

## Sarasota Wirewalk No Catwalk For Wallenda

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With a theatrical sense of timing, even the winds looked scripted as Nik Wallenda prepared for his



wirewalk across U.S. 41. Moments before the white-knuckle adventure began, scudding in from the southwest across otherwise perfect skies, scraps of cumulus clouds gusted along on winds clocked at 25-30 mph. The melodramatic breeze hissed through palm fronds and ruffled the "Circus Sarasota" banner affixed to the rooftop of Wallenda's destination at Marina Tower. Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the highway in the Marina Jack parking lot, the cage lift carrying Wallenda and Circus Sarasota boss Pedro Reis to the summit of the crane platform swayed unsteadily during its ascent. But in the end, from a

distance, before an estimated audience of between 10,000 and 12,000 spectators, Sarasota's superstar aerialist made it look as easy as the wheeling buzzards and pelicans with whom he shared the sky. He completed his 600-foot long, roughly 180-foot high skywalk in 11 minutes. And he did it with a flourish, taking a knee on the nickel-thick wire, extending his trademark right-fisted salute, then scampering quickly uphill to safety onto the Marina Tower patio.

Tuesday's adventure was not the cakewalk some might have anticipated. Due to a height miscalculation during rigging setup, Wallenda had to approach the condo mostly along a 12-foot downhill slope. When angles are involved, he prefers a climb over a descent. And unlike his 2010 Sarasota skywalk from the Watergate building to the Ritz-Carlton, the 34-year-old funambulist did not have a skyscraper to shield him from the winds. This time, he did not feel confident enough to lie on his back. "The cable was moving quite a bit," he said. What the crowds below could not appreciate were concerns over slack in the guy wires, manned by a crew of volunteers below. In fact, one of the guy wires apparently became entangled with a palm tree and required extra muscle to pry loose.

Ultimately, however, with still and video cameras recording every move and inflection from countless angles, Wallenda delivered what he promised city commissioners last week — a panoramic and virtual postcard promoting Sarasota's architecture and bay waters.

City Manager Tom Barwin initially balked during that discussion, suggesting Wallenda wear a safety harness. Wallenda had complained loudly last summer when ABC's legal eagles forced him to strap on a tether — his first ever — during the historic and nationally televised walk over Niagara Falls. But the commissioners voted unanimously to allow Wallenda to follow family tradition.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with the 34-year-old funambulist embarking upon such an ambitious endeavor in absence any safety devices before a live audience. Do you his actions blatantly endangered himself or applicable bystanders? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. (LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)
2. Colossal winds clearly impeded upon an already challenging endeavor and created insurmountable challenges not easily overcome, even for an experienced aerialist comparable to Nik Wallenda. With temperatures reportedly in excess of 25 degrees Celsius, provided the conversion formula of  $C = 5/9(F - 32)$ , convert the data into Fahrenheit. Ensure validity via importing the solution into the original equation. Explain your reasoning. Wallenda accomplished this miraculous achievement where he meticulously navigated approximately 600 feet or .11 mile over a duration of 11 minutes. Determine his average rate of progression. (MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.3.2)
3. Based solely upon information provided in the passage above, write a conditional or a logical statement, which contains a hypothesis and conclusion in if-then form, the converse, the inverse, and the contrapositive. Decide whether each statement is true or false. Use the Law of Detachment to make a valid conclusion in the true situation. If applicable, employ the Law of Syllogism to write a new conditional statement that follows from the pair of true statements. (MA.912.D.6.2; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.4)
4. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized terms: *tether*, *flourish*, *ascent*, *affixed*, *melodramatic*, and *scudding* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. (LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)
5. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Attrition* (ah TRISH un) (n.) A gradual reduction or weakening (LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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