

Investment banker Epstein pleads guilty to sex charges

McClatchy-Tribune

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Billionaire Palm Beach-New York-Virgin Islands money manager Jeffrey Epstein, 55, traded his signature navy sport coat for a jail uniform Monday after pleading guilty to hiring underage Palm Beach County girls for erotic massages and sex.

He will be designated a sex offender, requiring him to register annually with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Epstein, who lives in a 13,000-square-foot mansion in Palm Beach, will spend 18 months in the Palm Beach County Jail and then serve a year of house arrest.

The other conditions of Epstein's house arrest include a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew, keeping an hourly daily activity log and not possessing, watching or viewing obscene, pornographic or sexually stimulating material.

Judge Deborah Pucillo admonished Epstein not to have any contact — direct or indirect — with his victims including via Facebook, MySpace, e-mail and text messages.

Epstein told the judge he is an investment banker. He manages money for the very rich and counts among his friends former President Bill Clinton. His real estate holdings include the 68.7-acre Little St. James Island in the Virgin Islands and a 50,000-square-foot townhouse on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Comedian Steve Harvey staging radio show

By IAN MORRISON
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Famed comedian and radio host Steve Harvey is broadcasting his syndicated "Steve Harvey Morning Show" live from St. Thomas this week as part of the V.I. Tourism Department's ongoing marketing initiatives.

Harvey, a longtime standup comedian and actor, is best-known for his appearance on the Kings of Comedy tour and "The Steve Harvey Show," a sitcom that ran on WB-TV for seven years. He lives in New York City, where he hosts the nationally syndicated "Steve Harvey Morning Show" airing on more than 60 radio stations in major markets such as New York, Chicago, Atlanta, and Miami.

His broadcast from St. Thomas

this week is expected to reach more than 4 million listeners. Harvey's visit to St. Thomas is part of an ongoing advertising campaign by Tourism to reach consumers in key markets. The broadcast will air in nine of the Virgin Islands' 12 top markets, Commissioner Beverly Nicholson-Doty said in a prepared statement.



Steve Harvey

Tourism has arranged for Harvey to visit tourist attractions around the island, which he then discusses on his show, Tourism spokeswoman Allegra Kean-Moorehead said. For example, Harvey visited Paradise Point on Monday, played golf at

Mahogany Run and stopped at Yacht Haven Grande.

"It all helps to provide him topics to talk about on air," Kean-Moorehead said.

Harvey previously has conducted on-air sweepstakes for trips to territory, and Tourism advertising will air on his show from July through Aug. 2.

"It definitely gives us a lot of exposure," Kean-Moorehead said. "He has a very large audience."

For more information about Harvey, or to listen to the show online, visit www.steveharvey.com

Harvey also owns a clothing line and founded the Steve Harvey Foundation, which supports education.

Territory reports increases in visitors

By IAN MORRISON
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — More people visited the territory in March than last year, and overall arrivals between January and March also rose, according to statistics released by the V.I. Bureau of Economic Research this month.

In addition, promotions by the V.I. Department of Tourism led to an increase in air passenger arrivals in the territory between January and March of this year, the bureau reported.

A total of 308,156 people visited the territory in March 2008, compared with 291,706 during that same period in 2007. That marks a gain of 16,450 visitors, or a 5.6 percent increase.

The Bureau of Economic Research tracks and periodically issues data about visitors, air arrivals, and hotel occupancy rates.

Overall, 3.3 percent more people visited the territory between January and March than during that same time in 2007, from 836,299 to 863,672.

At the same time, air passenger arrivals grew by 6.3 percent, from 199,172 to 211,770. The bureau in a written report credited Tourism and its local private partners for the surge in air passenger arrivals.

The bureau also released a number of other figures including:

- Both air and cruise visitor arrivals increased this March compared with March 2007. Air arrivals rose by 2.2 percent, while cruise ship arrivals rose by 6.9 percent.

- The territory's hotel occupancy stayed flat in March 2008, averaging a 76 percent occupancy, which is the same rate as last year.

- Between January and March, 2.3 percent more cruise ship passengers visited the territory than in March 2007, to 651,902 from 637,127.

Cruise

Today-Friday, July 3-4

No ships

Saturday, July 5

Adventure of the Seas (3,840)

Sunday, July 6

Caribbean Princess (3,100)

Monday, July 7

Carnival Destiny (2,534)

Tuesday, July 8

Carnival Glory (2,974)

Carnival Miracle (2,124)

Wednesday, July 9

Carnival Triumph (3,000)

Mariner of the Seas (3,114)

Thursday-Friday, July 10-

No ships



THE EDITOR