He overcame injuries and the 2004 Carifta Games in Bermuda to push his record to 19.93 seconds at the 400 mark. That's because Bolt, a star world-wide, has reserved some of his best performances for that 55-year-old edifice. Buoyed by an apparent need to entertain his countrymen, the tall man from Trelawny has produced a glittering catalogue of speed-based thrills at home. Every Bolt fan probably has his or her own favourite. A sea of gold-clad Jamaicans jammed the National Stadium for the 2002 IAAF World Junior Championships, and Bolt gave them a piece of history by winning the 200m a month before his 16th birthday. That victory turned out to be the start of a great international career:

No one who was there will ever forget that moment. There was more to come. In 2003, running for William Knibb Memorial High School at the ISSA Boys and Girls’ Championships, he chased a lost cause in his best-ever performances at the National Stadium. He scythed around the turn and ran strongly to the finish in the Jamaican record time of 19.75 seconds. The holder of the former record, 1976 Olympic champion Donald Quarrie, came down from the Stadium grandstand to congratulate Bolt. It was a figurative passing of the baton of sprint greatness.

Bolt never looked back. At the 2008 Jamaica Invitational, he came within 0.02 of the world 100m record held by compatriot Asafa Powell at 9.74 seconds. Bolt’s time of 9.76 is still the fastest time ever on local soil. Even now, only the US pair Tyson Gay and Justin Gatlin and the Jamaicans trio of Yohan Blake, Powell, and Bolt himself have quicker times anywhere. This nation of sprint experts knew that they had a world beater on their hands. They were right. Soon, Bolt had the world records at both 100 and 200m and Olympic gold and the World Championships titles for each of those events. The year 2010 brought two of his best-ever performances at home. In February at the Gibson Relays, he chased a lost cause in the 4x400m. His refusal to lose brought his Racers Track Club team from fifth to second place and showed his untapped 400m potential with a 44.2 second anchor leg. In May, at the Invitational, he dusted a good field of 200m sprinters in 19.56 seconds.

That's far off his Stadium record of 9.76 seconds, but it was achieved in a manner that oozed speed. Intrinsically, the 19.56 on the old pink Mondo track is probably the best performance of this Bolt portfolio, but pure 100m fans are likely to vote for the 9.76. Whatever your pick, you probably love all of Bolt’s speedy performances at the National Stadium. Once you were there for any of them, he made you marvel.

Hubert Lawrence
Gleaner Writer

On Saturday, at the Racers Grand Prix meet at the National Stadium, in the background, is a jam-packed section of the bleachers.

Usain Bolt arrives at the JN Racers Grand Prix meet at the National Stadium. In the background, is a jam-packed section of the bleachers.

Usain Bolt centre right, embraces South African sprinter Wayde van Niekerk after winning the “Salute to a Legend” 100 meters
Cornel West takes jab at ‘American Empire’

Neil Armstrong
Freelance Editor

Cornel West says in these times there is a spiritual blackout which is the relative eclipse of integrity, the relative eclipse of honesty, the relative eclipse of decency, the relative eclipse of courage.

He said that in the American empire (a term referred to the American imperialism in academic circles) even as they are seeing the worst, no one should have a fixation for Donald Trump.

“He’s not some isolated individual who dropped out of the sky. No, he expresses deep, deep, tendencies in American culture, in American society, in the American empire; he’s a fellow citizen of mine, he’s fellow human being of yours, and therefore the question will become – can you deal with the Trump elements inside of you?”

The professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University spoke at an event on May 29 entitled: “An evening with Cornel West.”

It was presented as part of Ryerson University’s programming at the 2017 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. He was there to share his views on the vicious legacy of white supremacy and its impact on the world.

West said it is a spiritual and a moral issue as well as a political and economic one.

White Supremacy

“Yeah, we’ve got to zero in on the vicious legacy of white supremacy that’s always set at the centre of not just the American empire but Canada too, in a different way, in a different form. Just ask our precarious Indigenous brothers and sisters, they’ll tell you it all. It is not a matter of PC chic chat, there are now huge black people whose voices were violated, who had the right to be targeted in a vicious way.”

West said with Trump it’s “raw and crude and brutal. We know he’s not fit, we know he’s in over his head but it’s too easy just to trash him. The challenge will be who produces the challenge. The challenge will be where did he come from, what kind of genealogy can we give that account for such a figure who now runs the American empire that could drop bombs on seven Muslim countries and no major forces be raised against him.”

He was also critical of former US president, Barack Obama, noting that though he was poised and highly intelligent, Obama was “a neoliberal who was willing to engage in drone strikes to kill precious children in Yemen and Pakistan and Afghanistan and Libya and Somalia, and hardly any voice was raised in the American empire. How come?”

“Oh, but you don’t want to deal with the variables of the vicious legacy of white supremacy, just trot out a black folk at the top and brown folk at the bottom, start breakdancing in the air and end up sleepwalking on the ground. That’s what we did the last eight years. We had symbolic celebration and concrete inertia.”

He said suffering took place during those eight years, such as one out of two children under 6, black and brown, living in utter poverty in the richest nation in the history of the world.

“That’s spiritually obscene, that’s morally disgraceful. No serious talk about poverty. For eight years we didn’t have it. Here comes the neo-liberal, less it matters and mediocrity and America has a long tradition of white male mediocrity and mediocrity has been an issue, have a party on, Trump is just another one, we had Bush, had Reagan, we had Schwarzenegger, we’d go on and on and on. I know you’ve got some analogues in Canada but I don’t know all of them, but my lesson is you could trot them out too.”

University of Toronto celebrates diversity

Toronto, ON: CLOSE TO 200 people, including 70 students, are expected to attend Canada’s first-ever black graduation celebration at the University of Toronto (U of T) this month, which is being said to be an important moment for black students across the three campuses.

For decades, black graduation ceremonies have been an American tradition. Institutions such as Stanford University and Columbia University host pre-commencement events, honouring African American students for overcoming obstacles to higher education. Some organise ceremonies reflective of black heritage and culture, pre-sented by black performers. Harvard University held its first black graduation 50 years ago.

The celebration on June 22 at Hart House will include speakers from the black academic community, awards presentations, a DJ, and artists painting live during the event. It takes place on the final day of convocation at U of T.

Grads will already have received their parchments at one of the 27 ceremonies taking place from May 18-22.

MAKING PEOPLE AWARE

Anthony Briggs, who identifies himself as black Caribbean (Orenda), is graduating with his PhD from U of T’s Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) this year.

He said instead of “sunshine solutions,” there must be an examination of the worst, no one should have a fixation on the black graduates.

“Black graduation, a celebration of black students graduating across all campuses at the University of Toronto, highlights student diversity and our commitment to meaningful events and inclusive discussion,” said Kelly Hannah-Moffatt, U of T’s senior director, human resources and equity.

“It is important to our black community and consistent with our efforts to promote black student recruitment, retention, and academic success.”

Dr Lisa Robinson, chief diversity officer and professor in the Faculty of Medicine, said that she is looking forward to present the Community Service Award at black graduation.

“Traditionally, groups that are under-represented at universities don’t have those same opportunities for professional networking, but we’ve exactly defined the type of event that creates those opportunities,” said Robinson. “These events are critical for that.”

Keynote speakers are Huda Hassanein, a Gender Studies Institute PhD student and social justice activist, and Hassan Akbar, a professor at Ryerson University School of Social Work and founder of the Anti-Black Racism Network. Other speakers will include: Vice-President and Principal, U of T, Scarborough, Bruce King and Laura Carnegie-Douglas, U of T’s anti-racism and cultural diversity officer, and Alanna Shaw, a professor at OISE.

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The fire certainly brings up a lot of issues that we have to address, but in the meantime, the Office of the Government Trustee said that it also needed to determine the amount of funds available to pay dividends and make priority payments such as wages, redundancy payments, taxes, and contribution to the National Insurance Scheme and the National Housing Trust for former Cash Plus employees. “Once these steps have been completed, a dividend payment of a nominal proportion may be possible in the future,” the agency said in a statement released yesterday. It has been a long wait and several unsuccessful promises for Cash Plus depositors since the entity ceased operations in 2008. Hill was arrested and charged with attempting to and fraudulently inducing persons to invest in his investment scheme, which promised significant returns on deposits over a short period. On May 24, a seven-member jury found him not guilty of all charges after prosecutors announced that they were offering no evidence against him. Prosecutor Adley Duncan, in explaining the decision, said that only 16 of the 40,000 persons who claimed to have deposited money in Cash Plus had agreed to testify at Hill’s trial, but only one turned up.

Prisons to receive urgent upgrade following Tower Street blaze

Paul Clarke
Gleaner Writer

SEVERAL of the island’s correctional facilities are in need of urgent infrastructural development, and the Tower Street Adult Correctional Facility in downtown Kingston is among those set receive priority focus, Senator Pearnel Charles Jr. minister of state in the Ministry of National Security, has revealed.

On Wednesday, June 7, fire of unknown origin destroyed the George Davis Centre section of the Tower Street facility, which housed approximately 18 inmates with mental health issues. “We have identified specific institutions which will be upgraded, and the budget will be allocated to do so, and the Tower Street Correctional Facility is one of them to receive priority attention for infrastructural development,” Charles Jr told The Gleaner. The institution houses approximately 1,500 prisoners, including a number of high-profile inmates such as popular dancehall entertainer Vybz Kartel, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of Clive ‘Lizard’ Williams.

“The fire certainly brings up a lot of issues that we have to address, but in the meantime, the authorities here are making arrangements for the housing of the affected inmates,” the minister explained. He said that an interministerial committee had been set up to look at alternative housing for inmates with mental health and other issues, adding that recommendations are forthcoming to deal with the situation. “It is a matter of concern for us the type of inmates that are housed there, the category of persons, among them, the mentally ill, and this is something we have had several discussions about with all the relevant stakeholders,” Charles Jr said.

NEW PRIORITY

He stated that the prison upgrade is a major priority for his ministry at this time and that all efforts would be made to get the work off the ground as soon as funding has been identified. The fire, which began shortly after noon, was isolated to one section of the prison. The affected inmates have been resettled in another section of the facility. Two units from the Rollington Town fire station responded to the blaze and were able to bring the fire under control within two hours, with no immediate reports of injuries. Investigations continue into the cause of the fire, while the estimates of the damage will also be ascertained.

The figure is based on the 35,000 claims the trustee’s office says it received from approximately 21,000 depositors for $17.5 billion, almost doubling the initial reports. The fire, which began shortly after noon, was isolated to one section of the prison. The fire was contained within hours, with no immediate reports of injuries. The institution houses approximately 1,500 prisoners, including a number of high-profile inmates such as popular dancehall entertainer Vybz Kartel, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of Clive ‘Lizard’ Williams.

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**LETTERS**

Ganja edibles pose great risk to children

**THE EDITOR, Sir**

THE recent concluded criminal case against Carlos Hill has once again brought into sharp focus the perceived corrupt and biased practice of prosecutors and law enforcers within the Jamaican judicial system, in particular that of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

It is quite embarrassing to witness what has now seemingly become the norm for the office of the DPP and its failure to successfully bring to trial, and ultimate convictions, so-called high-profile members of the society charged with certain offenses.

For the past nine years, the office of the DPP has spent millions of taxpayers’ dollars preparing for trial in the much-anticipated Carlos Hill fraud case, only for the DPP itself, Paula Llewellyn, to shock all and sundry by entering a plea of nolle prosequi in the matter.

Is it any wonder, therefore, why so many within the Jamaican society perceive the justice system as being biased and corrupt?

In arguing a case in defence of her office, the DPP stated that the case failed because of the non-attendance of vital witnesses to give evidence at the trial.

This was supposedly a criminal case brought against Mr. Carlos Hill, et al., resulting from investigation carried out by the Financial Investigations Division (FID) et al into the operations of Cash Plus.

Why was it so important to have persons who had invested in or have close connection to the operations of Cash Plus give verbal evidence in court in a criminal fraud case?

Why couldn’t the DPP successfully work towards the conviction of Mr. Hill, bearing in mind all the material evidence it had gathered in various raids carried out on the Premier Plaza offices and private residences of Mr. Hill, et al.

SCAPEGOAT

It is no secret that Carlos Hill operated for several years a multi-billion-dollar investment enterprise, and it is an incontrovertible fact that many of the persons who had put their money into Cash Plus (at their own risk) had benefited greatly in the very early years of its operation. On the basis of this fact alone, it would have been very difficult for the office of the DPP to successfully prosecute and prove a case of fraud against Mr. Hill.

Quite frankly, I believe Carlos Hill should sue the State for all his troubles.

**GROSVEN BRETT**

**Grosvettbredd@yahoom.com**

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**THE EDITORIAL & LETTERS**

**The larger vistas of Horace Burrell**

To SPEAK truthfully of the dead is to not speak ill of them. Therefore, Horace Burrell, the former army captain and president of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) who died Tuesday, aged 67, ought to be portrayed as the multidimensional and complex figure that he was.

He lifted Jamaica’s football to great heights. Yet, in nearly two decades of his leadership, he left the game far short of being self-sustaining and providing jobs to a healthy child and teenager is neither sufficient nor cogent.

In fact, Mr. Burrell himself was caught up in the scandal over the provision of monetary gifts to Caribbean football officials by banned former FIFA Vice-President Jack Warner and jailed CONCACAF boss Jeffrey Webb without appearing to do anything about it. Indeed, Mr. Burrell was Mr. Webb’s early mentor/sponsor in international football and Mr Webb was a close friend.

Mr Burrell was suspended by FIFA for six months for initially failing to cooperate with its investigation. Thus, while a blemish, won’t be the lasting memory or legacy of Mr. Burrell, who served two stints as president of the JFF the first between 1994 and 2003 and, having been voted out for a term, from 2007 up to his death. From a national perspective, there were two especially distinguishing features of Captain Burrell’s leadership. The first was his VISION.

A VISIONARY

As is often the case with men who have served as military officers, Mr. Burrell’s primary approach was to command, which meshed, with what colleagues agree, with a mild authoritarian streak and a clear vision of what he wanted to accomplish.

And that vision, to many people at the time, would have seemed impossible. He pledged to take Jamaica to the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France. That it happened, lifting Jamaica to a sustained period of national euphoria, was testament to Mr. Burrell’s anti-establishment drive, work ethic and persuasiveness, which convinced the Jamaican Government and the private sector to invest multimillions of dollars in the football programme.

Maybe only the performance of Jamaica’s athletes at the Olympics, more recently, elicited this sense of patriotism and can-do spirit that was so pervasive in ’98.

While France showed what was possible, repeating it was also going to be difficult. Indeed, sustaining that formula, with expensive foreign coaches, teams made up substantially of Jamaicans playing in foreign leagues and many preparatory international friendlies, is an expensive formula for a poor country. So, despite the raised expectations, there is no shame that Mr. Burrell, or his successor, Crenston Boxxill in his brief stint, were not able to return Jamaica to the World Cup.

Our criticism of Mr Burrell, though, is that he made the World Cup a project unto itself, not as potential of or progression from Jamaica’s domestic football. He didn’t expend the same energy on the domestic game, which lacked the deep, thoughtful planning and broad, sustained engagement necessary to lift the game and its supporting infrastructure to a higher level. Ultimately, for all their flaws and frailties, people like Burrell come along infrequently. We believe and drove us beyond our selves to do things we thought impossible. That’s a heck of a legacy.

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

Family first.
This is a chance to celebrate the gift of togetherness—with the people who remind you what life is all about. Your family.

Learn how Publix can help make it a family reunion to remember at publix.com/familyreunion.
Jamaica gets bulk of FDI flows in Caribbean

STEVEN JACKSON
Business Reporter

TERMINATION CHARGES for phone calls that connect to fixed-line phones, or wholesale rates, are to be cut by 70-90 per cent next month.

A reduction in termination rates is expected to lead to cheaper phone calls for subscribers. The largest fixed-line provider, Flow Jamaica, earned J$5.08 billion in revenues over nine months ending December 2016 among the English-speaking Caribbean. The Bahamas, Fiji, Maldives, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The World Investment Report published by the United Nations 29 SIDS members, said the report Caribbean and small island developing economies in the group inflows to SIDS shrank for the second consecutive year, it said.

Although flows into the 10 Caribbean economies in the group slipped to US$82 billion, down 13 per cent, they still absorbed almost 60 per cent of total inflows to the 29 SIDS members, said the report published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The largest recipient country in the region was Jamaica, followed by The Bahamas and Barbados. The third-largest host economy in 2015, Trinidad and Tobago, saw its FDI flows turn negative.

After a high of US$295 million in 2015, FDI inflows to Jamaica retreated to US$856 million, down seven per cent, as new investments in tourism and infrastructure slowed down, the report said.

It noted that in mining, China’s Junqian Iron and Steel acquired a bauxite mining contract from Aluminum Partners of Jamaica, for US$299 million from a Russian investor, UC Rusal.

“This is an important project, though this cross-border M&A (merger and acquisition) sale did not generate additional FDI flows to Jamaica during the year,” said the UNCTAD report.

It added, however, that “the growth momentum was not lost, as the level of 2016 FDI flows was 47 per cent higher than in 2014.”

The top five FDI recipients in 2016 – Jamaica, The Bahamas, Maldives, Mauritius and Fiji – in that order – accounted for 70 per cent of total FDI received by all SIDS. This share exceeds 90 per cent when another five SIDS – Barbados, the Seychelles, Antigua and Barbuda, Cabo Verde, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – are counted.

The report said that although FDI flows in SIDS remain insignificant in global terms (0.2 per cent), as well as compared with the total of all developing economies (0.5 per cent), SIDS depend heavily on foreign investment. Inward FDI stock represents over 80 per cent of their gross domestic product, compared with about 30 per cent in all developing economies.

ECOCOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

It said analysis of announced greenfield FDI projects in 16 island economies, including seven SIDS, confirms a relatively strong correlation between the level of economic diversification and the number of FDI projects.

Among the seven SIDS with registered projects, Jamaica was the most successful in attracting diversified FDI. The others were

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FREIGEFT EXCHANGE TRADING SUMMARY

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**Industry and commerce minister hails expo**

The recently concluded Jamaica International Exhibition (JIE), which ran over three days (June 1–3) at the Montego Bay Convention Centre, St James, was a major boost for Brand Jamaica in every sense of the word, according to Minister of Investment, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Karl Samuda.

Samuda, who toured every single one of the more than 150 booths last week, in the company of Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce President T’Shura Gibbs, said that the inaugural event ‘is an important step’ for Jamaica as it relates to the country’s international marketing efforts.

“I wish to commend the JMA on this historic first staging of the JIE,” Samuda remarked. “This is a big step forward not just in terms of our international marketing efforts, but also in terms of the international trade potential. Trade, for Jamaica, is essential to economic growth and prosperity to improved living standards, and to the growth and success of businesses, both large and small.”

The minister said that he was very encouraged by the huge turnout of participants, adding that not only would the international trade show open doors, but it would also “create the avenue where local businesses can now have their own personal access to the global marketplace”.

“What I am seeing here today is real optimism for the future,” the minister pointed out. “I have always maintained that the Government and its agencies have to lead the way as facilitators and not as hindrances. Like the prime minister, I also see this as a big deal and one of the best-put-together expos we have had in a long time. Again, congratulations to the JMA and its team for this wonderful exhibition.”

**Prime Minister Andrew Holness (second right), Deputy Chairman of JAMPRO Metty Seaga (right) and JAMPRO Vice-President of Export and Market Development, Robert Scott, listen to a JAMPRO client, Ettenio Managing Director Antoinette Davis.**

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**People Profile Awards 2017**

**Father’s Day**
Sunday, June 18th, 2017
7pm

Prime Minister Andrew Holness (second right), Deputy Chairman of JAMPRO Metty Seaga (right) and JAMPRO Vice-President of Export and Market Development, Robert Scott, listen to a JAMPRO client, Ettenio Managing Director Antoinette Davis.
Glenmuir students get a taste of history in DC

AMITABH SHARMA
Senior Copy Editor - Overseas Publications

Life unfolds in many manifestations, it is full of joy, excitement, and sometimes it has pleasant surprises in store. Last month, a group of teachers and students from Glenmuir High School in Clarendon got a chance to retrace the steps of history in Washington DC.

Like the blank pages of time, each chapter leading to this Cultural Enrichment Tour has a story to tell that of vision, odalis of faith, tones of blessings, and, of course, art. The Beatles, a certain quartet from across the Atlantic once said, "with a little help from our friends." It was a profound experience," said Moya Johnson, senior teacher in the Department of History, Glenmuir High School. "Most of the students who went on this tour are from the grassroots, and come from humble backgrounds." Johnson, who along with her colleagues conceptualised this initiative, said that of the six students, five were travelling overseas for the first time.

Logistics had to be tied, paperwork done, passports made, visas secured, funds garnered and sourced - it might seem a succession of words in a sentence, but in actual terms it was a mammoth task. Much before students and the two accompanying teachers, including Johnson, boarded the flight, adrenaline rush was on a high every second of every passing day.

"It was a lot of prayers," Johnson said, and as always, the divine intervention worked. The group departed on May 3, to experience first-hand, how the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Castle, Museum of African Art and the Museum of the American Indian.

"We engaged in a guided tour by the Docent of the library and learnt about the art and architecture of the Thomas Jefferson Building as well as the contributors and different collections at the facility." Johnson informed.

The group attended a private seminar on online research and using primary documents relating to topics in the History syllabus. "Dr Jurretta Hecksher, reference specialist for American History at the Library of Congress, chaired the seminar," she said, "and as a treat she took us to see the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building!

The group also toured the different exhibits on World War I, gaining knowledge on an era bygone, when words like mega pixels, wireless networking and touch-screens were fictional as Starship Enterprise going to where no man has gone before.

Johnson said that the students and the teachers alike were awe struck and intrigued by the exhibits and elated as they received loads of free literature on the different exhibits.

Memories of the Holocaust

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was a sombre experience, which has Daniel's Story, where the horrors of the Holocaust were viewed through the eyes of a child.

"Daniel's House was reconstructed and sections of the ghettos and the concentration camp of Auschwitz in Poland was also reconstructed where you read journal entries along the way comparing life before and after the Holocaust," the senior teacher said.

"The group was moved by his story and found the exhibit quite superb and the curating outstanding," the group had made a courtesy call at the Jamaican Embassy, where they got an orientation on diplomacy, and afterwards got a chance to visit the National Mall. Afterwards to see the White House, World War II memorial, Thomas Jefferson memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument & Reflectoon Pool, Korean War Memorial and Potomac River.

The Smithsonian Experience

Smithsonian is an encyclopedia, unfolding stories, volume after volume, comprising of 19 museums, galleries, gardens, and a zoo this group got to savour some gems in the collection.

"The African Art museum was my personal favourite," Johnson said. "The different exhibits sought to deepen the viewer's understanding of the African continent's diverse and compelling art forms. She said that it was tremendously humbling to reconnect with the ancestral heritage. "There was a myriad of pieces from Congo, Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Senegal, Cote D' Ivoire, Nigeria, Ghana to name a few."

The Museum of the American Indian was a work of art by itself, Johnson said. "I was awed by its contemporary architecture," she said. "The exquisite, curvilinear and domed shapes, clad in Kasota limestone and surrounded by an eastern lowland landscape amid numerous water features was a feast for the eyes." Here the group viewed Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World and Nation to Nation. Treaties between the United States and the American Indian Nation.

At the end of the tour, Johnson said, they were enlightened as this tour opened their flight of imagination beyond the realms of the books, it was a life experience.

"This trip broadened the students' as well as the teachers' discipline and character and I am sure it will prove invaluable in their future endeavours," Johnson said, thanking all those to contributed resources to make it happen.

"Knowledge, like light, needs a clear path to travel, and illuminate and such initiatives help to the open young minds, for one day they would rule the world." As American writer and professor of biochemistry Isaac Asimov once said, "Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in." And the light of knowledge.
Operation Black Vote Canada holds Black Women’s Political Summit

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

A bid to expand the talent pool of black leaders in government at all levels of government, Operation Black Vote Canada (OBVC) recently held a Black Women’s Political Summit at Toronto City Hall.

A group of women from Canada had approached OBVC with the notion that those women in 1923–1925 were struggling to get women recognised as persons in Canada.

“I also want you to note that there are a number of things that you will do as a woman, as an activist, as someone who is out there making some things happen that you will not want to do as a man,” said Augustine.

She told them that they could not wait until the last minute to put their name in and then run around to try to solicit help.

“You have to build a team, you have to know where the monies are going to come from, you have to know how to do the ask,” she said.

Another aspect that she wanted to see change is the way women are treated by their male colleagues.

“People will say horrible things about you and people you thought would be your friends will be your enemy,” she said.

Describing herself as a very grassroots individual, Joseph started a Breakaway Relief Care from the basement of her home.

She called a meeting with the police in the Jane and Finch community to discuss the correlation between crime and poverty and started a peace walk that continued for seven years.

Joseph was a candidate for Ward 7 York West in the 2010 Toronto municipal election and ran against seven Italian men.

Catholic priest recognised for community service in Jamaica

DERRICK SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

WASHINGTON DC: FATHER Dan Leary, of St. Andrew Apostle Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, is the latest recipient of a citation from Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who has hailed the priest’s contribution to the building of Jamaica.

The Prime Minister said Father Leary’s philanthropy has significantly transformed the lives of the specially abled.

In the citation delivered on his behalf by Audrey Marks, the Prime Minister detailed Fr. Leary’s efforts that resulted in six new homes built on the Jacob’s Ladder property in Monague, St. Ann.

Sitting on 100 acres of land, the facility houses about 110 residents but according to Father Leary, his vision is to accommodate about 500 adults and to develop the land into a hub for sustainable agricultural projects.

It houses individuals with learning disabilities, aged 18 and older. Father Leary has provided adequate and suitable accommodations for some forty-eight mental-/challenged persons.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness thanked the Pastor for his resolve to improve the lives of the needy and vulnerable in Jamaica and for his commitment and dedication to serving the people of Jamaica.

The Prime Minister said Father Leary’s benevolence knows no bounds as he continues to solicit international and local support for those who are less fortunate. His contribution through the Mustard Seed Community has played a pivotal and life-changing role in the lives of many Jamaicans.” Prime Minister Holness thanked the Pastor for his support for those who are less fortunate.

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Written by: Marcia Brown - Directed by: Douglas Prout

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POINSETTIA'S

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HEAVENLY HOPS

$2.50 DRINKS

GROVE WINE BAR

$2.50 DRINKS

TWO SPOONS

$2.50 DRINKS

WINTER BAY BREWPUB

$2.50 DRINKS

DOW’S TAPROOM

$2.50 DRINKS

HILTON WHALEFISH

$2.50 DRINKS

FEDERAL SHERRY

$2.50 DRINKS

HOPPERS LONDON

$2.50 DRINKS

VANCOUVER LONDON

$2.50 DRINKS

THE MIRAMAR

$2.50 DRINKS
NEW PLANS FOR OLD GOODYEAR FACTORY

FCJ seeks developer with capital

NEVILLE GRAHAM
Business Reporter

FACTORIES CORPORATION OF Jamaica (FCJ) is in talks with a number of companies that have expressed initial interest in both financing and redeveloping the old Goodyear factory complex into an urban centre for St Thomas, according to its chairman, Lyttleton ‘Tanny’ Shirley.

“We are bringing in private equity in the form of land we own and a building of 130,000 square feet,” Shirley told Gleaner Business, noting that Factories Corporation was on the hunt for the best deal. Those assets are valued that around $400 million, he said.

The project, costing at approximately $4.8 billion, will include commercial units as well as space for government offices.

Construction of the project will begin in six months and last two years.

“Six months is an ambitious timeline, but it’s going to be driven by the Cabinet. The prime minister feels it is a very important project and that it should move without delay,” Shirley said in an interview with Gleaner Business.

As designed, the new structure should occupy 365,000 square feet and include space for financial institutions, a library, a medical centre, a wellness centre, a daycare centre, space for a tertiary institution, a food court, shopping facilities, a purpose-built manufacturing and industrial space for small, medium and large enterprises, as well as space for process outsourcing operations.

MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

The plans incorporate space for government services, a museum and a recreational park, and the St Thomas Municipal Corporation, supported by a town hall and conference centre.

Shirley said that the FCJ was contemplating one of two routes for the investment.

In the first instance, a potential investor would build and finance the project, and hand it over to the FCJ and give a timeline for repayment.

“The timeline would allow us to sell that portion that would be private commercial. We would take the government agencies section—that would be about 50-55 per cent of the development—and use that and support the rental return to a financial institution to buy out the loan,” Shirley proposed.

The second option would involve a pension fund.

“We could ask a pension fund to buy out the Government portion of the development. They would give us the cash and they would take the rental as their long-term return on their investment,” he said.

The Goodyear factory was shuttered when the American tyre maker pulled out of Jamaica in 1997.

Shirley said the FCJ is bringing around $400 million to the project, which is the value the place on land and infrastructure at the factory complex. He said projections are that there will be a seven-year payback period based on the rental income.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

He touted the factory redevelopment’s social significance, with its potential to provide jobs for St Thomas where the unemployment rate is just around 40 per cent, compared to the national average which is below 13 per cent.

“This is a national landmark that will take place for urban redevelopment which has not taken place in the last 50 years. It will symbolise the rebirth of families in their own communities being proud of where they are,” he said.

“It must be executed. It is the best thing that could happen for urban redevelopment. Indeed, it is the best thing that could happen for St Thomas,” he added.

Factories Corporation has approximately 157,000 square metres of space in its portfolio, according to its website. The agency owns more than 100 properties nationwide, including stand-alone buildings and spaces in industrial estates.

Neville Graham and Avia Collinder contributed to this story.

New plans for Old Goodyear Factory

Insurance company launches real estate project

G

GUARDIAN LIFE Limited (GLL) will launch its first real estate development project in mid-June, a $6 billion initiative intended to speed up investment returns for the life insurance company, according to president Eric Hosin.

The residential development will be done in two phases over three years on property owned by Guardian Life at Musgrave Avenue in Kingston.

The company is building 238 residences targeted at the middle-income market.

Hosin declined to share the projected returns on investment, but said the housing project promised higher returns than those currently being garnered from insurance.

Last year, New Kingston-based Guardian Life which ranks number two in the insurance market with $86 billion in assets, registered declining net profit. The company made $38 billion compared to $4.6 billion the year before. Its net results from insurance activities fall from $3.65 billion to $2.6 billion at year ending December 2016.

Guardian closed out 2016 with a cash hoard of $8.4 billion, down from $8.5 billion the year before.

As observed by Hosin in a letter describing the planned real estate project, “The Jamaican investment landscape has changed significantly over the last five years, making it more difficult for businesses like Guardian Life to make reasonable returns from traditional sources.”

That prompted the company to seek out more lucrative fields for investment.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

“We have identified the real estate market, specifically development of residential property as an avenue for improving investment returns in the medium term,” Hosin stated.

Guardian’s biggest competitor, Sagicor Group Jamaica, operates a real estate investment fund which has $844 billion in assets and a well-established property services arm that executes real estate projects for the group.

Guardian will initially develop a six-storey structure comprising 66 housing units on a 1.32 acre lot at 9 Musgrave Avenue.

Phase two will encompass another 172 residences spanning two buildings that will rise to seven and nine storeys on 3-acre property. That development at 2-4 Musgrave Avenue will include a jogging trail, among other amenities befitting what the company describes as the ‘contemporary Caribbean lifestyle’.

GLL itself will launch its real estate initiative company-owned property, which it proposes to develop in two phases over the next three years.

Hosin declined to disclose the selling price of units saying that all the information will be given at the ground-breaking ceremony for the project on June 14 but noted that the target demographics for both developments as “young professionals, small families, expatriate, upper-income investors along with pension and property funds”.

The Guardian Life head said the three-year project is expected to create 230 jobs for skilled and semi-skilled workers over the construction period.

Guardian closed out 2016 with a cash hoard of $8.4 billion, down from $8.5 billion the year before.
ACROSS JAMAICA

Kingston

Basic school rebuilt and handed over

STUDENTS AND teachers of the St Paul’s United Church Early Childhood Institution will attend classes in the rebuilt school at Lockeott Avenue, Kingston, which was handed over on Wednesday July 7.

The project, undertaken to the tune of J$4.5 million, under the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and financed through the European-Funded Poverty Reduction Programme, the four-class room structure replaces the old structure which was demolished because of termite infection.

Trelawny

Sand mining posing a threat

LEGAL AND Illegal sand mining is posing a threat to the Jamaica Environment Trust.

The latest issue of their concern is the new sand mining operation by the Duncan’s Bay Development Company and the Prime Minister who is the portfolio minister for the environment has been notified about the matter.

St Mary

Remembering the Tainos

Earlier this month history lovers, local and international students went to the Taino Heritage’s Camp Orocabessa, in the parish, for the annual Taino Day which featured workshops and expositions on the Tainos who were the main occupants of Jamaicans in the late 1500s when the Spaniards first came.

Islandwide

Sugar target revised down

Sugar target revised down but local and international obligations will be met

IN AN effort to offset the shortfall caused by the premature closure of Frome Sugar Estate, several days of inactivity due to the recent heavy rains, and illicit fires, local producers have taken a decision to revise production target of 100,000 tonnes to 81,000 and to extend the 2016-2017 production year to the end of July.

Despite the negatives, Jamaica will meet its local and international market obligations, Major Hugh Blake general manager of (JCPS) told The Gleaner in a recent interview.

Clarendon

Bauxite mining company employs 45 students

SOMETHING: 45 students islandwide are being employed by the bauxite and mining company, West Indies Alumina Company (WINDALCO) under its Summer Employment Programme.

West Indies Alumina Company human resources generalist, Rhena Gregory (back row, left), stands with the first batch of students to be employed by the company under it’s Summer Employment Programme.

ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN

British Virgin Islands

Vincentian national charged with murdering Jamaica-born wife

ROAD TOWN, British Virgin Islands, (CMC): A 52-YEAR-OLD national from St Vincent and the Grenadines is expected to appear in court on Monday, charged with murdering his Jamaica-born wife over the last weekend.

Police said that they were called to the scene of a domestic violence incident on Saturday and “found a woman unresponsive in her apartment with an apparent stab wound to the neck. She was pronounced dead at the scene”.

They said that Lennox Franklyn Da Silva, 52, had been taken into custody in relation to the death of Sherika Nelson.

An online publication, bvi-news.com reported that the police had responded to a call after neighbours heard screams from the couple’s home and saw a child leave.

Haiti

‘Systematic violation’ of children’s right to education

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, (CMC): A human rights group here says there is a “systematic violation” of the right of children to obtain an education in Haiti.

In a seven-page report released to coincide with National Child Day, the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDHD) said the systematic violation was caused by many problems including the non-qualification of teachers, overcrowding in class-rooms and the unavailability of didactic works.

In addition, the human rights group noted that there has also been a decline in academic training for the academic year 2016-2017. Indeed, high school students of school age.

The RNDHD said that these problems have been the subject of numerous discussions and, above all, of promises from the State authorities, however, the situation persists and tends to worsen.

The many teachers’ protests to demand better working and learning conditions have important consequences for the academic year 2016-2017. Indeed, high school students are obliged to stay at home, trying, as best it is possible to fill the lost time. If some parents have managed to allow their children to attend college, the majority of high school students have spent the last two months doing nothing, ” the human rights noted in the report.

Guyana

Government reiterates position on agreement with ExxonMobil

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, (CMC): The Guyana government Friday reiterated that a “legal consideration” is preventing it from providing the full disclosure of the contract signed with ExxonMobil.

Minister of State Joseph Harmon, speaking at the weekly Cabinet briefing on Monday, that the David Granger government would not at this juncture make full disclosure on the contract.

According to Harmon, the Petroleum Act provides for a “confidentiality clause” in contracts like Exxon’s “which says that during the course of the negotiations that certain things have to be kept in a confidential way.”

The 1997 amended Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act makes provision for the “restriction of disclosure of information” in Part II, Section Four.

The Act stipulates that “no information – by a licensee shall be disclosed to any person who is not a Minister, a public office or an employee of the Guyana Geology & Mines Commission except with the consent of the licensee.”

Earlier, Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo in defending the accord said the agreement “will be made available in due course”.

Responding to a call by the Transparency Institute Guyana Incorporated’s (TIGI) for full disclosure on the accord, Nagamootoo said that Guyana’s unresolved border row with neighbouring Venezuela was one of the government’s reasons against full disclosure.

“We have a situation right now with Venezuela and we have entered into this six months of a very delicate process involving the United Nations, and we have to, in this final six months, decide if there is no resolution that the matter should go to International Court of Justice,” Nagamootoo said.
**A Taino treat**

**Visitors enjoy day of indigenous festivities**

Orantes Moore  
Gleaner Writer

HISTORY LOVERS and groups of local and international students travelled to the Taino Heritage Camp (THC) at Eden Park in Oracabessa, St Mary, recently for a one-day festival celebrating Jamaica’s rich but relatively unknown indigenous legacy.

During the THC’s annual Taino Areyto Day, visitors were exposed to a selection of interactive workshops, which taught them about the lifestyle, customs, and habits of the Taino people. Jamaica’s main residents in the late 1600s when Europeans first made contact with the island.

RENEWED INTEREST

According to senior archaeologist at the Jamaica National Heritage Trust, Lesley-Gail Atkinson-Swaby, the THC and the event were both useful resources for those who want to learn about Taino history through storytelling, dance, art, food, and competition.

She told The Gleaner: “Today, I did a presentation, which was just basically public education and trying to spread appreciation for the Taino culture because we tend to think of them as a lost or dead culture, but it is still very much alive in contemporary Jamaica. From the 1960s, there has been a big resurgence in people wanting to know more about the Tainos, especially across the region in islands such as Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and some of that has spread over to Jamaica where we are seeing the benefits. ‘Although maybe we romanticise a bit, I think Jamaicans do have some sort of an attachment to the Tainos because if we didn’t, we wouldn’t still have them on our coat of arms; we could have changed that many years ago, but never did. I think things are improving, and with more knowledge and more of our own people from the region studying, we can have a better understating and appreciation’.”

High-quality performances mark Ocho Rios Jazz Festival

Marcia Rowe  
Gleaner Writer

A GAINST THE backdrop of lush green flora complemented by a clear blue sky, the curtains of the 27th staging of the International Jamaica Ocho Rios Jazz Festival came down with an amazing display of high-quality musical acts.

The acts, spanning the globe, presented sets matched only by their energetic performance and variety of musical instruments. The musical festa, held recently at the Royal Hope Botanical Gardens Shell Band Stand, in St Andrew, saw patrons being treated to wonderful music from bands like Project Grand Slam (USA), Jamaica Big Band, under the directorship of Marjorie Whytel, the Grand Beat (Denmark), Le Burette All Female Band (Italy), Marjorie Kay and the Glen Browne Band, along with vocalists Lorraine Klaasen (South Africa) and Tony Gregory (Jamaica).

When closing act Tony Gregory made his entrance to the stage, the shadows of the evening had fallen and the wily moon was looking down. But the veteran performer was not perturbed. He instead made the request to Fly Me to the Moon. He also took the then diminishing audience back in time with Somewhere over the Rainbow and had them dancing to the popular Gypsy Girl. And he also used the opportunity to applaud the organisers of the festival for the ‘wonderful setting’ and ‘big up the Italian group’.

And indeed, the group was worthy of the praise. The nine-member, all-female band gave a display of Jamaica’s music from mento, and ska to rocksteady.

After a brief ‘beautiful to be here’, instead of speaking it, she later told The Gleaner of their love for old school Jamaican music and how very emotional and exciting it was to perform in Jamaica.

Klaasen was delightful, too. Her stint was coloured with excitement and humour and a showing of her linguistic ability, singing in English, French Zulu and Shona. Her showmanship came as she entered singing ‘hello’ instead of speaking it. She paid tribute to her mother ‘hello’, instead of speaking it. She paid tribute to her mother with three of her jazz songs, including All of Me and did an impromptu performance with Myrna Hague. Together, they sang Only Love Set You Free.

Hague in English and Klaasen in French. Her showmanship came as she entered singing ‘hello’, instead of speaking it. She paid tribute to her mother with three of her jazz songs, including All of Me and did an impromptu performance with Myrna Hague. Together, they sang Only Love Set You Free.

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Dear RS,

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How did he acquire citizenship? Was it by birth or

Canadian parents before April 17, 2009, were citi- haven loving support and guidance of a father

The general rule is that most children born to

Your situation is very unique as there are many

Therefore, the most important thing to find out

How did he acquire citizenship? Was it by birth or

naturalization

Dear JJ,

I am pleased that you have reconnected with your father and that you are communicating with him on a regular basis. I know the importance of
having loving support and guidance of a father.

Your situation is very unique as there are many
laws and regulations that affect the rights of chil-
dren born to Canadian citizens before April 17, 2009.

The general rule is that most children born to
Canadian parents before April 17, 2009, were citi-
zens at birth. Also, under the Canadian Citizenship
Act, some people who were born outside of Canada before February 15, 1977 to a par-ent who was a citizen at the time of the birth, but
did not become a citizen, would have the right to
Canadian citizenship as well.

Therefore, the most important thing to find out
from your father is whether he was a citizen or
entitled to apply at the time of your birth.

How did he acquire citizenship? Was it by birth or
by naturalization?

Once you have established that your father was

a citizen or entitled to citizenship at the time of your
birth, your next step would be to make an
application for citizenship certificate and then
apply for a Canadian passport.

REQUIRED ITEMS
Submit a completed application for citizenship certificate, two citizenship photographs, certified true copies of two pieces of government-issued identification for yourself, your father’s proof of citizenship, for example, his birth certificate or
Canadian citizenship certificate, submit every-
thing, along with the required processing fee, to
the case processing centre.

If your father was not a Canadian citizen at the
time of your birth, then your options would be based on the time that he actually acquired citi-
zenship. If he acquired citizenship before April 17, 2009, then the same principle above applies. You
just need to apply for a citizenship certificate.

If he acquired citizenship after April 17, 2009, then you will not have the automatic right to
apply for a citizenship certificate and you will
have to explore other options.

Haunting detention

Dahlia Walker-Huntington

UNITED STATES

Dear Mrs. Walker-Huntington, I want to enquire about my

mom’s passport. She visited the United States the other day and was detained and sent back home on the next flight. She was told that she was

being detained for an incident that took place 20 years ago in Canada. My mother has been travelling back and forth to the United States over the same period of time without any problems. I want to know how can I get it sorted out for her, and what is the best way to go about it? - R.B.

Dear R.B.

An individual with a green card or non-immigrant visa is permitted to legally travel to the United States border and ask for permission to enter. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer has wide discretion and rules that he/she can use to prevent entry. One of those rules is that a person with a previ-
ous criminal incident can be found to be inadmissible and be denied

entry to the States.

People are often amazed as you are that an incident that occurred several years in the past can be used to deny entry. The information that is available to the CBP officer is con-
stantly being updated and in your mother’s situation, her 20-year-old incident was probably just
uploaded. Additionally, if your mother

did not disclose this incident on her visa application(s), and the information was not uploaded, the United States would not have been aware of her Canadian incident.

The United States, Canada and the United Kingdom deny entry to per-
son with criminal issues in any of the three countries. Usually, when a per-
son is deemed inadmissible in a non-
immigrant situation, the only resolu-
tion is a non-immigrant waiver. Your

mother should seek an attorney to address her inadmissibility issue, as she would not be able to walk into the United States Embassy and obtain a visa without a waiver. She may also have to address her situa-
tion in Canada.

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

PICA Corner

How to acquire temporary residence

Q: I have been given a

five-year contract to

work in Jamaica begin-
ing next March. I am am the

mother of two children, ages

seven and nine. How can I get

my kids to be with me while I am

working in Jamaica?

A: Your children can

accomplish you while you work in Jamaica if you apply for their temporary residence status. Temporary residence is a period of exten-
sion that is granted to the dependents of work permit hold-
ners. It allows a work permit holder to have his or her family in Jamaica while working on the island.

Dependents are typically a

husband and wife, children

16 years and under (as outlined in Jamaica’s immigration laws) or parents over 60 years old. PLEASE APPLY EARLY: A full, complete, and

documentary proof must be shown to verify that applicants are dependents of the work permit holder: for example, a marriage certificate and/or birth certificate. The lat-
ter document must bear the name of the work permit holder.

Apart from dependents, tempo-

rary resident status may also be granted to any of the following:

- Persons whose work permits are pending, though aliens (non-

Commonwealth citizens) apply-

ing for work permits for the first time are not eligible as they

should arrive in the island with

their work permits.

- Persons whose citizenship have been approved and they are

awaiting the citizenship certificate.

- No dependents, including

spouses, who have been granted temporary residence, are permit-

ted to work while here. Note also that their passport must be valid up to the period of time granted to the work permit holder.

If a dependent’s passport expires prior to the expiration of the work permit, then he or she will only be granted a time

which corresponds with the

validity of their passport. They

would need to acquire a new

passport before being granted the required time.

Q: I am planning a vaca-
tion to Jamaica. I

require a certified serv-
ing dog. Would you be able to

admit and accommodate my

service dog? Are special forms or veterinary certifications

required? Please reply as soon as

possible to assist in my travel
planning

A: Note that the PICA

processes human pas-
sengers only, and as

visitors in relation to the

entry of animals into the island

are not within our purview.

Please direct your queries to the

Veterinary Services Division of the

Ministry of Agriculture.

In applying for temporary resi-
dence, your dependents will need
to complete an application form

which they can obtain at the

offices at Passport, Immigration &

Citizenship Agency, #25

Constant Spring Road in

Kingston or from our website at


Please note that each applica-
tion attracts a non-refundable

processing fee of J$10,000.

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Ministry of Agriculture.

For additional information, visit the website of the Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency at

www.pica.gov.jm. For

enquiries email:

info@pica.gov.jm.

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

Immigration
Lauderhill to host Caribbean Festival

AUERAY CAMPBELL
Contributor
Fort Lauderdale, FL

O N SUNDAY, June 25, the Lauderhill Sports Park, located at 7500 W. Oakland Park Blvd, will be transformed into a Caribbean Village. Event promoters – The Galilee Foundation, say the annual festival that will include authentic arts and crafts, live music, and culinary delights from the beloved islands of the Caribbean.

Event promoters – The Galilee Foundation, say the annual festival that will include authentic arts and crafts, live music, and culinary delights from the beloved islands of the Caribbean. The festival gets underway at 3 p.m., with the ribbon cutting ceremony performed by Lauderhill City Commissioner, Howard Berger. "The Ribbon Cutting is always such a fun part of the day, it includes the Presentation of Caribbean Colors and Representatives from all the Caribbean Islands. All the elected officials come out at this time, too. Come see us, join in, party with us," explains Commissioner Berger.

The entire family kids' games, contests, bounce houses, and performances by youth artists, including the very talented Lauderhill Music School musicians. Meet and visit with the Consul Generals of several islands. Meet the Miss Jamaica Diaspora and Miss Florida Pageant contestants, as they show Lauderhill what it takes to represent their homeland.

Gospel hour from 6 - 7 p.m. will again be hosted by Evangelist Michelle Richards Phillips, with performances by the highly favored Ahi McDonald, Second Chance, Bridget Buscher, and Omari.

Comedian Rohan Gunter (Gunter Nah Laugh) and ence Suzette Spakes, will get things going on the main stage with the sights and sounds of the Caribbean in full effect.

Scheduled performers include; Ablazin Radio DJs will add more flavour to the day’s entertainment. Corporate and community sponsors of the event include; South Florida – NBC 6, Grace Foods, The Caribbean Village TV, The Galleon Foundation, Unique Productions, Sons of David, Reggae artist Nestor from Jamaica, Queen of Soca, Tarrus Riley, Queen Ifrica along with soca’s royal couple of Bunji Garlin and Fay-Ann Lyons. Local favourites Ras Slid and Image band along with comedians Ragaskantki, DJ G-Nice and Ablazin Radio DJs will add more flavour to the day’s entertainment.

Manager partner and Judge-off organizer June Minto is excited about activities in the culinary pavilion, featuring an awesome line-up of chefs for the cooking demonstrations and the exciting, must-see cooking competitions planned. This is where amateur and professional chefs, celebrity chefs and personalities go head to head to see who emerges with the best jerk dishes.

Other highlights of the event include traditional folk presentations as well as spoken word, singing and dancing on the cultural stage and a bustling kids zone.

Minto encourages patrons to come early to participate and partake of all the offerings in the cook-off pavilion as well as the other features of the festival.

"We’ll have a few surprise celebrities, lots of giveaways, Grace gift baskets, aprons, T-shirts and so much more."
June is Pride Month and the Pride Toronto Festival weekend is June 23-25, 2017. 
www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/

"Until We Are All Free: The Global Struggle for LGBTQ Human Rights," a panel discussion, will be held on Thursday, June 15, 7-9pm at The 519 Ballroom, 519 Church St., Toronto. Latoya Nugent, a LGBTQ human rights advocate and activist in Jamaica and the cofounder of the Tambourine Army, is one of the panelists.

BLOCKORAMA 19 “Take it Black” on Sunday, June 25, 12pm-11pm at the Wellesley Pride Stage. A free event.

AFROFEST 2017 takes place on July 8 & 9 at Woodbine Park, Toronto. www.afrofest.ca/afrofest-2017. This is Music Africa’s main event and the largest free African festival in North America.

Soccerfest ‘17 takes place on Sunday, July 16, at Fletcher’s Field, 2743 19th Ave., Markham. The kick-off is at 9:00am.

Jamaican Canadian Association will hold its Jamaica 55 Independence Gala under the patronage of the High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada, Janice Miller, on Saturday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m. at 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. Keynote speaker: Justice Donald McLeod, Ontario Court of Justice. Call 416-746-5772. communications@jcanario.org

The Consulate General of Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaican Canadian Association presents Jamaica’s 55th anniversary of Independence Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 6, 12:30 p.m. at The Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. A reception follows at the Council Chambers-Members Lounge. This will be followed by the Independence Church Service at Revivaltime Tabernacle, 4340 Dufferin St., Toronto. RSVP at info@jgtoronto.org/416-598-2064

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Dedicated community worker remembered

George Henry
Gleaner Writer

It was a packed house at the May Pen Seventh-day Adventist Church in Clarendon as mourners turned out to pay their last respects to the late Vinnette Miles-Nunes. Tributes in song and the spoken word helped many to learn about the mother of one biological daughter.

She was sent home with glowing tributes, and almost everyone who paid tribute said almost the same great things about Miles-Nunes, who touched many lives.

Member of Parliament for Central Clarendon Mike Henry said Miles-Nunes’ life was one well spent. Henry described her as a most charming lady who did extensive outreach work.

Words such as dedicated, committed, kind and loving were used by Pastor Joseph Smith to describe her.

Smith shared that Miles-Nunes was one who ensured her church at Rectory Road was well cared for. He said she was firm and jovial for God. She served in various capacities at the Rectory Road SDA Church,” said Smith.

Pastor Rufus Anderson, who delivered the sermon, said the deceased was a woman who had an infectious smile.

ONE IN A MILLION

He said she was one in a million and her passing shook him so much, he cried.

Miles-Nunes’ only child, Janice Julai, delivered the eulogy. Her mom was born on November 9, 1955 to Icilda Roman and Hubert Miles, at 4 Cling Cling Avenue, Cockburn Pen, St Andrew.

She was the third of five children for her parents.

“My mother was a disciplinarian. She didn’t talk much, but when she did, she didn’t mumble words,” said Julai. She said her mother valued education and gave her (Julai) a tough time as a student.

“I was well known in the community as the little girl whose mother flogged her all the way to the bus stop and into the bus. She would often say, “Mi nah spare no rod and spoil no child”,” Julai said.

She added that her late mother had a dry wit and a sense of humour that kept their family going.

Miles-Nunes passed away on May 13. Her body was interred at the Denbigh Cemetery following the thanksgiving service.
Angela’s all-white Jamaican party

JANET SILVERA
Gleaner Writer

JAmaicans FROM the disappo-
tment as well as locals turned up in large numbers for Angela Escoffery’s all-white affair at Marley Place (Beach) in St Mary recently.

The Jamaica-born New Yorker, who works with a genetic research company, fell in love with the venue, Marley Place, last year and decided to throw a party, but not without her friends from cities across the United States experi-
cing the beauty and diversity of Jamaica.

Employing the services of one of St Ann’s finest decorators Angela Strudwick, Escoffery transformed the beach into a fairy wonderland of beautifully adorned tents, colourful lighting, and tikis torches.

Keeping to the all-white theme, the haseocks, charivari chairs and cocktail tables provided a comfort-
able space for all to mingle and meet new friends.

On arrival, guests were treated to traditional stamp-and-go, coupled with chicken wings delicately prepared by Milton ‘Rice’ Reece. He was the man responsible for providing specially done pork and sweet and sour chicken, served at the buffet.

The sumptuous local fare of manish water, escoveitched fish, scotch bonnet curried goat and jerked chicken, complete with dessert of fresh fruits, sweet potato pudding and chocolate cake, pre-
pared by Claudia Royal, were hits, particularly among the visitors.

Additionally, the fruit cake which Major Evelyn Barnes baked and intricately decorated was mouth-watering.

Revellers, all dressed in white, with the water’s edge as the back-
drop, danced off their feet to the music provided by Merritone with Monte Blake at the turntable accompanied by DJ Mikey Thompson.

Great fun was had by all who were in attendance and as they left were begging for a repeat of this session come next year.

‘JOY to the world’

THE JOY Anniversary Blend Rare Jamaican Rum, special edition rum, produced by J. Wray & Nephew’s master blender Joy Spence, was sold out in record time.

“I can’t believe that in every country that I’ve visited, the minute I land and start the promo-
tions, it sells out,” said Spence.

“It is a record. We have never sold out stocks of what we call lim-
ited time offerings in such a short period of time.

“We produced approximately 1,000 cases of JOY for the entire world, and the expectation was that this would behave in typical fashion and be depleted over two to three years as with other limited time offers,” said Spence.

“Jamaica was sold out in a week. It is awesome to have a Jamaican product being recognised inter-
nationally and to actually see people clamouring for it everywhere I go. In the United Kingdom, the Whiskey Exchange sold out the minute we began promotions, and in Switzerland, it sold out in just the two days.

“I feel proud to be a Jamaican, and I’m proud to have created a rum for Appleton Estate that creates such a stir on the global mar-
ket.” added Spence.

According to Spence, it is a very hum-

bling feeling to see the growth of the Appleton brand and the

Wray & Nephew brand globally.

“I remember when we started bottling for Mexico. We just had 100 bottles on the line, and now Mexico is our number-two market.

“I also remember when we started bottling small quantities for Canada, and now Canada is our number-one market globally. So I’ve seen the phenomenal growth of Appleton Estate worldwide from the late ‘80s to now.”

JOY, a minimum 25-year blend, was produced and named for Spence in recognition of her over 25 years of service to J. Wray & Nephew Limited, the last 20 of which has been as master blender.

Spence remains the only female master blender in the rum-making business globally.

“When I was asked to create this blend to celebrate not only my 35th anniversary as master blender, but my 35 years in the industry, I wanted to create a rum that would be recognised not just by rum connoisseurs, but by whiskey and cognac con-


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Ricardo ‘Bibi’ Gardner salutes Burrell

FORMER NATIONAL footballer Ricardo ‘Bibi’ Gardner has credited late president of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), Captain Horace Burrell with being part of an era which saw the rise of Jamaican football. Gardner was part of Jamaica’s historic football team that qualified for the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France, a vision of Burrell, who died on Tuesday after a bout with cancer.

“Burr was a leader. He would have been there for the team to put their talents on display to the world,” said Gardner.

His performance in those games led to him later being acquired on contract by English First Division club Bolton Wanderers. Bolton was promoted to the Premier League in the 2001-2002 season.

“I think he (Burrell) played a very significant role in my life as a professional footballer because he was the one in charge of the JFF when I first played for Jamaica, and without Jamaica I wouldn’t be seen in the World Cup,” said Gardner.

Gardner was playing with local Premier League club Harbour View in 1998 when Jamaica played their three games at the World Cup in France.

“In an interview posted on his Facebook page, Gardner said Mason will be missed, but while not present physically, he will always be in their thoughts.

“He (Mason) is not here physically, but he will be here with us spiritually and will be with us until we meet with him again on the other side,” he said.

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

Bryan captures NCAA high jump

RAYMOND GRAHAM
Gleaner Writer

FORMER WOLMERS’S Boys’ track and field star Christoffe Bryan hit top form to win the high jump title at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon, on Friday, March 10.

A junior at the Kansas State University, Bryan cleared 2.11 metres on his second attempt in very cold and rainy conditions.

In an interview posted on his school’s website, Bryan said: “I am really happy for the win. It has been a tough outdoor season for me so far, but once you are mentally tough, you can achieve anything. I have been working really hard for this, so I am just as happy right now. I want to thank my whole family. I could not have done this without them.”

There are other Jamaican athletes in the NCAA

Nathan Allen, Kamar Mowatt and Clive Pullen - had top-three finishes at the meet

GOOD FORM

Competing for the University of Arkansas, Allen continued his good form this season in the 400 metres as he remained in the top three on the world list after a second in 44.69 seconds, behind world leader Fred Kerley of the University of Texas, who won in 44.10.

Allen’s team-mate, former Kingston College quarter miler Akeem Bloomfield, faded to fifth in 45.13 seconds, while the other Jamaican in the finals, Steven Gayle of the University of Florida, ended seventh in 45.59.

Former Munro College intermediate hurdler Kamar Mowatt, competing for the University of Arkansas, ran a personal best of 16.76m.

Kingston College jumper, now competing for the University of Arkansas, finished second in the triple jump with a distance of 16.60 metres, behind winner Keandre Bates of the University of Florida with a wind-aided 16.76m.

Reggae Boyz in friendly against Peru

AT PRESS time Tuesday evening, June 13, Jamaica’s National football team the Reggae Boyz were taking on Peru in a friendly in that country as they prepare for top honours in the Caribbean and Gold Cups competitions in June and July.

The team is playing with the death of Captain Horace Burrell, President of the Jamaica Football Federation and driving force, fresh in their minds. He passed away on Tuesday in the US while receiving treatment for prostate cancer.

 Ranked 79th in FIFA the boys are the defending champions of the Caribbean Cup and will be keen to do well following their failure to qualify for next year’s world cup. It was Burrell’s determination which was critical in the team’s surprising qualification for the 1998 world cup in France.

The 20-member squad consists of a more even distribution local-based players and overseas ones.

The heavy reliance on overseas players in the past has been targeted by players who have called for a stronger local-based presence.

Jamaica opens their defence in the Caribbean Cup on June 25 against Martinique. The Gold Cup, July 7-26, will be held almost immediately after in the US.