

KEY WEST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Protecting Paradise

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Outreach effort educates Kindergarteners

KEY WEST —

Throughout the year, Key West Police Officers engage in various forms of community outreach.

Among their favorites is visiting local schools to introduce children to officers in uniform.

“It’s so much fun to see the children’s faces when you walk in, and to see their excitement and curiosity,” said Lt. Kathleen Ream. “They are always so interested in what we’re wearing, what’s on our tool belt, what each thing on our belts does.”

This month, Ofc. Manny Menendez dropped by Poinciana Elementary School and ended up talking to over 100 Kindergarten students about what a police officer does.

“Once they got over being shy with me, they were fascinated with my belt and with my gun,” she laughed.

“Officers in uniform can be intimidating and scary to some kids,” Lt. Ream explained. “We want to give them a positive feeling about officers, and to teach them that we are here to help them.”

Lt. Ream noted that classroom visits are usually a child’s first and sometimes only interaction with a police officer.



Above, Officer Manny Menendez visits Poinciana Elementary School’s kindergarten classes this month.

“We talk about many things with the students,” she explained. “We talk about good people, and how sometimes people make bad decisions. And we explain that bad decisions have consequences.”

Officers also cover the typical child safety topics of avoiding strangers and seeking out an officer if they need help.

“We want to familiarize them with officers in uniform so that if they get separated from their parents in the grocery store, or if they are out for a bike ride and they get lost and can’t find their way home, they know if they see an officer, that person is there to help,” Lt. Ream explained.

To have an officer visit your school class-

room, or for other available outreach services,

call Ofc. Steve Torrence at 305-809-1007. □



Officer & Civilian of the Quarter

Above, Quartermaster Ashley Clevenger and Administrative Coordinator Crystal Bravo receive checks from Cypress House Innkeeper Dave Taylor, center, in recognition of being awarded Officer and Civilian of the Quarter, respectively.

Ofc. Clevenger has been with the Key West Police Department since March of 2004, and currently serves as the department’s Quartermaster, where he is responsible for maintaining and troubleshooting the department’s radio communications system.

Crystal Bravo has worked for the KWPD for the past seven years. In that time she has mastered the city’s payroll process, and is responsible for ensuring that supervisors complete evaluations correctly and on time. Also pictured at far left and far right, respectively, are Captain Donie Lee and Chief Bill Mauldin.

Parrotheads donate money to PAL

KEY WEST — As we head into the 2007-08 tourist season, officers representing the Key West Police Athletic League have started peddling KWPD wares at major events around town.

The popular gear is a tourist favorite, and helps raise much-needed money for the local youth PAL program.

Most recently, Ofc. Frank Lalama and others were at the Parrotheads' 16th Annual Meeting of the Minds festival.

"The Parrotheads are always very helpful and supportive of PAL," said Ofc. Lalama, who serves as Vice President of the KWPD program. "For the past four years they have given PAL a generous donation. They gave us \$7,500 this year, and last year they donated \$5,000.

"And that is on top of our tremendous KWPD shirt and hat sales at their events."

Ofc. Lalama was also recently at Fantasy Fest, Goombay and the World Powerboat Races selling KWPD gear.

"The Key West Police Athletic League will use every dollar we raise to help the children of Key West get involved in sports and educational programs," Ofc. Lalama explained.

The PAL program is designed to not only keep children occupied and involved, but to help develop their sense of self.

"Our programs are designed to develop children's skills, discipline, self esteem, trust and respect," Ofc. Lalama said. "That, in turn, creates a positive relationship between the youth, police and the community."

First incorporated in 1910, PAL has a long history of developing bonds between children and police officers. The program relies heavily on education, ath-



Photo courtesy of Frank Lalama

Ofc. Frank Lalama, right, receives a check from the Parrot Heads in Paradise, Inc. for \$5,000 of the \$7,500 total donated this year by the group. Ofc. Lalama accepted the "Party with a Purpose" check at the Meeting of the Minds ceremony at the Casa Marina on November 3, 2007.

letics and recreational activities.

Locally, PAL offers basketball leagues, wrestling, weightlifting programs, amateur boxing and training in the martial art of judo.

In addition, it provides intervention programs and has a computer lab for use by local children.

Aimed at children ages 8-17, the local PAL chapter is a non-profit organization sponsored and

governed by the Key West Police Department for the benefit of the entire community.

PAL is currently looking for participants in its Winter Basketball League, which starts this December 15. Come sign up at the Douglas Gym between

1-8 p.m. or call William Stafford at 305-293-8305 for more information. No experience is needed to participate in this basketball program, which involves a local and state competition as well as Hot Shot tournaments.

Basketball is also part of PAL's biggest annual fundraiser.

"Our big fundraising event is coming up on February 29, when the Bricklayers

play basketball against the World Famous Harlem Ambassadors," Ofc. Lalama noted. "Until then, PAL will continue to raise money at all local street events."

KWPD shirts and hats come in a variety of colors, and make

great holiday gifts for locals and their out-of-town friends and relatives.

In addition, donations to the PAL program are always welcome. If you'd like to support PAL, want to buy a shirt or hat or have questions about any PAL program and want to get your child involved, please contact Ofc. Frank Lalama at 305-809-3826.

Shirts and hats are also available for purchase at the Key West Police Department headquarters at 1604 North Roosevelt Boulevard through the Records window, or at Albertson's grocery store.

PAL is also looking for volunteers to help with its various programs. For more information, visit the city's website at www.keywestcity.com and click on PAL under the Police Department's home page. □





Happy Halloween!

Members of the KWPD got in the festive Halloween spirit again this year. Above, from left, city mail courier Charlie Pons joined Property Technician Angie Rodriguez, Assistant to the Chief Brittany McGaughan-Shirley and Patrol Services Coordinator Charnette Valdez as the Flinstones (Fred, Wilma, and Pebbles Flinstone and Betty Rubble). Left, Coordinator Crystal Bravo as the Queen of Hearts.



Congratulations Megan!

Zachary Greeneleigh Wilcox was born Thursday, November 8, 2007 to proud new mom Property Supervisor Megan Wilcox and her husband Scott. Zachary weighed 6 pounds, 5 1/2 ounces, and both mom and baby are doing well.

Rapist found guilty, sentenced 15 years

KEY WEST — A man arrested for impersonating a police officer and handcuffing and raping a 24-year-old woman last February was issued a 15-year sentence this month in Monroe County Circuit Court by Judge Mark Jones.



Jean Miclisse

Jean Miclisse, 28, was sentenced to 12 years in prison and three subsequent years on sexual offender probation for his actions.

Miclisse was previously found guilty of all charges from the February 5, 2006 incident.

Last year, police were flagged down on North Roosevelt Boulevard by a very distraught woman that night around 2:45 a.m.

The woman was sobbing and repeatedly saying 'Please tell me this isn't happening.'

After the victim calmed down a bit, she told officers an alarming story about being at a downtown dance club with a group of friends when she realized her cell phone was missing.

The victim said Miclisse approached her and said he may have her phone in his car.

The victim went with Miclisse to her car, where she found he did indeed have her cell phone. Miclisse then told the victim he knew her

friends, and pretended to call one of them on the victim's phone. He then told the victim he would drive her back to her hotel room.

During the drive, the victim became scared about where Miclisse was taking her, so she attempted to exit the vehicle. At that time,

Miclisse showed her a badge and said "I'm a police officer and I'm going to have to arrest you now."

Miclisse pulled off the road into a secluded area and handcuffed the victim before forcing her to have sex with him.

After he raped her, Miclisse asked her if she was hungry and drove to Waffle House to get some food.

When he got out of the car and entered the restaurant, the victim ran into the street and flagged down the passing officer.

Police apprehended Miclisse as he was leaving Waffle House. He admitted to having sex with the victim, but changed his story several times to include that it was consensual, and then that she wanted him to handcuff her.

Miclisse was found guilty of sexual battery, false imprisonment and impersonating a law enforcement officer and was sentenced to 15 years on Nov. 20. □