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A NEW ERA FOR SANDALS

SEE PAGE TWO AND BUSINESS SECTION

Sex claim over male teacher

Allegations of sexual misconduct

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**
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THE Ministry of Education is yet again investigating one of its male teachers on claims of alleged sexual misconduct with a student. He is the seventh teacher to be accused of sexually inappropriate behaviour since the Ministry established its Sexual Complaints Unit in 2009, specifically to investigate and uncover child abuse. Yesterday, ministry officials released a statement confirming that a probe immediately began into the allegations that involve a male teacher from an Abaco high school. They did not give a date or time of the allegations. The teacher has since been placed on administrative leave as police continue their investigations, the release said. A team of Ministry officials were also dispatched to the

island yesterday morning. While education officials remained tightlipped up to press time, The Tribune has learned that a female student of Haitian descent reported that she and the teacher had engaged in sexual acts. The Tribune has also learned that the student also claims to still have text messages to prove a continuing relationship between them. Since 2009, several cases of alleged sexual misconduct involving public school teachers or support staff with students of various ages have been investigated by the Complaints Unit. Ultimately six men have been tried before the courts. A case in January of this year saw Trinidadian teacher Andre Birbal, 48, found guilty and convicted in the Supreme Court of having unnatural sexual intercourse with two

SEE page 8

TWO DEAD IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



THE BODY of the driver of this red Mitsubishi Mirage is taken away after it hit a tree on Carmichael Road. Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

POLICE are investigating three serious traffic accidents that have left two men dead and two others fighting for their lives in hospital. In the first incident, the driver of a motorcycle collided with a jeep on Cowpen Road around 9.30pm Saturday. He was taken to hospital where he is listed in critical condition.

The second accident occurred on East Street shortly after 1am on Monday. The driver of a grey motorcycle collided with a Honda. He died at the scene. The third accident reportedly occurred shortly after 3am on Monday on Carmichael Road, west of the Southwest Plaza. Police say the driver of a

red Mitsubishi Mirage, occupied by a man and woman, was travelling east on Carmichael Road when the driver lost control and ran into a tree. The driver was seriously injured and died at the scene. The woman was also injured and taken to hospital where at present her condition is unknown.

INSIDE

MISICK ALERT
AN INTERPOL alert has been issued for the arrest of Michael Misick, former Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands as part of a corruption probe. **page 10**

CHRISTIE ON FRAUD CLAIM
PLP leader Perry Christie has hit out at claims over voter fraud in North Andros, saying that the accusations are nothing more than voter intimidation. **page 8**

DNA: ABACO PRIORITY
DNA candidate Roscoe Thompson says projects in Abaco should have been the Government's top priority. **page 5**

BOY, 14, GOES MISSING

POLICE are requesting the public's assisting in locating a missing teen. Deon Green, 14, of Braziletta Street, Pinewood Gardens was last seen around 8pm on Saturday, March 17, at his residence wearing a red T-shirt. Deon is an 8th grade student of C H Reeves Junior High School. He is described as having a slim built, medium brown complexion and stands about 5 feet tall. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Deon is asked to contact police at 919, 322-3333, the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 328-TIPS. Police do not have an available photo of the teen.

WARNING OVER 'PROPAGANDA'
By **CELESTE NIXON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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OPENING the debate on the Freedom of Information Act, Environment Minister Earl Deveaux said while the bill increases the democratic process, he cautioned against the common practice of using the media, in particular social media, to spread propaganda. During his contribution in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr Deveaux singled out websites

SEE page 5

TURNQUEST TO SUE
By **LAMECH JOHNSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

NATIONAL Security Minister Tommy Turnquest followed through on his promise to consider suing a political candidate if he did not retract a slanderous remark reportedly made against him. However, yesterday, PLP candidate for Tall Pines Leslie Miller claimed Mr Turn-

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LOCAL NEWS



THE RENOVATED Sandals complex.

A new dawn at Sandals

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

AFTER a six-month, \$17.5 million renovation, Sandals Royal Bahamian Resorts celebrated the official opening of its Balmoral Tower yesterday.

Damaged in Hurricane Irene, the former Manor Building has come back under a new name and was fully refurbished with “contemporary” rooms, a penthouse fitness centre with ocean views, personal butler service for every room, ground-floor rooms with patios, and sea front rooms with balconies.

On hand for the ceremony was Tourism and Aviation Minister Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, who praised Sandals for being an “enormous contributor” to the tourism industry, offering “high quality experiences” and adding value to the Bahamian brand.

He recalled a time in the Bahamas when all-inclusive

resorts like Sandals were not welcome.

“We had this mistaken belief that somehow people who bought all-inclusives came onto the property, they spent all their money at the property, and then they went back home,” Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said.

“We then did a wonderful piece of research which showed, without question, that the people who come to this particular property, their expenditure outside the property is substantial. In fact, in many cases, is greater than the expenditure of people who go and stay at EP hotels – so there is no question whatsoever that the contribution that this property has made to tourism in the Bahamas has been quite significant.”

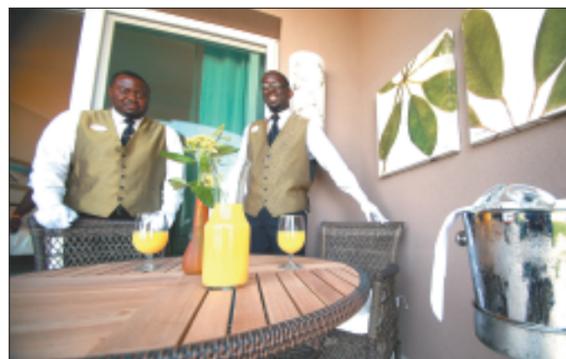
The new Balmoral Tower was inspired by the 1940s Balmoral Club which sat on the original Sandals property and much of the old club still remains.

Speaking on the new renovations, CEO Adam Stewart said the original property gained “so much legacy and history” during its time as the club, but Sandals is “always about modernising”.

“Customers change. You know, they want bigger rooms these days. They want plasma televisions, they want more marble... so you’re always faced with the decision as to whether you demolish everything or whether you



TOURISM MINISTER Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace watches as doves are released at the opening ceremony at the renovated Sandals.



BUTLERS waiting to serve visitors to the new Sandals complex, which was reopened yesterday with a grand ceremony.



can renovate it and make it work,” he said.

“This building has so much history to it that it literally shouldn’t be allowed to be demolished. It’s an heirloom of the Bahamas.”

Sandals welcomed the first guest of the Balmoral Tower on March 1 and chairman, Gordon “Butch” Stewart, said the hotel is looking for 40 more employees for hire as a result of the renovations.

Last week, general manager, Patrick Drake, told *Tribune Business* the resort is recording strong occupancies for the month, with all the available floors on the Balmoral Tower full.

• For more, see Business section.



A STAFF MEMBER pours a cocktail for a visitor.



A MARCHING BAND on the dock, as Sandals and its staff looked at their sharpest for the reopening. Photos: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff



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LOCAL NEWS

MP STRESSES NEED TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

By **SANCHESKA BROWN**
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

MEMBER of Parliament for West End and Bimini Obie Wilchcombe yesterday stressed the need for legislation to protect "the rights and liberties" of journalists.

Mr Wilchcombe's comments came as the House of Assembly debated the Freedom of Information Bill for a second time.

As a former journalist, Mr Wilchcombe said he understands the need to protect the fourth estate and afford journalists the

opportunity to carry out their jobs without fear of prosecution.

He said: "I also hope we put some legislation in there that protects journalists. Suppose the journalist obtains information, as I did on one occasion, and after I got the information I decided to use it on my talk show and then I was subjected to the Coroner's Court and eventually had to spend some time in jail."

"The truth is, how do we protect the journalist when they obtain information? The whistleblower is protected, you protect the whistleblower but what about the journalist?"

"The whistleblower could provide information but suppose that information is not given because the journalist goes to the court house. Then when you go to the court house, if they don't give the information, are they subjected to the seven days that you can receive for contempt?"

"They have to be protected too. Journalists are going to use the legislation more than anyone else."

Mr Wilchcombe was arrested in 2000 and charged with contempt of court after refusing to reveal a source in Corner's Court. He was

sentenced to four days in jail.

He said: "We do not help the journalists as we should. They are badly treated, used and abused and still not given what they ought to have. Mr Speaker, what about the journalists right in this place?"

"I am still of the view that we have not provided them with a facility for them to do their jobs in a professional way. There is something wrong with that, but yet we want them to cover us and yet we want them to be fair to us and give us the coverage that we require to get our information out," he said.



OBIE WILCHCOMBE MP

'Questions unanswered over information Bill'

By **PACO NUNEZ**
Tribune News Editor

THE revised version of the Freedom of Information Bill leaves many questions still unanswered, opposition MP Ryan Pinder said.

Speaking during the second House of Assembly debate on the Bill following amendments by the Senate, Mr Pinder said lawmakers must ensure the legislation delivers on its intended purpose once passed.

This Bill aims to facilitate access to information held by the government and its agencies and other designated entities, subject to certain exceptions.

The Elizabeth MP questioned a number of the Bill's components, among them the "public interest" exemption.

He said: "What is in the public interest is not defined in the legislation, but is to be defined by the minister in the regulations."

"In my opinion, the public



RYAN PINDER, who argued that lawmakers must ensure the Freedom of Information Bill must ensure it delivers on its intended purpose.

interest exemption should be defined in the legislation, demonstrating more objectivity.

"By allowing it in the domain of the minister, it allows for politically motivated disclosure and definition of what is in the public interest."

Mr Pinder also said it is important to provide protec-

tion for whistleblowers who inform officials of improprieties.

He said: "This legislation in my opinion does not go far enough in its protections, it just provides for the legal protection for whistleblowers."

"The legislation should set forth penalties and outline the protection mechanisms. This is of particular importance in

a country such as the Bahamas, with a small population, where everyone seems to either be related, or know everyone else. A well defined and structured protection regime is necessarily in the legislation."

The changes made to the Bill by the Senate include:

- the Act will come into force on a date to be appointed by the minister, instead of July 1, 2012.
- only Bahamian citizens and residents will have the right of access.
- the Information Commissioner will now be the Data Protection Commissioner.
- the Official Secrets Act will override the Freedom Of Information Act.

On this last point, Mr Pinder said: "The Official Secrets Act gives a broad prohibition, it implies that government information can only be disclosed to authorised persons or persons where it is in the state's interest to make disclosure to such persons."

"There is a question as to what "official documents" include. What is the scope of information that the Official Secrets Act covers?"

"The FOI Bill 2012 effectively removes information covered by the Official Secrets Act from the ambit of the FOI Bill altogether; does the clause merely preserve the status quo? This reconciliation, or lack thereof, makes it unclear exactly what will and will not be produced under this legislation."

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'IT'S A GRAND BAHAMA GRAND SLAM FOR FNM'

THE Free National Movement is projecting that it will sweep the island of Grand Bahama in the upcoming general elections.

The party claims its campaign message and leadership record will earn victories in all five constituencies on the island.

Highlighting their huge turn-out at the opening of their West Grand Bahama and Bimini office over the weekend, FNM strategists and campaign organisers said they fully expect to "shut out" the PLP and the DNA.

"The only area where we saw any real concern was in High Rock about two weeks ago because of some internal issues there."

"Some people were not pleased with how (former Minister of Housing) Kenneth Russell may have been handled but Maurice Moore (a former member of parliament

for the area) has brought calm to that situation," one strategist explained on condition of anonymity.

Kenneth Russell was asked to resign by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham last year, after being accused of discussing confidential matters outside the Cabinet.

The FNM strategist said the governing party has also benefited from the poor campaign run by the opposition.

"The PLP has not caught up with any new style of campaigning. They are utilising their old style of personal attacks and this fire-extinguisher incident is only the latest of a long list of examples."

He was referring to the alleged attack on a FNM motorcade by PLP supporters, in which a number of people were sprayed in the face with a fire extinguisher.

"And I want the public to

take notice, not one leader in the PLP, either the deputy, Philip 'Brave' Davis, or the actual leader Perry Christie, have come out to condemn these actions.

"They are by inference condoning it with their silence. It should be condemned in the strongest terms, and yet there is silence."

"But we will remain on message, like we always have, and continue to do what is in the best interest of all Bahamians," he said.

With the FNM now representing all but one seat in Grand Bahama (West End and Bimini), the party insider added that they are seeking to correct this "oversight" this election cycle.

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PM Ingraham and his biting sarcasm

THERE WAS excitement in Grand Bahama when in a jocular remark — which translated meant that the PLP's election promises will happen "when chickens grow teeth!" — Prime Minister Ingraham remarked: "Down in West End Mr Sammons is coming back and so is Jack Tar!"

The tongue-in-cheek remark was made in answer to all the promises that the PLP were making about what they would do if they won the 2012 election. What Mr Ingraham was in fact telling the large crowd at the opening of the Russell Town, Eight Mile Rock constituency office on Saturday was that if they believe the PLP's promises then they will also believe that Mr Sammons — the one-time saviour of West End — and his Jack Tar hotel were also returning. If this were true it would be a jubilant day for West Enders for whom Mr C A Sammons and his hotel were their sole support, until the PLP government and the unions arrived and upset the happy relationship. Things went sour. Mr Sammons, at that time 84 years old and in failing health, closed his hotel and left. Overnight 400 Bahamians were without employment. At the time PLP West End MP Moses Hall criticised Mr Sammons for such an unkind act. In typical addled PLP logic, Mr Hall thought that — no matter how unfairly his government had treated the Sammons group — Jack Tar would continue to operate "in the interest of the Bahamian people".

At the time, we asked Mr Hall how many of his "all for me baby" political colleagues — and even he himself — would have dug deep into their pockets "in the interest of the Bahamian people."

The question was never answered. But we know the answer. Not one of them felt that deeply for their own people — so why should Mr Sammons, a generous foreigner, spurned and mistreated by the Pindling government and the unions, be held to a higher standard of duty to Bahamians?

However, Mr Pindling was so sure of himself in the 1990s that the future of the Jack Tar Hotel became an important issue in the Marco City by-election. He promised that if his man won that election the Jack Tar Hotel would reopen. His man won, but Jack Tar remained closed. It was looking for a buyer. Chaos followed, and West End has never been the same since.

When Jack Tar closed, Mr Hall and the self-styled PLP mayor of West End, businessman Artis Neely, who led the attack on the Jack Tar enterprise, were jubilant.

"The best thing that ever happened," chortled Mr Hall. "We have outgrown Jack Tar. Jack Tar is irrelevant to us."

As for the equally short-sighted Mr

Neely, he believed that the closure of the hotel "represents an opening of a new era of prosperity in the West End." He welcomed the closure. He believed that it meant full occupancy for his guest house, and prosperity for his restaurant. No such thing happened. His pockets quickly felt the pinch. A year later, both he and Mr Hall were singing the blues.

Not only did the closure affect the residents of West End, but it had an adverse effect on the whole of Grand Bahama. West Enders had full employment, but so did the Grand Bahamians who commuted the 44 miles to work at the hotel.

"We have gone back in time," an unemployed young man told The Tribune in June 1991. "Things used to be tough, but now that the Jack Tar is closed things have gotten tougher, I mean real tough. When Jack Tar was open we were sure of work. They used to be the backbone of this settlement."

When a group of young people was asked to comment on their MP's comment about the closure being the best thing for West End, one of them spoke for them all: "Nobody should be happy that Jack Tar closed," he said. "Jack Tar never treated the people bad. I remember when the West End people used to have steak on their table. That's when Jack Tar was open."

In 11 years in West End, the hotel had lost \$27 million. It was being squeezed by the union, not allowed their essential immigration permits, and even denied the usual rebates under the Hotel Encouragement Act.

The irony of the situation at that time was that while a reputable and most desirable investor was being pressured out, shady investors seemed to have special protection. Joe Lehder, for example, at the time the uncrowned king of Norman's Cay, could boast that he had paid his dues and was now a member of the club. And Hawks Nest had an unusually long and successful run — again like the Lehder case — only American pressure broke up that drug nest.

And so we would suggest that if PLP leader Perry Christie is — as he claimed last week — the "bridge" between Sir Lynden and "the new generation of PLP leaders," he is inviting Bahamians to cross a very shaky bridge.

Based on past experience and the many unfulfilled promises during the PLP's five-year administration, we would bet on chickens growing teeth before we would put any faith in any of the PLP's election promises.

DNA needs to hold GB rallies

EDITOR, The Tribune.

BOTH major political parties, the Free National Movement (FNM) and the official Opposition Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), are in full election mode as they canvass throughout the commonwealth of the Bahamas seeking to convince the Bahamian electorate to support their 38 candidates.

To date, many of the constituency offices of both parties have been officially opened. In fact, on Saturday, March 10, the constituency office of PLP candidates Gregory Moss (Marco City) and Tanisha Tynes (East Grand Bahama) was opened in Freeport, Grand Bahama. The rallies of both parties are drawing massive crowds. This is seen by some political analysts as an indication that the general election will be a close contest.

So far, the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has opened some constituency offices. The party has also held a series of "street meetings" throughout New Providence and Abaco. According to the March 8 edition of The Freeport News, the new opposition party held a street meeting in Central and South Abaco in early March for its standard bearer for that area, Roscoe Thompson III.

According to the report, about 500 residents attended the event. Considering the population size of Abaco, that was a modest showing.

To the best of my finite knowledge, I don't believe that the DNA has held a rally in Grand Bahama. If they have, then obviously the party's public relations machine is doing a poor job of disseminating the message of the party.

Moreover, I cannot say with certainty if any of its five candidates for Grand Bahama have opened a constituency office. I stand to be corrected, but I understand that the DNA has an office in the Millennium House in Freeport. If none of the candidates on

Absolutely no apology necessary

EDITOR, The Tribune.

MINISTER Tommy Turnquest wants an apology from an Australian journalist. His Australian documentary, now showing on YouTube, presents the Bahamas as a country "under siege by crime and

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Grand Bahama has yet to open a campaign office, then this is perhaps an indication that the coffers of the party aren't that deep after all.

There were rumours circulating through the press in mid-2011 that DNA Leader and Bamboo Town Member of Parliament Branville McCartney was being financed by some very wealthy white knights who had defected from the FNM. It was rumoured that these powerful benefactors were deeply dissatisfied with the way the governing FNM was being run.

But it now seems as if these rumours were just that — rumours. I seriously doubt if the party has the kind of financial resources that the FNM and the PLP have to run an effective campaign.

We should not kid ourselves, it takes millions of dollars to win general elections in The Bahamas. Bahamians would be hard-pressed to cast their ballots for candidates they perceive to be broke. Why should I vote for a man who is in the same financial predicament I am in?

The DNA started out with a big bang in Grand Bahama last year as it introduced some of its candidates at the Grand Lucayan Resort, but it appears as if the party has lost significant momentum in recent times. To its credit, though, the party launched its Unemployment Registration and Food Assistance Drive in Grand Bahama in early March.

For what it's worth, I see this as a shrewd political strategy to endear itself to the reported 11,000-plus unemployed Grand Bahamians who are struggling to make ends meet.

As the adage goes, the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Nevertheless, I seriously doubt if this will be enough to give the fledgling

violence".

Mr Turnquest wants an apology? Excuse me, but is Mr Turnquest living in a bubble? Do the politicians care to know what is really going on?

Recently at home, I was robbed of everything of value I have ever owned, and then two weeks later, another break-in, but this time at 3 am with a gun held to my head.

In recounting this to others, nine times out of ten, I am told of similar occurrences. One friend, raped and robbed at gunpoint, at 3 am — on Cable Beach; she was then dragged in a choke-hold with a gun to her head, right along West Bay Street in a search for money in her car. Another relayed a situation where employers at a small company were advised that a young man who'd been working there for a month — wasn't coming back as he didn't need to work now. He'd been working only for a short while just to save the money to buy a gun.

Another friend's husband, followed from the bank at

new party even one seat in Grand Bahama. Right now it appears as if the only relevant contenders are the FNM and the PLP. The DNA appears to be inconsequential in Grand Bahama.

I think that the time has now come for Branville McCartney and his five candidates for Grand Bahama to start holding rallies on the island like the two major political parties.

While the party continues to hold rallies or street meetings in New Providence, nothing, to the best of my knowledge, has been held on Grand Bahama. I would like to hear his five candidates outline their plans for the island on a podium before an audience. I would also like to see how many people the party would be able to draw to its political events.

I would like to see if the DNA can go head to head with the FNM and the PLP in terms of attracting massive crowds to its rallies. I think a rally would tell us once and for all if the DNA is the real deal or if it is just hype.

Appearing in the printed media to complain about oil drilling in the Bahamas; or appearing in TV and radio commercials telling Bahamians to raise a finger in support of their party will not cut the mustard. Also, I don't think going from door-to-door on the campaign trail will be of much help. The DNA needs to get its message across to the Grand Bahamian electorate by holding rallies.

If the DNA thinks that it can win in Grand Bahama without holding any rallies, then it is woefully ignorant of Bahamian politics. When one considers how deeply polarised The Bahamas has become, no political party can afford to take Grand Bahama for granted. To not hold rallies in Grand Bahama would be politically counterproductive for the DNA.

KEVIN EVANS

Freeport, Grand Bahama,
March 11, 2012.

1:30 in the afternoon, held at gunpoint when he stopped his car which was overheating. This was on the new highway going north to Saunders Beach.

Every time I turn around, I hear more and more. The client of mine who won't go out to drop the garbage after dark; she keeps it till the next day. Another who told me that there had been four robberies on her street the previous week. It goes on and on this journalist is telling it like it is. It is bad. These politicians are in denial; the country is in a crisis and laws need to be brought in now to get these morally unacceptable individuals and their guns off the streets.

The murderers, rapists and gun toting punks must be held without bail, and incarcerated where they can't terrorise law-abiding Bahamians who are afraid to live their lives, becoming prisoners in their own homes.

TRUTH MUST BE TOLD
Nassau,
March 19, 2012.

Governor at PLP rally

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I SEE that former Governor General Arthur Hanna attended a recent PLP rally in North Andros. To my recollection, no former Bahamian Governor General has attended a partisan political event such as a rally after demitting office. This includes Sir Milo Butler, Sir Henry Taylor, Sir Clifford Darling, Dame Ivy Dumont and Sir Orville Turnquest.

The Governor General is a symbol of unity and is above partisan politics. Former Governors General should acquit themselves with the decorum befitting their for-

mer office. Mr. Hanna's attendance at the PLP rally was clearly inappropriate.

It was also inappropriate of the PLP to have Mr. Hanna attend the rally. This showed a lack of respect by the PLP and the Leader of the Opposition for the Office of Governor General and the long-held custom of former Governors General not engaging in partisan political activity.

The PLP seems so desperate to win at any costs that they are willing to disrespect the Office of Governor General.

DISAPPOINTED

Nassau,
March 7, 2012.

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WARNING OVER SPREADING OF 'PROPAGANDA' ON SOCIAL MEDIA

from page one

such as Bahamasuncensored and Bahamas Press, claiming that those and other similar sites lack journalistic decency.

He said: "The outright attempts at character and political assassination, which have come to be commonplace in our political discourse, are a danger to our way of life."

Mr Deveaux said his own personal experience illustrates the importance of nurturing a "culture of decency in journalism."

"I can cite many examples, but the efforts by some aspiring candidates seeking fame and their friends broadcast and social media who seek to destroy my character, hard earned reputation, and that of my wife stand out in my

mind as individuals who will not use self imposed standards of ethics, decency or truth to deter them from gaining their political end or serving their paymasters.

"They will live to regret their behaviour," he said.

Mr Deveaux said the act seeks to reinforce and give further effect to the fundamental principles underlying the system of a Constitution-

al Democracy, including increasing governmental accountability, transparency and public participation in national decisions.

This is accomplished, he said by granting the public access to records held by public authorities, subject to various exemptions. Exemptions will be used to ensure public accountability while maintaining essential confidentiality in necessary or

sensitive matters involving the government.

Mr Deveaux added that the act provides an opportunity for the general public to gain insight into how the government functions and how money is spent.

"This freedom of information law has the potential to dispel fears about secret deals, cronyism, personal favours preferential contracts, and

other perversions of the public interest for private gain," he said.

While urging journalists and civic leaders to use the Freedom of Information Act properly, Mr Deveaux said he also encourages civil servants and ministers to be open with the public, as they have a right to know what is being done on their behalf by their representatives.



HEAD-TO-HEAD in the House of Assembly, Earl Deveaux and Fred Mitchell exchange arguments over the Freedom of Information Act and personal attacks received by MPs. Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

Mitchell: 'MPs should not be too sensitive' over personal attacks

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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PERSONAL attacks are part of public life and MPs should not be too sensitive, Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell said.

Responding to Marathon MP Earl Deveaux's contribution to the debate on the Freedom of Information Act yesterday, Mr Mitchell said that having been in public life for 20 years, he has been subjected to all manner of "vile, vicious, political attacks", and takes the criticism as part of the job - choosing not to "whine" about it.

He said: "I have always taken it to be that you are in the

public domain, and I don't whine about being attacked publicly. I have a voice and in a democracy I simply use all the voices I have to defend myself.

"It is in my view an occupational hazard of being a public figure in the Bahamas or any other western country."

While supporting the Bill as an effort to deepen the country's democracy, Mr Deveaux lamented the use of the media to spread propaganda and publicly attack government officials and in some cases their relatives.

He said: "The outright attempts at character and political assassination, which have come to be commonplace in our political dis-

course, are a danger to our way of life."

But Mr Mitchell pointed out that the media is not the only place where personal attacks are launched.

He said it is hard to remain civil in Parliament while the Free National Movement is engaged in the "nastiest campaign in our political history".

He said: "They make allegations of fraud, vote buying and violence, all of which I am satisfied they know to be nonsense, but doing so for purely political reasons and then expect us to come here and be civil in the House of Assembly."

Mr Mitchell said he supports a Freedom of Information Act but urged the

government to follow through and enforce the legislation.

"I hear what you say about the philosophy of the freedom of information, but if you talk the talk, you need to walk the walk," he said.

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DNA HITS OUT OVER FNM PRIORITIES FOR ABACO

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE Democratic National Alliance's Central and South Abaco candidate Roscoe Thompson says Abaco's latest infrastructural projects should have been the Government's top priority for the island during their term in office.

The statement by the Abaconian followed after Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and his Cabinet Ministers boasted at the FNM rally on Thursday of the nearly completed \$27 million airport terminal, the proposal of a new hospital and a completed administration complex for all government offices in a single location.

Speaking on the terminal and hospital developments yesterday afternoon, Mr Thompson said: "My understanding is, in priorities, it comes first.

"The airport and your hospital are your first two because with them you're allowed development and growth. Without them, you're not going to get investors to come in. The government complex could've waited a couple years."

Mr Thompson contends that there was a less costly alternative for the government to constructing a multi-million dollar complex.

"They could've gone and purchased Dove plaza and Memorial Plaza for \$5 million and saved the Bahamian people \$22 million. Why are we not stopping and thinking of

what we are doing? We're just borrowing and borrowing and borrowing."

The DNA candidate admitted that the new airport terminal is a "good thing," but said there was not sufficient planning into its location on the existing grounds.

"I think they have to take another look at it because it is so close to the car mat. Why wasn't it put further back you know, for expansion in years to come?"

Mr Thompson was not the only resident who felt the two major projects should've been top priority. A souvenir shop owner who wished to remain anonymous said both were promised nearly two decades ago but still appreciates that it's underway.

"I'm all for it," she said. "They've been promising Abaco people that airport terminal now since I moved here in the 1990's and its finally coming around."

"As regards to that new hospital, Abaco definitely needs it because we have quite a few li'l government clinics and stuff, but they are not enough."

Byron Ginton, director of reservations and leisure sales at the Abaco Beach resort, welcomes the new developments with open arms and said they were a necessity for a boost in business and comforts for tourists and locals.

He said the new terminal is a "vast improvement" considering "the number of visitors that come to the island compared to other islands.

Having an airport that have visitors outside after checking in, in all sorts of weather, this new one, it's a vast improvement.

"Travel should be an enjoyable experience and the airport is really a living room to your country. So if you make your living room extremely welcoming and nice, you're going to be looking at overall, a very satisfied guest experience."

Regarding the hospital, he says it's welcome news to locals, visitors and second home owners who have complaints and fears that there is no hospital to treat them if they fall ill or cannot afford the cost to travel to Nassau.

"To hear the news from Dr Hubert Minnis that they're going to have a medical functioning hospital is welcome news."

"All of that is going to be strong for the local economy and it's going to give people a lot more confidence."

Mr Ginton says the business at the resort has improved in the past year and "revenue has definitely improved compared to last year and the rest of the year is looking extremely positive".

The resort is looking forward to rewards from major fishing tournaments scheduled in weeks to come and other group conventions booked to be hosted at the resort.

"The group business was not as good as it was last year, but we are showing good signs."

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LOCAL NEWS

Christie says voter fraud claims are just intimidation

By PACO NUNEZ
Tribune News Editor

THE claims of voter fraud in North Andros are nothing more than an attempt to intimidate voters, opposition leader Perry Christie said last night.

Addressing the crowd at the opening of the PLP's Fox Hill constituency office, Mr Christie said it is one thing when the FNM attacks opposition MPs, but another thing entirely when civilians are the target.

"And make no mistake about it - that's what these cooked-up allegations of voter fraud are all about: (Prime Minister) Hubert Ingraham is trying to intimidate voters in North Andros and voters everywhere," he said.

Mr Christie said that for years, Mr Ingraham's detractors have accused him of acting like a dictator.

"This voter fraud story is more of the same - Hubert Ingraham sending a message that he's going to intimidate Bahamians who don't support him," he said.

Mr Christie said the PLP is "working carefully" to make sure all voters are registered in the right place under the new rules.

"If there is any confusion on the part of voters, as they adjust to new rules, it will be sorted out, and it's hardly worthy of screaming and shouting from the Prime Minister, unless the Prime Minister is, as always, seeking to distract from his record of failure," he said.

Hearings in North Andros are already underway following claims by the FNM candidate, Minister of Education



FRED MITCHELL at the opening of the Fox Hill constituency office for the PLP last night, where the leader of the Opposition, Perry Christie, hit back over claims of voter fraud in North Andros. Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

Desmond Bannister, that PLP operatives have been flying voters in from other islands to register in the constituency. The governing party has

produced two lists of voters they want local authorities and election officials to investigate. The FNM is said to have in

its possession sworn statements from some of these individuals, confirming they were flown into the island by PLP agents.

MAN BAILED OVER FRAUD ALLEGATION

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A FOX Hill man is on bail after he pleaded not guilty to using a popular restaurant's account to defraud a local bank of more than \$5,000 last December.

Shervaughn Watson, 35, of Springfield Road, was granted the bond yesterday morning when the prosecution offered no objection, revealing the accused had no previous brushes with the law.

It is claimed that on December 9, 2011, Watson used counterfeit cheques drawn on the account of Senior Frog's to obtain money from four branches of Scotia Bank Bahamas Limited: Malborough Road, Wulff Road-Jerome Avenue, East Bay Street and the main branch on Rawson's Square.

He allegedly obtained a combined \$5,187.33 from the four locations. The accused denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty.

The matter was adjourned for trial to May 4. Magistrate Guillimina of Court 10, Nassau Street is presiding over the case.

CHARGED OVER DECADE-OLD CRIME

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A MAN from the nation's second city was arraigned in Magistrates Court yesterday in connection fraud crimes committed a decade ago.

Leroy Bowe, 42, of Freeport, Grand Bahama, appeared before Magistrate Guillimina Archer in Court 10, Nassau Street facing four charges of fraud by false pretences.

It is claimed Bowe used a fake name, Leroy Glenn Miller, to obtain four government issued documents between March and August 2002. On March 28 of that year, he allegedly obtained a National Insurance card using the fake name, and obtained a voters card on April 3.

In July, he obtained a Bahamian passport before getting a drivers licence on August 28, it is alleged.

The Drum Fish Drive resident denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty. He was granted \$10,000 bail after the prosecution offered no objection, and was ordered to return to court for trial on October 29.

TURNQUEST TO SUE OVER 'SLANDEROUS REMARK'

from page one

quest initiated "this war" with personal attacks on a number of PLPs, creating a "cause and effect" situation.

Responding to news of the suit, Mr Miller said: "He has a right to do what he wants. However, Tommy started this war first with his attacks on a number of people during the rallies."

The MP for Mount Mor-

ah claims damages caused by "slander and/or falsehood published", according to the Supreme Court's civil registry cause list.

The former MP for Blue Hills contends that this is not so. He says it's a normal thing during the election season for candidates to hit out at the other with jokes, but says Turnquest started it and took it to another level, "creating cause and effect."

"If you attack me, I will counter attack but I never initiated any attack. I never called his wife's name. I never called anyone's name."

"Tommy Turnquest, he initiated these attacks from the FNM's very first rally in Tall Pines. Afterwards he called me out by name again at another FNM rally."

Mr Miller says he was not the only PLP to come under attack from the national secu-

urity minister.

"He also made crude remarks about the lawyer Keith Bell, a good man of good reputation and character who has kids."

Mr Miller said the PLP do not initiate attacks on its opposition, instead they "focus on the issues."

The former MP concluded that there are persons in the Bahamas who hold themselves equal to their country-

men and others who believe themselves to be superior.

"Mr Turnquest feels he is better than everybody else where he can attack and make jokes about people and there are no repercussions."

He said he has no problems with Turnquest taking the matter to court as it was his constitutional right to do so.

However, he said that the plaintiff "should consider not attacking others first."

SEX CLAIM OVER MALE TEACHER

from page one

of his former students at the Eight Mile Rock High School in Grand Bahama.

Former Governor's Harbour High School, Eleuthera teacher Orville Clarke, 37, was remanded to Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre in 2010 after he was accused of

assaulting several female students months before his arraignment.

During that same year, two teachers in Freeport were placed on leave pending the findings of an investigation into student-teacher sex allegations.

Also in 2010, Oswald Poitier, a volunteer music teacher

at the North Andros High School was told that he would stand trial for allegedly having sex with two female students.

In 2009, 55-year-old John Ingraham, a former Jack Hayward High School teacher was charged in the Magistrate's court with having sex with a 12-year-old girl.

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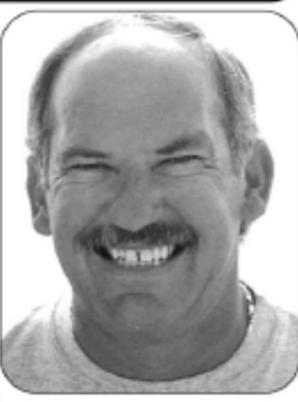
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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

LARRY LLOYD IDOL age 63 years a resident of Freeport, Bahamas passed away on the 19th day of March, 2012 after a courageous battle with cancer.



Larry was born in Middlesboro, Kentucky on the 21st December, 1948 to Lloyd and Jewell Idol. Larry graduated in 1966 from Middlesboro High School. While in school he enjoyed playing several different sports, but his passion for football exceeded all the rest. He was proud of the fact that while playing in his senior year as defensive captain he led his team to the Kentucky State Football Championship game where he and his team became a member of the Hall of Fame. Larry attended the University of Kentucky Community College in Cumberland, Kentucky. He was a member of the East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church. In 1968, with the Vietnam War raging, Larry felt compelled to put college aside and join the US Army and spent his three years of service as an intelligence agent for the US Army Intelligence Command in Baltimore, Maryland. Upon his discharge from the Army, Larry moved to and spent several years in Florida where he had family and a promising job in concrete production. This became his trade for the next 37 years and through his accomplishments he was able to manage projects across both coasts of South Florida as well as the US Virgin Islands and the Lesser Antilles. In 1998, Larry arrived in Freeport to become the concrete manager for Island Construction, where he worked until his retirement in 2008. It was during his first few weeks on the island that he met Donna, and after four years they were married. Larry enjoyed boating, fishing, hunting, hiking and especially traveling to foreign lands with Donna to enjoy new adventures.

Larry was predeceased by his father: Lloyd Idol; his grandparents: Lloyd and May Idol and Robert Ayers and Frances Ely.

He is survived by his wife: Donna Marie Idol of Freeport; his mother: Jewell Idol of Middlesboro, Kentucky; his daughter: Jennifer (Bruno) Ramos of Hickory, North Carolina; stepsons: Adam (Laura) Long, Aron (Kristi) Long of Freeport, Bahamas; sisters: Charlotte (James "Pepper") Medley of Fort Myers, Florida, Linda (Jay) Turner, Helen (Steve) Hendrickson, of Middlesboro, Kentucky; seven grandchildren and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to BASRA and the Ride For Hope.

Memorial Service will be held at The Pro-Cathedral of Christ the King, East Atlantic Drive & Pioneers Way, Freeport, Bahamas on Wednesday, the 21st day of March, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

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Applications in writing with details of education and experience should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box N-1682, Nassau, Bahamas not later than March 30, 2012.

LOCAL NEWS

Grand Bahamians urged to save energy and save money

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Bahamian consumers could substantially lower their electricity bills on Grand Bahama by implementing the right energy solution technology in their homes and businesses.

At a town meeting hosted by Power Plus Bahamas, a group of energy technology experts from the US shared the latest in solar and other energy saving technology

and products that can reduce energy consumption by as much as 80 per cent. The high cost of electricity has been a major issue for residents and businesses on the island.

The fuel surcharge is based on the world market movements in the price of oil, which could be very costly.

Community activist Troy Garvey said Power Plus Bahamas, has partnered with Power Plus Electric, Gen Pro, and Net Zero out of the United States to bring energy saving solutions to Grand Bahama consumers.

Jeremy Anderson, CEO of Power Plus Electric; Mr Dwight Patterson, CEO of GENPRO Energy Solutions; and Anthony Cannon of Net Zero Development Group were in Grand Bahama on Thursday. Mr Anderson said an assessment must be conducted in order to determine the right energy solution for the consumer.

According to some assessments conducted in Grand

Bahama, he noted that consumers can save as much as 80 per cent on their power bills.

“We want to help the average residential and commercial consumer to live and conduct business without struggling to pay their power bill,” he said.

“We go in and assess the situation and help Power Plus Bahamas use the right technology by finding out where the power is going, how much consumers are spending, and find areas where we can eliminate or drastically cut back their energy

consumption,” he said.

Mr Anderson said Bahamians should consider using solar technology, energy efficient lighting and installing proper insulation in their homes and buildings.

Dwight Patterson, CEO of Gen Pro, said his company manufactures renewable energy products and distribute renewable energy systems to companies throughout the Caribbean and Bahamas.

He said that there is lighting technology that can reduce a consumer’s power

bill up to 70 per cent.

“There are also pool pump technology and other cooling technology which does not use utility and allows consumers to replace existing AC or pool pumps,” Patterson said.

He noted that anytime oil is used as the primary producer of electricity, the cost of electricity will always fluctuate based on the cost of a barrel of oil.

“If you can produce your own energy in any format you have control of your own energy cost,” he said.



AGILITY COMPETITORS Pete Drake and Sundance, Bonnie MacDonald and Katie, Richard Curry and Ari, Scott Werner and Sasha, Tara Lavallee and Kai, Glen Koepp and Sly, Shey-la Gutierrez and Fanta, and Heidi Rivera and Hendrix.



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS' miniature pinscher “Shorelines Luva Boy” took the Bahamas Kennel Club Dog Show by storm, taking Best In Show on Saturday and Sunday. Photo: David Knowles

ARTS SOCIETY OFFERS STUDENTS CHANCE

FREEPORT – THE Grand Bahama Performing Arts Society has announced the return of its scholarship competition for high school students.

On April 21, two lucky students will win an all-expenses-paid trip to French Woods Summer Camp for the Performing Arts in upstate New York.

The competition is open to all high school students who will be between the ages of 13 and 17 on August 2012.

An informational meeting will take place on Thursday, March 22, at the Wallace Groves Auditorium, Mary Star of the Sea School, at 7pm.

All interested students and their parents are encouraged to attend to find out more about the camp, the application process and the competition.

GBPAS committee members and last year’s competition winners will be on hand to answer questions after a short presentation.

The application deadline is Friday, March 30.

Applications can be obtained by e-mailing the GBPAS at gbperform@gmail.com, or from music, dance or drama teachers.

To be eligible, students must be citizens or residents who have lived on Grand Bahama for at least four years.

POOCHES ON PARADE AT SHOW

THE Bahamas Kennel Club held its annual all-breed Obedience and Agility Trials at the Atlantis resort over the weekend.

Although the obedience competition is in its 31st year, this was the first time the club offered agility trials as well.

In addition to support from Atlantis, the show was also sponsored by Purina, which over the past two years had done a great deal to prepare for the addition of the agility component, helping fund seminars, workshops and equipment.

One of the highlights of the

show was a relay between a US agility team, two Bahamian agility teams and one Puerto Rican agility team.

The completion was fierce with all of the teams completing the course in under a minute, but the Puerto Ricans came out on top.

Bahamas Team 1 (Glen Koepp and Tara Lavallee) were fierce competitors, coming second, followed closely by Team USA and Bahamas Team 2.

Next year, the club said, it hopes to have at least eight teams participate in the event.

SPEAKER DEMANDS SMITH APOLOGY

By SANCHESKA BROWN
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HOUSE Speaker Alvin Smith yesterday demanded an apology from Frank Smith, MP for St Thomas More, for his “disorderly behaviour” in the House of Assembly last week.

The Speaker told Mr Smith he could not make a contribution on the Freedom of Information Bill without first apologising to the chamber for his previous actions.

However, Mr Smith told the Speaker he did not “intend anything ill toward the House or the hallowed chamber.” He refused to apologise.

He then tried to continue with his contribution but was interrupted by the Speaker once again who told him he “must apologise to the House and the Parliament.

Mr Smith said: “I stated my intention, but I will apologise because I was instructed to apologise, but I do not feel like I did anything wrong.”

The Speaker did not accept the apology and told the MP that it had to be “unequivocal.”

To that, Mr Smith said: “I apologise, now I shall move on.”

The Speaker was referring to an incident in the House last week when Mr Smith was accused of “assaulting” a fel-

low parliamentarian and “taking democracy to an all time low.”

The incident came when FNM Pineridge MP Kwasi Thompson attempted to read a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) minority report into the record, only to be set upon by Mr Smith, who attempted to shout over Mr Thompson and move his microphone.

As Mr Thompson attempted to read the report, Fort Charlotte MP Alfred Sears and Mr Smith rose to their feet, Mr Sears repeating that he had a point of order to make and Mr Smith pushing away and covering Mr Thompson’s microphone.

Rising on a point of privilege, Mr Smith denied assaulting Mr Thompson, claiming he never touched him.

He said: “For the record, to my recollection I never touched him and if I did it was not my intention.”

But Mr Thompson claims he was touched on two occasions – first when he stood to speak and again when Mr Smith attempted to move and cover his microphone.

Eventually regaining control of the House, the Speaker asked what authority Mr Smith had to move the microphone of another Member of Parliament.

He said the House would move on and would not hear anything else on the matter.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NURSES CHARGED OVER HOSPITAL DEATHS

MURDER charges were filed against two male nurses Sunday and a female nurse was charged with covering up a crime in a case involving more than a dozen deaths at two Uruguayan hospitals, judicial officials said.

The judge overseeing the case said there was no indication the two male nurses were acting together.

Judge Rolando Vomero said after a court hearing that the accused admitted to causing a total of 16 deaths of patients, but added that the investigation continued and the number was not final.

He said most of the apparent victims "were not terminally ill". He said they were injected with overdoses of

morphine or aid to "cause death within minutes".

Vomero said one male nurse who worked at both hospitals admitted being involved in five induced deaths, and the other to 11 deaths in one hospital.

The judge said that from the evidence gathered so far, it "does not appear that there were any connections" between the two nurses "even though they both worked at the same place".

Lawyer Ines Massiotti, representing one of the nurses charged with "especially aggravated murder," told reporters that the judge had ruled the suspects could be held in jail. Massiotti said her client acted "out of pity".

WARRANT ISSUED FOR FORMER TURKS AND CAICOS PREMIER

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks & Caicos Islands
Associated Press

THE GOVERNMENT of the Turks and Caicos Islands says it has obtained a warrant for the arrest of a former premier whom authorities want to question as part of a corruption probe.

A government statement says the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team has been seeking to question Michael Misick for several months. Misick is the focus

of an investigation into allegations of corruption and money laundering during his time in office. Misick's whereabouts are unknown. The government said Monday it had obtained an international warrant through Interpol.

Britain imposed direct rule on the Caribbean territory in August 2009 and suspended the local government after a probe into allegations that local leaders misused public money and profited from the sale of government-owned land.



MICHAEL MISICK, the former Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, who has had an Interpol warrant issued for his arrest.

PRAYERS FOR VICTIMS AMID FEARS OF RACIST SERIAL KILLER



A MAN pays respect front of candles during a march, in Paris, Monday, March 19, 2012, after an assailant opened fire with two handguns Monday in front of a Jewish school in the French city of Toulouse, killing a rabbi, his two young sons and a schoolgirl.

TOULOUSE, France
Associated Press

A GUNMAN on a motorbike opened fire Monday at a Jewish school, killing a rabbi and his two young sons as they waited for a bus, then chased down a 7-year-old girl, shooting her dead at point-blank range. It was the latest in a series of attacks on minorities that have raised fears of a racist killer on the loose.

Authorities said the same weapon, a powerful .45-caliber handgun, was used in two other recent shootings in southwestern France, also involving an assailant who fled by motorbike. Those attacks left three people dead — military paratroopers of North African and Caribbean origin.

The shootings echoed across a nation that has been focused on an upcoming pres-

idential race in which issues about religious minorities and race have gained prominence. President Nicolas Sarkozy — facing a hard re-election battle — raised the terrorism alert level in the region to its highest level, while also noting a possible racist motive.

"This act is despicable, it cannot go unpunished," Sarkozy said in a prime-time address to the nation. "Each time this man acts, he acts to kill, giving his victims no chance."

Monday's attack was as quick and methodical as it was terrifying.

At around 8am, with more than 100 students and other worshippers inside a synagogue adjoining the Ozar Hatorah school, the gunman coolly got off his motor scooter. He opened fire at 30-year-old Jonathan Sandler, a rabbi who taught at the school, and his sons, 4-year-old Gabriel

and 5-year-old Arieh, while they waited for a bus to a Jewish primary school across town.

As the shots rang out, panicked students darted inside the school grounds and the attacker chased them, witnesses said. At one point, he grabbed the principal's 7-year-old daughter, Miriam Monsonego, by her hair, shot her in the head and fled.

Cries of, "There are shots! there are shots!" rang out in the synagogue, recalled a 29-year-old neighbor who gave only his first name, Baroukh. He said some children took refuge in a basement.

Nicole Yardeni, a local Jewish official who saw security video of the attack, described the shooter as "determined, athletic and well-toned". She said he wore a helmet with the visor down.

"You see a man park his motorcycle, start to shoot,

enter the school grounds and chase children to catch one and shoot a bullet into her head," Yardeni said. "It's unbearable to watch and you can't watch anymore after that. He was looking to kill."

Toulouse Prosecutor Michel Valet said a 17-year-old boy was also seriously wounded.

"He shot at everything he had in front of him, children and adults," Valet said. "The children were chased inside the school."

All of the dead were dual Israeli-French citizens, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said. By 8pm, as a dozen police blocked access to the school, cries again echoed from within as community members mourned over the victims' bodies before they were to be flown to Israel for burial.

Authorities immediately increased security at schools and synagogues around the country. The attack revolted

France, where school shootings are extremely rare, and drew strong condemnation from Israel and the United States.

France has suffered bouts of criminal anti-Semitism over the years, often targeting synagogues or Jewish cemeteries. Monday's slayings were the deadliest to target a Jewish site since Palestinian militants shot and killed six people in the popular Jo Goldenberg deli in Paris' Marais district in 1982.

Officials in France have been particularly sensitive toward the Jewish community because of the country's World War II past of abetting Nazi occupiers in deporting Jewish citizens.

Sarkozy and his main challenger, Socialist Francois Hollande, rushed to pay their respects in Toulouse. In Paris, Notre Dame Cathedral hosted a special Mass to honor the dead. Schools across the

country planned a minute of silence in commemoration on Tuesday.

A police official said the same .45-caliber handgun used in Monday's attack was used in the shootings four days earlier that killed two paratroopers and seriously injured a third in nearby Montauban, as well as an attack that killed a paratrooper eight days earlier in Toulouse.

In Monday's attack, the killer also used a .35-caliber gun, firing at least 15 shots at the school, police officials said.

Sarkozy said Monday's shootings and the earlier paratrooper killings appeared to be motivated by racism.

"Of course, by attacking children and a teacher who were Jewish, the anti-Semitic motivation appears obvious," Sarkozy said. "Regarding our soldiers, we can imagine that racism and murderous madness are in this case linked."

CUBAN SPY GRANTED HOME VISIT

A FEDERAL judge in Miami has granted a convicted Cuban spy's request to return home temporarily to visit a brother suffering from lung cancer.

According to Monday's order, Rene Gonzalez must return from Cuba within two weeks of his departure. Gonzalez is on probation after his release from federal prison last fall. The Justice Department argued against the request, arguing in a court filing last week that Gonzalez could get new spying instructions if he met with Cuban intelligence officials.

Gonzalez is one of the so-called "Cuban Five" convicted of spying on Cuban exiles in South Florida and attempting to infiltrate military installations and political campaigns.



US ACTOR Sean Penn pictured in 2010 carrying the belongings of a person displaced by the earthquake as people are relocated from the Petion ville Golf Club to a new camp, Corail-Cesselesse, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

ACTOR HONOURED FOR RESCUE EFFORTS IN HAITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti
Associated Press

ACTOR Sean Penn is being honored by a group of Nobel laureates for his relief work in Haiti following the country's devastating January 2010 earthquake.

Penn is to receive the 2012 Peace Summit Award at the 12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates.

The event will be held in Chicago next month and is expected to draw such lumi-

naries as Poland's Lech Walesa and the Dalai Lama.

Penn arrived shortly after Haiti's quake and established an aid organization now known as J/P Haitian Relief Organisation. The group has provided schools, medical care and housing to thousands of people displaced by the quake.

The actor issued a statement Monday calling the award an "extraordinary honor".

LOCAL NEWS



ANGEL ADDERLEY (left) and Lashaunna Williams of the Maurice E. Moore Primary School perform a British scene about a book, during the E Clement Bethel National Arts Festival's Grand Bahama Adjudications.



FREEPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL students Neijah Darling (left) and Khadijah Rahming perform a drama characterisation about getting their voter's card, during the E. Clement Bethel National Arts Festival's Grand Bahama Adjudications at the Grand Lucayan Resort in Freeport, March 8, 2012. Khadijah got her biggest laugh from the audience when she said she was supporting the PIP - "Party In Power". Photos: Eric Rose/BIS

Meet the stars of tomorrow



ANGEL ADDERLEY (left) and Lashaunna Williams of the Maurice E. Moore Primary School perform a British scene about a book, during the E Clement Bethel National Arts Festival's Grand Bahama Adjudications.



ALEXIS TURNQUEST (LEFT) and T'Ahja Laing, from Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, act out a scene about an older person telling a student about the "old days", during the E. Clement Bethel National Arts Festival's Grand Bahama Adjudications.

Wine OF THE MONTH APRIL

Wine \$26.40 New \$22.44	Wine \$22.00 New \$18.70	Wine \$31.60 New \$26.86	Wine \$34.70 New \$29.50	Wine \$46.40 New \$39.44
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LOCAL NEWS



GETTING into the spirit on Sunday during the parade for the 91st Church of God convention. It was one of two parades on the day, with the Anglican churches also holding their annual Mothering Sunday procession.
 Church of God parade photos: **Felipe Major**
 Anglican churches photos: **Steve Hunt**

Sunday best



STARTING YOUNG, a musician on the Church of God parade.



ONE OF the drummers taking part in the Anglican Mothering Sunday parade.



SOME of the youngsters on the Church of God parade.

If you see this FINE young man today, wish him a very

Happy Birthday

Enjoy Your Day.



ANGLICAN marchers make their way along Bay Street past Parliament.



THREE young drummers on the Anglican parade.



**double
McFish**

