



# Detectives solve 2 attempted murders in June

KEY WEST — Key West Police Department officers and detectives were busy in June solving two back-to-back attempted murder cases.

“It’s unusual to see two serious, violent crimes within the same week here,” said Chief Donie Lee.

“But I have complete confidence in the capabilities of our officers and detectives, and they proved themselves yet again by quickly making arrests in both of these cases and getting two dangerous people off the streets of Key West.”

The first case resulted in the arrest of James Michael Dumas after he allegedly attacked a sleeping man with a machete.

Officers picked up Dumas at a friend’s house in Key Haven on June 3, 14 hours after the alleged incident.

Dumas, 44, admitted to detectives that he hit the victim, Jacob Freeman, with a machete numerous times after the two got in a verbal argument the night before, but claimed it was in self defense.

Key West dispatchers fielded several emergency calls around 11:30 the night before that a man in the 2800 block of Venetian Drive was covered in blood, banging on doors and screaming for help.

When officers arrived on scene moments later, Freeman said that Dumas had attacked him with a machete. Freeman told officers that he had let Dumas sleep at his house that

night, but had kicked him out when he found Dumas had cocaine in his possession.

A short time later he awoke

to Dumas attacking him with the machete. The two struggled and Freeman finally fled the house, with



Dumas

Dumas pursuing him.

Upon police arrival, Dumas fled the scene.

Dumas told detectives that Freeman was the one who threatened him with the machete and he grabbed the weapon from him, then “just snapped.”

Dumas said he jumped in the Riviera Canal when he heard police arriving on scene, and spent most of the night hiding out in the mangroves in the canal.

Freeman sustained life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to Ryder Trauma Center in Miami for care.

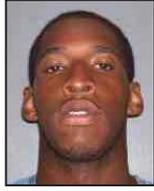
The second case resulted in the arrest of Oscar Leo Edwards on the charge of attempted murder after he allegedly tried to shoot a man after an argument.

The intended victim, Rudolph Manuel, told police that he had gone to Edwards’ house on Sunday morning to confront him over some comments that were made over the weekend. He, Edwards and a female friend left Edwards’ residence in the 300 block of Julia Street and walked towards Thomas Street.

Manuel told Det. Matt Haley

that Edwards said to him “I will put you to sleep right now.”

Manuel said he told Edwards that they would deal with the matter later.



Edwards

As he was walking away, Manuel said he noticed Edwards “creeping up” behind him, and as he reached the intersection of Julia and Thomas Streets, he heard a gun

shot. He looked over his shoulder and saw what he described as gun smoke near Edwards.

Manuel said he then ran from the scene. Another witness confirmed that he saw Edwards fire the gun, and police found the .45 caliber cartridge casing in the 1000 block of Thomas Street.

Edwards admitted to Det. Haley that he fired the gun. □



Property & Evidence Supervisor Megan Wilcox and Lt. David Smith receive plaques recognizing them as the Civilian and Officer of the First Quarter 2008, respectively. Megan started with the department in 1999 as a Property Technician, the division she now runs. Lt. Smith has been with the KWPD since 1989, when he started as a dispatcher. Lt. Smith has worked as a patrol and bike officer and Street Crimes Detective. He now heads up the department’s Professional Standards Division. Also pictured are Interim Police Chief Donie Lee, left, and Rick’s Entertainment Complex owner Commissioner Mark Rossi, who donated the money for the First Quarter 2008 recipients, at right.

# Department targets underage drinking

KEY WEST — Key West Police Department Chief Donie Lee announced in July the department's new goal of reducing the amount of underage drinking that occurs on the island through a new Anti-Underage Drinking Initiative.

Chief Lee launched the initiative by presenting Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Agent John Hernandez with a new mobile identification scanner, which can be used on-scene to verify IDs.

The new mobile identification scanner was provided through the Monroe County Coalition, a community

collaboration project organized to combat underage drinking. ABT provides education and training for retail stores to protect youth from underage sales of alcohol and tobacco.

The Monroe County Coalition provided the scanner to the KWPD as it launched its anti-underage drinking campaign.

This new initiative is the department's effort to increase community awareness of underage drinking issues and will focus on increasing licensed establishments'

roles and responsibilities in identification card checks as well as patrol saturations in certain areas at certain times tar-



Chief Donie Lee, right, presents a mobile identification card scanner to Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Agent John Hernandez.

getting underage drinkers and drivers.

For ABT retail train-

ing call 305-292-6755.

For more information on the coalition, please

visit [Monroecountycoalition.org](http://Monroecountycoalition.org). □

# FDLE investigation finds no criminal behavior

KEY WEST — In July, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement concluded its investigation into several allegations of criminal misconduct within the Key West Police Department, as brought forth by former Officer Tom Neary, and cleared the department of any criminal wrongdoing.

Former Ofc. Neary made eight sworn allegations against the department, ranging from unauthorized people having access to law enforcement information databases to an officer getting a passing score at the firing range after actually failing the training.

In all, FDLE noted that: Neary did not personally witness three of the allegations he made

against the department; in a fourth allegation, he was untruthful with FDLE investigators about his qualifications as a Range Master; and in a fifth, Neary was a willing participant in the alleged misconduct, according to another officer involved.

Of the eight allegations, the Key West Police Department chose to internally investigate two of the claims, finding administrative wrongdoing in one case and ruling the other one unfounded.

The one sustained allegation was that former Ofc. Tara Smith completed computer-based online training tests for other officers.

Ofc. Smith admitted that her supervisor instructed her to get sev-

eral people certified in the National Incident Management System.

Ofc. Smith said she called in the people on her shift, including Neary, and each logged into the test, filled in provided answers, and got their certification.

Ofc. Smith also stated that at one point, her entire shift watched a Law Enforcement Training Network online video together and then took the course completion test while sharing answers.

The unfounded allegation investigated by the department was that an officer had been on vacation when he claimed he was on-duty. Based on email and telephone records, that allegation

was deemed unfounded by the department's Internal Affairs division.

With regard to the one sustained allegation investigated in both the FDLE and KWPD cases, Chief Donie Lee said "Obviously this is an issue. But it's administrative, not criminal, and we are making changes to our training process to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Everyone involved in that training will have to retake both the LETN course and the NIMS training.

Though working as a group on a test can sometimes be beneficial for the entire group, the department does not want any perception of impropriety, and all future tests

will be taken on an individual basis.

Chief Lee sent out a department-wide warning to all personnel noting that such behavior will not be tolerated within the department again.

"Although this investigation uncovered an administrative issue within the department, overall I am pleased with the conclusion of this investigation," Chief Lee said.

"Once again, criminal allegations made against this department have been unfounded by the State of Florida's leading investigative agency."

The FDLE file and the two Key West Police Department Internal Affairs files are available for review. □

# KWPD sends thoughts of home to officers at war

KEY WEST — KWPD Officers Danyle Gray and Michael Shouldice were both called out of the Army reserves last year and deployed overseas to serve the country.

Ofc. Gray, who was loved and respected as the Key West High School Resource Officer, is now an Army Sergeant stationed in Iraq. Ofc. Shouldice, who was an integral part of the night shift, is a Staff Sergeant in Africa.

Though the two are far from home, they are still in the hearts of those who worked closest to them. And this month, Training Officer Areaka Jewell wanted them to remember that.

“After having my husband stationed overseas last year, I thought it was important to let the peo-



The contents of the care packages before Ofc. Jewell packed them up for shipment overseas.

ple over there know they are not forgotten,” Ofc. Jewell said. Her husband Chip, an active Chief Petty Officer in the Navy reserves, was stationed in Kuwait and deployed to

different areas of Iraq last she added.

“I came across an old email from Danyle the other day and I thought ‘Oh my gosh, I haven’t sent them anything yet,’”

Ofc. Jewell took up a collection to send to both officers in their respective locations. She said the Fire Department and Human Resources really

came together to donate some wonderful items, including disposable hygienic wipes, games, DVDs, socks, snacks and several cards.

In addition, Ofc. Jewell coordinated to have Paul Hanson, an EMT with Key West Rescue who also does extensive video production work, set up a camera at this year’s Policeman’s Ball so people can record messages for Danyle and Michael. The Ball is planned for July 26, 2008.

If you would like to send a package overseas, visit [anysoldier.com](http://anysoldier.com) for more information. Ofc. Jewell will also continue to accept donations to send another package in the near future. Contact her at 305-809-1005. □



## Garrett Logan O’Connell

Road Patrol Officer Kevin O’Connell and Dispatcher Jessica Strader welcomed their son, Garrett Logan O’Connell on June 18, 2008. “He was born with a full head of light brown hair, dark blue eyes, and weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces,” said proud new mom Jessica. Garrett is the baby brother of Kevin Michael, Austin and Chase O’Connell. The maternal grandparents are Miles and Candace Diehl who live in Jacksonville, Florida, and the paternal grandparents are William and Elaine O’Connell who live in Lakeland, Florida, and Martha Balius of Key West.



## Ofc. Lalama: Chamber Officer of the Quarter

Officer Frank Lalama was named Chamber Officer of the Quarter last month at a Key West Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Ofc. Lalama started with the Key West Police Department in 1985. In his 23 years with the force, he has served as a detective and on road patrol, where he was shot at by a suspect who was suicidal and high on cocaine. The suspect shot Ofc. Lalama’s partner before Ofc. Lalama shot the suspect, who is now in a wheelchair in prison for life. For the past six years, Ofc. Lalama has served as the department’s DARE officer, where his efforts and dedication to local children have been appreciated throughout the department. He is also in charge of the department’s PAL program. Pictured with him are Lt. Kathleen Ream, Capt. Scott Smith and Ofc. Steve Torrence.