

MIAMI GARDENS, 3A
St. Thomas
University will have
social-justice center



TROPICAL LIFE, 1C
Art, Blues & Soul
Festival to be held
on Saturday
in Liberty City



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MIAMI ART WEEK



PEDRO PORTAL pportal@miamiherald.com

Andres Valencia, 10, stands at his booth at the Art Miami fair on Tuesday. Andres will paint live at noon on Saturday.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Critical race theory becomes flash point for GOP and UF

■ New allegations against the University of Florida underscore widening faculty claims that the state's flagship university is being influenced by politics.

BY ANA CEBALLOS
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Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE
As Florida Republican lawmakers rush to introduce bills that target the teaching of critical race theory in state institutions, a University of Florida professor is claiming university officials have already asked faculty members to not use the words "critical" and "race" in curriculum to avoid political backlash.

The claims — made by UF College of Education Associate Professor Chris Busey in a grievance filed Sunday through the faculty union — underscore widening allegations by faculty members that the state's flagship university is being influenced by the politics of the day, even as university leaders have declared UF "free from undue influence."

Busey alleges that university officials warned faculty and administrators in the College of Education to steer clear of curricula that touch on race, anti-racism, or mention the words "critical" and "race" together.

The issue, Busey claims, was painted as

SEE UF, 2A

What were you doing at age 10? This young painter is showing his works at Art Miami

BY CONNIE OGLE
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When most of us watch a film about a famous artist, we marvel in wonder.

Andres Valencia watched a film about Jean-Michel Basquiat and told his father: I can do that.

You can see for yourself how the work of the 10-year-

■ **Andres Valencia, a fan of Picasso and George Condo, is exhibiting his paintings at Art Miami to benefit the Perry J. Cohen Foundation.**

old painter from San Diego turned out at the Chase Contemporary booth at Art Miami (hint: it's pretty remarkable). The collection, on display at the show through Sunday, already has an offer from a New York-

based collector, according to Nick Korniloff, the fair's director.

"We work with young artists all the time, but this one is special," Korniloff said, adding that the exhibit is important to him for a

personal reason: Part of the proceeds from sales will benefit the Perry J. Cohen Foundation, named for his son, who was lost at sea at age 14 in 2015.

Andres, who is inspired by Cubism but still likes to play with his G.I. Joe, is self-taught, said his dad, Guada-

SEE ARTIST, 2A

THE VIRUS CRISIS

COVID-19 has killed more cops in South Florida than gunfire since 2020

■ **At least 28 South Florida cops have died after contracting COVID-19.**

BY CHARLES RABIN
crabin@miamiherald.com

Of the 33 South Florida law-enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past two years, three were killed by gunfire, one died in a car crash and another lost his life to a work-related injury.

The other 28 were felled by COVID-19.

The disease has at-

tacked law-enforcement agencies from Miami to West Palm Beach. It killed corrections officers and federal Customs and Border Patrol agents. It took the life of a U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms officer in West Palm Beach. Statewide, there were at least 53 deaths in the ranks — with Florida accounting for more than 10% of all COVID-19 law-enforcement deaths across the country, accord-

ing to a website that tracks policing fatalities.

"It is the number one killer of police, hands down," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based policy group Police Executive Research Forum. "More cops will die of COVID than will be shot, stabbed or die in traffic accidents. And it's an equal-opportunity killer."

Most victims were in their 40s and 50s. The

SEE COPS, 6A

THE JEFFREY EPSTEIN SAGA

Houseman describes 'degrading' regimen imposed by Ghislaine Maxwell



ANDREW SAVULICH N.Y. Daily News, 2015

Ghislaine Maxwell is on trial in New York on charges of sex trafficking.

■ **Jeffrey Epstein's former houseman said staffers were ordered to keep their eyes lowered, to not speak unless spoken to — and to clean up and put away sex toys.**

BY JULIE K. BROWN
AND BEN WIEDER
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NEW YORK

Ghislaine Maxwell was a boss who made almost impossible demands.

She ordered employees at Epstein's Palm Beach mansion to keep their eyes lowered, to not speak unless they were spoken to — and to clean up and

put away sex toys, an ex-houseman testified Thursday.

No detail was too small — including ensuring that every tissue box was full and checking for holes in Epstein's fence so that Maxwell's Yorkie, Max, wouldn't escape.

Maxwell — Epstein's former girlfriend — was Epstein's "number 2" and

SEE MAXWELL, 2A

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Art | Basel Miami Beach

December 2-4, 2021



Photograph taken by Mateo Garcia / Belle & Co. Sarah Morris, May 1988, Epidius, 2018 City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places



Tropical Life



PEOPLE
‘HAWT MOM ALERT’: MOLLY SIMS THANKSGIVING TRIP TO MIAMI, 2C

THEATER

In this CHRISTMAS CLASSIC, he shines in one-man play of Jacob Marley tale

BY CHRISTINE DOLEN
ArtburstMiami.com

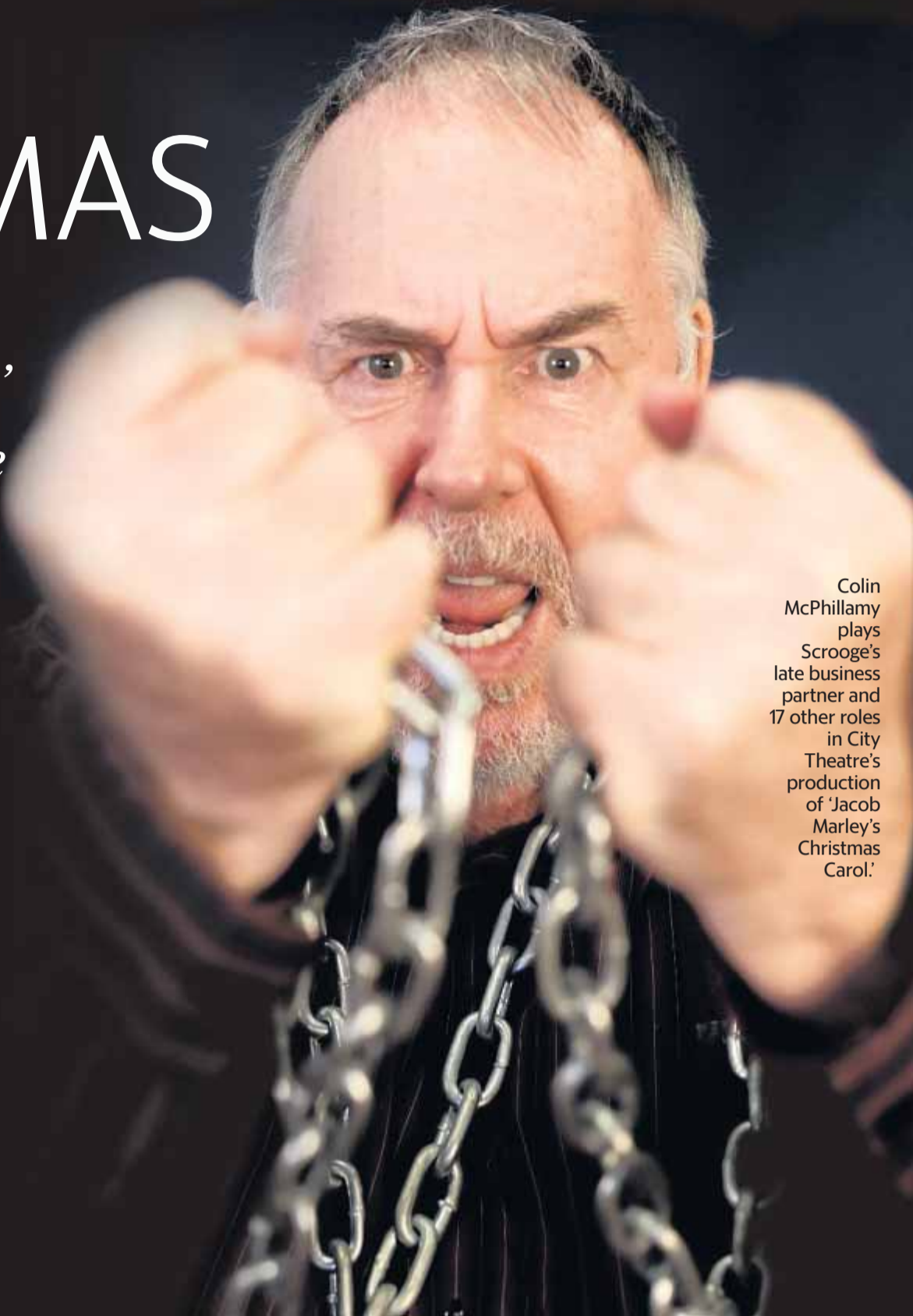
Ever since Charles Dickens dreamed up his ever-green tale of greed and redemption in 1843, “A Christmas Carol” has remained a beloved part of the holiday zeitgeist.

Along with “The Nutcracker” ballet, “A Christmas Carol” has entertained countless generations, reminding readers and audiences of the need for compassion, the importance of gratitude and the possibility of change — themes from a story that has continued to resonate as the world evolves.

Authors and actors have put their stamp on the story thanks to stage, movie and television versions of “A Christmas Carol.” Now it’s Colin McPhillamy’s turn to demonstrate how one artful actor can bring Dickens’ entire novella to life.

McPhillamy is the star of — and only actor in — “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” an 18-character play by actor-playwright Tom Mula. This version began as a 1995 novel, then got an audio treat-

SEE MARLEY, 8C



Colin McPhillamy plays Scrooge’s late business partner and 17 other roles in City Theatre’s production of ‘Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol.’

Morgan Sophia Photography

MIAMI ART WEEK

MUSIC

Art, Blues & Soul Festival to showcase bevy of talent at African Heritage arts center

BY TRACY FIELDS
ArtburstMiami.com

This year’s Art, Blues & Soul Festival returns to its home in Liberty City after going virtual in 2020.

Scheduled for the end of Miami Art Week, on Saturday, Dec. 4, the fifth annual edition of this musical event brings to the African Heritage Cultural

Arts Center (AH-CAC) a bevy of talent: national acts like Chrisette Michele, Jon B. and Glenn Jones, as well as local stars Courtney Mickens and The Harden Project (made up of husband-wife duo John and Ja’Nia Harden).

“Courtney Mickens has performed with us before, and John Harden is actually a teacher here,” said Ruby Brown, the center’s communications director.

Founded in 1975, the AHCAC is one of South Florida’s premier arts training institutions. Alumni include Tarell Alvin McCraney, co-creator of the 2017 Academy Award-winning movie, “Moonlight,” and Robert Battle, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City.

Mickens, a singer who teaches as well as performs, looks forward to a homecoming.



Glenn Jones

SEE FESTIVAL, 4C



MARTA LAVANDIER AP

Flowers are left Tuesday in memory of Virgil Abloh, Louis Vuitton’s first Black artistic director, at a church in Miami’s Design District. Abloh died Sunday at 41.

FASHION

‘Virgil was here’: Vuitton fashion show turns into memorial for designer



Virgil Abloh, artistic director of Louis Vuitton’s menswear collection, who died Sunday.

BY MADELEINE MARR
mmarr@miamiherald.com

“Virgil was here.” Louis Vuitton’s menswear fashion show at Marine Stadium in Virginia Key turned into a beautiful memorial Tuesday night. The iconic French brand’s artistic director Virgil Abloh died at 41 of a rare cancer on Sunday, and hundreds packed the stadium to pay homage.

Well-heeled guests were treated to a

SEE VUITTON, 8C

WYNWOOD

This artist wants you to pay \$1,000 for a cup of coffee at his Miami Art Week pop-up

BY CONNIE OGLE
cogle@miamiherald.com

Would you pay \$1,000 for a cup of coffee?

In almost every case, the answer to this question is a resounding “Are you out of your mind?” But during Miami Art Week, when no price is too high and no common commodity too unremarkable to exploit, the query is perfectly natural.

So. Would you? Artist Danny Casal thinks you might. The self-titled “Bad Animator,” also known as Coolman Coffeedan, has joined The Art Plug and

SEE COFFEE, 8C



Danny Casal created art on this cup; hence, its \$1,000 pricetag.

Courtney Mickens was a student at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in middle school and high school and will perform at the festival.



FROM PAGE 1C
FESTIVAL

"I was a student of the AHCAC for middle and high school," she said via email. "I volunteered and instructed there as well. AHCAC is a part of my home. I've gained so much knowledge and experience from each and every instructor I encountered and paid it forward to my own students."

"Performing at the festival is an honor for me. I get to represent my hometown as well as the place that helped train me to be the awesome entertainer that I am."

Hosting will be Chello and DJ Chico the Leo. Chello also studied at the AHCAC, and is known for hosting "Lyric Live" at Overtown's Historic Lyric Theater and appearing on the long-running BET show, "ComicView."

Music lovers can enjoy the sounds Michele, who is known for her songs, "Epiphany (I'm Leaving)" and "A Couple of Forever," and whose album, "Be OK," won her a 2008 Grammy Award in the "Best Urban/Alternative Performance" category.

Jon B.'s 1995 debut album, "Bonafide," went platinum, selling more than a million copies; he's also a songwriter and music producer. And the Jacksonville-born Jones started out singing gospel with The Modulations before moving to R&B. He teamed up successfully with Regina Belle for 2018's "Love by Design."

Along with musical entertainment, the festival will feature displays by local visual artists, food options and other vendors. Guests who choose the VIP ticketing option get dinner and drinks, too.

While at the AHCAC for the festival, visitors can also bask in another art experience. In partnership with former Miami Dolphins player Louis Oliver,

the center's Amadlozi Gallery is offering the exhibit, "Le Art Noir: Diversity in Color," described as a "unique multicultural collaboration of artists from around the globe showcasing innovative exhibitions that capture the heartbeat of our society and focus on relevant topics," according to leartnoir.com. Separate \$25 tickets are required for the exhibit, but festivalgoers get a \$10 discount.

Last year's Art, Blues & Soul Festival streamed virtually, and the center's main campus and buildings have been undergoing renovations, so it's been a time of change and flexibility for the AHCAC. But staff are thrilled to see things approaching normal again, Brown said.

"We're not fully open yet, but we're really excited to have people on the grounds again," said Brown.

If you go

WHAT: Art, Blues & Soul Festival

WHEN: 3 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami

COST: \$35 for general admission; \$55 for reserved seats; and \$85 for VIP access

SAFETY PROTOCOLS: Mask use and social distancing will be encouraged, according to Ruby Brown, the center's communications director.

INFORMATION: ahcaci.org/event/art-blues-soul-festival

ArtburstMiami.com is a nonprofit source of theater, dance, visual arts, music and performing arts news.



Chrisette Michele will perform at the Art, Blues & Soul Festival at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City on Saturday.

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