

Miami Herald

THE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Trump tried hard to win Ukraine Biden probes, witnesses say

BY LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK, AND ZIKI J. MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

There was no hinting around, it was a straight-out trade, two key White House officials told impeachment investigators. If Ukraine's new leader wanted an Oval Office welcome from Donald

■ According to transcripts released Friday in the House Democrats' impeachment inquiry, two White House officials gave firsthand descriptions of scenes central to the congressional probe.

Trump — and he did — he would have to open a public probe into the president's Democratic foe Joe Biden and his son.
"There was no ambiguity," said Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, an Army officer assigned to the Na-

tional Security Council, recounting an extraordinary day of meetings at the White House last summer.

According to transcripts released Friday in the House Demo-



Hill Vindman

MORE INSIDE

Bolton has knowledge about Ukraine matter that is not yet public, his lawyer says. 2A

SEE INQUIRY, 2A



AMERICAS, 8A

HAITIANS GET HELP ON U.S. SHIP

Thousands lined up for the free medical care being offered on the USNS Comfort

AMERICAN DREAM MALL

Mega-mall developer shows off N.J. center to Gimenez

■ As American Dream Miami developer Triple Five presses for incentives from Miami-Dade, the company is playing host to the county mayor and the local activists who helped it win project approval in 2018.

BY DOUGLAS HANKS
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Two weeks before New Jersey's American Dream mega-mall opened its doors after years of delay, developers led a tour of an unfinished artificial ski mountain and an indoor amusement park for some out-of-town guests with sway over an even larger retail theme park planned off the Florida Turnpike in Miami-Dade.

"Pictures don't do it justice," Mayor Carlos Gimenez said of his 3 1/2-hour private Oct. 13 visit to the \$3 billion Meadowlands project, where he was joined by Chief of Staff Alex Ferro and Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt. "You have to see it to appreciate it."

Triple Five is using the partially opened Meadowlands site as a showcase for what the company can deliver in Miami.

Days before the Gimenez walkthrough, Triple Five flew up a group of Miami pastors, political consultants, and business representatives who supported American Dream during the approval process in 2017 and 2018. The group included Sandy Walker, an

SEE MALL, 4A



Singer John Legend, who was on hand Friday at a special court hearing to restore the voting rights of former felons in Miami-Dade County, congratulates Carmen Brown on being able to vote again.

Something to sing about as voting rights restored

■ Singer John Legend attended a special hearing in Miami-Dade on Friday to restore voting rights for former felons under Florida's Amendment 4.

BY JACK BROOK AND DAVID OVALLE
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Carmen Brown can vote again. Brown, 64, of Miami, with four felonies on her record from decades ago, was the first person called up in a special court hearing Friday aimed at restoring her

right to vote under Florida's Amendment 4.

While the Florida Supreme Court considers whether court-related fines and fees can prevent felons who have served their time from registering to vote, that will no longer be a barrier for some people like Brown in Miami-Dade.

As a crowded courtroom erupted into applause, Brown hugged Miami-Dade's top prosecutor and public defender. Then, she embraced a special guest, singer John Legend, who is a high-profile advocate of criminal-justice reform and showed up Friday to support the restoration of voting rights.

"Thank you so much," Brown said, crying.

SEE VOTING RIGHTS, 2A



LOCAL & STATE, 3A

POLICE: KILLINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TARGETED

Since Oct. 26, shootings in Miami Gardens have left four people dead and six others wounded



TROPICAL LIFE, 1C

LORNA'S CARIBBEAN REOPENS

The Caribbean restaurant is at a new spot near Hard Rock Stadium



WALTER MERCADO IS LAID TO REST

Relatives of Walter Mercado, the famed astrologer and TV personality, attend his funeral in the town of Cuyapi in Puerto Rico on Friday. **More, 9A**

MIAMI GARDENS

Gimenez vetoes resolution blocking F1 race at Hard Rock

■ Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez blocked a County Commission resolution that attempted to block a Formula One race from coming to Miami Gardens and Hard Rock Stadium in 2021.

BY DOUGLAS HANKS AND CHRISTINA MORALES
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Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez issued a rare veto Friday to rescue a planned Formula One

auto race around Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. Residents have called the proposed event an unwelcome addition to their neighborhoods.

Gimenez said he wanted to give race opponents more time to reach a com-

promise with the Miami Dolphins and their owner, Stephen Ross, who has been trying to bring the race to the Miami area under a 10-year deal. The first race would be run at Hard Rock in 2021 and held annually after that. The mayor had recused himself from decisions related to the race because

SEE RACE, 2A

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Oxtail with rice, beans, macaroni.

RESTAURANTS

LORNA'S CARIBBEAN reopened in Miami Gardens

BY CARLOS FRÍAS
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A lot has changed recently about Lorna's Caribbean restaurant, a neighborhood favorite that's been popular with Miami Gardens locals — and local celebs — for more than a decade.

It's got a new location a mile north. It's got a new vibe, no longer a take-out spot for brown stew chicken, fried Jamaican dumplings, conch stew and jerk-everything, but a lavish and sleek new sit-down restaurant with a full bar and live music.

The one thing that hasn't changed, though, is the most important: Lorna. Lorna Westmoreland, 70, is still in the kitchen just after 4:30 a.m. on the weekends, putting her particular touch on her unique mix of Jamaican, Bahamian and Southern black



Lorna Westmoreland and son Matari Bodie, owners of the Lorna's Caribbean and American Grill.

American favorites. "The authentic flavor from the country is the best. And I want to make sure the country flavor is in the food," said Westmoreland, who was born just outside of

Kingston, but honed her kitchen skills in the Bahamas.

If Westmoreland is the secret behind the food, her son Matari Bodie is the secret be-

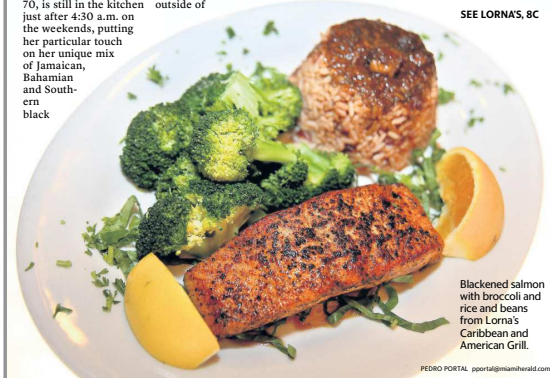
hind the restaurant's success.

Bodie, 44, born in the Bahamas but raised in northwest Miami, turned a negative into a positive when his family learned in 2016 that the landlord at their previous spot on Northwest 27th Avenue was selling the building — and Lorna's was out.

He found a new location with a new idea about what he wanted for the neighborhood in which he grew up: a Caribbean restaurant that wasn't another tasty takeaway spot, but an upscale destination restaurant.

He chose the Northwest 27th Avenue corridor where new shopping, dining and stores have remade a section

SEE LORNA'S, 8C



Blackened salmon with broccoli and rice and beans from Lorna's Caribbean and American Grill.

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RESTAURANTS

Luxurious Hutong Chinese restaurant opens in Brickell

BY CONNIE OGLE
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Hutong Chinese restaurant has been a hit in Hong Kong, London and New York.

And now it's coming to Brickell — along with its own Great Wall.

Named after the alleyways of China, Hutong uses historic Shanghai design elements to create a unique ambience. This

design includes a 70-foot "Great Wall" in the new Miami restaurant, made of four high-definition monitors mounted on hand-carved Chinese wood doors and panels. The monitors display a series of light shows.

"We're delighted to introduce Miami to Hutong's reputation of authentic Chinese fare and inventive, historical design," David Yeo, founder of Aqua Restaurant Group, wrote in a

press release. "With locations in Hong Kong, London and New York, Hutong Miami weaves in elements that truly encompass the art-centric city while embracing the high-quality, well-executed pan Northern Chinese menu

But you're wondering about the food, aren't you? Hutong focuses on the food of northern China, including the influences from

SEE HUTONG, 8C



The interior of Hutong, the new northern Chinese restaurant in Brickell.



The Cockfight at Le Chick: mezcal, tequila, dry vermouth, jalapeno, agave nectar, lemon and house foam.

DRINKS

Wynwood space Le Chick opens outdoor cocktail bar Le Coqtail

BY LESLEY ABRAVANEL
Miami.com

Wynwood hot spot Le Chick has opened a new outdoor bar with a name that's tongue and chicer, cheeky: Le CoqTail. Sporting a retractable roof and comfy outdoor seating, which appears to be a rarity in the 'hood, Le CoqTail has its own bar bites menu by executive chef Nicole Votano and an exclusive booze menu by master mixer Rebekah Stone.

"Being in Miami — a city

where cocktail and entertainment are foremost priorities — we became used to a lively bar scene on top of our dining crowd at Le Chick. Wynwood has been very good to us and we saw an opportunity with the space next door to not just expand, but evolve more into the nightlife scene," says co-owner Coco Coig.

On the menu, with prices ranging from \$12 to \$18 per portion: 305 Key Lime Pie (vanilla vodka,

SEE COQTAIL, 8C



Risotto with Maine lobster at Nave

RESTAURANTS

Nave pasta and seafood restaurant opens in expanding Coconut Grove

BY CARLOS FRÍAS
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One thought up a Cuban-American diner, the other a burger so good people still talk about it more than a year after the restaurant closed.

Now the owner of Chug's Diner and Ariete has teamed up with Proof pizza's founder to open a new restaurant in Coconut Grove.

Nave, Italian for ship, is a new seafood-and-pasta-focused restaurant in Coconut Grove that opened Nov. 5. Chef Michael Beltran, who opened the next-door Ariete four years ago, partnered with chef Justin Fit for this nautically inspired restaurant at the far western edge of an ever-expanding Grove.

"We're creating a rea-

SEE NAVE, 8C

WEEKEND EVENTS

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden hosts annual Ramble

BY CONNIE OGLE
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Overlooking Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is easy for Miami. There are so many things going on here.

But this weekend is a good time to pay attention.

In advance of the return of the holiday light show The NightGarden, which opens Nov. 15, Fairchild is hosting its annual Ramble. The Ramble has been happening since 1939 and it celebrates much of what makes Miami Miami.

There are many reasons you should go to the Ramble, not the least of which you can find good things to eat and drink and that beautify your home (note: these are not necessarily all the same things). Here are a few of the best reasons to check it out:

YOU CAN SPRUCE UP THAT RAGGEDY YARD OF YOURS

There are plants for sale, and you can even get gardening tips from Fairchild experts.

YOU CAN SHOP

Head to the Fairchild Marketplace to buy avocados and tropical fruit grown at the garden. Fairchild Farm grows fresh herbs like rosemary, some of which ended up in shortbread baked by famous pastry chef Hedy Goldsmith. If you do nothing else, get

some of this shortbread. Trust us. There's also an artisan market selling jewelry, candles and art.

THERE IS A BEER GARDEN

Sip your favorite craft beers from Veza Sur, Tank, Wynwood and Concrete Beach breweries.

ORCHIDS ARE DOPE

We know you don't have the skillz to keep them alive — but maybe someone you know does, and that person needs a holiday gift.

PLANTS AND TREES ARE SAVING YOUR LIFE

They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Pay your respects.

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN RAMBLE

When: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 9 and 10

Where: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd.

Admission: Free for Fairchild members; adults \$25; seniors (65 and up) \$18; children \$12 (6-16); 5 and younger free

Tickets: fairchildgarden.org; become a member and earn free admission and discounts, including free tickets to the NightGarden



DANA AGENCY

The annual Celebrity Beach Soccer Match in Miami Beach was held in 2018.

MIAMI BEACH

SI models, athletes and reality stars will meet up for soccer match

BY MADELEINE MARR
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Co-ed soccer is hot. Co-ed soccer on the beach for a cause with famous-ish celebrities in bathing suits is really hot.

And we're here for it. And you can be, too. In a cheerleading capacity only, of course.

A bunch of models, reality stars and athletes will meet up again in Miami Beach for the second annual Celebrity Soccer Match presented by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

The matches will take place beachside between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Nov. 23 at the North Beach Bandshell Sand-Bowl at 7275 Collins Avenue.

The event will feature seven-on-seven friendly matches, as well as meet and greets; children's clinics; soccer training classes; a VIP lounge and more.

The fundraiser, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., supports Best Buddies, an organization creating opportunities

for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Confirmed attendees include a bunch of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit stunners like Tara Yazdi, Mara Martin (remember the breastfeeding catwalker?) and Haley Kalil.

as well as a few stars with some serious hand-eye coordination: former NFL-er Jeremy Shockey; onetime Premier League player Enoch Showunmi; and wrestler Titus O'Neil.

Also on board: beauty/Instagram queen Olivia Culpo; "Sex and the City" actor Jason Lewis; choreographer/JLo ex Casper Smart; and local "Bachelorette" newylweds Rachel Lindsay and Bryan Abasolo; and recent "Bachelorette" heart-breaker Tyler Cameron.

We don't know what positions they'll play. They may not either.

Info:
www.celebritysoccermatch.com. Free.

Madeleine Marr: @madeleinemarr

Birthdays

Baseball Hall of Famer **Whitey Herzog** is 88. Baseball Hall of Famer **Bob Gibson** is 84. Actor **Lou Ferrigno** is 68. **Sen. Sherrod Brown**, D-Ohio, is 67. Gospel singer **Donnie McClurkin** is 60. Musician **Dee Plakas (L7)** is 59. Actress **Ion Overman** is 50. Rapper **Pepa (Salt-N-Pepa)** is 50. Rapper **Scarface (Geto Boys)** is 49. Blues singer **Susan Tedeschi** is 49. Actor **Jason Antoon** is 48. Actor **Eric Dane** is 47. Singer **Nick Lachey (98 Degrees)** is 46. Country musician **Barry Knox (Parmalee)** is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer **Sisqo (Dru Hill)** is 41. Country singer **Corey Smith** is 40. Country singer **Chris Lane** is 35. Actress **Emily Tyra** is 32.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today in history

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1872, fire destroyed nearly 800 buildings in Boston.

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom or deliberate persecution that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1961, U.S. Air Force Maj. Robert M. White became the first pilot to fly an X-15 rocket plane at six times the speed of sound. The Beatles' future manager, Brian Epstein, first saw the group perform at The Cavern Club in Liverpool, England.

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13½ hours, leaving 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

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Shoppers have plenty to browse for at the Ramble.