JA NAMES US-BASED WOMAN TO RAISE MONEY FOR EDUCATION

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Black community in Peel meets to discuss crucial concerns
The frigid temperatures did not dampen the enthusiasm of many members of the Region of Peel’s black community who attended a town hall meeting to discuss issues affecting their lives.

Education minister calls on Diaspora to help in setting up national bus system
Edrington/Youth and Information Minister, Ruel Reid has called on members of the Jamaican Diaspora in the United States to partner with government in establishing a national school bus system.

BUSINESS
Jamaica considers buying Venezuela shares in local refinery
The Jamaican Government is considering purchasing the 49 per cent shares in Petroleum owned by Venezuelan state-owned oil company PDVSA, as concerns mount among banks locally and overseas over an executive order issued by United States.

Kingston Wharves to open two logistics centres
Kingston Wharves Limited (KWL) will open two logistics centres by December this year as part of its multi-billion-dollar transformation.

ENTERTAINMENT
Golden Krust gala raises funds for college-bound students
Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill raised US$100,000 at its 12th Annual Excellence Awards Gala held on Friday, November 10 at the VIP Country Club in N.Y.

Community volunteers honoured
TORONTO: Eleven individuals from Toronto’s Black and Caribbean community were recognised at the 7th Annual Unsung Heroes and Volunteer Awards ceremony hosted by the Black Star Movement at The National Event Venue, 1000 Finch Avenue West, on November 4.

IMMIGRATION
How do I apply for an extension for a minor?

SPORTS
Olympian Carter’s appeal heard by CAS
Jamaican sprinter Olympian Nesta Carter last week had his appeal for taking a banned stimulant methylhexane heard by the Court Of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

CAC Games: hard work ahead for hockey squads
National coaches for Jamaica’s men and women hockey teams, Nicholas Brown and Christine Bartley foresee hard work for their players as they get ready for the 2018 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, Barranquilla, Colombia, from July 19 to August 3.

PUBLIC-SECTOR workers have been selected for the pilot programme for the collection of biometric data to produce a unique identification number for all Jamaicans under the National Identification System (NIDS) rollout.

Jacqueline Lynch-Stewart, head of the NIDS secretariat in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), said that the programme will be rolled out in an organised way so as not to put the country in chaos.

NIDS will start with a national identification number for all, and will evolve into a national identification card.

JISCO to make first shipment from Alpart
The company has also revealed plans to build a second alumina plant at its Nain, St Elizabeth, location and is reportedly targeting bringing that second refinery on line in the second half of 2018.

JISCO acquired the Alpart plant from Russian aluminium giant Rusal last year for J$299 million.

The company has also signed a memorandum of understanding to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal to meet Alpart’s power needs.

The terminal is expected to be up and running by 2020.

PM announces islandwide road repairs
PROVISIONS ARE being made in the Supplementary Budget set to go before Parliament this week for funding to repair roads across the country. Prime Minister Andrew Holness said.

The road conditions were not his only concern. Having had first-hand experience of the long wait driving in the tourism capital each time he visits.

Holness brought early Christmas gifts to the Second City, announcing that the promised Montego Bay bypass had passed the alignment stage and would soon be approved by the Cabinet.

According to the prime minister, it will take approximately eight minutes to bypass the Montego Bay city centre on the proposed 14-kilometre road to be built.

250 students graduate from Caribbean Maritime University
THE NEWLY chartered Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) graduated its first cohort of students to be certified since the institution’s formal upgrading in September.

Approximately 250 students were conferred with master’s and bachelor’s degrees and diplomas during the graduation ceremony at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston, having successfully completed studies in a wide cross section of programmes over the past four years.

These include Logistics and Supply Chain Management; Port Management; Cruise Shipping and Maritime Tourism, International Shipping, Customs Processes, Freight Forwarding and Immigrations; and Security Administration and Management.

Goverment collects J$590 million from traffic ticket amnesty
THE GOVERNMENT collected some J$590 million during the three-month traffic ticket amnesty that ended last month. The amount, J$119 million was collected on the final day.

The Ministry of National Security has said J$12 billion was owed in outstanding traffic tickets.

On Tuesday, National Security Minister Robert Montague announced that the government has extended the traffic ticket amnesty by another 45 days.

The holders of unpaid traffic tickets now have until January 13, 2018, to settle arrears.

Minister of National Security Robert Montague.

TheGAN

www.jamaica-gleaner.com
Fundraiser chair for education appointed

DERRICK SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

Washington DC

JAMAICA'S EDUCATION minister, Ruel Reid has appointed Gail Dunwell, president of the Atlanta based Benevolent Missions of Atlanta (BMA) to the position of Fundraiser chair for the National Education Trust (NET).

According to Reid, Dunwell’s scope of work will focus on fundraising from international donor organisations and includes the identification of international donors who are willing and able to work in Jamaica and whose strategies and areas of focus are complementary to the area of work of the National Education Trust (NET).

He made the announcement while he paid a courtesy call on Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks at the Embassy of Jamaica on Friday, November 10, 2017.

The education minister said that in her new role, Dunwell would be responsible for developing a database of potential donors established by research and identification and summarising the range of donors potentially interested in funding education development projects.

She would also map funding opportunities internationally and provide recommended strategies for approaching these sources of funding and related modalities; develop and recommend a fundraising strategy that will guide the organisation in its fundraising efforts during the next two years; facilitate the dissemination of information between the diaspora and NET; communicate the concerns and challenges expressed by the diaspora in their attempts to make financial and quality resource investigations and contributions toward education and be engaged in developing solutions to improve the mechanisms and processes through which this is accomplished.

The minister said the vision of NET is to engage the Jamaican Diaspora community of three million strong to massively invest in the development of education through infrastructure upgrades for early childhood and primary schools. “Mrs. Dunwell will play a key role in the organisation achieving those goals,” he said.

President’s 2018 international affairs budget in order to truly enhance our engagement with the Caribbean. And as we do this, we also need to redouble efforts to ensure that this funding reaches vulnerable populations, including deportees,” Engle noted.

Congressman Eliot Engle, accepts FURI Pinnacle Award from founder of CaribNews, Carl Rodney

Washington, DC

One of the authors of the U.S./Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act, Congressman Eliot Engle wants the Caribbean and the US congress to work together to ensure that the Act is fully implemented and has the resources dedicated to it so that it can succeed.

Addressing the Family Unification Resettlement Initiative (FURI) award ceremony in New York on Saturday, October 28 at the Eastwood Manor Banquet Hall in Bronx, New York, Congressman Engle reported that on June 19 the State Department submitted to Congress the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in the Caribbean, which President Obama signed into law in December before he left office.

However, he said there needs to be a concerted effort to ensure that the Act succeeds as “President Trump and Secretary Tillerson have proposed a draconian and short-sighted 33 percent cut to the total foreign-born population in the United States, which accounts for nine percent of the total foreign-born population in the US.

‘C’bean Nationals in the US urged to lobby for the success of the Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act

Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States, Her Excellency Audrey Marks engages Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator Reid in a discussion during a courtesy call he paid her at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington DC on Friday, November 10, 2017. Seated (l-r) are chairman of the Early Childhood Commission, Trisha Williams Singh and International Donor Consultant for the National Education Trust (NET), Mrs. Gail Dunwell.
Physician calls for focus on health and well-being

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

A PUBLIC health and preventative medicine specialist says the Black community needs to have a long-term vision and to strategise regarding its health and well-being.

Dr Onye Nnorom, associate program director of the public health and preventative medicine residency programme at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto was the keynote speaker at the third annual forum on black health, organized by the Black Health Alliance on November 4 in Toronto.

The event was titled A Sound Mind: Building a Black Health & Well-being Strategy and Dr Nnorom’s presentation was under the rubric – ‘And Still We Rise New Approaches to Old Problems: Setting Our Own Agenda’.

Participants met in breakout sessions to focus on poverty, housing, food insecurity, mental health, youth perspectives and HIV/AIDS.

She urged them those in attendance to advocate for race and ethnicity-based data so they can identify and champion interventions that work.

Dr. Nnorom had them all saying: “We face challenges, but still we rise. The revolution will not be televised, it’s happening, live. In solidarity, stay calm and decolonize. We must have a long-term vision and strategies.”

Sections of her talk were inspired from poems such as Still I Rise by poet, Maya Angelou, “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” by poet, Gil Scott-Heron, and “Keep Calm and Decolonize” by Buffy Sainte-Marie, Canadian Cree singer-songwriter.

Using the definition of ‘revolution’ from the Webster dictionary as ‘a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualising something; a change of paradigm,’ Dr. Nnorom said it is “not swift/sudden/violent, but there is a fundamental change that is occurring across North America.”

She said change is happening, it’s too slow but steady — sometimes over generations and that most of it due to policies not directly related to the provision of healthcare.

“We need to advocate for race and ethnicity-specific data to identify disparities but also to measure progress in Canada, and to identify and prove what works.”

NEGATIVE MESSAGES

Dr Nnorom, who is also the University of Toronto MD Program black health theme lead, encouraged participants to “continuously identify and question the negative messages we have been taught throughout our lives, throughout the life course.”

She said there has been some progress in reducing disparities in North America but it is not enough and emphasized the need to have a long-term vision of what community well-being looks like “for us and future generations.”

Nnorom, vice-president and chair of the Black Physicians Association and a family physician at the TAHU Community Health Centre, also called for a focus on youth and other vulnerable populations.

She told them to remember that racism is “toxic/detrimental to our health and well-being” and it is affecting us in every facet of our lives, throughout our present state.”

“It took a long time to establish racial inequities, it will take time to correct it. We need to understand and teach about our own history and oppression in this country and throughout ‘the colonies’ populated by the African diaspora.”

She told them to remember that discrimination based on our intersectionalities (income, ability, gender, sexual orientation) is counterproductive, and to appreciate “the impact of intergenerational trauma on our present state.”

The Black Health Alliance (BHA) is a not-for profit, charitable organization focused on the health and well-being of Black Canadians. The recently passed Anti-Racism Act, 2017, Ontario’s 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan, Interim Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism and the International Decade for People of African Descent make it timely to build sustainable and meaningful action with a Black Health and Well-being Strategy, it said.

“Without a strategy aimed at improving elements within public systems that have a detrimental impact on black lives, we will continue to be over-represented among those who are suffering and under-represented among those who are fully engaged, benefiting from and thriving in society,” said BHA president, Dalon Taylor.

“The time for a black health and well-being strategy is long overdue. A coordinated initiative to strengthen the capacity and resiliency of the Black community is needed,” she said.
J.A. LESTER SPAULDING
A LIFE WELL LIVED

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

J.A. Lester Spaulding

J.A. Lester Spaulding passes away

SYRANNO BAINES
Gleaner Writer

HIS WORK many hats, Joseph ‘Aloysius’ Lester Spaulding was a caring father and husband, shrewd businessman, mentor, and for those who knew him well, Lester, the fisherman.

Spaulding, 76, chairman of RJRGLEANER Communications Group, died at the Andrews Memorial Hospital Friday, November 17, morning after ailing for some time. He was due to retire as group chairman at the end of next month.

As news broke of Spaulding’s passing, a pall of gloom descended.

For the late chairman’s protégé, Gary Allen, Spaulding as the professional, was a transformative leader who contributed to the modernisation of local media.

He was the one who presided over Television Jamaica becoming the first digital television facility in the Caribbean, and as such was involved in the current transition to high-definition television,” said Allen, CEO of the RJRGLEANER Communications Group.

Allen recalled Spaulding for his active role in the expansion of the RJR group.

“You will recall him being really strong in his management from a financial standpoint. He presided over RJR for more than 30 odd years, and in that period, only twice had the company ever reported losses in their annual financial statements. And while he competed with a lot, he was respected by all of his competitors. He negotiated hard but was never disrespectful. He also mentored many along the way. He is responsible for many a manager who are in media, even if not at RJR, and he has done it not just in Jamaica but because he has also held leadership roles across the region in media,” Allen said.

Allen said Spaulding was also integral to the diversification of ownership in local media as well as having a hand in the improvement of the defamation law and discussions that led to the formulation of the Access to Information Act.

At the same time, Allen said that Spaulding’s legacy was not confined to the media discipline, but included business, in general, and good corporate responsibility.

“He was involved in Salada, Lasco, Crime Stop, and he did a lot of work for charity,” Allen said.

Lester Spaulding was caring, fun-loving individual with a passion for fishing. “Every October, he went off to the Marlin Tournament, and earlier this year, he went off to Costa Rica fishing. Although, he had back surgery last year and it was giving him some problems. So I said, ‘Chairman, how did the back hold up?’ and he said, ‘Lawd, it nearly kill me, but I wouldn’t let it stop me from fishing.’ Allen stated.

In describing her fondest memory of the late chairman, veteran journalist and RJR team member Norma Brown-Bell spoke of a time in 1972 when Spaulding, then an accountant, held her hand and imparted words that are yet to fade.

“He took me under his wing and I was nearly kill me, but I wouldn’t let it stop me from fishing.”

“My prayers and sincerest condolences are with his widow, family, and the members of the RJRGleaner Group at this time. His passion and drive for the industry will be missed,” he added.

Leaders react to death of J.A. Lester Spaulding

PAUL CLARKE
Gleaner Writer

PHIM MINISTER Andrew Holness and Opposition Leader Peter Phillips expressed their condolences on the passing of Lester Spaulding.

Andrew Holness, prime minister

“Lester Spaulding was a shrewd businessman and media innovator. He was unquestionably one of the most influential business leaders and media innovators in Jamaica’s history.

“My prayers and sincerest condolences are with his widow, family, and the members of the RJRGleaner Group at this time. His passion and drive for the industry will be missed,” he added.

Dr Peter Phillips, opposition leader

“Jamaica and the media fraternity have lost one of its giants. He was a patriotic Jamaican who always considered a free and fair press to be part of good governance in the country. He was a giant in the industry, and the nation will cherish his legacy of building RJR into a multiplatform communication entity.”

Olivea Grange, minister of entertainment, sport, culture and gender affairs

“Lester Spaulding’s contribution stood out from the time he moved from the position of chief accountant to general manager at Radio Jamaica and the work he did as head of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, all of which preceded his leading RJR through its expansion up to its recent merger to become the RJRGLEANER Communications Group.

“He also contributed to the development of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) and nurtured the formation of the Caribbean Media Corporation, being its inaugural chairman in 2000.”
Environment main focus of CIN Lecture

NEW YORK:

Diana McCaulay, CEO of the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), says “climate change is a justice issue” and urged members of her audience to get involved in addressing the situation of degradation of the environment.

McCaulay was the keynote speaker at the 13th Annual CIN Lecture Series in New York. Her presentation was well received by a large audience at the Schomburg Centre in New York, and she received a standing ovation after outlining several overwhelming issues facing the Jamaican environment and the wider Caribbean - sewage, solid waste, beach erosion, coral reefs and climate change.

“The time is long past to stop delaying strong action to reduce emissions by the large producers of greenhouse gases, including the US, as well as to assist developing countries to make an energy transition to renewables and to adapt to the changes that are coming.”

She continued with a report from The World Bank that says the global average of persons living on the coast is 40 per cent so if a hurricane season like the most recent should become ‘the new normal’, our entire economic base will be destroyed and will not have time to recover before the next storm hits.

Preceding McCaulay’s presentation, Prof. Trevor Munroe, Executive Director of the National Integrity Action (NIA), little sponsor of this year’s CIN Lecture, spoke of the similarities between the mission of JET and NIA in Jamaica.

He explained that JET’s purpose is to enhance environmental education, advocacy and conservation, but there is no effective conservation unless there is full transparency, strong accountability and awareness building in governance to ensure that ignorance among the public and corruption in high places does not allow the development of policies – and the issuance of permits – destructive of our natural environment.

Stephen Hill, CEO of CIN, ended the evening’s activities by remarking that the lecture is a celebration of excellence and Diana embodies that excellence by being the voice and conscience of the environmental lobby in Jamaica.

Education minister calls on Diaspora to help in setting up nat'l bus system

WASHINGTON DC

Derrick Scott

EDUCATION, NEWS and Information Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid has called on members of the Jamaican Diaspora in the United States to partner with government in establishing a national school bus system.

Senator Reid said “My dream is to see Jamaica with a school transportation system that will take our students from home to school and back.” He said this is his vision for the Jamaican education system but that it needed the help of the Diaspora.

Addressing members of the Jamaican Diaspora at a reception held in his honour by Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks and American investor and developer of Redding Estates in Montego Bay Al Dunson.

“Rural students will benefit from the same level of subsidies enjoyed by students who use the Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) buses. A number of students do not regularly attend school, they arrive late, and in some cases don’t turn up at all. This is due to the lack of a reliable school bus transportation system or parents who cannot afford the cost of public transportation. While liaising members of the Diaspora and alumni associations for their continuous contributions to the education sector through scholarships and assistance to their alma maters, the Minister said it was now time to look at the rural side. Minister Reid pointed out that the present education system needs 100 new school buses presently they urgently need seventeen new schools at a cost of $413 billion dollars. There is a four-year budget from which five new schools will be built next year.

Amb Marks launches Jamaica Roots competition

WASHINGTON D.C.

Derrick Scott

Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR to the United States, Her Excellency Audrey Marks has announced the launch of a competition called Jamaica Roots aimed at Jamaican-Americans who have lost connection with their homeland.

For Jamaicans who would like to take the opportunity to experience Jamaica and reconnect with their roots, the competition which will run from November 6, 2017 to February 4, 2018.

As an island nation, the competition is open to all Jamaican-Americans who have lost connection with their homeland.

Jamaica Roots will be a chance to reconnect for Jamaican-Americans and their children. Ambassador Marks announced the launch of a competition called Jamaica Roots aimed at Jamaican-Americans who have lost connection with their homeland.

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The competition is open to all Jamaican-Americans who have lost connection with their homeland.

In order to give everyone a chance, the competition will be executed following the sweeps model and entries can be submitted at: http://www.ambassy.gov/jamaica/competition.

All rules and requirements can also be found on Facebook @AmbassadorMarks.

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All rules and requirements can also be found on Facebook @AmbassadorMarks.
FURI celebrates 15 years

WASHINGTON, DC: AMBASSADOR TO THE United States Audrey Marks has lauded the New York-based Family Unification Resettlement Initiative (FURI) for re-integration and resettlement of deported persons into the Jamaican community over the past fifteen years.

Marks described FURI’s work as “a noble undertaking with great impact” and that its acceptance of “the voice of the community” has been key. She noted, “I believe the Jamaican community, or anybody else, has absolutely nothing to lose from providing an essential service to their fellow countrymen and women.”

 Marks said that FURI has been working in the area of re-integration and resettlement of deportees since its inception in 2003. She said that FURI has helped hundreds of Jamaicans who were deported, and has been providing services to these individuals.

Marks said, “I am pleased to be here today to celebrate the 15th anniversary of FURI’s work and to recognize the contributions of the organization and its partners.”

Black community in Peel meets to discuss crucial concerns

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

TORONTO, ON: The FRIGID temperatures did not dampen the enthusiasm of many members of the Region of Peel’s black community who attended a town hall meeting to discuss issues affecting their lives.

Organised by the political advocacy committee of the Jamaican Canadian Association, “JCA Let’s Chat,” the first of a quarterly series of town halls was held at Xyz, a local restaurant in Brampton, Ontario on November 9.

In her opening remarks, JCA president, Adama Patterson, noted that Jamaica is among the top ten places of origin for people living in Peel, particularly those living in Brampton, and to a lesser extent Mississauga.

She wondered what that meant in terms of political power, noting that many members of this group of people have not been able to use their potential.

That has changed to the extent that a politician told Patterson in 2015 that “our community does not vote.”

The town hall was held to discuss issues impacting the black community and the role that the community can play in them.

Patterson noted that Brampton West has the highest number of Jamaicans per capita of any riding in the GTA.

Garnett Manning, a former Brampton city councillor, Michelle Richards, co-chair of the Peel Police Black Advisory Committee, and Kathy McDonald, Peel District School Board trustee spoke on issues such as political engagement, policing, the child welfare system and education.

The facilitator was Danielle Dowdy, who along with Yolande Davidson and Audrey Campbell organised the event.

Manning said democracy demands participation and that a free democratic society elects its leaders through the process of voting.

He said some people could be apathetic but that “民主 decision-making is about participation.”

The former councillor said there are three steps to political involvement, starting with the individual.

“Theology with you and it ends with you,” he said, emphasising the importance of parents taking their children to the polling station on election day so that they see their active participation in the process.

SQUANDERING IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY

Many also spoke to them that they could be ‘squandering an important opportunity’ if they do not vote strategically.

She said, “You have a chance to make a difference, to make a difference.”

The aim is to have candidates run and win, said Manning, noting that people can vote for candidates strategically.

The facilitator said that the most important thing is to be informed.

Richards said Peel’s chief of police, Jennifer Williams, has said she will not vote. Richards urged the community to challenge such checks by contacting a division staff sergeant to file a complaint.

Regarding school resource officers, she said the police told her that they have been operating in schools for 25 years to create a safe environment and that there is a reduction in the youth crime rate.

As someone who works in child welfare, she said the Children’s Aid Society (CAS) is not the place to call for general assistance.

She noted that schools are a feeder into the child welfare system with some teachers and others being involved in the system. She said “we can be an asset to the system.”

She told parents that they are not obligated to let CAS in their homes and to demand to see what the agency has written about them.

McDonald said children are the community’s most precious resources and as a school board trustee the platform is to help marginalized kids in general, black boys and kids in poverty in particular.

Speaking on the Peel District School Board’s plan to support black male students, “We Rise Together,” released in October 2016, she said there is “power in the community, power in our voices.”

As a community we have to be vigilant and hold the board accountable strategically, she said.

She said the community needs to come out more and advocate for our kids.”

She said it is important to engage the community about what the board is doing with greater opportunities to contribute to your respective families and homeland.”

She emphasised, “Jamaicans have the distinction of being strong patriots. However, I think it is incumbent on us as Jamaica’s chief envoy to the USA, to underscore to this distinguished audience this evening that becoming a citizen of another country does not make you less Jamaican. Ultimately, it is beneficial to you, your family and our beloved homeland.”

In his remarks, U.S. Congressman Eliot Engel disclosed that the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative or CSBI, has been funded by the U.S. Congress in 2016 at $27.7 million, the same level as 2017. Representative Engel pointed out that an estimated three and a half million people from the Caribbean live in the United States, which accounts for nine percent of the total foreign-born population in the United States.

In her remarks, FURI President Carmeta Albarus, said since the inception of the organisation 15 years ago, they have assisted hundreds of Jamaicans who were deported. Services range from intake to assisting deportees in obtaining documentation and training, and financial assistance.

She pointed out that by January 2016 the organisation plans to release a handbook for Jamaicans coming to the United States to help them better transition.

Five persons were awarded. They include U.S. Congressman Eliot Engel who received the Pinnacle Award, Inspector Ruel Stephenson - Peace Choice Award, Dr. Ben Dessingers - Spirit of the Dream Award, Constance Malcolm - Ray of Hope Award, and Edwin Ellis, Jr. - Champion for Justice Award (posthumous)
Here’s another forum for you to share your views with Jamaica and the rest of the world.

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

EDITORIAL

MONDAY
Enabling the disabled

The editorial recognised the achievements of two persons with disabilities—Senator Floyd Morris who has obtained a PhD and has completed his biography and 13-year-old wheelchair bound from birth Britannia Stephenson who suffers from a mental disorder but has attained the Grade Six Achievement Test.

The editorial then welcomed the government’s campaign last week to promote the Disabilities Act which was passed three years ago.

TUESDAY
Insensitive and offensive Mrs Johnson Smith

Within the context of the government launching a campaign to sensitise Jamaicans about the law aimed at eliminating discrimination against the disabled, the editorial found foreign minister Kamina Johnson rule and offensive for comments she made last week in Parliament as she piloted the National Identification System (NIDS) through the Senate.

Michael Floyd Morris had asked for more time to treat with amendments to the bill. Johnson Smith had responded inter alia amid howls of protest: “...and Senator Morris, I’m afraid you’ve recently completed your PhD and having also written your autobiography, I hesitate to think that it would be too much to ask for us to work through...” adding that the amendments were not complicated.

She apologised and withdrew the comment.

WEDNESDAY
The PNP has blame, too, on NIDS

The editorial said the Opposition People’s National Party must take some of the blame regarding the controversial issues surrounding the proposed legislation to establish a compulsory national identification system (NIDS) which just cleared the Senate with amendments on its way back to the House of Representatives.

However, the PNP can’t claim to have been ignorant of the bill and its contents before last week. It was on the table of the House for several months, the editorial said, as it advised the opposition that it needs to demonstrate it has a responsibility to sometimes lead and engage in substantive discussions on issues of importance to Jamaicans.

THURSDAY
Another grab for CDF pork

Describing it as a porkbarrel, the editorial continued its criticism of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme under which MPs are allocated funding for financing initiatives to help their constituencies, citing a request for more money for the fund from MP Dayton Campbell.

The request was not met by any murmur of dissent by the fund’s oversight committee.

What Dr Campbell should be promoting is the scrapping of the CDF and new approaches to the practice of politics in Jamaica rather than promoting the CDF which perpetuates a politics of patronage and dependency, the editorial said.

FRIDAY
Moral cowardice, Mr Warrington

The editorial charged that MP Everton Warrington is a moral coward following his claims on Tuesday in Parliament that the Gleaner Company and RJR aim to undermine Prime Minister Andrew Holness and to defeat his government.

Warrington was apparently referring to Gleaner editorials up to last week critical of him to which this editorial replied, the objective facts speak for themselves.

Mr. Warrington’s latest position was not about party loyalty but self-preservation the editorial said, noting that by the Prime Minister’s party winning the South East St. Mary by-election, the PM now had a huge insulation against Mr. Warrington’s unpredictability as the Government now had a majority of three, instead of one.

LETTERS

Give big push to creative careers

THE EDITOR, Sir:

JAMAICA IS A Third-World country with uniquely First-World output. My Jamaican people never fail to amaze me with their talents and diversity, comparable to any First-World country to which I have travelled.

I can confirm that this has definitely been supported by the Moca Market held November 11-12 this year and was amazed at the creativity, quality and display showcased by our people.

The jewellery, food and art displayed in its numerous creative forms reminded me how diverse and talented our people are. I could bear the enthusiasm and passion as each exhibitor sold themselves and their work. The organiser must truly be commended for the excellent showcasing of the event.

This had me thinking: I think it’s time our Government promote equal opportunity by placing a higher recognition and value on skills and creative potential, so you will find that they are not substandard for choosing a skill-based or creative career path.

We are uniquely different, and learners should feel a sense of pride when they decide this is what they love and do and are good at.

They should feel confident that they can earn a decent living and that an established national frame work is in place to support their journey.

Government should channel and support learning in the areas relevant to employability. The creative sector is a great avenue to foster entrepreneurship among the people and build a great nation.

Get on the wagon, Jamaica! The creative industry is on the rise and is a great means of earning well-needed foreign exchange.

DONNETTE A. ANGLIN
New Kingston
donnette_anglin@yahoo.com

We will not forget

THE EDITOR, Sir:

THE RECENT statement by Lord Tariq Ahmad, British minister of state with responsibility for the Caribbean, Commonwealth and the United Nations, that “it would be better for the Caribbean to look ahead and to maximise its potential through robust trade rather than to peer into history”, and that his recent visit to the region “is not to look back in history, but to help chart an even richer association between Britain and Jamaica,” represents a contradiction with the British tradition of “peering into history” to honour service and sacrifice (as it did recently on Remembrance Day), and even to make amends for human-rights abuses committed by the British State.

His statements could not have been more ill-timed, published as they were on November 13, when Jamaicans reverently peered into a past made painful by the British, and observed the anniversary of that day in 1865 when the colonial military forces finally stopped the hangings of justice advocates in the Morant Bay War.

As the minister’s comments on the region’s demand for reparations are the answer.

POSTURE NOT NEW

Of course, Britain’s posture is not new. History has shown that Britain has not always lived up to its responsibilities.

Minister Ahmad might think that for the CARICOM nations to press a claim for reparations would be “a mistake of massive proportions”. But the people of the Caribbean and its Diaspora beg to differ. The mistake would be for the UK to ignore the growing support in the Caribbean and other countries for the need for reparatory justice, including from Habib University in Karachi, Pakistan, where there is interest in forming institutional links with the Centre for Reparation Research at the University of the West Indies.

As the late reparations advocate Dudley Thompson has said, reparations activism will continue because “the debt has not been paid, the accounts have not been settled”. 

VERONICA A. THOMAS
Director, Centre for Reparation Research
An exclusive gated community in Florence Hall, Trelawny. The Stonebrook Manor development consists of three (3) housing solutions all made with high end finishes and an open concept. Located minutes away from the historic town of Falmouth and the Falmouth Cruise Port. This development is approximately 3 minutes from the North Coast Highway and lies in close proximity to Montego Bay’s attractions and multiple five star hotels.

THE VISTA
PRICE: J $12,500,000*

THE CRYSTAL
PRICE: J $14,500,000*

THE ROYAL
PRICE: J $16,500,000*

Project Approved by:
Trelawny Parish Council (January 2017)

In House Features:
- Precast Concrete Walls
- Solar Water Heater
- Solid Wood Kitchen Cupboards
- Granite Counter Top
- 20” x 20” Porcelain Floor Tiles
- High Vaulted Ceilings
- Stone Coated Metal Roofing

Development Amenities:
- Clubhouse
- Swimming Pool
- Children Play Area
- Parks
- Gym

www.kemtekjahomes.com | KEMTEKSALES@KEMTEKJAHOMES.COM
#stonebrookmanor #kdcjahomes

SALES OFFICE:
Onsite Stonebrook Manor, Florence Hall, Trelawny

HEAD OFFICE:
Shop 6E Pompano Commercial Complex, Tower Isle St. Mary

KINGSTON OFFICE:
Unit 19, 80 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston 10

SALES OFFICE: (876) 618-1396 / 618-0138 • (876) 876 631-5263 / 631-7827 • HEAD OFFICE: (876) 975-4576/975-4762 • TOLL FREE 1 (888) 835 3020 • KGN OFFICE: 649-2680/649-0266 • FAX: 649-0363

* STARTING PRICE PLUS ESCALATION.
CORPORATE SWEETHEART deals are hurting Caribbean countries, and their leaders, recognizing rates are making the race to the bottom, by the low levels of growth in the Caribbean despite giving big companies with tax incentives for decades.

Speaking at an International Monetary Fund (IMF) High Level Caribbean Forum at The Pegasus hotel in New Kingston on Thursday, November 16, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, raised the issue, stating that the practice of offering tax incentives over periods deeply entrenched in the culture of the Caribbean.

“This is something that is prevalent in the Caribbean – not only in the Caribbean – but there are also other places that, essentially, race to the bottom,” Lagarde noted.

According to the IMF boss, “The problem with the race to the bottom – offering the best possible tax deal, at the lowest possible rate, over the longest possible time - is that everybody ends up at the bottom, and the capacity to generate revenues and growth is impeded for all of them.”

In an exchange with Lagarde, Prime Minister Andrew Holness, (right) International Monetary Funds (IMF) Christine Lagarde and Keith Mitchell, prime minister of Grenada at start of the IMF High Level Caribbean Forum.

Jamaica considers buying Venezuela shares in local refinery

EDMOND CAMPBELL
Senior Staff Reporter

THE JAMAICAN Government is considering purchasing the 49 per cent shares in Petrojam owned by Venezuelan state-owned oil company PDVSA, as concerns mount among banks locally and overseas over an executive order issued by United States President Donald Trump in August this year. The order imposes restrictions on government entities in the South American country.

“The Government must now proceed to take the necessary steps to safeguard the viability of our assets, even as we recognise value and appreciate the support provided to this country by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,” declared Dr Andrew Wheatley, minister of science, technology and energy.

The Jamaican Government has controlling interest in Petrojam with 51 per cent ownership of shares in the state-run company. In August, the US president issued Executive Order 13889, referred to as EO.

The EO prohibits Americans and those within the US from engaging in transactions involving new, medium- and long-term debt, new equity and certain existing bonds of the government of Venezuela. It also restricts the purchase of any securities from the government of Venezuela other than specified debt securities.

CONSERVATIVE INTERPRETATION

In a statement to the Lower House, Wheatley told his parliamentary colleagues that the banking sector has “adopted an extremely conservative interpretation of and approach to, implementing the provisions of the EO”.

Two weeks after Trump issued the executive order, Petrojam started to receive enquiries from its financiers and bankers regarding its relationship with PDVSA, particularly in relation to the dividend policy, governance structure, and controlling authorities. Queries were also made in relation to the purpose for payments to PDVSA.

Wheatley divulged that since the executive order was issued, payments to and from Petrojam had been impacted by inordinate delays.

He said that loan payments to the Venezuelan government were withheld by the US Federal Bank and others, as they carried out due diligence. Wheatley pointed out that although the funds were later released, the vetting process has now contributed to significant processing delays.

The energy minister said delays in payments have caused a strain on Petrojam’s finances and its suppliers. However, he said that efforts were being made to prevent any form of disruption to the country’s energy security.

Wheatley said Jamaica and Venezuela signed a joint-venture agreement in 2006 and a pact in 2017 for the upgradation of Petrojam’s refinery.

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

... Companies must grow up – Turnquest

DEPUTY PRIME Minister of The Bahamas Keventer Turnquest, in his contribution to the discussion, said that in his country, the idea of tax incentives was becoming a thing of the past, even though there was a policy of no corporate income tax.

Turnquest said that The Bahamas was seriously looking at its tax incentive policy with a view to rolling back on some of the goodies it offers.

“Lots of the industries that we give concessions to are mature industries, and at some point, they have to grow up, otherwise we are just doing corporate welfare, and that doesn’t help our people,” Turnquest said.

It is why we have continued debt accumulation, yet we have growth, “he added.

We are agreeing and acknowledging that the issue of tax incentives has been a problem in the Caribbean, Prime Minister of Grenada Keith Mitchell said that the issue must be addressed at a regional level.

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

CIBC LAUNCHES REMI, A DIGITAL ASSISTANT THAT HELPS CLIENTS TRACK FX RATES AND EASILY SEND MONEY OVERSEAS THROUGH MESSENGER

TORONTO:

CIBC has announced the introduction of Remi, its first digital assistant designed to help clients send no-fee Global Money Transfers (GMT). Remi offers clients and people using Facebook Messenger the ability to check foreign exchange rates, keep track of exchange rate fluctuations with recurring alerts, and get answers to product questions.

Remi is capable of alerting clients to an exchange rate they set themselves, with an automatic option for sending a money transfer at that time. This means Remi will notify clients using Messenger, on mobile or online, when the exchange rate has reached the selected status, and across the offer to send a global remittance, elevate the client experience by making international money transfers faster and more accessible.

“We are excited about the way Remi is making it easier to manage sending money abroad,” says Vineet Malhotra, MD and Head of Alternate Solutions Group & Retail Solutions Group, CIBC. “You’ll always know exactly how much money you’re sending and the exchange rate you’ll receive, all without upfront fees. By enhancing existing technologies and building new digital solutions, we continue to deliver modern convenient banking for our clients, now and when they want.”

CIBC Global Money Transfer launched in October 2015 allowing CIBC clients to send money to over 60 countries around the world with no fees. Recently added to the roster are Mexico, South Korea, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

CIBC Capital Markets developed Remi in collaboration with CIBC Live Labs, the bank’s technology incubator. Remi will be available in French and English at first, with new languages to be released in the coming months.

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

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What's your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
Kingston Wharves to open two logistics centres

STEVEN JACKSON
Business Reporter

KINGSTON WHARVES Limited (KWL) will open two logistics centres by December this year as part of its multimillion-dollar transformation.

The company’s outlook remains positive in part from the investment the company explained.

KWL has spent billions of dollars to prepare for increased shipping activity arising from expansion of the Panama Canal. Specifically, KWL spent $1.4 billion over nine months this year on capital expenditure to build out of the total logistics facility. That expenditure essentially matched investments in the project last year at $1.57 billion.

The ongoing work at the facility bolstered KWL’s asset base to $25 billion from $23.5 billion a year ago. Due to increased clients arising in part from the investment the company’s outlook remains positive for both its terminal operations division and its logistics and ancillary services division.

“Our investment programme on the terminal and within our speciﬁc logistics centres is designed to directly facilitate users and cuts across cargo types from containerised cargo, automotive cargo, industrial and project cargo, bulk and break bulk cargo,” stated Hall, explaining that now KWL has an established track record for working closely with carriers as well as users of the cargo to tailor services to their needs. “This ﬂexible approach and heightened attention to service levels will continue.”

Over nine months, net proﬁt attributable to shareholders of $1.18 billion was up 36 per cent over year earlier levels. The growth was due to increased domestic containerised cargo, as well as transshipment moves of other cargo types, including automotive, bulk and break bulk cargo. Its logistics and ancillary services division’s revenues amounted to $597 million over the period, with operating proﬁts totalling $310 million over year earlier levels.

During the quarter, the division expanded its client base which aided its revenue growth by 15 per cent year on year.

Over nine months, net proﬁt attributable to shareholders of $1.18 billion was up 36 per cent on year on year. Additionally it said that the operating proﬁts for that division increased by 48 per cent from $766 million to $1.1 billion. The growth was due to increased domestic containerised cargo, as well as transshipment moves of other cargo types, including automotive, bulk and break bulk cargo.

The growth of Commonwealth Small Island Developing States, to enable ongoing support to efﬁciency of trade, cruise tourism and a range of infrastructure developments, as well as improving safety for both human and environmental concerns, “the statement said.

Business Reporter

UK conducting seabed mapping in Jamaica to support blue economy

Survey planned area of Kingston Harbour and Portland Bight

THE UNITED Kingdom Hydrographic Ofﬁce (UKHO) has commissioned survey vessels to Jamaica’s maritime economy as part of the UK’s Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme.

By using state-of-the-art equipment, the UKHO said it will capture high-resolution bathymetric data in Kingston and Portland Bight.

“This information will be used to update nautical charts, which will improve the safety of navigation and help Jamaica meet its international obligations to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention and sections of the IS Code,” according to a release.

It said that more accurate charts can enable larger ships to call, improving efﬁciency for cargo ships importing and exporting goods as well as attracting cruise ships, which should have a signiﬁcant impact on the Jamaican economy.

The survey, which continues until mid-December, follows a hydrographic technical assessment visit conducted in January 2017, where local stakeholders such as the maritime administration, Port Authority and National Land Agency identiﬁed a range of activities in Jamaica that were impacted by its need for modern seafaring language.

Supporting the work, on November 10, the UK’s minister of state for the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, British High Commissioner to Jamaica, Asif Ahmad, and the head of the Jamaican Maritime Authority, Rear Admiral Peter Brady, visited one of the survey vessels which is undergoing preparations to commence surveying.

The work forms part of the CME programme which is delivered on behalf of the UK Government by the

Kingston Wharves chairman, Jeffrey Hall.

Jamaica survey planned area of Kingston Harbour and Portland Bight.

UKHO: the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the National Oceanography Centre.

The programme aims to support the sustainable growth of Commonwealth Small Island Developing States by making the most of their natural economic and environmental resources.

In future years, the UKHO hopes to secure funding to help Jamaica build their own seabed mapping capabilities, to enable ongoing support to efﬁciency of trade, cruise tourism and a range of infrastructure developments, as well as improving safety for both human and environmental concerns,” the statement said.

CITATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT

TO: Jorge (George) Brathwaite

Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the estate of Eva Williams, deceased who at the time of her death was a resident of 186-03 Henderson Avenue Hollis 11432 in the county of Queens, state of New York, Upon the petition of Eva Saunders Administrator CTA residing at 217 Wintberg Condos 312 St Thomas Virgin Islands, Mailing address PO Box 305422, Veteran Drive, St Thomas VI 00803.

SEND GREETING:

To Jorge (George) Brathwaite if living and if dead, to his/heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained. You and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate’s Court of the County of Queens, to be held at Queens General Court House, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 21st day of December 2017 at 9:30 A.M why the account of proceedings of SALE OF THE ESTATE, as PETITION TO SELL PROPERTY 186-03 Henderson Avenue Hollis New York 11432 of said deceased, should not be granted and (set forth fully all relief prayed for in wherefore clause)

An order granting your Petitioner Administrator CTA permission to sell the decedent’s real property located at 186-03 Henderson Avenue, Hollis New York, for two hundred and thirty thousand dollars ($230,000.00).

And granting the Petitioner such other and further relief as to this court deems just, proper and equitable in the circumstance and that all persons interested be directed to show cause why such order should not be made.

Date, Attested and Sealed

3rd day of November, 2017

HON. PETER J. KELLY
Surrogate, Queens County
James Lin Becky
Clerk of the Surrogate’s Court

Attorney for Petitioner: Prose EVA SAUNDERS

Telephone No. 340 690 9116
Address: PO BOX 305422 VETERAN DR.
Address: St Thomas VIRGIN ISLANDS 00803

This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested unless, you file formal legal, verified objections. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you.

Accounting Cit (Acct 19/ 9-97)
Golden Krust memorial gala raises funds for college students

BRONX, NY: Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill raised US$100,000 at its 12th Annual Excellence Awards Gala held on Friday, November 10 at the VIP Country Club in New Rochelle, N.Y.

More than 300 attendees - among them leaders in business, nonprofit, education, and other fields – joined with the families and friends of the Hawthorne family, which founded Golden Krust in 1989 with a single retail location.

Three students were selected this year for scholarships.

Christina McBean of St. Andrew High School for Girls in Kingston, now enrolled at Howard University, where she is studying physics. Aaditi Tamhankar of Cherry Hill High School West in Cherry Hill, N.J., now pursuing studies in healthcare management at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Adam Fane, a graduate of Bronx International High School, now studying political science and economics at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

The event also honoured the work of eight community leaders – Dr. Camille Clare, Champion of Education Award, Thomas Farrington, Humanitarian Award, Roy Reid, Mountain Mover Award, Ivanhoe Friend, Business Excellence Award, Rev. Eric Lee Sr., Community Service Award, Robert "Bobby" Clarke, founder and CEO of Irie Jam Media, Visionary Award, Douglas and Priscilla Dixon, Champion of Education Awards.

Golden Krust has provided more than 350 scholarships to students since the foundation began its work. Awardees each receive J$1,000 each per year for four years of undergraduate study.

All proceeds from the night will help support the mission of the Mavis & Ephraim Hawthorne Golden Krust Foundation, a nonprofit that was established by the Hawthorne family in 2005 to provide scholarships to college-bound high school students from underserved communities.

The family-owned and operated business is franchised in North America with 109 locations in the US East Coast, as well as in Texas and Canada.
J’can-Canadian authors inspire children with books

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

TORONTO, ON: TWO JAMAICAN-CANADIAN authors have written new books to inspire children to, in one case, love themselves, and in the other, to believe in the power of faith and prayer.

Shakara Andem, who is an early childhood educator and has a passion for writing, has written There Is a God – illustrated by Garrett Mannings a story that was inspired by events in her life. Cynthia Reyes, a former journalist and executive producer with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation who wrote her memoirs, Good Home in 2013 and An Honest House in 2016, has now written a children’s book, Myrtle the Purple Turtle, illustrated by Jo Robinson.

Andem’s young mother left her when she was a baby, and for years, she stayed in a children’s home. As an adult, she built a life for herself here in Canada and has since learnt that her childhood experience was a process. She now has a close relationship with her mother. The experiences have taught her the importance of trusting God even in times of adversity.

“My inspiration came totally from where God has taken me from and where I am today,” says Andem. She dedicates the book to her mother, Shirley Phillips, whom she has forgiven and with whom she has reconciled. Andem said that when Phillips read the book for the first time, she cried.

There Is a God is a story aboutasha, a child whose mother couldn’t afford to take care of her as a baby, so she ran away. As a result,asha was sent to live in a children’s home despite her father’s desire to have her live with him. The authorities would not grant him custody which she desperately wanted until they found her mother. A man of faith, her father prayed that one day, God would help his daughter to return home.” Asha’s wish is eventually fulfilled.

Andem said that her father took her from the children’s home, and that was when she met him for the first time. She has a couple of books that she has written, but they haven’t been published.

Being a strong believer of Christ, ‘I think anything that I have to do, it has to bring glory to him. So my choice of bringing this book out is, basically, to acknowledge who God is in my life. I wanted to bring that out first before I continue with any other publication.”

GIVING OTHERS HOPE

Andem’s purpose in writing the book is to give hope to others and to teach children the importance of faith and prayer, something that she believes has brought her to where she is today.

When Andem left the children’s home, she lived with her grandmother in Eleven Miles, Bull Bay in St Thomas for a short while before they moved to Shooters Hill, Manchester.

She emigrated from there to Canada in 2001, and after studying at Centennial and Humber colleges, is now planning to do her master’s Myrtle the Purple Turtle is about a turtle who learns to love and accept herself for being different.

It’s also about friendship and inclusion and, believe it or not, it’s also quite funny in parts. I wrote this story for my youngest daughter Lauren when she was four-years-old and was bullied for being different.” says Reyes.

In explaining at the back of the book how Myrtle was born, Reyes said: “Nobody likes to feel left out or rejected by others. Unfortunately, it happens to many of us, children and adults alike.”

Reyes said that over the following weeks she, alongside her daughters Lauren and Niksha and husband Hamlin Grange kept improving the story till we were happy with it.”

On her blog, Lauren Reyes-Grange notes that her first childhood memory of school was being bullied by her peers for having a black cabbage patch doll whose name was Quentin.

She was four-years-old and loved the doll until some kids in her class “called him dirty and said they wouldn’t play with me if I had Quentin with me. This hurt a lot,” she writes.

Her parents caught on when she stopped taking the doll to school, and as a result, her mother wrote the story to highlight the importance of accepting herself.

Myrtle the Purple Turtle is published by Weaverback Press and is dedicated to all the children of the world and those who are children at heart.

The book is already getting great reviews in the UK, where it was released first. It debuted onamazon.ca as the #1 Hot New Release in children’s book and #1 in its category.

There Is a God is published by Open A Star Books.
TAX ADMINISTRATION Jamaica (TAJ) says it’s ramping up compliance activities against tax dodgers and real estate tax dodgers. TAJ says it has collaborated with a number of public bodies and private sector entities, to ascertain the source and quantum of income from third party transactions. It says developers who have sold properties, architects and contractors who have offered their services, persons who are in receipt of rental income and other players within the sector are being encouraged to file their returns, report accurately and comply with the tax laws.

TAJ is strongly advising delinquent taxpayers that failure to report income, profits or gains will result in enforcement action. Persons may obtain further information on the tax law and any other tax related matter by contacting the TAJ Customer Care Centre.

Senate committee quizzes NHT on housing allocation to disabled

EDMOND CAMPBELL Staff Reporter

WITH THE National Housing Trust (NHT) allocating two one-bedroom houses out of a total of 1,500 units at the Estuary scheme in Friendship, St. James, to the disabled community, members of the Regulations Committee of the Senate pressed for an increase in the size of the disabled community in Jamaica. A breakdown of allocations to other groups include 50 units for young adults, 15 to members of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association, 10 each to members of the police force, the Jamaica Defence Force, and nurses.

The Regulations Committee of the Senate had considered and approved on Friday a Special Benefit Order for the Estuary housing scheme in St. James. Chairman of the committee Matthew Samuda and committee member Sophia Fraser Binnis said that two units were not indicative of the size of the disabled community in Jamaica.

A 2001 census indicated that the size of the disabled community in Jamaica was some 160,000 persons. Since that time, there have been estimates of more than 400,000.

Lanie Oakley Williams, senior general manager of the NHT, said that while two units have been set aside for the disabled, members of that community could also apply in the pool of general contributors.

“With this Special Benefit Order does is to have a special amount for these special-interest groups, so they would have a separate queue,” she said. Samuda asked NHT officials if additional units could be provided. “What we have found, though, is that not all of them are taken up. Sometimes we have reservations for the disabled, but their challenge is often times affordability and so we actually right now, have reservations for disabled in other schemes, which they have not taken up,” Oakley Williams said.

The NHT executive pointed out that the trust also provided special discounts and concessions to the disabled community.

Matthew Samuda Staff Reporter

Sagicor X Fund reduced holdings to acquire Palmyra

AVIA COLLINDER Business Reporter

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Officer of Sagicor X Fund Limited Robert Miller said the group has sold down its Sigma portfolio holdings in order to pay expenses attached to the US$890 million acquisition and renovation of the Palmyra hotel in western Jamaica, which opened in September as the Jewel Grande.

The fund was otherwise reward-

ed, with the Sagicor Group sub-
sidiary reporting a 40 per cent improvement in third-quarter earnings, said to be due to reval-

ued property as well as higher tourist arrivals. For the quarter ended September, net profit climbed to J$2.36 billion, 40 per cent higher than the September 2016 net profit of $1.69 billion. This was rebound-

ing from second quarter ending June when it saw its half-year profit fall by 30 per cent to $765 mil-

lion, compared to $1.124 billion in the previous year, partly attributa-

ble to renovation costs.

Miller said attention will now be focused on consolidation for the next year. He said that year 2018 will be about “consolidation of all operations to maximise efficiency and improve income, build revenue and expense management, and getting more out of the guest experience.”

Holdings in the Sigma portfolio now stands at 38 per cent interest, from 46 per cent at December 2016. The Sigma portfolio has property investments in the tourism sector through full ownership of three of the Jewel Resorts branded hotels, a 56 per cent holding in Jewel Grande Montego Bay, and the real estate sector involving ownership of several office/retail shopping buildings, industrial/warehousing properties and prime land holdings slated for development.

Nine months’ net earnings for the portfolio, based on revenue of $8.76 billion - of which $5.81 bil-

lion was earned by the Jewel hotels - was $3.96 billion.

d the overall results for the period for Sagicor X Fund were credited by directors to the performance of the hotels and restaurants indus-

try, which grew by an estimated eight per cent from stopover arrivals, with visitor spend of US$8671 million, up 5.5 per cent year-on-year.

The directors said that other-

wise, the results were due to appreciation and realised gain of $2.146 billion from investment in Sigma Fund units, linked to the revaluation of the Jewel hotels and Northern Estate.

$254M GAIN

There was also a $254-million gain on the revaluation of direct investment in the Palmyra, now Jewel Grande.

The directors said the fund’s hotel operation is comprised of two hotels directly owned by the group - the Hilton Rose Hall. Hotel and Spa and DoubleTree Universal in Orlando, Florida. There are four others which represent partner-

ships with the Sigma portfolio.

Overall, hotel revenue of $7.7 billion grew by 15 per cent over the $6.7 billion for the corre-

sponding period last year, driven by improved occupancy and room rates. Management said tighter expense control resulted in a two per cent improvement in efficiency in the hotels. Ongoing initiatives are being implemented to reduce energy consumption and further improve efficiency, management added.

The group had cash and cash equivalents of $1.36 billion, up from $659 million at December 2016.
Disabilities Council launches public education campaign

WITH THE aim to promote awareness of disability-related matters, the functions of the agency, and the Disabilities Act, the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) launched its public education campaign on November 9. Delivering the keynote address at the launch held at the Jamaica Conference Centre Minister of Labour and Social Security Shahine Robinson, said even though the society has been growing in its appreciation of persons with disabilities, many persons are still unaware of the tremendous potential of this community.

MOU supports micro, small and medium-sized business

THE JAMAICA Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), the Jamaica Exporters’ Association (JEA) and the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBD) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will facilitate capacity building among micro, small and medium-sized (MSMEs) as well as provide them with institutionalised support.

The signing of the MOU forms the basis of JAMPRO’s third export development programme, Export Max III, which aims to attract approximately 40 MMFFs for participation, a JIS release said.

Efficiency-enhancing equipment given to Jamaican courts

DIGITAL AUDIO-RECORDING and video-link equipment valued at J$232 million aimed at increasing efficiency were handed over to the Supreme Court in downtown Kingston on Monday (November 13).

The technology will facilitate witnesses giving evidence from remote locations, assist in protecting the identity of witnesses and reduce the time taken for judges to note important information, which will result in speedier resolution of cases.

Drug abuse council to target shopkeepers

SHOPKEEPERS AND other retail vendors, who target minors, are among a number of stakeholders that Collette Kirklev, director of client services at the National Council on Drug Abuse, plans to target. Kirklev said that illegal substances are too accessible to minors and called for better enforcement in such instances.

Speaking with The Gleaner in recognition of Drug Awareness Month, Kirklev said that the agency was currently engaging the police to see what strategies could be implemented to enforce laws.

National conference on Girls education

HUNDREDS of girls participated in the second staging of the National Conference on Girls’ Education on Wednesday.

Hosted by the St. Hugh’s High School for Girls, this year’s conference was held under the theme ‘Seeing Tomorrow: Thriving in a Cyber World’.

ST. CATHERINE

Two Portmore police stations given three desktop computers

POLICE STATIONS at Waterford and Caymanas in Portland last week received three computers from councillor for the Waterford division, Courtney Edwards, who received them from non-profit organisation Growth Foundation.

They are being used to boost its operations.

ST. JAMES

Municipality ready to lure investment – Mobay mayor

MAYOR OF Montage Bay Councillor Homer Davie says the Municipal Council stands ready to play a leading role to lure potential investors to the tourism capital.

He was speaking recently at the opening of the Ashley store in Fairview Montego Bay. This is the second Ashley store to be opened in Jamaica and the third in the Caribbean under the Unisomer brand.

ST. CATHERINE

Businessmen makes donations to school and hospital

BUSINESSMAN SAMUEL Dixon has spearheaded assistance to his former school Port Antonio High and the local hospital.

He gave to the school a wheelchair and a remote controlled bed. Along with another businessman Winston Richard’s 15 beds were donated to the hospital. The donations were well received.
“I don’t want engagement on my social media business page.”

...SAID NO ONE EVER!

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SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

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Woman who impersonated ICE agent in scam sent to prison

HOUSTON (AP): A Houston jury convicted a woman of impersonating a federal immigration agent and promising, for a fee, to help an immigrant obtain citizenship for her husband.

The Harris County district attorney's office said that Jamalia Barnette was sentenced to four years in prison after being convicted of impersonating a public servant.

A complaint says Barnette impersonated a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent and took $1,800 and a trailer from the victim after making the false promise. The victim's daughter told authorities that Barnette said she'd lost her legal identification when asked to produce it.

Prosecutors say the 66-year-old Barnette fled to Mexico in 2015 after being charged but was arrested while coming back north.

Court considers whether asylum seekers can get food stamps

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - MAINE HIGH court is weighing whether asylum-seeking immigrants who have been cleared to work but haven't found a job yet are entitled to food stamps.

A Portland family argues that they should qualify for assistance under state law, but the state's attorney says their eligibility was effectively ended in the budget for 2014 and 2015.

The budget provided funding for food stamps but said certain noncitizens would become ineligible if the money ran out.

The state's attorney argues that effectively terminated the program for those beneficiaries, but the plaintiffs say it wasn't intended to make them permanently ineligible.

The plaintiffs also argue that the state cannot deny benefits to eligible recipients even if funding runs out.

How do I apply for an extension for a minor?

Q: I have a question regarding extending my daughter’s stay in the US. She landed in Jamaica on February 13, 2016 and is staying with her grandma. She is a US citizen and her stay was for three months in the country; however, she has a ticket to return on August 25, 2016. I would like to know, how can she get her stay extended to that time and is there a fee? I currently reside in the US. How can it be done from my location?

A: The three-month stay initially granted to your daughter upon her arrival here in Jamaica on February 13, 2016 would have expired on May 12, 2016. This means that at that date, your daughter would have been in breach of our immigration regulations as she has overstayed her time on the island. She should have applied to have her time extended formally at the Passport, Registration and Citizenship Agency (PICA).

To extend her time, you would need to provide her grandmother with a letter granting her permission and apply to extend on her behalf, for an extension of stay for your daughter.

The letter must identify you by name, as the parent granting permission and must also provide a copy of your ID signed by a notary public or justice of the peace, whichever applies in your country of residence.

The grandmother would need to visit our office located at 1001 South Miami Avenue, Kingston 10, or Montego Bay and complete an extension of stay form. She would need to take along her ID and the child's passport and return ticket when applying.

Note, however, that the consequence for overstaying is deportation if permanent ineligibility. On humanitarian grounds, a fine of $50,000 may be imposed and the child could be deported.

Applying for citizenship for my Nigerian child

Q: Can I apply for Jamaican citizenship for my adopted child? He is Nigerian.

A: Congratulations on the new addition to your family. Yes, you may apply for citizenship for your adoptive daughter.

Assuming your daughter is a minor (below 18 years of age), you would need to undertake a Registration of a Minor as a Citizen of Jamaica.

Registration is a citizenship category for the child of a parent who is a US citizen, born abroad.

You should obtain Registration Form R4 from the Jamaican Passport Service, 77 1/2 Duke Street, Kingston, and from our website at www.pica.gov.jm and fill it out.

The form must be completed by the parent (mother, father, or adoptive parent) and signed in the presence of a notary public.

Additionally, you will need two references to support the application. These should also be Jamaican by birth and should not be related to the applicant by a relative to a lawyer or an agent of the applicant.

After satisfying the above, you would then submit your application along with your daughter's birth certificate, her passport as well as your passport and marriage certificate, if applicable, and parents' birth certificates. You must also present the document which confirms the legal adoption of the child. If your daughter is of school age, you will be required to submit a letter from the school she attends to confirm her enrolment.

You will also need two passport photographs of the child, certified by a justice of the peace, a notary public or someone authorised to administer oaths.

Registration of minors attracts a fee of $20,000. Due diligence is usually completed within 24 months to facilitate a decision on the application.

How do I cancel my dead father’s passport?

Q: My father passed away recently, leaving a passport, valid for years to come. Should I take it in to the PICA office for cancellation? He also had a US visa, valid until 2021. Will the US embassy need to cancel it or will PICA do so? Thank you for your assistance.

A: Sorry for your loss. Yes, you may take your father’s passport in to us for cancellation. We will also allow you to keep the document for posterity if you so desire.

We would not be able to cancel the visa, so you may want to take it in to the US Embassy and ask them to cancel it for you.

Q: I gained my Jamaican citizenship by descent a while back. However, I seem to have misplaced my citizenship certificate. Is it possible for me to obtain a replacement certificate? If so, please advise me on how I may go about this.

A: Yes, it is possible for you to obtain a replacement certificate. To do so you must provide a letter stating that you are applying for a certified copy of your citizenship certificate. The letter should be addressed to The Chief Executive Officer Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency 8th Floor, Spring Road, Kingston 10.

The letter should state the name, address and file reference, or birth certificate number, of the applicant. The applicant is required to state what has happened to the original certificate of citizenship and why the certified copy is required.

Which thumbprint is to be used?

Q: Which thumbprint, left or right, must be used and how many places on the form must this be shown?

A: Thumbprints are typically required for persons who are applying for a passport, but are unable to read and write.

In many instances, we use the right thumb. However, persons who are left-handed are free to provide the thumbprint of their left hand.

We typically take the applicant’s thumbprint at our offices – either at our headquarters or at any of our outposts – in the presence of a customer service representative.

The applicant is required to provide his thumbprint on two separate occasions on page two of the form, which is the same section where applicants would provide their signature.

For further information, visit our website at: www.pica.gov.jm. For enquiries please write to: info@pica.gov.jm. Like our Facebook page at Facebook.com/PICAJamaica.
Community volunteers honoured

EDDIE J. GRANT
Gleaner Writer

TORONTO:
ELEVEN INDIVIDUALS from Toronto’s Black and Caribbean community were recognised at the 7th Annual Unsung Heroes and Volunteer Awards ceremony hosted by the Black Star Movement at The National Event Venue, 1000 Finch Avenue West, on November 4. The theme was Rising Above Adversity.

Recipients of the awards were: Daniel Williamsome, Morley Wilson, Roseanne Henlon, Lolleta Cunningham, Desmarie Corea, Charity Karungi, Melina Orr, Gervan Edwards, Hetty Lawrence, Victor “Tipper” Henry and Audrey Walters.

Williamsome, who received the Good Samaritan Award, is a native of St. Thomas, Jamaica, is founder and chairman of the St. Thomas Health Care Organisation. The group was instrumental in launching, and sustaining the annual eye-care clinic at the Prince Margaret Hospital in Morant Bay.

Wilson, recipient of the Award of Dedication, who also hails from Jamaica, has volunteered with numerous organisations for the past 28 years. They include St. John Ambulance, Sick Kids Hospital and Microskills Community Development, which helps immigrant women adjust to the community and assists them in gaining employment.

Henlon, born in Canada of West Indian parentage, is the recipient of the Legacy Award in Education. She has been a volunteer for more than 30 years. She says that she chose to dedicate herself to the career and counselling field because it enables her to be of direct services and to educate others in her community.

VOLUNTEERING
Jamaican-born Cunningham was awarded the Virtuous Award in the category of social justice. She is no stranger to the community, volunteering at various organisations among them the Visionaries Association – a group that donates hospital equipment’s to Jamaica.

Cunningham started volunteering in 2011 with the Olive Branch of Hope, an organisation that caters to women of African and Caribbean heritage who have survived breast cancer.

Corea received the Leadership Award. She hails from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and is a past student at St. Marguerite d’Youville Secondary School in Brampton.

Corea volunteers with the Salvation Army and is actively involved in mentoring international students from Africa and the Caribbean at the University of Toronto, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Karungi, recipient of the Advocacy Award, is from Uganda. She is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Arts – paralegal program at Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. She says that her ultimate goal is to become a lawyer, and to become the voice for those who are not able to speak for themselves.

Orr, who received the Merit Award, is a national of the twin-island the republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2009 she launched Youth Winning Youth, an organisation focused on reaching out to young children and youth in need, while creating a safe haven for them.

Perfect Hearts Outreach, another program in which she is involved, was launched in 2015. So far it has provided more than 500 families with clothing, household items and back-to-school supplies.

Eleven individuals from the Black and Caribbean community were the recipients of the 7th Annual Unsung Heroes Volunteer Awards held recently here in Toronto. Among them seated l-r, and standing l-r, Charity Karungi, Victor Henry, Roseanne Henlon, Daniel Williamson, and Gervan Edwards. Missing from photograph is Desmarie Corea.

Audrey Walters, who hails from Jamaica, is the recipient of the Dudley Laws Advocacy Award. Walters, who served as president of the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) from 2006-2008, is also a founding member of the Jane Finch Concerned Citizens Organisation, and founder and president of Citizens Initiative Group. It is an organisation that guides the black community about the value of becoming a Canadian citizen.

Delivering the keynote address was Thando Hyman, principal of Toronto’s Adcentsric School. Simone Banton, Founder of the Unsung Heroes Volunteer Awards, brought greetings from her committee.

Photo by Eddie J. Grant.
Canada

Summer Mentorship Program gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over four weeks in July. Applications open now. Uoft.me/smp

Durham District School Board presents “Igniting Opportunities For Future Leaders” on Nov. 23, 5:30-9pm at Ajax High School, 105 Bayly Street East, Ajax. Keynote speaker: Karl Subban. Call 905-666-6383

Colour of Poverty-Colour of Change presents “Equity, Inclusion & Racial Justice Change-Making - an Action Oriented Conversation” on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 5:30-8:00pm at Toronto Central YMCA, 20 Grosvenor St., Toronto.

2017 JCA Toy Drive and Children’s Party. Deadline to bring toys to the JCA: Nov. 30. JCA Children’s Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Registration for toddlers to 12 years old. Call 416-746-5772 Ext. 249

The National Black Canadians Summit, a free event to mark the International Decade for People of African Descent, will be held Dec. 4-6 at the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library. To register, visit: http://bit.ly/NBSREGISTER.

New York

VERE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI, NEW YORK presents The 2017 Fall Dance on Saturday November 25, 2017 at The Adria Hotel, 220-33 Northern Blvd., Bayside, NY 11361. Music by Echo Vibes Disco with Guest DJs! Gate Prize! Sumptuous Buffet & Exotic Drinks! SPECIAL GUEST: THE NEW PRINCIPAL! For more Info, call: Phyllis Barnes - (646) 977-0702; Novlet - (718) 810-2553; Erica Follett - (347) 268-6048; Ossi Brown - (347) 386-3696; Khris: (718) 450-6545.

MOSA Annual Dinner Dance, Macedonii Community Center, Mt. Vernon, NY; 9 PM - 2 AM; December 9, 2017. Contact: Esther 718-614-9349, Ruth 914-275-6659

MOSA Annual Dinner Dance, Macedonii Community Center, Mt. Vernon, NY; 9 PM - 2 AM; on December 9, 2017. Contact: Esther 718-614-9349, Ruth 914-275-6659

OFANA Annual Fundraising Dinner and Dance, Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa, Tresser Blvd., Stamford, CT 9 PM - 2 AM; on December 9, 2017. Contact: Jennifer - 914-310-4370, Sharon 917-406-0602


Rusea’s Old Students Association NY 240th Anniversary of Rusea’s High School Holiday Luncheon, Royal Chateau Hall, Rosedale, NY 1 PM - 5 PM on December 10, 2017. Semi-Formal. Contact: George 404-683-0366, Milton 347-374-2591

UJAA 1st Annual New Year’s Eve Ball; includes dinner and drinks; Contact: Sharon Wilson - 347-849-9002 or swilson@ujaausa.org

NETWORKING

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Spanish Town hospital in dire need of upgrade

JODI-ANN GILPIN
Gleaner Writer

THE URGENT need for the Spanish Town Hospital in St Catherine to be upgraded to a Type A health facility was brought into sharp focus after a quarterly report by the Ministry of Health titled Vitals revealed that the institution recorded the highest number of births, 1,145, during the period January to March 2017.

The report also revealed that the St Catherine-based facility recorded the highest number of major surgeries, a total of 932; and emergency surgeries, which numbered 673.

Health Minister Dr Christopher Tufton admitted that there is growing demand in the area for surgeries and other services, and as a result, there is the need to upgrade the institution to fill the gaps.

"For surgeries, Spanish Town Hospital has seen quite a number of surgeries during the period, a total of 1,145, which is the highest number of surgeries over that period of time, and the Kingston Public Hospital, KP, 1065. This again has to be dissected because KP tends to deal with the more complicated cases. Some of those surgeries at Spanish Town, while for the most part they are not as complicated, they do complicated surgeries," he said.

"It speaks to the importance of that belt and some of the discussions we are having in the future about upgrading from Type B to Type A and Spanish Town being a key player there. It is justified based on the demand on the system along that stretch."

The minister says that work is under way to complete the upgrade negotiations as a contract has been signed and a team is expected to arrive next week to continue discussions.

"As it relates to the Spanish Town Hospital, again, the data clearly shows that there is a demand, and it is quite significant for all of four hospitals that we have identified for review and upgrade," Tufton said.

"So the hospitals that certainly before the end of the financial year, I am hoping to have a report on Spanish Town, in particular, and others, too, as to what will be required. The plan is to have that facility from a Type B to a Type A."

Fewer babies in 2017

Birth decline in first quarter of year linked to ZIKV fears

NADINE WILSON-HARRIS
Gleaner Writer

THE GOVERNMENT’s decision to issue a Zika virus advisory last year urging women to delay pregnancy is being pointed to as one of the main reasons for a 22 per cent decline in live births in Jamaica between January and March this year when compared to the same period last year.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Health advised women to delay pregnancy for six months and a year given the potential link between the Zika virus and microcephaly, which is an abnormal growth of the brain of the fetus during the first months of pregnancy and is potentially fatal.

This major decline, we suspect, is linked to the Zika virus fears and the advisory that we issued during that period of time when pregnant women were susceptible to the effects of having defective babies," said health minister Dr Christopher Tufton during the launch of the Ministry of Health’s Quarterly Report on Thursday, November 16.

"So we suspect that this is a demonstration that persons were more fearful and that the messaging that went out to support [it] seemed to have worked," he said.

The Health Quarterly Report noted that the number of births occurring in public hospitals was “unusually low” since October 2016.

Tufton expressed concern about the decline in the number of births and believes that this issue will have to be dissected further to assess the type of people having children versus those who are not.

Births declined by 22 percent in 2016. The rate was 13.5 per 1,000 births, down from 17.6 per 1,000 births in 2015. More than 6,700 live births occurred in public hospitals between January and March 2017, with the majority of the births taking place at the University Hospital of the West Indies, the Spanish Town Hospital, and the Cornwall Regional Hospital.

According to the Quarterly Report of the 6,826 births this year, 101 were stillbirths. The stillbirth rates across government hospitals for the period January to March 2017 was 14.8/1000 births. 
NEW YORK:

FOR MANY decades, the turkey has been the hallmark of Thanksgiving celebrations on dinner tables across the United States. But if the truth be told, Jamaicans have never been wholly enthusiastic about the traditional bird, and recently our chefs and our home cooks have been experimenting with an exciting new Thanksgiving idea that is winning raves across the country—the jerk turkey!

Since Thanksgiving is almost here, I asked the very talented and creative chef, Alton Henry, who is based in Newark, New Jersey to point us to his recipe for creating a most mouthwatering Grace jerk turkey for the holiday. Here’s what he shared.

Brining is a pretreatment in which the whole turkey to placed in a salt and water solution known as brine. This pretreatment produces a wonderfully moist and well-seasoned bird. Brining should be done in the refrigerator or in a cooler with 5 to 6 ice packs to keep the turkey and brine at 40 degrees or below during the entire brining process. Brining is more manageable with a rather small turkey from 12 to 14 pounds.

Table salt or kosher salt can be used to make the brine. Crystal kosher salt is recommended since table salt contains additives such as anti-caking ingredients, iodine and other additives. Table salt is also very finely ground and more is required to produce good results.

INGREDIENTS

**The brine**
- 3 cups kosher salt
- 2 gallons of cold water
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup of sugar

**The marinade**
- 3 Tablespoons Grace Jerk Marinade
- 2 Tablespoons cooking oil
- 1 Tablespoons Grace Browning

Combine all ingredients (If desired a more spicy bird , add four tablespoon of Jerk Marinade.)

1. Start the brining method the day before you plan to cook the turkey. Start with a fresh or completely thawed turkey. Wash the bird inside and out and remove the giblet bag and neck.
2. In a large stockpot, plastic tub or cooler with 5 to 6 ice packs to keep the turkey and brine at 40 degrees or below during the entire brining process. Brining is more manageable with a rather small turkey from 12 to 14 pounds.
3. Herbs and spices may be added to brine to enhance the flavor. Add several crushed allspice seeds, several sprigs of dried thyme, or other dried herbs, if desired.
4. Place the turkey in the brine solution, breast down. Cover and chill for 6 to 8 hours. Or use the overnight method by reducing the salt and sugar amounts by 1/2 so the turkey does not retain too much salt.
5. Remove the turkey from brine, rinse inside and out under cold running water. Pat dry with paper towels. Place on a shallow pan and refrigerate overnight. This allows the skin to dry out so it becomes crisp during roasting. This step may be omitted if desired.
6. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place turkey on shallow roasting pan. Season the turkey inside and outside with the Jerk marinade. Tie legs together and tuck wings underneath the bird. Add 1 cup water to bottom of pan and place in the oven. Let turkey get a beautiful golden brown color, then cover with aluminum foil.
7. Cooking time will vary depending on the size of the turkey. Check the wrapper to see how much the turkey weighs and determine the approximate cooking time (see chart). Roast the turkey until temperature in the innermost thickest part of the thigh reaches 165°F as measured with a food thermometer. Check the internal temperature in the wing and the thickest part of the breast as well. The temperature in all parts should read 165°F or higher. The thigh juices should run clear when pierced with a fork.
8. During the last 1/2 hours of cooking time remove the aluminum foil and baste with pan juices. Add more water to the pan if necessary.
9. A 12-pound turkey will take about 2 and 1/2 hours to roast.
10. Enjoy a Tasty, Moist and Delicious Jerk Turkey.

Happy Thanksgiving

May your day be filled with peace, love, happiness, laughter and most of all, gratitude!

From all of us,
CAC Games: hard work ahead for hockey squads

NATIONAL COACHES for Jamaica’s men and women hockey teams, Nicholas Brown and Christine Bartley foresee hard work for their players as they get ready for the 2018 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, Barranquilla, Colombia, July 19 to August 3.

Jamaica successfully negotiated last week’s CAC qualifying tournament at the Mona Hockey Stadium, but Brown and Bartley are under no illusion as to what lay ahead. They foresee a programme of hard work for the teams to be ready to do well in Colombia. They also envisage a bright future for the game in Jamaica.

Jamaica won the men’s side of the qualifying tournament outright with the women’s placing second. Moments after the tournament ended on Sunday, Brown said, “Well, we continue training until the second week in December and we take a break and then we’re hitting the field hard again come January.”

Though disappointed that her girls lost to Ouyana in the women’s final, Bartley was also looking ahead.

MORE COMPETITIVE

“It means that the work starts now,” she said. “We even have to work harder and smarter because it’s going to be more competitive, so that means we have to make sure that we spend a lot of our time preparing physically, mentally, tactically, and technically. And I think if we can do that effectively, then we should be able to go away and compete very well,” she outlined.

Brown is hoping for some competition to get the teams sharp as the Games approach.

“I’ve spoken to the president,” he said of a chat with Jamaica Hockey Federation president Fabian Stewart. “And we are looking at a pre-tournament around Easter for the CAC Games.”

The Games are set to begin on July 19 and will end on August 3. Both coaches saw good signs in the qualifying tournament. Noting that the women’s team has one teenager and two 20-year-olds, Bartley observed, “While there is youth, then of course development will take place.”

Added to the consistent crowd support for Jamaica throughout the tournament was Brown added, “Hockey is coming back on the map.”

A lot of youngsters are getting more involved, and you know; it’s a good thing when both teams can reach the final. It shows that we’re doing as much as we can with as little as we have,” he concluded.

JAMAIAN SPRINTER

Olympian Nesta Carter last week had his appeal for taking a banned stimulant methylhexane heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The banned substance was found in his system during reanalysis of samples from the Beijing Games which meant that he and teammate Usain Bolt, Dwight Thomas, Asafa Powell and Michael Frater were disqualified after winning the 4x1000 relay at the Games in a then world record time of 37.10 seconds.

It also meant that Bolt’s record of 9.98 straight gold medals was denied. The athletes complied with the directive to return their medals.

Carter is said to be appealing on the grounds that methylhexaneaminoxime was not added to the World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) banned substances list until 2010, two years after the issue regarding his Beijing 2008 samples.

And Jamaican Olympic Association (JOA) President Christopher Samuda was of the view that he believes Carter will be cleared of any wrongdoing.

“Certainly, the whole jurisprudence (principle of law) where that is concerned would have to be reviewed,” Samuda an attorney told The Gleaner.

“Depending on the reasons that are given, it may very well lead to other cases coming forward and rejoining on Mr Carter’s case and the ratio decidendi (the rule of law on which a judicial decision is based) of this case.

Certainly, if there is an adverse finding, it will have a lot of questions. As we know now, there are very critical factors surrounding the integrity of the findings, and certainly, we, from the very inception, have felt that after eight years, questions of fairness, equity and legal issues are very much alive. If there’s an adverse finding, the debate will continue and people will want to question the decision and perhaps ask for a review of the decision in other quarters,” Samuda said.

STANDING BY ATHLETE

Samuda, said that the JOA has been supportive of Carter from the moment it was notified by the International Olympic Committee’s decision.

“I was the one from JOA who called him (Carter) when the news was communicated to us, and that phone call, we have been supporting him,” he said. “We had had meetings with him, and we have had meetings with the management of his club in Jamaica (MVP Track Club) in relation to the issues involving the case, as well as in terms of the strategy that should be employed.

“We have been very close to him and giving him the support. He’s one of our national athletes and has acquitted himself very well, and we are looking at a bigger, better future for us to do so.”

CAS Secretary General Matthieu Reeb told journalists gathered outside the court that the hearing lasted all day.

He also said that “There are some final submissions to be filed and a panel will deliberate probably at the end of this year, for a decision, probably next year.”

Renowned sports lawyer and senior lecturer at the University of the West Indies Faculty of Law, Dr Ennor Crowne, said that he is very much in sympathy with the secrecy surrounding CAS’s panel hearing the case.

“Obviously, the Nesta Carter matter is a matter of national importance to Jamaica, and quite frankly, international importance. So I don’t know why there’s this much secrecy around who’s on the panel. As everyone knows, CAS hearings are closed to the public. The hearings themselves are confidential, but knowing who is on the panel, in my view, is not a breach of confidentiality.”

A verdict is expected in early 2018.

Defending champions XLCR rolling in netball competition

RAYMOND GRAHAM

IT WAS another good win for defending champions Excelsior as the Christopher Smart-coached team defeated St Catherine High 48-38 to pick up their fourth consecutive win as the penultimate set of matches in the USDAN Urban Schoolgirl’s Netball Competition came to an end at the St Andrew High School on Thursday, November 16.

The encounter, which saw two unbeaten teams coming together in Group One, confirmed the champions’ strength as they led 16-11 after the first quarter before extending their lead to 27-11 at the end of the second stanza.

Despite missing several easy shots, St Catherine rallied in the third quarter as they outscored their opponent 12-9, cutting Excelsior’s advantage to 36-30 going into the final quarter.

The defending champions however showed their class in the final stanza to win comfortably in the end.

“The girls were playing under instructions as I told them to take it easy because the condition was very hot,” said Smart.

Both teams are assured of advancing to the semi-finals slated for next week Thursday even though there is one set of matches still to be played in the round on Monday.

In other Group One matches played early last week, former champions Camperdown returned to winning ways by dismissing Holy Trinity 24-15, while Ardenne squeezed out a narrow one point win over Tivoli, winning 38-37.

In Group Two, last year’s beaten finalist Gaynade also made it four wins from four games with another comprehensive victory, getting by Campion 59-17.

QUEEN’S GET POINTS

Former champions, The Queen’s School got the points in their game as immaculate failed to show, while St Andrew Technical stopped Norman Manley 30-21 in the other game.

In Junior action, defending champions Gaynade and St Catherine High remained unbeaten after picking up their fourth straight wins in their respective groups. In Group One, Gaynade outclassed Excelsior 35-16, while in Group One, St Catherine got by St Hugh’s 30-26 to hand them their first defeat.

In other results, Holy Childhood defeated Mona 29-15, Camperdown stopped José Marti 27-11. The Queen’s School blew away Papine 97-1, and Norman Manley dismissed Merl Grove 24-12.
Edwards, who since 2007 has worked with Usain Bolt as his exclusive sports therapist, recently opened a new treatment facility – Fast Recovery Human Tecar Treatment Centre – at the New Kingston Shopping Centre.

“From my vantage point as a professional at several Olympics and World Championships, Edwards weighed in on the treatments are expensive, plus the know-how in terms of dealing with some of these injuries is also an issue,” Edwards told The Gleaner.

“I have come across athletes in the past, when they make it to the professional level, they can’t transition because they have injuries that did not get the proper treatment, and, sometimes, we have to send them as far as Germany to get back; and sometimes, they simply cannot come back.”

FILLING A VOID

On the subject of junior athletes and their development, Edwards believes that the sport’s gatekeepers such as the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association, the Inter-secondary Schools Sports Association, as well as coaches, school administrators, and parents should all work together in this regard.

Edwards’ recommendations include the identification of a pool of elite junior athletes and the establishment of a holistic island-wide support network of doctors, physiotherapists, and massage therapists, along with nutritional and sports psychology interventions.

“You have three counties in Jamaica. You can select, say, 50 of our top athletes and put them in high school and the lack of proper treatment for those. In some cases, some of the treatments are expensive, plus the know-how in terms of dealing with some of these injuries is also an issue,” Edwards told The Gleaner.

“I have come across athletes in the past, when they make it to the professional level, they can’t transition because they have injuries that did not get the proper treatment, and, sometimes, we have to send them as far as Germany to get back; and sometimes, they simply cannot come back.”

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“You have three counties in Jamaica. You can select, say, 50 of our top athletes and put them in a system. You have doctors, physiotherapists, massage therapists in each county who will be available to the athletes based on their location, and once those athletes are injured, they know they can go to these specialists and get top-class treatment,” Edwards elaborated.

“On one of two weekends each month, let them come together, and bond. Then you have top coaches. You’re not taking them away from their regular coaches, but some coaches can come, observe, and make recommendations. Bring in motivational speakers. Talk to them so that they can build their confidence. Engage tutors to help them in areas where they are weak. Get training for them in media relations, and so on. If you have a junior programme like that, then they will better matriculate into the senior programme,” added Edwards, who also noted the need to ensure that these elite junior athletes are also included in the national camp.

“In my estimation, the young athletes are doing too much. The powerhouses will be needed to protect them. Yes, I know schools recruit them and spend their money for Champs, and so on, but if you as an administration can step in and offset some of these costs, you will be in control. Sit down with the parents, coaches, and all parties and underline that these are our national treasures and point out the need to protect them. Help to limit the meets that they compete in, and so on,” Edwards said.

Sports therapist, on her invitation, has submitted his suggestions to Sports Minister Olivia ‘Babsy’ Orange, who will be looking into the recommendations.

Some of these elements were major campaigning points for current JAAA president Dr Warren Blake during his 2012 manifesto presentation. However, his administration has so far failed to deliver on its promises in this area.

Jamaica, with four medals (three bronze, one gold), suffered its worst performance at a major international championship since the 1988 Olympic Games, at this summer’s World Championships in London, leading to calls for greater focus on better preparing youth talent for senior transition.

Edwards hopes his business Fast Recovery will fill a void in the local space and provide a well-researched and experienced service in areas such as biomechanics assessment, post-surgical rehabilitation, sports massage, and therapeutic treatments such as its signature Human Tecar Synergistic Health-care Methodology, which is an electromagnetic stimulator application that greatly aids in musculoskeletal injuries, articular problems, inflammation, ageing, and myriad other situations.
CAIN, STEPHENS WIN JUNIOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Two of Jamaica’s top junior tennis players Damini Cain and Micheala Stephens won the Mayberry Investments Junior Tennis Championships in the 16 and under age group category at the Eric Bell Tennis Centre in Kingston on the weekend. Both were No 1-seeded.

SPORTS THERAPIST

Everald ‘Eddie’ Edwards is calling on local track and field authorities to better protect junior athletes and prepare them for future competition at major international senior championships.

Please see EDWARDS, 23

Stephens

JUNIOR ATHLETES NEED PROTECTION – EDWARDS

Ricardo Malyn/Multi Media
Photo Editor
Everald Edwards