



# Key West POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Detectives have busy, successful month

KEY WEST — The Key West Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit has been working on overdrive this month, quickly solving serious cases and getting some dangerous criminals off the streets.

As mentioned in the story below, detectives arrested Michael Carlisle an hour and a half after he threatened a bank teller in the Overseas Market and made off with thousands of dollars.

In addition to the fast turnaround on that case, detectives have been instrumental in solving several other burglary/robbery cases this month.

The first was a purse snatching in the 600 block of Truman Avenue involving a male and female suspect. The male allegedly pulled a knife on the crowd of onlookers and the suspects fled the scene.

Based on suspect descriptions and other investigative evidence, detectives identified the two suspects and quickly issued warrants for their arrest.

In addition, they worked to notify the public that suspects Anthony Cusimano and Christina Stallings were potentially



Photo by Christie Phillips

The Key West Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit is comprised of, from left, Crime Scene Investigator Don Guevremont, Det. Frank Cohens, Det. Randy Smith, Det. Scott Standerwick, Coordinator Ellie Barker, Det. Mike Malgrat, Det. Lt. David Black, Det. Brenda Sellers, Det. Capt. Scott Smith and Det. Sgt. J.R. Torres.

armed and considered dangerous. Those two suspects are still wanted in Key West for the purse snatching and for the burglary of a boat.

Detectives also quickly solved a house burglary this month in which more than \$7,000 worth of property was stolen.

Lino Sosa was still near the scene of the

crime when detectives found him, and based on suspect descriptions and investigative leads, detectives identified Manuel Casas as his partner in the crime.

Most recently detectives worked with the State Attorney's Office to find enough evidence to charge Gavin Langford with attempted murder

after he allegedly smashed a rock into another man's skull.

They also conducted an operation to address juvenile issues at the city's Skate Park. In that operation, detectives quickly arrested a 19- and 17-year-old for felony criminal mischief, and one 14-year-old for an outstanding sale of

cocaine warrant.

"It has been a busy few weeks for us, but I have a great group of detectives here and they are up to the challenge," said Detective Sergeant J.R. Torres. "The fast turnover on all these cases, and the strong arrests we've made is evidence of that." □

## Bank robber caught within 90 minutes

KEY WEST — An hour and a half after responding to a Keys Federal Credit Union branch on reports of a robbery where a man escaped with thousands of dollars, Key West Detectives had detained Michael Howe Carlisle, 59, for the crime.

Carlisle was subsequently charged with bank robbery after he confessed to detectives.

Detectives originally took Carlisle into custody at the Parrot



Carlisle

Bay construction site where he was working on North Roosevelt Boulevard, across the highway from the bank he allegedly robbed.

The stolen bank money was subsequently recovered in its entirety.

Key West police have a history of solving bank robberies in record time in recent years, which should serve as a warning for would-be criminals.

In April 2006, officers arrested

Timothy Homrighausen less than 20 minutes after he allegedly robbed the Wachovia Bank on Front Street.

Homrighausen was arrested two months before for allegedly robbing the T.I.B. Bank on Whitehead Street. That time, he escaped to Miami, where he was picked up a few weeks later.

Back in 2003, police arrested James Tao Honeter six hours after he allegedly robbed the First State Bank in the Overseas Market shopping center. □

# Special Ops arrest gets widespread publicity

KEY WEST — Key West has become famous for those “only in Key West” stories, the tales of somewhat absurdity that for locals are just everyday occurrences.

So when The Smoking Gun website called about a Special Operations Unit arrest, it came as little surprise that the popular Court TV website known for running mug shots of celebrities and other interesting public documents would want more information on a Key West arrest.

Apparently tipped off by a regular reader, the website called wanting more information about the arrest of Daryl Lee Brooks, who appeared to be tinged with gold in his Monroe County Sheriff’s Office website mugshot.

Special Operations

Detectives arrested Brooks, a.k.a. The Gold Man, this month on an outstanding warrant for selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a church.

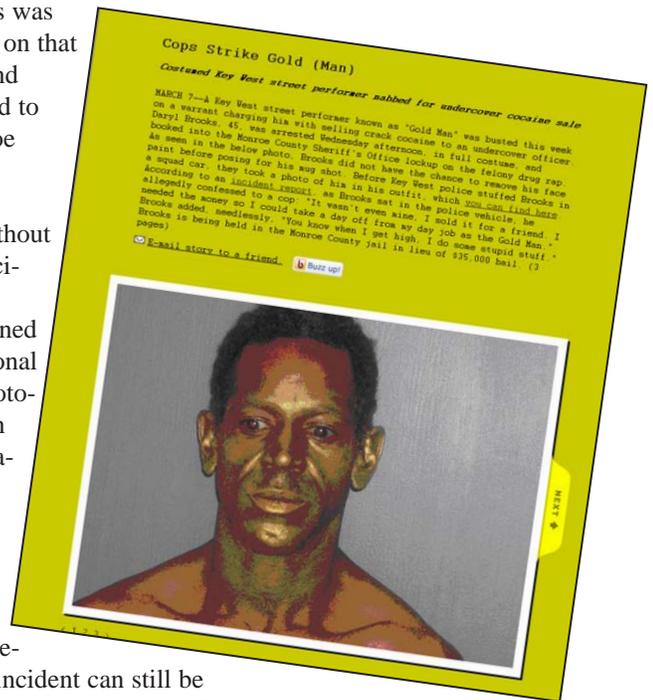
Brooks, 45, is known downtown as the performance artist dressed and painted entirely in gold. He was wanted by Special Ops after he sold undercover detectives crack cocaine during a street-level narcotics operation.

He was not dressed as Gold Man at the time of the drug sale, though he was when he was arrested.

“I needed the money so I could take a day off from my day job as the Gold Man,” Brooks told officers when he was taken into custody. “You know when I get high, I do some stupid stuff.”

Brooks was picked up on that warrant and transported to the Monroe County Detention Center without further incident.

He gained the additional level of notoriety when he was featured on The Smoking Gun this month. Their write-up of the incident can still be found in the site’s archives. □



## PAL basketball star to participate in international event

After an outstanding performance in the USA Junior Nationals all-state high school basketball competition, Keith Valdez has been invited to participate in the USA Junior National International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio, this July.

Valdez is the son of Police Coordinator Charnette Valdez. He has been active in the Key West Police Athletic League’s programs, especially the traveling basketball team, for many years. He is the only Florida Keys representative invited to the international event this summer, and looks forward to representing Key West High School and the local PAL program.

Even though he is only a freshman, Valdez plays on the high school’s varsity team.

According to the organization, “The USA Junior Nationals offers competitions at approximately 42 sites in the spring. Athletes who demonstrate advanced skills, team leadership, competitive spirit and good sportsmanship go on to the next level of play, which is the International Sports Festival in Ohio.” □



## Congratulations Areaka

Training Officer Areaka Jewell and her husband Chip welcomed son Zachary on February 5, 2008. After an initial scare that saw Zachary transported to Miami for extensive testing, he was given a clean bill of health and brought home to Key West. Congratulations Areaka and Chip!



## PAL's Ralph Major attends national wrestling event

Ralph Major, a long time participant in the Police Athletic League and the PAL wrestling club, is headed to the High School Seniors Nationals Wrestling Championships this month.

Major was inspired to join Key West High School's wrestling team after spending years in the PAL program. This is just another example of how the PAL program serves as a feeder program for the high school. Major recently won the state high school wrestling championship and will attend the national competition on March 28, 2008 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Because of this unique opportunity and his longstanding relationship with PAL, the league has donated money to help send Major to the national competition, where he will be seen by scouts from major universities. PAL is proud to be able to help Major continue both his education and wrestling career through opportunities such as this. □

## PAL basketball game a success

The Key West Police Athletic League hosted its annual Harlem Ambassadors/Key West Bricklayers basketball game last month.

The event is a fundraiser for PAL, with all the money raised going to support the children's organization. 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. Locally, PAL offers basketball leagues, wrestling, weightlifting programs, amateur boxing and training in the martial art of judo.

Special thanks to Mike Hentz from the Citizen for sharing his great pictures from the event with us, as seen here. □

