

LOCAL & STATE, 3A
Police captain who said he is black is suspended indefinitely



WEEKEND
'Ordinary Americans' is every bit as relevant today as it ever was



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THURSDAY JANUARY 23 2020

\$2.50

Partly cloudy and pleasant
 77°/66° See 2A

Miami Herald

SOUTH FLORIDA

Super Bowl hotel rooms are super expensive

■ Hotel rooms for Super Bowl 54 in South Florida are scarce and expensive. Some, like the suites at The Retreat Collection in South Beach, are really costly: nearly \$40,000 a night (a penthouse there is \$126,000). Even a budget motel in Homestead will cost you \$159.

BY HOWARD COHEN AND CARLI TEPPOFF
 hcohen@miamiherald.com
 cteppoff@miamiherald.com

Now that the teams playing in the Super Bowl have been decided, some people might be scrambling to book a last-minute trip to

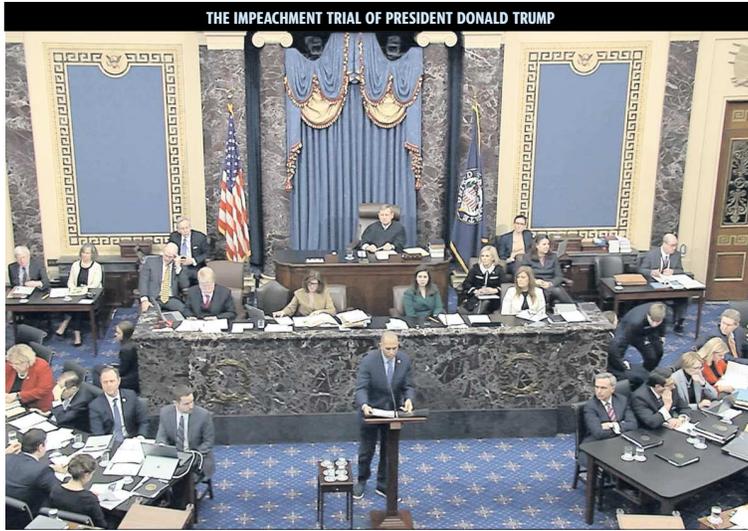
South Florida. If that is you — good luck. With estimates that more than 80% of the rooms in Miami-Dade and Broward are booked for that weekend, be prepared to open your wallet VERY wide (or take out a second mortgage) to stay anywhere from Homestead

to North Broward. "Miami is popular for your travel dates," Hotels.com warns potential travelers. A basic search this week of Hotels.com for checking in on Thursday, Jan. 30, and checking out on Monday, Feb. 3 — Super Bowl 54 is Sunday, Feb. 2, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens — showed a range for two adults from \$188 a night

SEE ROOMS, 2A



Fontainebleau Miami Beach Resort has rooms left, but they range from \$1,267 to \$3,727 a night, and there is a five-night minimum, the hotel's website says.



THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

House impeachment manager Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., speaks during the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump in the Senate in Washington on Wednesday. The trial is scheduled to resume today at 1 p.m.

Democrats appeal for GOP help to convict 'corrupt' Trump

BY LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER, AND ZEKE MILLER
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON House Democrats launched into marathon arguments in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial Wednesday, appealing to skeptical Republican senators to join them in voting to oust Trump from office in order to "protect our democracy." Trump's lawyers sat by, waiting their turn, as the president blasted

Democrats began their 24 hours over three days to prosecute the charges against President Donald Trump.

the proceedings from afar, threatening jokingly to face off with the Democrats by coming to "sit right in the front row and stare at their corrupt faces." The challenge before the House managers is clear. Democrats have 24 hours over three days to prosecute the charges against Trump, trying to win over not just fidgety senators sitting silently in the chamber but an American

public, deeply divided over the president and his impeachment in an election year. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, outlined what the Democrats contend was the president's "corrupt scheme" to abuse his presidential power and then obstruct Congress' investigation. "Over the coming days, we will

present to you — and to the American people — the extensive evidence collected during the House's impeachment inquiry into the president's abuse of power," said Schiff, standing before the Senate. "You will hear their testimony at the same time as the American people. That is, if you will allow it." After a dinner break, Schiff returned to the well of the Senate to detail the administration's hold on military aid to Ukraine. He

SEE TRUMP, 12A

THE JEFFREY EPSTEIN SAGA

First alleged suicide attempt might be examined in court

■ A judge might decide if administrators of the jail where Jeffrey Epstein was found dead must provide greater detail on why they have no video of an earlier incident that was reported to be a suicide attempt.

BY KEVIN G. HALL
 khall@mccclarkhydc.com

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. Jeffrey Epstein's name was uttered just once in the federal courtroom, but his memory hovered like a cloud over Wednesday's hearing for an ex-cop who shared a cell with him on the day last July when the accused sex trafficker allegedly tried to kill himself. The former Briarcliff Manor officer, Nicholas Tartaglione, faces a possible death penalty if convicted of the gangland-style killing of four men in a sordid drug deal in Manhattan. If that weren't trouble enough, he has become entangled in the Epstein saga — because many found it curious that the most high-profile inmate in the nation would be kept in the same jail cell as an alleged quadruple killer. Photos of Tartaglione, pub-



Jeffrey Epstein of four men in a sordid drug deal in Manhattan.

SEE EPSTEIN, 2A

SAUDI ARABIA

Crown prince hacked Bezos' cellphone, U.N. experts say

BY BEN HUBBARD AND MICHAEL SCHWITZ
 The New York Times

REBUT, LEBANON United Nations experts broadened the inquiry into Saudi Arabia's efforts to squelch criticism Wednesday, accusing its crown prince of personally hacking the cellphone of Jeff Bezos, billion-

■ United Nations experts accused Saudi Arabia's crown prince of hacking the cellphone of Jeff Bezos, the owner of The Washington Post, to "influence, if not silence" the newspaper's critical coverage of the kingdom.

aire owner of The Washington Post, to "influence, if not silence" the newspaper's critical coverage of the kingdom. The accusations, by two prominent U.N. rights ex-

agents in Istanbul. "The experts did not directly investigate the hack, which The New York Times could not independently verify. But giving their imprimatur to an outside investigation bolstered criticism of the kingdom's covert efforts to silence critical voices and widened the possibilities of who could be targeted.

"The hacking of Jeff Bezos is in a different league," said Agnes Callamard, one of the U.N. experts. "He is not a Saudi citizen. He is a person of strategic interest, and his hacking appears to have been driven by his ownership of The Washington Post." According to a statement

SEE BEZOS, 2A



EMMA HOWELLS N.Y. Times, file 2019
 Jeff Bezos runs Amazon and The Washington Post.

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WEEKEND



Elizabeth Dimon appears in 'Ordinary Americans,' being staged at both Palm Beach Dramaworks and GableStage.

'Ordinary Americans'

is an impactful cautionary tale as relevant today as in the '50s, 2G

DRINKS

Flo Rida coming out with new VG Vodka and distillery

BY MADELEINE MARR
mmarr@miamiherald.com

We know what Flo Rida will be having. The Miami rapper announced he just inked a major deal with Miami's own Victor George Spirits to create an "ultra premium" craft vodka, CG Vodka.

Flo and local businessman Victor Harvey will also build a 13,000-square foot facility to house a distillery on historic Sistrunk Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

A cigar bar, wine bar, lounge and restaurant are in the works on the property as well.

"Super excited to join the VG Family as an equity owner and brand ambassador," said Flo Rida. "I have known Mr. Harvey for years and I've seen his grind, hard work and enthusiasm in building his brand."

The two men have known each other for years and were looking for just the right project.

"Flo is an amazing businessman and I watched him build his company from the ground up," said Harvey. "I knew it was only a matter of time before we did something together."

All-natural VG Vodka is described as "a clean, smooth, gluten-free" and promises "no hangovers, headaches or burn."

That sounds promising.

"We have traveled the world sampling vodkas from all over to make sure we deliver the finest drinking experience," said George.

VG can be found throughout South Florida at liquor retailers Total Wine, Crown Wine & Spirits and Ocean Wine & Spirits. Bottles start at \$19.99/750 ml or \$28.99/1.75ml. Restaurants and bars currently offering VG include YOLO, Tuscan Prime and more, totaling more than 130 locations.

The distillery and cigar lounge will be opening late 2020 or early 2021.

Madeleine Marr: madeleinemarr



Flo Rida

DESSERTS

Fairchild Garden event features chocolate massages, facials

BY CONNIE OGLE
cogle@miamiherald.com

The last time you got a chocolate facial was probably when you were a toddler and smeared melted ice cream all over your face.

This weekend, you can do it again in a much better way, at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Chocolate Garden.

From Friday through Sunday Jan. 24-26, the 83-acre Fairchild transforms into Chocolate Garden and will live, breathe and serve up all things chocolate for your learning, faciating and eating pleasure.

The weekend kicks off Friday with "Fete du Chocolate," an exclusive multi-course seated dinner catered by La Basque Catering with dessert by Pastry Chef Hedy Goldsmith. Diners will sample such dishes as croquettes with pulled pork, pimento and Mexican cacao, chocolate demi short ribs and cocoa linguine.



Indulge in all things chocolate at the Chocolate Garden at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

One of the event's highlights: A chocolate spa, where you can get chocolate hand massages (with a chocolate sea salt scrub) and mini facials (with chocolate cleansers and face masks). You can also make your own chocolate scrub at the DIY Beauty Bar.

For the record, there are regular massages and reflexology, too. Because some people would rather ingest their chocolate, and we don't blame them.

You can order milkshakes from Whip'n Dip or sample pairings of sweets and spirits at the Mixology lab. You can create your own chocolate spin art or watch presentations from pastry chefs and chocolatiers at The Garden Kitchen.

And because you're at a garden, you can buy cacao trees and ice cream banana plants — even chocolate orchids.

CHOCOLATE GARDEN

Where: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables

When: Jan. 24-26

Admission: Free to Garden members; \$25 nonmembers, \$18 seniors 65 and up; \$12 for kids 6-7; under 6 free. Tickets at www.fairchildgarden.org; **Fete du Chocolate dinner** is \$185; eventbrite.

Connie Ogle: 305-376-3649, @OgleConnie

You can still stroll the grounds this weekend - and you'll need to, after you sample all those sweets.



Birthdays

Actress **Chita Rivera** is 87. Actor-director **Lou Antonio** ("Cool Hand Luke") is 86. Singer **Anita Pointer** of the Pointer Sisters is 72. Singer-guitarist **Robin Zander** of Cheap Trick is 67. Singer **Anita Baker** is 62. Actor **Peter Mackenzie** ("black-ish") is 59. Actor **Boris McGiver** ("House of Cards," "Boardwalk Empire") is 58. Singer **Marc Nelson** (Az Yet) is 49. "CBS Evening News" anchor **Norah O'Donnell** is 46. Actress **Tiffani Thiessen** ("Beverly Hills, 90210") is 46. Bassist **Nick Harmer** of Death Cab For Cutie is 45.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today in history

In **1845**, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In **1950**, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In **1962**, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

KeepIn **1964**, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.

In **1968**, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy intelligence ship USS Pueblo, commanded by Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, charging its crew with being on a spying mission; one sailor was killed and 82 were taken prisoner. (Cmdr. Bucher and his crew were released the following December after enduring 11 months of brutal captivity at the hands of the North Koreans.)

— ASSOCIATED PRESS