

THIS WEEK IN THE KEYS



The keys had an action-packed week. Hundreds came together to show support for the Sorbelli family at the Smokin' Tuna Saloon in Key West on Sunday. The event featured dozens of musicians and raised money to help 9-year-old Nick Sorbelli fight lymphoma.

On Saturday, the historic Swim Around Key West race kicked off at Smathers Beach with around 200 participants. This year marks its 39th anniversary since the first race in 1977.

Key West High School held its graduation on Friday for more than 270 students. The Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium was packed with family and friends who supported their graduates.

ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

The newly-minted band "Puppy Breath" from left are Ray West, Zack Seemiller, Skipper Kripitz, Kai Seemiller and Dave Hoffman. Music lovers of all ages packed the Smokin' Tuna Saloon on Sunday to help raise funds for 9-year-old Nicky Sorbelli who is fighting lymphoma.

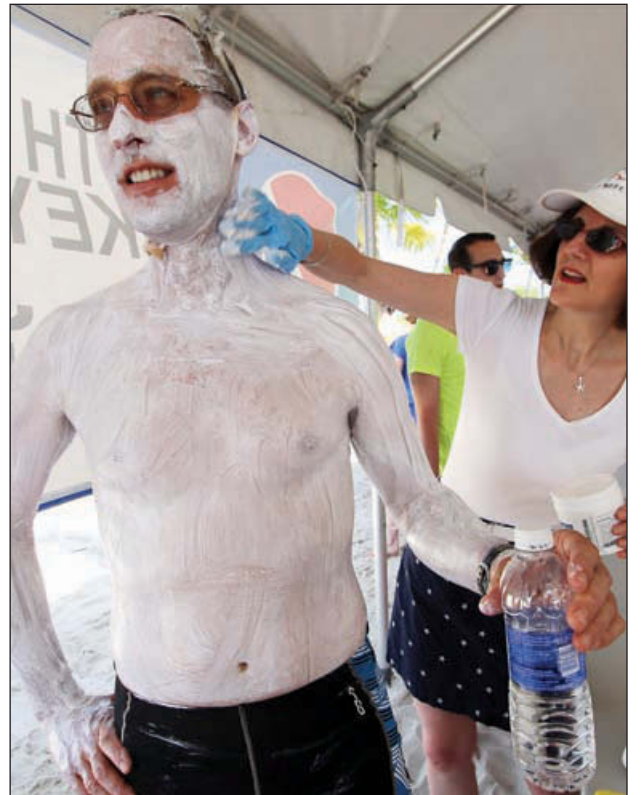


ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Wayne Sorbelli, second from left, is seen with his musician friends, from left, Mick Kilgos, Bill Blue and Larry Baeder on Sunday at the Smokin' Tuna Saloon on Charles Street. Dozens of musicians packed the house during a fundraiser for Sorbelli's 9-year-old son, Nicky, who is currently fighting lymphoma.

ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Yvan Agbo, left, and Rolando Rojas are in the zone Sunday while playing intricate Spanish tunes on their acoustic guitars at the Smokin' Tuna Saloon.



MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

Swim Around Key West race organizer (and four-time Swim Around Key West winner) Bill Welzien, center, hydrates before Saturday's race starting at Smathers Beach. Around 200 swimmers race against the swim record made by Gabe Lindsey in 1999 with a time of 3:31:28. This historic swim event was started in 1977 by Anna Fugina. Three categories are set up for the swim: solo and two and three-person relays.

MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

Paul Grassie gets sun protection applied to him by his wife Carol on Smathers Beach before the 39th annual Swim Around Key West Saturday. Grassie, from New Jersey, is on his ninth swim in this event.



MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

A swimmer starts his long swim around Key West early Saturday morning.

MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

More than 270 Key West High School students graduated Friday night at Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium with packed stands of family and friends to witness the milestone occasion. Over four million dollars in scholarships were handed out with more than 240 students moving on to higher education.