



DEREK ABELLA NYT Illustration

Take a look at how artificial intelligence and social media contribute to ‘brain rot.’



In today's paper
WEEKEND: With the demise of Miami Seaquarium, what are South Florida's remaining attractions? Take a quick tour. **1C**

Miami Herald

New Epstein emails claim Trump ‘spent hours’ with victim

BY JULIE K. BROWN
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Emails from sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein released Wednesday by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee Wednesday say that President Donald Trump

“spent hours” with a victim at his house and “knew about the girls.” The three emails – one of them between Epstein and his now-convicted accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell – are the first to be released publicly by the Oversight Committee that say Trump was with a victim. Trump has denied he participated in any of

Epstein’s crimes and has maintained that he was unaware the New York financier was trafficking underage girls and young women. In a statement, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt accused the Democrats of “selectively” leaking emails to “the liberal media” to create a “fake narrative to



Donald Trump Jeffrey Epstein smear President Trump.” She said the unnamed victim, whose name is

redacted from one of the emails, is the late Virginia Giuffre, who had previously denied that Trump was involved in Epstein’s crimes. Asked whether the victim in question was Giuffre, Sara Guerrero, the communications director for the ranking member of the Oversight Committee – Democrat Rep. Robert

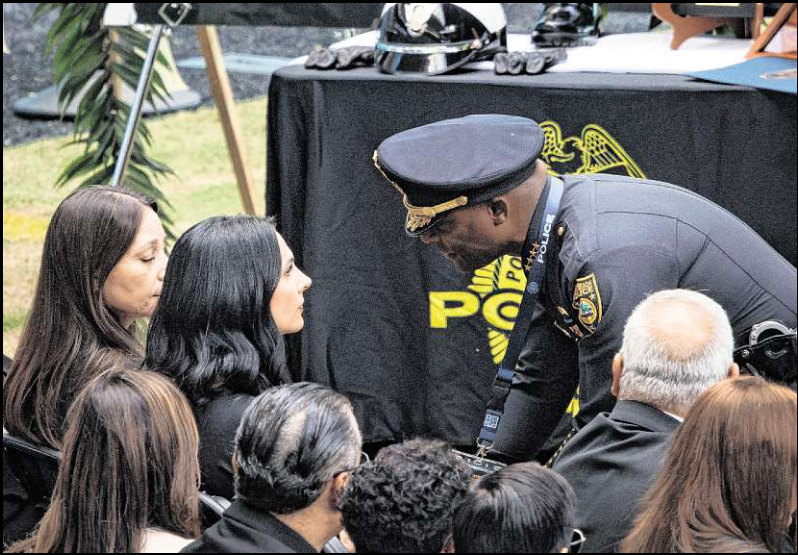
Garcia of California – declined to comment. “We don’t disclose the names of victims,” Guerrero said. The emails released are among 23,000 pages of documents that the Committee has received from Epstein’s estate, at least 20,000 of which were

SEE EPSTEIN, 2A



PHOTOS BY ALIE SKOWRONSKI askowronski@miamiherald.com

TRIBUTE FOR A FALLEN OFFICER



Above, the hearse carrying the casket of Sgt. David Cajuso rides in the funeral procession as it approaches Hard Rock Stadium, the site of Wednesday’s services for the Miami Beach officer — who died last month in a motorcycle crash. Left, Police Chief Wayne Jones greets Cajuso’s widow, Eileen Cajuso, during the service. See story, **3A**

House returns after long recess to take up bill to end shutdown

BY MICHAEL GOLD
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON The House of Representatives will finally return to session on Wednesday after a hiatus that stretched on for 54 days, as lawmakers take up legislation that would end the longest government shutdown in American history. The bill, which passed the Senate on Monday and has President Donald Trump’s support, has sizable momentum on Day 43 of the shutdown, and its approval by the House would clear it for Trump’s signature. But Republicans’ narrow margin of control and strong opposition from most Democrats are likely to make for an uncomfortably close vote. It comes as the House crawls back to life with an agenda that is much the same as it was when the chamber last convened Sept. 19, and Republicans passed a plan to temporarily fund the government. Then, Speaker Mike Johnson called an indefinite recess, arguing that there was no reason for the House to meet until Senate Democrats accepted his party’s proposal.

MORE INSIDE

New Senate provision gives House members pause before final vote to end federal shutdown. **4A**

For weeks, the House lay mostly dormant, with no legislation considered, no hearings held and no debate on the floor. While the representatives went on break – one they have been quick to frame as working from home rather than a nearly two-month vacation – hundreds of thousands of federal workers went without pay, millions of low-income Americans wondered whether they would receive food assistance and exasperated air travelers dealt with disruptions. Johnson, who has held near-daily news conferences at the Capitol during the shutdown, is hoping that the House will quickly take up and pass the Senate’s measure to reopen the government. That legislation, passed Monday, would fund the government through Jan. 30 and includes spending bills that cover programs related to agriculture, military construction, veterans and legislative agencies for most of next year. The measure also

SEE SHUTDOWN, 4A

In Miami, these dinners blend food, faiths and dialogue about honoring ancestors

BY LAUREN COSTANTINO
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How do we honor and remember our loved ones after they die? Every religion and spiritual tradition has an answer to that question. Miami native Nadjeda Cherilien is using food and dinner table conversations to bring people together to discuss questions like these and share pieces

of the culture and tradition that make up the fabric of South Florida. Cherilien said the main intention behind her new dinner series, called “Seasoned Stories,” is to open people’s eyes to the similarities between different faith and cultural traditions. “When I was doing my fellowship at Sant La, I recognized that we share a lot of similarities with other communities as it

pertains to celebrating our ancestors or the dead,” Cherilien said, referring to Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center in North Miami. “I was recognizing that, my goodness, there’s so many similarities, even with the foods.” Seasoned Stories began as a capstone idea for Cherilien’s fellowship, and eventually became a reality with help from the Green Family Foundation and Sant La.

At the pilot event over the weekend, local faith leaders and community members explored what their faith traditions teach them about death, grieving and celebrating the legacy of ancestors. The focus of the night was Fèt Gede, or “Festival of the Dead,” a tradition sometimes referred to as the Haitian Day of the Dead, which incorporates

SEE DINNERS, 2A



ALEXIA FODERE for Miami Herald

NSL Dance Ensemble drummers perform during ‘Fèt Gede,’ the Haitian Day of the Dead celebration at The Vegan Marie restaurant in Little Haiti on Saturday.



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