

KEY WEST WEEKLY

May 11, 2023

COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS GRADUATES 110 AT 66TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

EVENT HONORS STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



The College of the Florida Keys held its 66th commencement exercises for the spring class of 2023 on May 5 in the Tennessee Williams Theatre on the Key West campus. Wearing blue and orange graduation attire, 110 graduates received their diplomas. The college expects to award a combined total of about 120 credentials, including bachelor's degrees, associate degrees and college credit certificates, to spring graduates.

Isabella Filber, who earned an associate's degree in marine environmental technology, opened the ceremony with the student address. She also presented the Instructor of the Year award, which was a tie between nursing instructor Laura Cox and marine resource management instructor Matt Semcheski. The college bestowed the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award to Kevin Malinson, who earned his nursing degree at CFK in 1987 before becoming one of the world's top experts in HIV/AIDS nursing care. Wall Street executive and philanthropist Ed Hajim delivered the keynote address, sharing his life story of triumph over adversity.

Jonathan Gueverra, the college's president, honored the recently retired Key West city manager Patti McLaughlin with the 2023 President's Award. The award recognized her efforts to collaborate with



the college on projects ranging from COVID-19 vaccinations to offshore water quality testing around the island.

The full ceremony can be viewed on the college's Facebook page.

Following commencement, the college held a ceremony for students who completed their associate's degree in nursing this semester. Upon passing the national NCLEX-RN licensure exam, each will become a registered nurse.

CFK's summer semester begins May 15 and fall semester begins Aug. 15. Information about academic programs, steps to become a student and ways to pay for college is at cfk.edu/futurestudents.

— Contributed

1. Graduates of CFK's spring class of 2023 pose in the front of the Key West campus. CONTRIBUTED

2. CFK graduate Isabella Filber gives the student address to her fellow graduates.

3. Keynote speaker Ed Hajim congratulates Bryan Ramos for earning a certificate of completion for Project ACCESS, a program for students with intellectual disabilities. Alina Trueba, the college's director of academic affairs, assists Ramos while Jonathan Gueverra, the college president, looks on.

4. Jonathan Gueverra, president of CFK, presents a diploma for an associate's degree in arts to Riley McDonald. The dual enrollment student will graduate from Marathon High School later this month.

COME SEE KEY WEST'S NEWEST HIGH SCHOOL

MEET THE PRINCIPAL
& PREVIEW CURRICULUM
AT CFK ACADEMY

The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective students, their family members and the community to learn about CFK Academy at an information event on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the new academy building on the Key West campus.



Wendy McPherson

New principal Wendy McPherson will present the academic acceleration opportunities available at the new tuition-free charter high school and provide a preview of

possible class options. College representatives will answer questions and provide guidance about enrolling. Those interested in attending the event are asked to RSVP at cfk.edu/cfkacademy.

CFK Academy, which opens in August, focuses on college and career readiness with curriculum centered on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and career technical education (CTE). Project-based learning experiences provide students with hands-on engagement in the learning process beyond the traditional classroom to develop communication, critical-thinking, and communication skills. Academy students are encouraged to earn college credit through the college's dual enrollment program in classes on the same campus as the high school. Motivated students can graduate with their high school diploma as well as an associate's degree, certificate, and/or industry certification. There is no cost to attend CFK Academy, including college-level classes.

The application for the 2023-24 school year is at cfk.edu/cfkacademy. Space is limited. CFK Academy will start with grades nine through 11 in its inaugural year and will add grade 12 in the 2024-25 school year.

— *Contributed*

MARATHON WEEKLY

May 11, 2023

KAYAKING FOR HOPE



COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS GRADUATES 110 AT 66TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

EVENT HONORS STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



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Isabella Filber, who earned an associate's degree in marine environmental technology, opened the ceremony with the student address. She also presented the Instructor of the Year award, which was a tie between nursing instructor Laura Cox and marine resource management instructor Matt Semcheski. The college bestowed the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award to Kevin Mallinson, who earned his nursing degree at CFK in 1987 before becoming one of the world's top experts in HIV/AIDS nursing care. Wall Street executive and philanthropist Ed Hajim delivered the keynote address, sharing his life story of triumph over adversity.

Jonathan Gueverra, the college's president, honored the recently retired Key West city manager Patti McLaughlin with the 2023 President's Award. The award recognized her efforts to collaborate with the college on projects ranging from COVID-19 vaccinations to offshore water quality testing around the island.

The full ceremony can be viewed on the college's Facebook page.

Following commencement, the college held a ceremony for students who completed their associate's degree in nursing this semester. Upon passing the national NCLEX-RN licensure exam, each will become a registered nurse.

CFK's summer semester begins May 15 and fall semester begins Aug. 15. Information about academic programs, steps to become a student and ways to pay for college is at cfk.edu/futurestudents.



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Discoveries from the past off Dry Tortugas Pg. B1

CFK graduates 110 at 66th Commencement Ceremony

CFK - The College of the Florida Keys held its sixty-sixth Commencement Exercises for the spring class of 2023 on Friday, May 5 in the Tennessee Williams Theatre on the Key West Campus.

One hundred ten graduates donned blue and orange graduation attire to receive their diplomas. The College expects to award a combined total of approximately 120 credentials, including bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, and college credit certificates, to spring graduates.

Isabella Filber, who earned an Associate in Science in Marine

Environmental Technology, opened the ceremony with the Student Address. She also presented the Instructor of the Year award, which was a tie between Nursing instructor Laura Cox and Marine Resource Management instructor Dr. Matt Semcheski.

The College bestowed the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr. Kevin Mallinson. Mallinson earned his nursing degree at CFK in 1987 before becoming one of the world's top experts in HIV/AIDS nursing care.

Wall Street executive and philanthropist Ed Hajim delivered the Keynote Address to the

class, sharing his inspiring life story of triumph over adversity in his speech. He also gave each graduate a signed copy of his book, "On the Road Less Traveled: An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Board Room."

CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra honored the recently retired Manager of the City of Key West Patti McLaughlin with the 2023 President's Award. The award recognized her efforts to collaborate with the College on projects ranging from COVID-19 vaccinations to offshore water quality testing around the island.

The full ceremony



Clockwise from top: Graduates of CFK's Spring Class of 2023 pose in the front of the Key West Campus. CFK graduate Isabella Filber gives the Student Address to her fellow graduates. CFK Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Kevin Mallinson earned a nursing degree at CFK in 1987 before becoming a world-renowned expert in HIV/AIDS healthcare.

can be viewed on the College's Facebook page at facebook.com/TheCollegeoftheFloridaKeys.

Following Commencement, the College held a nursing ceremony for students who completed their Associate of Science in Nursing this spring semester. Upon passing the national NCLEX-RN licensure exam, each will become a registered nurse.

CFK's summer semester begins May 15 and fall semester begins August 15. Information about academic programs, steps to become a student, and ways to pay for college can be viewed on the College's website at CFK.edu/FutureStudents.





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KEYS CITIZEN

Many Islands 🍹 One Voice

Conchs baseball, softball teams set sights on state – 1B \$2.00

Tuesday May 16, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 96 • 12 pages

• Academy meeting

The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective students, their family members and the community to learn about CFK Academy at an information event at 5:30 p.m on Thursday, May 18, at 5901 College Road. Principal Wendy McPherson will present the academic acceleration opportunities available at the new tuition-free charter high school and provide a preview of possible class options. Those interested in attending the event are asked to make reservations at <http://www.CFK.edu/CFKAcademy>. CFK Academy will

start with grades nine through 11 in its inaugural year and will add grade 12 in the 2024-25 school year.

FLORIDA KEYS

Charter school hosts open house

The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective students, their family members and the community to learn about CFK Academy at an information event at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at the new CFK Academy building on the Key West campus.

New Principal Wendy McPherson will present the academic acceleration opportunities available at the new tuition-free charter high school and provide a preview of possible class options. College representatives will answer questions and provide guidance about enrolling. Those interested in attending the event are asked to make reservations at <http://CFK.edu/CFKAcademy>.

CFK Academy, which opens in August, focuses on college and career readiness with curriculum centered on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and Career Technical Education (CTE). The application for the 2023-24 school year can be found on the CFK website. Space is limited. CFK Academy will start with grades nine through 11 in its inaugural year and will add grade 12 in the 2024-25 school year.



Lean to your right for faster digestion — Health, 5A

\$2.00

Thursday

May 18, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 98 • 12 pages

• **Academy meeting**

The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective students, their family members and the community to learn about CFK Academy at an information event at 5:30 p.m on Thursday, May 18, at 5901 College Road. Principal Wendy McPherson will present the academic acceleration opportunities available at the new tuition-free charter high school and provide a preview of possible class options. Those interested in attending the event are asked to make reservations at <http://www.CFK.edu/CFKAcademy>. CFK Academy will start with grades nine through 11 in its inaugural year and will

add grade 12 in the 2024-25 school year.

1975: Florida Keys Community College gave the Monroe County School Board 8.5 acres of land to be used to build Gerald Adams Elementary School.

KEY WEST WEEKLY

May 18, 2023

COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS HONORS RETIRING CITY MANAGER

PATTI MCLAUCHLIN TO LEAVE THE CITY AFTER 43 YEARS



College of the Florida Keys leaders, including President Jonathan Gueverra (center, with red sash) honor retiring Key West city manager Patti McLauchlin during the college's May 5 graduation ceremony. CONTRIBUTED

Retiring City Manager Patti McLauchlin was recently honored with the College of the Florida Keys' President's Award.

The award was presented by Jonathan Gueverra, college president and CEO, during the May 5 graduation ceremony at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center.

The President's Award recognizes McLauchlin's extraordinary service and commitment to the college and the community.

"This is truly an honor," said McLauchlin. "I'm proud and humbled by this recognition."

McLauchlin, who retires in July, has served with the city for 43 years, beginning as a police dispatcher and working up through management until she was appointed city manager in July 2021. She is the first woman to hold the title of city manager of Key West.

McLauchlin started her education at what is now known as the College of the Florida Keys with an associate's degree. She earned her bachelor's degree from Barry University in Miami.

Her commitment to the community includes membership in the Rotary Club and the Key West Chamber of Commerce. She serves on many local boards and participates in numerous professional organizations.

The President's Award tops off a career of devoted public service. McLauchlin received the Zonta Club of Key West Award for Public Service, the True Grit Award from Womankind of Key West and the Women of Integrity Award for public service from Samuel's House.

— Contributed

LEARN ABOUT CFK'S CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICESHIPS

FREE VIRTUAL INFO SESSION
SET FOR MAY 25



CFK electrical apprentice Donald Chavez Moreno checks an electrical panel.
CONTRIBUTED

The College of the Florida Keys (CFK) invites prospective students to learn about its Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies program at a virtual information session on Thursday, May 25 at 5:30 p.m. CFK is offering Electrical and Carpentry programs in Key West and the Upper Keys this upcoming fall semester, which begins Aug. 18. The deadline to apply is July 1.

The virtual information session will help prospective students learn about the trade professions, career outlooks, and CFK's tuition-free "earn while you learn" programs. Attendees will receive a code to waive the \$30 application fee. Registration for the event is required. Visit the College's website at CFK.edu/apprenticeships to learn more and to register. To schedule a personal information session, contact Marissa Owens, CFK director of recruitment, at recruiter@cfk.edu or call 305-809-3207.

About CFK's Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies:

CFK's Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies offer opportunities to help individuals

train and advance in high-wage, high-demand construction careers throughout the Florida Keys. In collaboration with local construction businesses, CFK's apprenticeship programs provide education and training in all aspects of the respective trades — from conceptual to practical skills. Through the College's "earn while you learn" model, students are employed (and paid) full-time with a sponsoring employer that is partnered with CFK. They attend classes, which are tuition-free, while developing their skills through on-the-job training with their sponsor. As apprentice students advance through the program, their progress is rewarded with periodic wage increases.

Upon successful program completion, an apprentice will be considered a journey worker and will receive a four-level certification by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) as well as a nationally recognized Completion of Apprenticeship certificate by the State of Florida.

— *Contributed*

KEY WEST FLORIDA WEEKLY[®] IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

Swim Around Key West race to circle the island

May 18, 2023



Solo swimmers, relay teams and even "mermaids" can embark on a one-of-a-kind in-water adventure Saturday, June 17: a 12.5-mile open-water swimming race in both Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean waters, on a course that circles the island of Key West.

Entrants in the annual College of the Florida Keys' Swim Around Key West can register as solo competitors or in relay teams of two to six swimmers with or without fins. The race also is open to swimmers with monofins or mermaid tails.

Participants are to vie for awards in age categories ranging from 12 and under to 70 and over.

Sanctioned by the World Open Water Swimming Association, the 2023 swim will include a 7 a.m. final check-in and 8 a.m. start Saturday at Higgs Beach, at 1000 Atlantic Blvd. on the Atlantic Ocean.

All solo swimmers and teams also must check in and pick up race packets between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, June 16, at the College of the Florida Keys pool on campus at 5901 College Road.

The 12.5-mile clockwise route around Key West takes participants past island landmarks that include Mallory Square, the Southernmost Point marker and Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park. Competitors will end where they began at Higgs Beach.

Each swimmer or team must provide a support crew and kayak or boat to accompany them around the island. Lifeguards and kayaks will be positioned throughout the course for the safety of participants.

Swimmers who prefer a shorter challenge can participate in 800-yard, 1-mile, 2-mile and 6.2-mile (10k) competitions in the Atlantic waters off Higgs Beach. Following courses marked with poles or buoys, the shorter races are to start at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

According to event organizers, competitors might glimpse mermaids and mermen swimming the shorter routes as well as the 12.5-mile challenge.

All participants must register by June 16. The entry fee for the 12.5-mile race is \$160 per solo swimmer and \$240 to \$600 per relay team depending on the number of team members. Participants with a monofin or mermaid tail pay \$140 per person. Entry fee for the 6.2-mile race is \$80 per person and each shorter race is \$40 per person. Discounts on solo swimmers' fees are available for United States Masters Swimming and USA Swimming members.

Event information and registration: swimaroundkeywest.org or 305-809-3562 |



Your local sports roundup — SCORE, inside and online \$2.00

Friday

May 19, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 99 • 42 pages

students to learn about its Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies at a virtual information session at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25. CFK is offering Electrical and Carpentry programs in Key West and the Upper Keys this upcoming fall semester, which begins Friday, Aug. 18. The deadline to apply is Saturday, July 1. The virtual information session will help prospective students learn about the trade professions, career outlooks, and CFK's tuition-free "earn while you learn" programs. Visit <http://www.CFK.edu/apprenticeships> for information and to register.

• **Apprenticeship programs**
The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective

Swimmers continue to chase times during monthly Bone Island meet

Klaara Hereijgers competes in the butterfly.



BY SCORE STAFF

The never-ending hunt for better times continued for the Bone Island Swim Club during its May intrasquad meet on Saturday, May 13, at the Florida Keys Aquatic Center.

While the swimmers from

the Bone Island Club race in heats against each other, the main objective is to improve upon their personal records, which occurred several times over during the May event.

None had a bigger improvement on a time than Veronica Ter-Ataryan, who was 43.77 seconds faster in her 100 freestyle time, while Kenzie Cooke made it 12.81 seconds faster in her 50 freestyle, George Clarke was 11.50 seconds better in his 100 freestyle, Amelia Korzen made a 9.16 improvement on her 100 IM time to win the event in 1:27.25, Emilee Johnson was 8.23 seconds better in her 25 butterfly, and 8.34 seconds better in her 25-meter backstroke.

Event winners included Leif Eggelston, with a 7.04 second improvement in the boys 100-freestyle, as well in the 50 freestyle and 50 backstroke, Taylor Thomason held off Sarah Johnson in the



J.W. COOKE/SCORE

Levi Johnson dives in at the start of the boys 50-freestyle.



Amelia Korzen races in the breaststroke.



Teagan Brazer gets to the wall in the girls 25-yard breaststroke.



Eli Morris and Anthony Korzen dive in at the start of their 50-freestyle.

See **BONE ISLAND**, Page 17

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Kenzie Cooke, Ryleigh Cooke, Klaara Herejigers and Allison Tijerino race in the backstroke.



Amelia Korzen and Arrow May race side-by-side in the freestyle.



Veronica Ter-Ataryan, Sarah Johnson and Match May take off in the backstroke.

Bone Island

FROM PAGE 16

100-freestyle, Tegna Brazer in the 25-butterfly and 25 freestyle, Levi Johnson in the 50 butterfly, Arrow May in the girls 50-freestyle, and Korzen in the 50 freestyle, 50 breaststroke and 50 backstroke.

Also taking to the water were Natalie Herejigers, Match May, Klaar Herejigers, Allison Tijerino, Renee Foster, Adlyn Parker, Ryleigh Cooke, Kole Stuliken and Nicholas Nedev.

The Bone Island Swim club practices daily at The



Levi Johnson, Leif Eggleston and George Clarke race in the butterfly.

College of the Florida Keys' monthly intrasquad meets. team, contact coach Lori Aquatic Center and holds For information on the Bosco at 305-360-2124.



Ryleigh Cooke runs through the tunnel to receive her award.



Judy Blume: legendary career, a new movie - and now an honorary Key West 'Conch'

WLRN 91.3 FM | By [Gwen Filosa](#)
Published May 19, 2023 at 6:30 AM EDT

Judy Blume, whose acclaimed novels like *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, *Blubber* and *Forever* helped generations of teens feel less awkward and alone, has called Key West home for 30 years.

Now Florida Keys elected leaders have deemed her an honorary "Conch" — as in, the shellfish that's the symbol of the island chain and a term of endearment reserved for people born and raised in Key West.

"This is an honor," Blume said at the Harvey Government Center in Key West, during the commission's meeting on Wednesday. "I've had a 30-year love affair with Key West, still going strong."

Blume, 85, spoke only briefly during the presentation, but she used her time to back those on education frontlines. Her young adult novels have been [the targets of book banning](#) for decades.

"Remember, support our teachers and librarians," Blume said. "Free people need to read freely, and let's work together to make sure that stays in this county."

...

County commissioners also gave the honor to [Jonathan Gueverra](#), president and CEO of the College of the Florida Keys, and Frank Dunne, the owner of Key West gym [Old Town Fitness](#), who mentors inmates at the county jail and donates gym memberships to locals in need.



KEYS CITIZEN

KeysNews.com

Many Islands  One Voice

How is life changing for Florida residents — 5A

\$2.00

Tuesday

May 23, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 101 • 12 pages

students to learn about its Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies at a virtual information session at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25. CFK is offering Electrical and Carpentry programs in Key West and the Upper Keys this upcoming fall semester, which begins Friday, Aug. 18. The deadline to apply is Saturday, July 1. Visit <http://www.CFK.edu/apprenticeships> for information and to register.

- **Apprenticeship programs**
The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective



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Inside and online

KeysNews.com

KEYS CITIZEN

Many Islands  One Voice

Check out this week's Paradise — Inside and online **\$2.00**

Wednesday

May 24, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 102 • 24 pages

students to learn about its Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies at a virtual information session at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25. CFK is offering Electrical and Carpentry programs in Key West and the Upper Keys this upcoming fall semester, which begins Friday, Aug. 18. The deadline to apply is Saturday, July 1. The virtual information session will help prospective students learn about the trade professions, career outlooks, and CFK's tuition-free "earn while you learn" programs. Visit <http://www.CFK.edu/apprenticeships> for information and to register.

• **Apprenticeship programs**
The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective

CITIZEN OF THE DAY



ROB O'NEAL/Keys Citizen

Melissa Shoebottom was born and raised in Key West and works at Keys Animal Care Center on Big Coppitt Key. The third-generation Conch is also studying marine biology at The College of the Florida Keys and said she loves the sense of community in the Keys, and added 'there's no place like Key West.'

Info session offered on apprenticeships

MONROE COUNTY — The College of the Florida Keys invites prospective students to learn about its Apprenticeships in Construction Technologies program at a virtual information session at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25.

CFK is offering electrical and carpentry programs in the Upper Keys and Key West during the fall semester, which begins Aug. 18. The deadline to apply is July 1.

The virtual information session will help prospective students learn about the trade professions, career outlooks and CFK's tuition-free earn-while-you-learn programs. Attendees will receive a code to waive the \$30 application fee. Registration for the event is required.

Visit the college's website at CFK.edu/apprenticeships to learn more and to register. To schedule a personal information session, contact Marissa Owens at recruiter@cfk.edu or call 305-809-3207.



Contributed

CFK electrical apprentice Donald Chavez Moreno checks an electrical panel.



Apply for fall scholarships at CFK by June 4

The College of the Florida Keys encourages future and current students to apply for scholarships for the fall 2023 semester by the deadline of June 4.

Criteria for scholarships range widely to accommodate and assist a variety of students. Scholarship descriptions and criteria can be viewed on the College's website at cfk.academic-works.com.

There is no limit to the number of scholarships for which a student may apply or be awarded.

CFK's fall semester begins August 18. Students must be registered for fall

classes to be eligible for fall scholarships.

For more information and guidance about scholarships, contact the CFK Foundation at foundation@cfk.edu or 305-809-3153.

For information about becoming a student, visit CFK.edu/FutureStudents, contact recruiter@cfk.edu or call 305-809-3207.



THE
COLLEGE
OF THE
FLORIDA KEYS



Weekend Edition

May 27-28, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 105 • 40 pages

• **Scholarships available**

The College of the Florida Keys future and current students can apply for

scholarships for the fall 2023 semester by Sunday, June 4. Criteria for scholarships range widely to accommodate and assist a variety of students. Scholarship descriptions and criteria can be viewed on the College's website at cfk.academicworks.com. For information and guidance about scholarships, email foundation@cfk.edu or 305-809-3153. For information about enrollment, visit <http://www.cfk.edu/futurestudents>, contact recruiter@cfk.edu or call 305-809-3207.

FLORIDA KEYS

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Native Hawaiians divided over artificial surf lagoon — 1B \$2.00

Tuesday

May 30, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 106 • 12 pages

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United Way awards \$17K in scholarships

BY CITIZEN STAFF

United Way of Collier and the Keys continues to blaze the trail supporting the Florida Keys community and investing in the marine environment and is providing scholarships to students pursuing degrees in marine science.

Earlier this year, UWCK opened its second Marine Science Educational Advancement Scholarship opportunity for Monroe County residents pursuing marine science-related studies and recently awarded four candidates a total of \$17,805 in scholarship funds.

UWCK gave \$4,810 to Marian Biddle of The College of the Florida Keys, \$4,850 to Angelina Bello of Coral Shores High School, \$4,645 to Christina Robinson of The College of the Florida Keys and \$3,500 to Saul Limon-Gonzalez of Coral Shores

See **SCHOLARSHIPS**, Page **3A**

Scholarships

FROM PAGE 1A

High School, according to the United Way.

Applicants vied for scholarships to support marine science-related certificates as well as associate, bachelor's or master's degrees at state colleges and universities engaged in Florida Keys reef restoration efforts. Scholarships may be used for tuition, books and materials, and/or room and board expenses.

A volunteer Scholarship Committee of local community leaders made the final decisions based upon educational achievement, career objectives, school activities, references and financial status.

"Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the UWCK Marine Science Educational Advancement Scholarship," said recipient Biddle. "The assistance you have afforded me is greatly appreciated. I look forward to sharing my progress with you, The College of the Florida Keys, and the other organizations I work with are doing a lot of exciting work locally. My goals to be a team member in education, conservation, and research will be possible with your help."

As part of UWCK's Revitalizing the Florida Keys Through Reef Restoration and Beyond efforts, the scholarships awarded will increase marine science-related employment opportunities for local students and provide financial stability for the community by supplying the workforce needed

to sustain and further ongoing reef restoration efforts, including NOAA's Mission: Iconic Reefs.

Mission: Iconic Reefs is an innovative initiative spearheaded by Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to restore nearly 3 million square feet of the Florida Reef Tract, about the size of 52 football fields, at seven key reef sites — one of the largest strategies ever proposed for coral restoration.

Mission: Iconic Reefs builds on decades of pioneering restoration efforts proven successful in the Florida Keys, setting the stage for this large-scale, multi-phased restoration effort. The first phase begins with restoring elkhorn and staghorn corals—fast-growing species that have not been affected by the current outbreak of stony coral tissue loss

disease. The second phase will focus on incorporating resilient corals of other slower-growing species and introducing grazer species that control invasive algae that can smother and outcompete coral. The goal is to restore diversity and ecological function to the reefs by returning coral cover at the seven reef sites to a self-sustaining level.

In 2021, the United Way of Collier and the Keys recently announce the awarding of \$2.1 million to support coral restoration efforts by two local organizations, Coral Restoration Foundation and Reef Renewal USA. These grants are part of UWCK's Revitalizing the Florida Keys through the Reef Restoration and Beyond initiative, with support from the United Arab Emirates.



Stream Scene –
Inside and online

KeysNews.com

KEYS CITIZEN

Many Islands  One Voice

Check out this week in Paradise – Inside and online **\$2.00**

Wednesday

May 31, 2023 • Vol. 147 No. 107 • 26 pages

FLORIDA KEYS

CFK scholarships available

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YOUR LINK
TO THE
ISLAND CHAIN

- Key Largo
- Islamorada
- Marathon
- Big Pine Key

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - VOLUME 37, NO. 23 - 28 PAGES

FREE

Apply for fall scholarships by June 4

MONROE COUNTY — The College of the Florida Keys invites future and current students to apply for scholarships for the fall 2023 semester by the deadline of June 4.

Scholarship descriptions and application criteria can be viewed on the college's website at cfk.academicworks.com.

There is no limit to the number of scholarships for which a student may apply or be awarded, according to college officials.

CFK's fall semester begins Aug. 18. Students must be registered for fall classes to be eligible for fall scholarships.

For more information, contact the CFK Foundation at foundation@cfk.edu or 305-809-3153.

For information about becoming a College of the Florida Keys student, visit cfk.edu/futurestudents, contact recruiter@cfk.edu or call 305-809-3207.

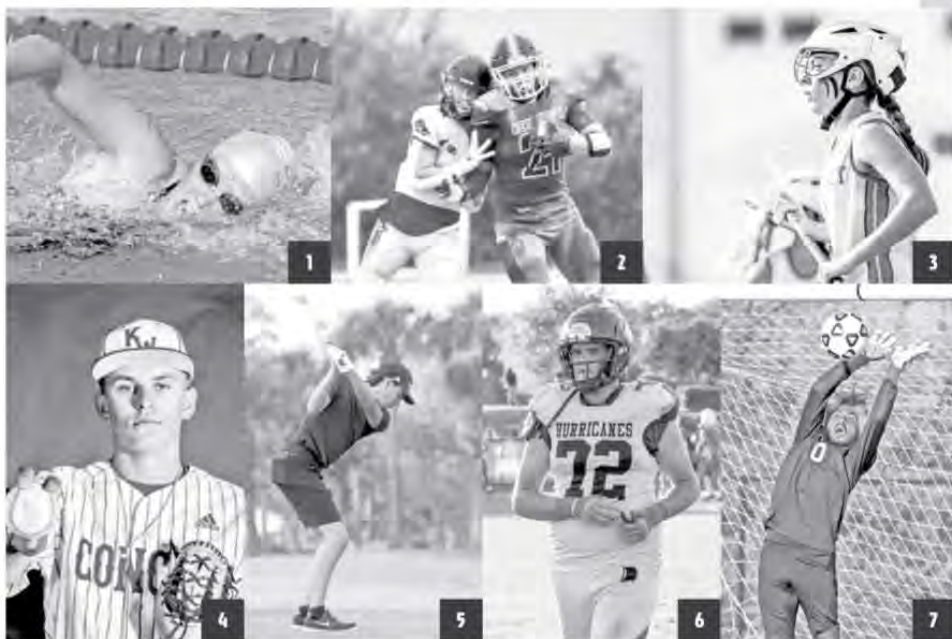
KEY WEST WEEKLY

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KEYS WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP

By: Tracy and Sean McDonald



LOCAL ATHLETES TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

2023 graduates are some of the most athletically gifted in Keys history

Many young athletes dream of making it to the pros one day, and for more than 20 Keys athletes, that dream is now one step closer. Though the Keys are small, the talent is huge, and this year, quite a few homegrown athletes will be taking the next step and playing at the collegiate level. Through hard work and a relentless pursuit of excellence, athletes from all three high schools will represent the Keys in a variety of sports at all types of college programs, with several more still weighing their next moves with options on the table.

Corley Smith will travel the farthest from her Coral Shores alma mater, but long distances are nothing new to her. Smith was a distance swimming specialist for the Hurricanes. Her accomplishments include setting the record for the Alligator Reef Lighthouse Swim, an eight-mile open water challenge. The two-time state finalist was named Monroe County Swimmer of the Year twice, and her times, often minutes ahead of the nearest competitor, caught the eye of Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. Smith's strength and hard work was also notable in the classroom. She graduated fifth in her class of 186 students, earning multiple academic awards.

Xavier Arrington will take his talents to the U.S. Naval Prep School this fall, then to the Naval Academy the following year. The multi-sport standout chose to play football at the collegiate level. His gridiron accomplishments include being named the Monroe County Defensive Player of the Year and making the FACA All-State team. Arrington also holds two state championships in weightlifting and multiple state medals in track and field, where his strength made him a standout in throwing events.

Johnny Holly will also be playing football at the college level next fall, at Holmes Community College in Mississippi. The lineman earned the MVP nod for the Hurricanes last season, earned a spot on the All-Keys Team, and was named to the FACA All-State team. The multi-sport athlete bolstered the basketball and lacrosse teams for Coral Shores as well.

Marathon High School's **Fisher Coleman-Sayer** will head off to Emmitsburg, Maryland in the fall to play golf at Division I Mount St. Mary's University. Coleman-Sayer earned All-County honors multiple years and led the Fins on the links. Coleman-Sayer was also a standout in basketball and baseball.

Aaron Dolton caught the eye of several college coaches for his football skills, but decided to take Flagler College up on their offer to run track for the Saints. Dolton holds the school record for the 300m and 400m hurdles, and was a talented jumper as well. The St. Augustine-bound record-setter was a member of the All-Keys team in football last season and won numerous academic awards at Marathon's senior class night.

Dylan Globe is another multi-sport Dolphin headed to play in college. Globe will be kicking for the Avila Eagles in Kansas City, Missouri. Though football was a strong suit for the senior, Globe was also a standout for Marathon's baseball team.

Frantz Noel was a strong lineman for the Dolphins, earning All-Keys team honors on the gridiron last fall. Noel will join Globe at Avila University, where he will hold down the line for the Eagles. Noel is also a talented soccer player and was a standout on Marathon's weightlifting team the past few seasons.

Two Keys soccer players will continue their paths on the pitch next season. **Lucas Silva**, goalkeeper for Marathon, and **Jackson Castillo**, defender and defensive midfielder for Key West, will attend international soccer programs, which allow athletes to hone their skills while working toward undergraduate degrees. Silva will participate in Soccer Universities, which places athletes at various programs depending upon their skill level, while Castillo will attend Richmond International Academic & Soccer Academy in the United Kingdom.

Christopher "Andre" Otto made headlines when he was courted by dozens of colleges and universities for his speed and size on the gridiron. The 6'5" scholar-athlete was wooed by some of the highest-rated universities in the country. He is a two-time state medalist in wrestling, but decided to take his talents to Florida State University, where he will play football and major in film. Otto was a member of the All-Keys football and wrestling teams, won a pair of state medals in wrestling and has won numerous awards for his efforts in film production.

Kevon Mills was a game changer in three varsity sports at Key West High School. The multi-talented athlete will trade in his Conch red and gray for the blue and gold of Beloit College in Crestview, Wisconsin next fall, where he will join the Buccaneers football roster. Mills was an evasive offensive threat for Key West's football team, and his speed and athleticism carried over to the basketball court and onto the track, where Mills was a state medalist in the high jump for the Conchs.

James Reynolds caught the eye of multiple university coaches, but turned down scholarship offers for a chance to play at the highest level when he accepted a preferred walk-on opportunity at the University of Miami. The evasive running back has speed and strength, and once he was finished decimating the defenses of Conch rivals on the football field, he tapped into those skills to be successful in Key West's track and field program, where he was a standout sprinter and thrower.

Conchs outfielder and reserve pitcher **Jack Haggard** is off to Quincy University in Illinois in the fall. Haggard amassed 72 career hits for Key West, with 41 in this season alone. His .436 batting average, paired with 11 stolen bases and a near-perfect record in the field, made him very attractive to several colleges, but Haggard inked his letter with the Hawks last November.

Anden Rady will continue to wear red and gray next year, but he will trade in his Conchs logo for that of a Lagrange College Panther. Rady heads to Georgia after an impressive season in Key West, earning 31 hits, 2 home runs, 31 RBIs and a perfect record fielding this season.

Conch baseball fans won't have to travel too far to watch **Marlin Takovich** play at the next level; he is going to Florida International University in Miami this fall. The big righty was solid on the mound for Key West, amassing 49 career strikeouts. Takovich was twice named Player of the Game in his time with the Conchs.

Andris "Lucky" Barroso gave the Conchs the confidence to win when he took the mound, and he delivered a W for his team nine times this season alone. His .818 winning percentage, 1.76 ERA and 142 career strikeouts, 73 coming from this season, made him an enticing prospect for teams across the country. Barroso chose Indian River State College to advance his career. The 6'5" right-handed pitcher will most certainly be making waves at The River next spring.

Conchs shortstop **Wyatt Kuhn** will head to Tennessee next year to play for Dyersburg State Community College. Kuhn amassed 10 career double plays for Key West defensively and earned a respectable .338 batting average this season against some of the top teams in the state. He shares the single

season record (14) and holds the career record (26) for being hit by pitches, which boosted his on-base percentage to .511 this season.

Samantha Ventimiglia will further her volleyball career at the United States Coast Guard Academy. The outside hitter



recorded 178 kills, 36 aces, 10 blocks and 234 digs last season. A multi-year standout for the Conchs, Ventimiglia boasted an amazing 94.8% service return rating in her senior season.

Ty Marie Cervantes signed her letter of intent to play softball at Miami Dade College next season. Cervantes brings impressive stats in both offense and defense to the Sharks. Her .382 batting average this season consisted of 26 hits, including a home run. Her career fielding percentage was .917 for Key West, making her a dual threat and catching the eyes of college scouts across the nation, but Cervantes ultimately chose to keep her talents closer to home.

Conchs catcher **Dharma Murray** will play softball for the Division I University of South Florida Bulls next year after two very successful varsity seasons with Key West. Murray racked up 22 hits and 21 RBIs this season, but her greatest asset is her ability to protect the plate. She earned a .984 fielding percentage last season and helped keep the Conchs in the running deep into the playoffs.

Miesha Hernandez will play softball at St. Thomas University in Miami next year. Hernandez had a .384 batting average for Key West this year, including three home runs that brought her career total to seven in two years of varsity play for the Lady Conchs. Defensively, the third baseman had two double plays this season.

Bella Marchiano is heading to Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach next year, the first Lady Conchs lacrosse player to do so in the nine years the program has been in place. Marchiano caught the eye of college scouts early, signing her letter of intent last year. She has more than 100 career goals, despite being well-known as a selfless passer, and has received many honors, including Player of the Year and All-County and All-Region team selections.

Key West sprinter **Savannah Chadic** isn't finished blowing past competitors just yet. She signed with Jacksonville University, where she will further her track and field career with the Dolphins. Chadic had a stellar senior season with the Conchs in both weightlifting and track, earning multiple medals at districts, regionals and ultimately states, where she qualified for the maximum number of events and brought home two medals.

Lauren Walterson will feel right at home during her college swimming career; she has signed to swim for the College of the Florida Keys. The Conchs call the CFK pool home during meets and practices, giving Walterson a great advantage. Walterson was a team captain for Key West last season, was a regional qualifier in the 200 medley relay and was a standout in both the butterfly and 200 individual medley.

Bella Oliviero will also be wearing a Tugas swim cap in the fall. She will join Walterson at College of the Florida Keys. Oliviero was a standout in the backstroke but was also a strong competitor in multiple strokes for the Conchs.

Also taking her skills to the next level is the Keys Weekly's own **Ella Hall**. Her talent for sports photography made her an enormous asset to Key West High School, and the athletic offices at LSU took note. Hall is already on campus putting her photography skills to work for the Tigers, working on media days for the football team as well as documenting team practices, events and games. Her photographs will be added to the permanent archives for the LSU football team.