



Weekend Edition

June 15-16, 2024 • Vol. 148 No. 120 • 64 pages

\$3.00

PAGE A14 JUNE 15-16, 2024

Keys Citizen • Weekend Edition | [keysnews.com](http://keysnews.com)

## THIS WEEK IN THE KEYS

ABOVE: It was all bubbles and smiles — and disco-dancing unicorns — during Sunday's Pride Parade on Duval Street.

to be outdone, as displayed Sunday during the Pride Parade on Duval Street.



PHOTO BY MARY MARTIN  
Lori Bosco is all grins after announcing the start of The College of the Florida Keys Swim Around Key West on Saturday, June 8, at Higgs Beach in Key West.

RON COOKE/KEYS CITIZEN  
A swimmer approaches the halfway buoy near the Edward B. Knight (formerly White Street) Pier in the 800-yard swim on Saturday, June 8, as part of the CFK Swim Around Key West.



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## FACES IN THE CROWD



A large group of supporters watches swimmers finish from the pavilion on Higgs Beach.



A large crowd huddled at the end of the Higgs Beach Pier to watch swimmers take off for the CFK Swim Around Key West.



PHOTOS BY BON COOK/SCORE

The support kayaker for Heidi Loecke gives a wave before heading off around the island.



Dora DeMaria went over safety rules and course before the start of The College of the Florida Keys Swim Around Key West.

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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS BY RON COOK/SCORE  
Swimmers and support kayakers converge for the start of The College of the Florida Keys Swim Around Key West just off Higgs Beach.

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# THE SUNNY SIDE-LINES



A support crew member waves as the boat goes under the Cow Key Bridge.



Despite choppy waters, there was a lot of watercraft action off South Roosevelt Boulevard during The College of the Florida Keys Swim Around Key West.



CFK Athletic Director and Swim Around Key West organizer Lori Bosco yells into a bullhorn to start the 12.5-mile trek on Saturday, June 8, off the Higgs Beach Pier.



Adran Pedraza, of the three-person Rippers team, added a little flair as he leaped out to touch the finish line buoy.



Swimmers enter the water from the Higgs Beach Pier for the start of the relays.



PHOTOS BY RON COOK/SCORE  
A swimmer and support kayaker get set for the 12.5-mile swim around Key West.

# CIRCUMVENTING BONE ISLAND

Record numbers take part in weekend of events during College of the Florida Keys Swim Around Key West



PHOTOS BY RON COOKE/SCORE//

**RON COOKE**  
SCORE

The first 9 miles of The College of the Florida Keys Swim Around Key West on Saturday, June 8, was smooth sailing for the record-number solo swimmers and teams. It was the final 3 1/2 that had the swimmers talking about the choppy waters of the Atlantic when they finally came ashore at the Higgs Beach finish line.

Despite a little chop, it was neither rainy nor any threat of thunderstorms, so it was a go for the 90-plus



Support boat and kayaks make the turn from Cow Key Channel to the very choppy Atlantic for the final 3.5 miles of the CFK Swim around Key West.

More **SWIM** | C13

A trio of swimmers nears the halfway point in the 800-yard open water swim.



Eric Sullivan approaches the finish buoy after finishing first overall on Saturday, June 8 for the CFK Swim Around Key West. Sullivan clocked a 4:57.55 for the 12.5-mile course.



## Swim/

from C12  
solo swimmers, 34 relay  
teams and support crews,  
said event organizer and

The College of the Florida  
Keys Athletic Director Lori  
Bosco.

In addition to the 12.5-  
mile swim around Key

West, there were 10K, 800-  
yard, 1- and 2-mile open  
water swims.

"We had a record num-  
ber of 14 swimmers tak-  
ing part in the 10K, we  
changed the course. They  
swim halfway around the  
island, finishing in the  
Sigsbee Basin," said Bosco.  
"This is the first year we've  
had 70 individual swim-  
mers. It's a record number,  
along with 34 teams, for  
about 230."

With stormy weather  
not far off in the distance  
early Saturday before the  
race, Bosco said she always  
looks for a little help with  
the weather, especially  
after cancellation of the  
2015 event.

"I've been working the  
weather all week. You've  
got to have some extra  
help," chuckled Bosco.  
"But for this race, it's all  
about community. We're  
short a couple things and  
it appears — that's what it's  
all about — the community  
support."

In past years, solo swim-  
mers finished first, but  
this year a few relay teams  
landed at the Higgs Beach  
finish line before Eric



PHOTOS BY RON COOKE/SCORE

Volunteer Taz Shepherd puts a medal around the neck of  
Purdue University swimmer Gabriel Eschbach after his team,  
Ninety Miles North, finished first overall.

More SWIM | C14



Team 90 Miles North was the No. 1 team and first overall in the CFK Swim Around Key West  
with a time of 4:36.54. All five are current or Purdue University alumni, three of whom  
swim for the Boilermakers' men's collegiate team: from left, Dave Alexander, Jim Alexan-  
der, Alexander Cole, Gabriel Eschbach and Griffin Poulsen.



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PHOTOS BY RON COOKE/SCORE

Emily Clary was second overall and the first female solo swimmer to complete with 12.5 miles with a time of 5:00:30.

## Swim/

Sullivan took first overall as an individual.

A team of swimmers from Purdue University was the first relay to land on the beach, clocking a 4:36:54. Griffin Poulsen, Gabriel Eschbach and Alexander Cole are current swimmers on the Boiler-makers swim team. Along with the father-son and Purdue alumni Dave Alexander and Jim Alexander, it was everything they had hoped.

"The first part was beautiful. Then we got stuck a little around the airport because the waves were

throwing us around. It was a lot of fun," said the trio of Purdue swimmers.



Swimmers dive into the water for the start of the 800-yard open water swim, which took participants to a buoy just off the Edward B. Knight Pier and back to Higgs Beach.

The elder member of the group, Jim Davis, 70, said they have worked hard to get here. "I'm the old gomer in the group," said Jim Alexander. "My son, David, and we've got the whole Purdue crew here. I swam in high school but was not strong enough to

get on the Purdue team. These guys are so excited to get here and to win it was special."

Sullivan is no stranger to these waters. He has competed in the original Swim Around Key West, winning

the event a few years back

More **SWIM** | C15

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## Swim/ from C14

and placed fourth in 2023. "It was seven years ago I won one of these races," said Sullivan. "I'm 58 now and pretty excited. It was like a washing machine on the way home. It was brutal, but most of the race was really fast. We got to Cow

The Purdue University was well-represented, with a team of five current and former Boilermakers taking first overall in the 12.5-mile swim around Key West.

Key Bridge in like two and a half hours, but the tide and chop slowed us a lot. It was a great race."

A few minutes behind was the No. 1 female solo swimmer, Emily Clement. "The first 6 miles were easy," said Clement. "You've got the current with you. You could blink and we were under the Fleming Key Bridge, but when you get out of it, the hard part is next. That last stretch was awful."

[roncooke@bellsouth.net](mailto:roncooke@bellsouth.net)



PHOTOS BY RON COOKE/SCORE

Overall solo winner Eric Sullivan, second from right, and his support crew Team Boone celebrate the win with a time of 4:57:55.

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SWIMMING

## Preventing childhood drownings: Program teaches infants to float even before they can walk

Fifty-three children have drowned in Florida this year alone, and parents are looking for ways to prevent more tragedies by teaching their infants to float. See how the Infant Swimming Resource, or ISR program, works.

By Myriam Masihi • Published June 17, 2024 • Updated on June 17, 2024 at 7:44 pm



Fifty-three children have drowned in Florida this year alone, and parents are looking for ways to prevent more tragedies by teaching their infants to float. See how the Infant Swimming Resource or ISR program works. NBC6's Myriam Masihi reports



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"Mason got out three doors. One was the sliding door and we found him in the water. So severely brain injured ever since," said Randy Brown, Mason's dad.

Hoping to keep other children and families from going through the same pain, Brown became an ISR instructor in North Miami.

"You don't realize if you put your son or daughter in a car seat, you should be putting them in training to swim. So much water around us here in South Florida, anywhere in Florida," Brown said.

Allison Hult, an ISR instructor from Boca, said it's also important for parents to know CPR in case they come across an unresponsive child in a pool.

"A child under 30 pounds can drown in under 30 seconds. So every, every second counts," Hult said.

Florida law requires all pools to have barriers, yet statistics show an increase in child drownings.

"We're very big on teaching our parents layers of protection, fencing the pool, alarms on the doors, there's alarms that can go in the pool, there's cameras that monitor the zone and lets you know if there's anybody in the water," Hernandez-Montero said. "We want ISR and self-rescue to be the last layer of protection."

It's important to stress that these classes do not replace adult supervision. That needs to be in place whenever children are near the water. If you want to know more about ISR and find a local instructor, [visit this link](#).

ISR instructors tell us they offer scholarships for those families that can't afford the program. Here's a list of other free and low-cost swim lessons in our area.

- [YMCA South Florida - Swim for Jenny](#)
- [YMCA South Florida - swim lessons](#)
- [Miami-Dade County swimming lessons](#)
- [Diversity in Aquatics \(DIA\) Swim Club](#)
- [Let Us Swim](#)
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**PANTHERS BACK HOME ON VERGE OF STANLEY CUP VICTORY — B1 \$3.00**

Tuesday

June 18, 2024 • Vol. 148 No. 121 • 16 pages

## TODAY IN KEYS HISTORY



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY

A damaged 1891 photo showing part of the original, wooden Monroe County Courthouse in front of the newly built, brick courthouse.

**1890:** The first brick of the new Monroe County Courthouse was laid. Beverly B. Whalton, chairman of the county commission, spoke for the occasion, and afterward all in attendance drank sparkling champagne to celebrate.

**1967:** Baseball great Ted Williams won the five-day Islamorada Gold Cup Tarpon Tournament as the grand champion.

**1972:** Hurricane Agnes, a Category 1 storm, passed into the Gulf of Mexico well west of the Dry Tortugas, but spawned several tornadoes through the Florida Keys. The worst damage was on Big Coppitt Key, where trailer homes were destroyed and 35 people injured. In Key West, a home at 615 Elizabeth St. was knocked off its foundation. Conch Key was struck by a tornado, too.

**1979:** Dr. William Seeker was named president of the Florida Keys Community College (now The College of the Florida Keys).

**1991:** The Key West City Commission passed a resolution urging the U.S. Navy to permanently cease underwater ordnance testing off the Florida Keys. Commissioners questioned the logic of exploding bombs in a marine sanctuary.

Photo and text compiled by Corey Malcom, Monroe County Public Library, Florida Keys History Center. All photos are from Monroe County Public Library, Florida Keys History Center. For more photos of Monroe County, visit the library's photo collection at <http://bit.ly/keyspix>



# KEYS CITIZEN

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**YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO FLORIDA  
KEYS SPORTS — INSIDE AND ONLINE**

Weekend Edition

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PHOTO PROVIDED

From left, Samuel J. Kaufman, co-trustee of the Paula Jean Carbonell Revocable Trust, CFK Executive Vice President Dr. Brittany Snyder, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, and Kristina Avalo, co-trustee of the Paula Jean Carbonell Revocable Trust.

## **College receives \$495K for marine science endowment**

The College of the Florida Keys Foundation recently received a donation from the trust of the late Paula Jean Carbonell for \$495,976.30.

The bequeath will be used to create an endowment to support students in the marine environmental technology and marine engineering management and seamanship programs. By endowing the funds, only the interest earned is expended, allowing the gift to support students in perpetuity as a lasting legacy for Carbonell.

For more information about planned giving and donations to benefit CFK students and programs, contact Lana Gaspari, CFK vice president of advancement and CFK Foundation executive director, at 305-809-3214 or [foundation@cfk.edu](mailto:foundation@cfk.edu). Gifts to the CFK Foundation are tax-deductible.



## Here are the nearly 200 new Florida laws taking effect Monday

185 bills from this year's legislative session go into effect on July 1



185 new laws take effect in Florida on Monday, July 1 (WJXT)

News4JAX would like to acknowledge the efforts of our sister station WKMG in Orlando in compiling the following list of state laws going into effect on July 1.

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has been busy over the last few months signing laws that were passed as part of the 2024 Legislative Session.

On Monday, 185 new bills go into effect.

...



## **HB 217 — College Campuses in Critical Areas**

House Bill 217 deals with college campus facilities in areas of “critical state concern,” such as the Florida Keys.

As of this bill’s signing, the College of the Florida Keys is the only Florida College System institution located within such an area.

Under this law, healthcare workers may be housed in the college’s dorms, adding to other non-student professions like college employees, educators, and first responders.

In addition, the law increases the maximum number of non-student beds in these dorms to 50 — up from 25.

# KEYS CITIZEN

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KEYS SPORTS — INSIDE AND ONLINE**

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## KEY WEST



ALYSON CREAN/CITY OF KEY WEST

Key West Mayor Teri Johnston and city staff hosted a group of second-grade Gerald Adams Elementary School students.

### Mayor addresses Gerald Adams Elementary School students

Key West Mayor Teri Johnston and the staff at Key West City Hall recently hosted a group of second-grade Gerald Adams Elementary School students as part of a visit for summer school.


The mayor and city staff have held several events designed to teach civics to local school children.


In April, Monroe County Mayor Holly Raschein

and Key Mayor Johnston were guest lecturers for professor Kelly Conklin-Penwell's capstone course at The College of the Florida Keys recently.

Mayor Raschein and Mayor Johnston were joined by CFK President and CEO Dr. Jonathan Gueverra for a two-hour lively discussion on leadership and politics.








# KEYS CITIZEN

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Stream Scene —  
Inside and online

KeysNews.com

**YOUR GUIDE TO FLORIDA KEYS ENTERTAINMENT  
— INSIDE AND ONLINE**

Thursday

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## FLORIDA KEYS

### Ocean Reef Foundation gives \$100K to CFK

The College of the Florida Keys Foundation recently received \$100,000 from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) to fund the ORCF Building Bridges Scholarship.

This financial aid opportunity is available exclusively to students attending the college's Upper Keys Center, starting this upcoming fall semester. Designed as a "last dollar" scholarship, it covers remaining expenses after federal, state and other aid are disbursed. Funds can be applied to tuition, lab fees and certain course-required expenses. Priority consideration will be given to students pursuing credentials in career technical education and professional skills programs.

"The goal for the Ocean Reef Community Foundation is to uncover opportunities that allow residents in the Upper Keys, Florida City and Homestead to grow both personally and professionally. We have a strong belief that the primary way to achieve that goal is through



PHOTO PROVIDED

From left, ORCF Chairman and CEO William J. Nutt, ORCF Executive Director Yurianna Mikolay, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CFK Vice President of Advancement Lana Gaspari, and CFK Trustee and ORCF President and COO Richard Weinstein accept the foundation's donation.

education," said Richard Weinstein, ORCF president and COO and CFK Board of Trustees member.

The Building Bridges Scholarship expands upon ORCF's investment in CFK endeavors to grow education

opportunities in the Upper Keys. They previously contributed toward the construction of the college's new Upper Keys Center in Key Largo, which opened in 2021, and provided a grant to purchase equipment for its testing center.

## SWIMMING

# Tuga men's swim team earns state honor

### SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN

The College of the Florida Keys' men's swim team was named the Male Academic Team of the Year, in the small roster category with 10 or fewer participants, by the Florida College System Activities Association on July 3.

The men honored on the 2024 Tugas team were Seth Bullard, Mason Egan, Kaemon Fagley, Juan Carlos Foster, Edward Kertis Jr. and Corey Krapf. The award was voted on by the Council for Athletic Affairs' Executive Board and was based on grade point averages for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters.

"Our swimmers hit the books as hard as they hit the pool," said Lori Bosco, CFK Athletic Director and swim coach. "This honor is a testament to how driven our athletes are to succeed. They put in a great deal of effort to balance their swimming

More TUGA | C3



### Tuga/ from C1

ambitions with their college goals, alongside many other responsibilities."

Four of the six male swimmers plan to return to the team for the 2024-25 season, which starts in September. The college is currently recruiting new athletes to join both the men's and women's teams. Preseason practice will begin in August.

For information about CFK's swim teams, visit [cfk.edu/studentlife/cfk-swim-team/](http://cfk.edu/studentlife/cfk-swim-team/).

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CFK

The College of the Florida Keys' 2023-24 men's and women's Tuga swim teams consisted of, back row, Juan Carlos Foster, Seth Bullard, Eddie Kertis Jr. and Kaemon Fagley, and front row, along with Athletic Director Lori Bosco, Isabella Oliverio, Lillian Zebny, Mason Egan and Lauren Walterson.







Father-son Success at Kiwanis Club of Homestead-South Dade's 39th Dolphin Days Family Fishing Tournament, featured on page 2B

JULY 12, 2024

## CFK Men's Tuga swim team named Male Academic Team of the Year by FCSAA



The 2023-24 men's and women's Tugas swim teams Back row: Juan Carlos Foster, Seth Bullard, Eddie Kertis Jr., Kaemon Fagley. Front row: Lori Bosco (Athletic Director), Isabella Oliverio, Lillian Zebny, Mason Egan, and Lauren Walterson.

College of the Florida Keys

### College of the Florida Keys -

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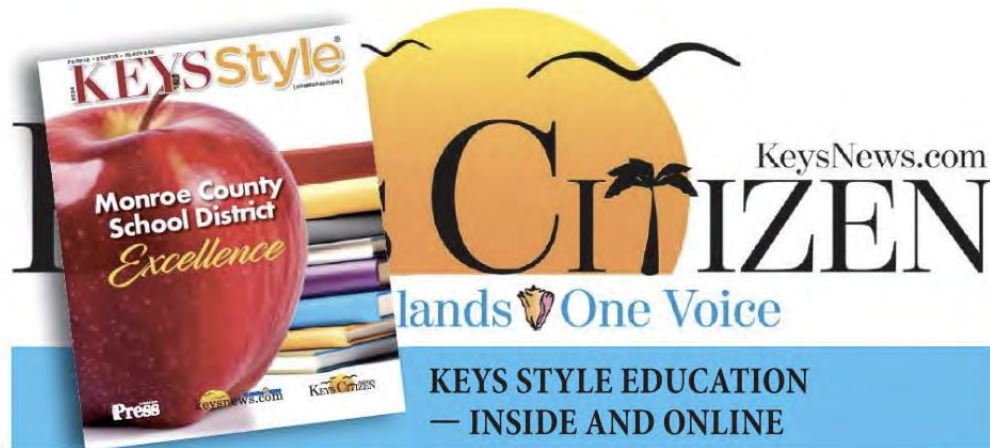
Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters.

"Our swimmers hit the books as hard as they hit the pool," said Lori Bosco, CFK Athletic Director and Swim Coach. "This honor is a testament to how driven our athletes are to succeed. They put in a great deal of effort to balance their swimming ambitions with their college goals alongside many other responsibilities."

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Preseason practice will begin in August. For more information about CFK's swim teams, visit the College's website at [www.cfk.edu/studentlife/cfk-swim-team/](http://www.cfk.edu/studentlife/cfk-swim-team/).





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PHOTO PROVIDED

From left, ORCF Chairman and CEO William J. Nutt, ORCF Executive Director Yurianna Mikolay, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Guevera, CFK Vice President of Advancement Lana Gaspari and CFK Trustee and ORCF President and COO Richard Weinstein

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ORCF previously contributed toward the construction of the college's Upper Keys Center in Key Largo, which opened in 2021, and provided a grant to purchase equipment for its testing center.

Details, criteria and the application for the ORCF Building Bridges Scholarship can be found on the college's website at [cfk.edu/discover/cfk-foundation/scholarship-info](http://cfk.edu/discover/cfk-foundation/scholarship-info). The initial deadline to apply for the fall 2024 opportunity is July 25. The college will hold scholarship application workshops at the Upper Keys Center library from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Monday, July 22.

For assistance with scholarships, contact Shania Duarte-Vera at 305-809-3153 or [foundation@cfk.edu](mailto:foundation@cfk.edu).

## College to host 'Fast Track' event

The College of the Florida Keys will hold "Fast Track to Fall" events from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, at the Upper Keys Center in Key Largo and the Key West campus on Stock Island to help prospective students get on a path toward their academic and career training goals for the fall semester.

New student applications are due Aug. 1 and classes begin Aug. 19. New students who participate in a "Fast Track to Fall" session will have their application fee waived, a savings of \$30, and receive a \$100 Kick-Start Scholarship.

For more information, visit [cfk.edu](http://cfk.edu), or contact Marissa Owens at [recruiter@cfk.edu](mailto:recruiter@cfk.edu) or call 305-809-3207.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CFK

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## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: CFK TUGA SWIM TEAM

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