Latavia Coombs, and Ayeshia Champagnie.

CHAMPAGNIE’S DOMINANCE

Champagnie continued her dominance in the junior college multi-events with a score of 5,227 points as the former STETHS star won the heptathlon for Barton County Community College.

Lawrence, formerly of Petersfield High, gave Barton another win with a top shot put throw of 17.94 metres.

Chunise, Porrester and Coombs took charge in the discus (50.86 metres), long jump (6.05 metres), and triple jump (13.03 metres). They attended Excelsior High School, Manchester High School and Holmwood Technical High School, respectively, when they were in Jamaica.

Kelly, Williams continue to shine in USL

TAMPA, Florida (CMC)

JAMAICAN STRIKERS Dane Kelly and Romario Williams continued in their rich vein of form, helping push their respective sides to victory in the United Soccer League (USL) over the last two days.

Kelly, the USL all-time leading scorer, was one of four different players to find the net as Reno 1868 FC took a 4-0 victory against Tulsa Roughnecks FC on Wednesday at Greater Nevada Field, less than a day before Williams’s strike was the only goal, as Charleston Battery prevailed 1-0 over Bethlehem Steel FC on Thursday at Goodman Stadium.

The Jamaicans are now the two leading scorers in the USL, with Kelly, a former Tivoli Gardens player topping the chart with nine goals, one ahead of Williams.

GOAL ATTEMPTS

In Reno, Nevada: Kelly came close to adding to his league-leading goals tally in the 19th minute with a curling shot that went just over the crossbar.

In Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: Williams’s strike ensured the Battery moved three points clear at the top of the Eastern Conference, edging them closer to one of the eight playoff positions.

In Bethesda, Pennsylvania: Williams’s strike ensured that the Battery moved three points clear at the top of the Eastern Conference.

The Battery got into their groove more as the half progressed and almost took the lead in the 29th minute when Skylar Thomas’s floored finish was denied by an outstanding save by Steel FC goalkeeper Jake McGuire.

Three minutes later, though, Williams drove home a finish from 25 yards out as he drifted in from the left and fired a low shot that clipped the left post and found the net.
The fallout from Jamaica’s senior netball team’s drawn three test series this month against Barbados has continued with a latest salvo in the fallout came from Fowler-Reid. An veteran coach Winston Nevers said a coach must be at the helm.

McCracken has not helped matters. Appointed in late last year when they beat England 2-1 in a three match friendly series, “there is a certain individual who they have confidence in and want that person to be at the helm.”

Although Jamaica and Barbados team drew the series 1-1 last month with the first game ending in a tie, the result had been greeted with disapproval and criticism from local netball circles.

Undoubtedly, this comes on the heels of decades of dominance by the Sunshine Girls who are ranked number four over twelfth-ranked Barbados.

The rocky-road-start by new coach Allison-McCracken has not helped matters. Appointed in March, Allison-McCracken sparked controversy when she suspended three senior players over training issues just before the start of the Barbados series.

Criticism of Allison-McCracken was swamped with one veteran coach Winston Nevers said a coach must win over players so that they can play for that coach. Ahead of the Caribbean netball championship, the latest salvo in the fallout came from Fowler-Reid. An experienced ace shooter for Jamaica who has represented her country at three world championships.

Describing the drawn Barbados series as inexcusable, she told the Gleaner: “I am furious, mad and disappointed that we lost to Barbados and there is no excuse for us not winning the series 3-0.”

She identified the problem as inexperience. “The inexperience of both the players and recently appointed coach has definitely caused these results.”

Fowler-Reid said she would be back by the end of June and would make herself available for the Caribbean tournament.

DON’T INTEND TO BE BEATEN

“I do not intend to be beaten by those countries which are ranked lower than us as I am saying, the coaching structure and mindset will be changed to that of one which has more international coaching experience under their belt and not one who thinks it’s time for those teams to beat us because we have been beating them for over 30 years.”

A primary reason advanced for the drawn Barbados series was the absence of a number of top players playing their skills overseas. Fowler-Reid said they were concerned over the programmes in Jamaica and the negative attitude.

“However they are ready to come home and voice their opinions for the necessary changes to be made.”

Said Fowler-Reid who skipped the Sunshine Girls’ last late last year when they beat England 2-1 in a three match friendly series, “there is a certain individual who they have confidence in and want that person to be at the helm.”

At this stage we are not in a learning process and we want someone who we can share ideas with and is willing to work with us because we do not want one person who is in a learning process now. When we return we want to meet with the president to voice our opinion.

Fowler-Reid ended by asking supporters to have faith in the team.

“We do not lose faith with us, as we will definitely redeem ourselves and bring back the positive energy to netball in Jamaica. While we will do our part on court, we need you all to help us and to be the force that pushes us over the line.”

A comment was not immediately available from Netball Jamaica who administers netball including the Sunshine Girls.
J’CAN UMPIRE TO STAND IN ENGLISH COUNTY MATCHES

ST JOHN’S, Antigua, (CMC): Regional umpire Patrick Gustard, a 45-year-old Jamaican is to stand in matches during the ongoing English County Championship as part of the umpire’s exchange programme between the West Indies Cricket Board and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

REGGAE BOYZ PREPARE FOR KEY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

WITH IMPORTANT upcoming engagements - the Caribbean and Gold cups, in June and July respectively, Jamaica’s national senior team, the Reggae Boyz are sharpening up preparations.

Please see TOURNAMENT, 23

National senior team coach Theodore Whitmore speaks with members of the Reggae Boyz.